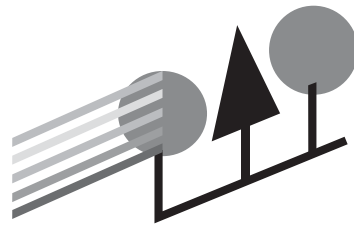


MCPFE WORK PROGRAMME



MCPFE WORK PROGRAMME

**Pan-European Follow-up
of the Fourth Ministerial Conference
on the Protection of Forests in Europe
28-30 April 2003, Vienna, Austria**

**Adopted at the MCPFE Expert Level Meeting
16-17 October 2003, Vienna, Austria
Updated at the MCPFE Expert Level Meeting
14-15 October 2004, Warsaw, Poland**

Updated edition – October, 2005

Published by

Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe
Liaison Unit Warsaw

ul. Bitwy Warszawskiej 1920 r. nr 3
00-973 Warszawa, Poland
tel. +48 22 331 70 31 tel/fax. +48 22 331 70 32
e-mail: liaison.unit@lu-warsaw.pl

www.mcpfe.org

Design, layout and production
agencja@meander.net.pl

© Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, 2005

ISBN 83-922396-0-1

CONTENTS

| | |
|--|----|
| INTRODUCTION | 7 |
| MCPFE RESOLUTIONS 1990-2003 | 9 |
| IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRASBOURG, HELSINKI AND LISBON RESOLUTIONS | 11 |
| IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VIENNA COMMITMENTS | 13 |
| VIENNA RESOLUTION 1 | 14 |
| VIENNA RESOLUTION 2 | 16 |
| VIENNA RESOLUTION 3 | 18 |
| VIENNA RESOLUTION 4 | 19 |
| VIENNA RESOLUTION 5 | 21 |
| REGULAR MCPFE WORK | 23 |
| LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS | 25 |
| LIST OF WEBSITES | 27 |
| REFERENCES | 28 |
| ANNEX 1: VIENNA DECLARATION AND VIENNA RESOLUTIONS | 29 |
| ANNEX 2: IMPROVED PAN-EUROPEAN INDICATORS FOR SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT | 49 |
| ANNEX 3: CHAIRMAN'S SUMMARY ¹ OF THE MULTI-STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE | 53 |

INTRODUCTION

The Fourth Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe was convened from 28 to 30 April 2003 in Vienna, Austria [1]. At this Conference, ministers and high-level representatives of 40 European countries and the European Community signed the Vienna Declaration and five Vienna Resolutions (Annex 1), as well as they endorsed “Improved Pan-European Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management” (Annex 2). These high-level political commitments provide important specifications for actions dedicated to the protection and sustainable management of forests in Europe in the coming years.

While all commitments of the Vienna Conference are implemented at the national level, added value can be generated through joint implementation of some actions at the pan-European level. The European ministers responsible for forests decided to “develop a work programme for the implementation of the commitments of the Fourth Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe and the reinforced implementation of previous commitments, in co-operation with all relevant organisations, institutions and processes.” (Vienna Declaration, para 26).

The MCPFE Work Programme is structured according to the three pillars of sustainable forest management (SFM), and aims to contribute to the sustainable development of society at large. All MCPFE Resolutions (Figure 1) - and in particular the Vienna Declaration and the five Vienna Resolutions (Figure 2) - are put in relation to the concept of SFM, indicating the main pan-European issues inherent in each Resolution. In addition, the MCPFE Work Programme gives an overview of the follow-up work as regards MCPFE Resolutions adopted at previous Conferences [2], which is carried out by international co-ordinators.

The main part of the MCPFE Work Programme deals with the implementation of the commitments signed at the Vienna Conference. It comprises thirty pan-European actions for implementation. Information on the regular work of the MCPFE is also provided.

Many actions address both pan-European commitments made in the five Vienna Resolutions and a related commitment formulated in the Vienna Declaration. The respective links between the pan-European commitments under the Vienna Resolutions and the Vienna Declaration are highlighted. In addition, linkages to previously adopted Resolutions are given.

The co-operation with all relevant organisations, institutions and processes involved in the MCPFE is an important prerequisite for the successful implementation of the MCPFE Work Programme. Therefore, information on the synergies with the various actors involved in the MCPFE is given in relation to the actions.

The pan-European actions of the MCPFE Work Programme also cover the issues raised in the multi-stakeholder dialogue (MSD) at the Vienna Conference. The chairman’s summary of the MSD is provided in Annex 3.

The pan-European actions included in the MCPFE Work Programme also aim to contribute to the further implementation of global commitments, such as those agreed within the WSSD, UNFF, CBD, UNFCCC and UNCCD frameworks; as well as to maintain linkages with other regional processes and initiatives as noted in the Vienna Declaration and the Vienna Resolutions.

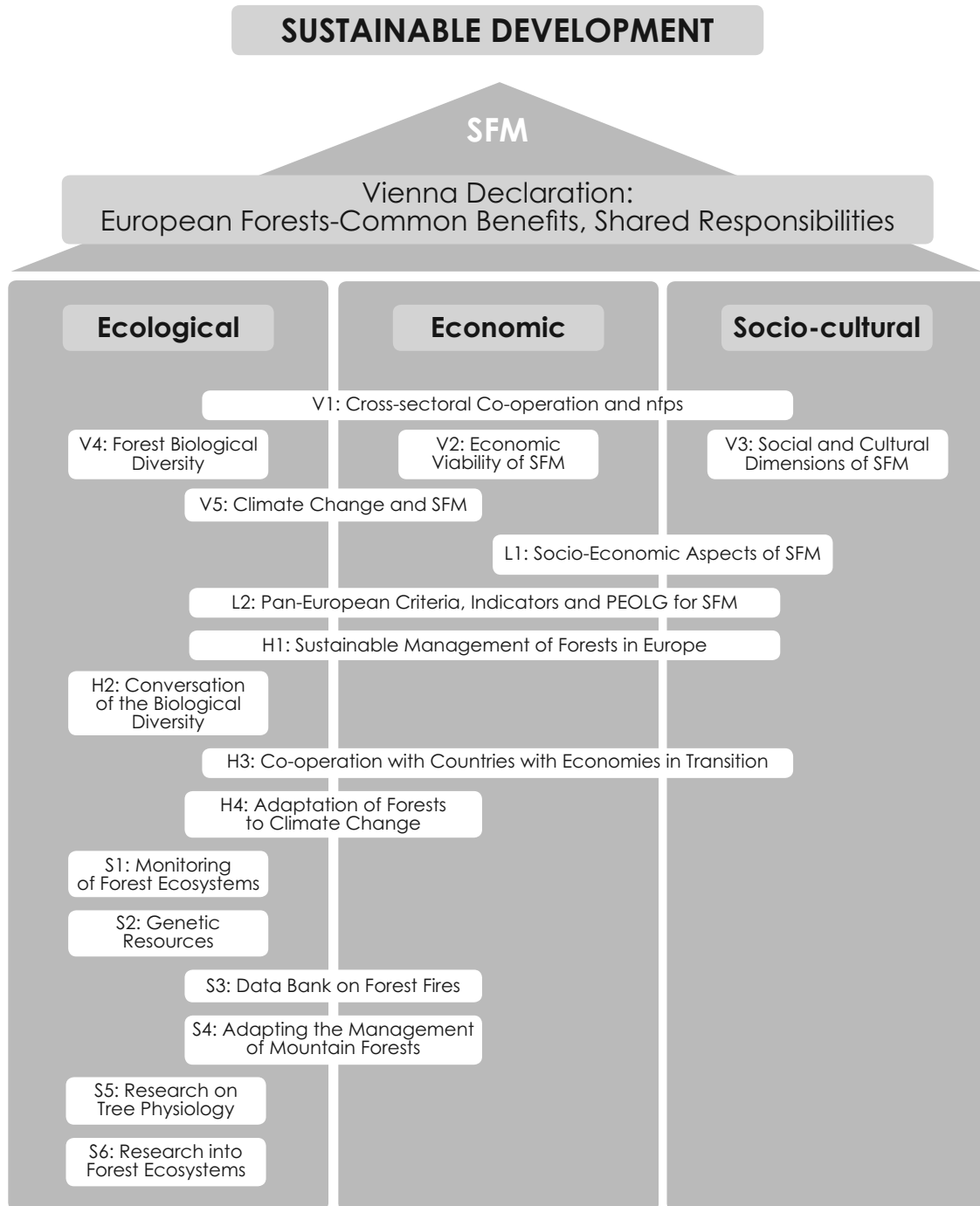
The MCPFE Work Programme was adopted at the MCPFE Expert Level Meeting (ELM) held on 16-17 October 2003 in Austria, and updated at the subsequent MCPFE ELM held on 14-15 October 2004, in Poland.

Starting from April 2005, information updated every 3 months on progress with the implementation of the MCPFE Work Programme (including possible modifications of actions, their time frames and actors involved) is to be available at the MCPFE website www.mcpfe.org/www.mcpfe.net.

MCPFE RESOLUTIONS 1990-2003

Since 1990, seventeen Resolutions have been adopted at four Ministerial Conferences. An overview presenting these MCPFE commitments in relation to the three pillars of sustainable forest management is presented in Figure 1.¹

Figure 1: Resolutions of Ministerial Conferences 1990-2003



¹ Please note that the titles of the Resolutions are short titles.

IMPLEMENTATION OF STRASBOURG, HELSINKI AND LISBON RESOLUTIONS

The implementation of the Resolutions adopted at the Conferences in Strasbourg in 1990, Helsinki in 1993 and Lisbon in 1998 is ongoing. The respective pan-European aspects of each Resolution are co-ordinated via the international organisations and institutions indicated in Table 1.

The Resolutions adopted at the Strasbourg, Helsinki and Lisbon Ministerial Conferences also form the basis for the commitments taken on at the Vienna Conference.

Table 1: Implementation of previous MCPFE Resolutions and international co-ordinators

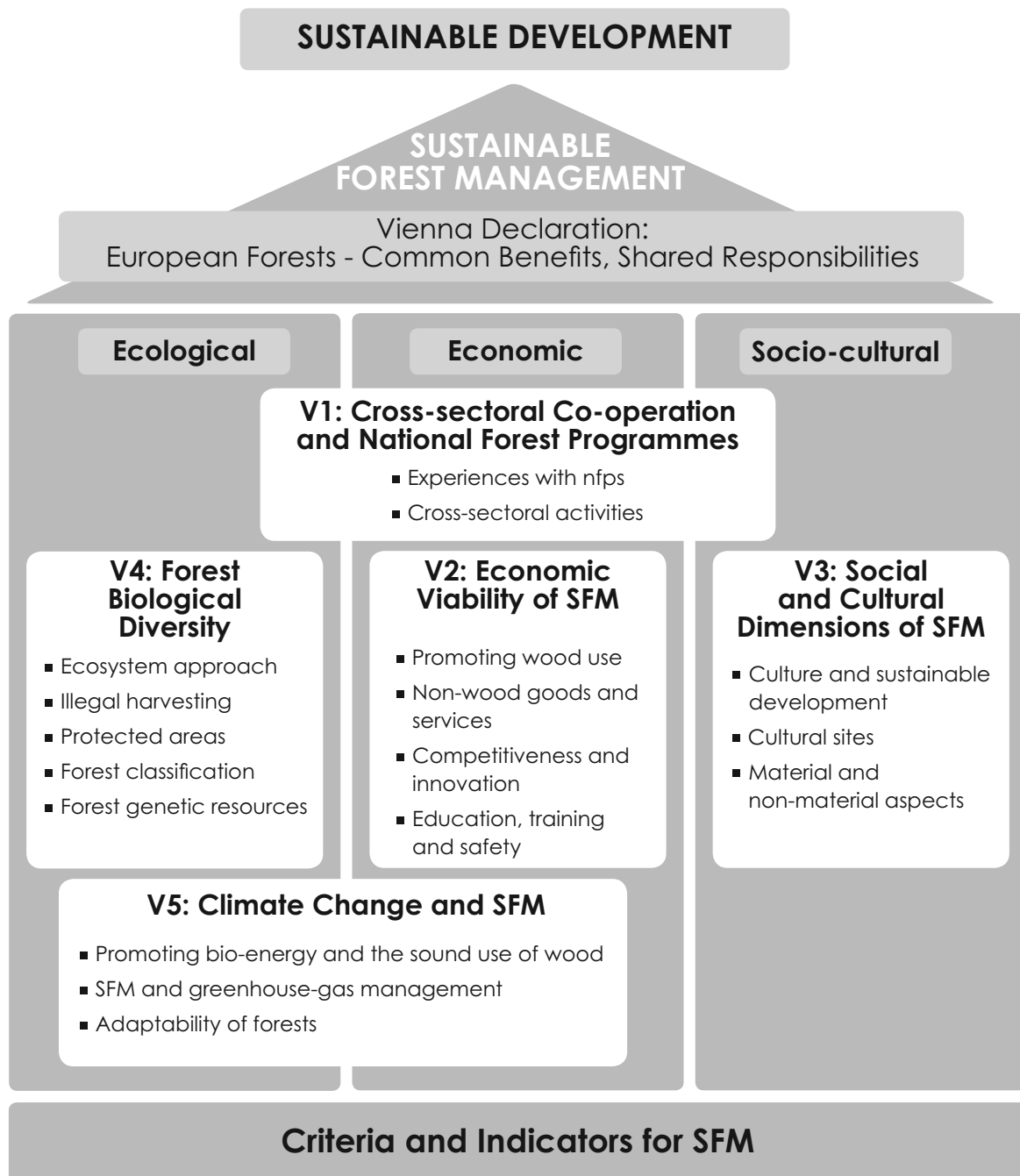
| MCPFE Resolution | International Co-ordinator | Further pan-European implementation ² |
|---|---|---|
| Strasbourg 1990 | | |
| S1: European Network of Permanent Sample Plots for Monitoring of Forest Ecosystems | ICP Forests in co-operation with CEC | Continued monitoring of effects of air pollution and other stress factors on forests, within framework of ICP Forests monitoring programme |
| S2: Conservation of Forest Genetic Resources | IPGRI | Continued scientific and technical collaboration in framework of European Forest Genetic Resources Programme – EUFORGEN (phase II: 2000-2004) |
| S3: Decentralized European Data Bank on Forest Fires | UNECE in co-operation with CEC | Continued collection of data and information about forest fires (UNECE Forest Fire Statistics; Community Information System on Forest Fires) |
| S4: Adapting the Management of Mountain Forests to New Environmental Conditions | EOMF in co-operation with FAO and IUFRO | Further co-operation and continued implementation activities (e.g. Action Plan for the S4) |
| S5: Expansion of the EUROSILVA Network of Research on Tree Physiology | University of Oulu, Finland | COST Action 6 "EUROSILVA" completed, but several co-operative research activities originating from it; research also on-going in context of IUFRO |
| S6: European Network for Research into Forest Ecosystems | Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences | COST Action E 25 "European Network for a Long-term Forest Ecosystem and Landscape Research Programme" (ENFORS) |
| Helsinki 1993 | | |
| H1: General Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Forests in Europe | MCPFE Liaison Unit | Further implementation in the context of Vienna Resolutions |
| H2: General Guidelines for the Conservation of the Biodiversity of European Forests | MCPFE Liaison Unit | Further implementation in the context of Vienna Resolutions |
| H3: Forestry Co-operation with Countries with Economies in Transition | UNECE | Adding of new information reported by national correspondents to the H3 Database |
| H4: Strategies for a Process of Long-Term Adaptation of Forests in Europe to Climate Change | IUFRO | Extension of IUFRO Research Series by several more state-of-knowledge reports |
| Lisbon 1998 | | |
| L1: People, Forests and Forestry – Enhancement of Socio-Economic Aspects of Sustainable Forest Management | MCPFE Liaison Unit | Further implementation in the context of Vienna Resolutions |
| L2: Pan-European Criteria, Indicators and Operational Level Guidelines for Sustainable Forest Management | MCPFE Liaison Unit | Further implementation in the context of Vienna Resolutions |

² Information derived from: "Implementation of MCPFE Commitments – National and Pan-European Activities 1998-2003", published by MCPFE Liaison Unit Vienna, Austria, in 2003.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VIENNA COMMITMENTS

The commitments of the Fourth Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, which form the basis for the MCPFE Work Programme are presented in Fig. 2, as is their relationship with the three pillars of sustainability.

Figure 2: Commitments of the Vienna Conference



The pan-European actions, leading actors and suggested time-frames for implementation of the MCPFE work programme are described in the following tables. They follow the structure of the five Vienna resolutions (V1 – V5), and the relevant pan-European commitments of each resolution. Reference is also made to the respective pan-European commitments in the Vienna Declaration (VD), and to related previous resolutions.

VIENNA RESOLUTION 1

Strengthen Synergies for Sustainable Forest Management in Europe through Cross-sectoral Co-operation and National Forest Programmes

At the Vienna Conference, the ministers responsible for forests recognised the mutual inter-dependencies between forest-sector policies and other sectoral policies. They expressed their commitment to strengthen synergies for sustainable forest management in Europe by means of enhanced cross-sectoral co-operation and partnerships, and identified national forest programmes as an important tool.

The pan-European actions for the implementation of Vienna Resolution 1 and of the related commitments in the Vienna Declaration aim to improve the understanding of forest-relevant cross-sectoral issues at the pan-European level, to enhance inter-sectoral co-ordination of policy and co-operation on these issues and to facilitate an exchange of experience on national forest programmes.

Table 2: Pan-European actions for the implementation of Vienna Resolution 1

| Focus | Actions | Leading actors | Time frame | Status by 03/05 | Commitment |
|---------------------------|--|--|------------|-----------------|--|
| Experiences with nfps | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshop to exchange country experiences gained in the nfp process, on practical application of "MCPFE Approach to NFPs in Europe" and the use of C&I for SFM as a component of the nfp process | MCPFE Liaison Unit | 2004 | Completed | V1 para 10; VD paras 16, 25; Lisbon GD |
| Progress | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The workshop took place on 22-24 November, 2004 in Gdańsk, Poland. It was organized by the MCPFE Liaison Unit Warsaw in co-operation with Poland (the State Forests). Financial support for participants from Central and Eastern Europe was provided by the Government of The Netherlands and the FAO National Forest Programme Facility. The issues concerning the development, implementation and/or evaluation of the national forest programmes consistent with the MCPFE approach to nfps in Europe were reviewed. The conclusions and recommendations of the workshop are included in the brochure: "National Forest Programmes in Europe", published by the LUW in 2005. The conclusions and recommendations were presented at the ELM, held on 5-6 September, 2005. | | | | |
| Cross-sectoral activities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshop on implications for policies of results of the European Forest Sector Outlook Study (EFSOS) Workshop on forest relevant cross-sectoral issues at the pan-European level and improved inter-sectoral policy co-ordination | Switzerland, UNECE/FAO | 2004 | Completed | V1 paras 5, 6; VD paras 13, 14, 15 |
| | | Switzerland, Latvia, MCPFE Liaison Unit, UNECE/FAO | 2005 | In preparation | V1 paras 5, 6; V2 para 15; VD paras 13, 14, 15 |
| Progress | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNECE/FAO Workshop on policy consequences of the European Forest Sector Outlook Study (EFSOS) took place on 20-21 June, 2005 in Budapest, Hungary. The conclusions and recommendations were presented at the ELM, held on 5-6 September, 2005. The workshop on forest-relevant cross-sectoral issues at the pan-European level and improved inter-sectoral policy co-ordination was convened on 17-19 October, 2005, in Riga, Latvia. | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|--------------------|---|--|------|----------------|---|
| Illegal harvesting | Due to the cross-sectoral nature of the issue of combating illegal harvesting the ELM agreed on moving this action from V4 to V1 in the Work Programme with references to the commitments made in the Vienna Declaration and Resolutions V2 and V4 (VD: para 20; V2: para 7; V4: para 7). | | | | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scientific analysis of information on illegal harvesting of forest products, and related trade at pan-European level | EFI, IIASA, CITES secretariat, CEC, UNECE/FAO Timber Committee | 2004 | Completed | V2 para 7; V4 para 7; V4 Annex; VD para 20 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshop on combating illegal harvesting of forest products, and related trade in Europe | MCPFE Liaison Unit, PEBLDS secretariat, CEC, UNECE/FAO, EFI | 2005 | In preparation | V2 para 7; VD para 20; V4 para 7; V4 Annex; |

Progress

- The "Study on the issues of illegal logging and related trade of timber and other forest products in Europe" was finalised and will serve as a background document for the workshop on combating illegal harvesting of forest products and related trade in Europe. It will also contribute to the elaboration of a common understanding of terminology used in relation to this topic.
- The workshop on combating illegal harvesting of forests products and related trade in Europe was held on 3-4 November, 2005 in Madrid, Spain.

VIENNA RESOLUTION 2

Enhancing Economic Viability of Sustainable Forest Management in Europe

The enhancing of the economic viability of SFM in Europe was a key topic at the Vienna Conference. The ministers responsible for forests recognised the importance of improving the conditions for SFM, which have led to economic challenges for the forest sector in many regions in Europe. They noted that economic viability is of crucial importance if forests and their multiple benefits for society are to be maintained, and contributions made to sustainable development and to human livelihoods, especially in rural areas.

The pan-European actions for the implementation of Vienna Resolution 2 and related commitments in the Vienna Declaration aim to put in place the better conditions necessary for a viable, competitive forestry sector, as well as to contribute to rural development.

Table 3: Pan-European actions for the implementation of Vienna Resolution 2

| Focus | Actions | Leading actors | Time frame | Status by 03/05 | Commitment |
|--------------------|--|-----------------------------|------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| Promoting wood use | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Publication of reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ "Europeans and Their Forests – What Do Europeans Think about Forests and SFM?" ■ "European Consumers and Their Attitudes towards Wood, Substitute Materials and the Image of Forest Industries" | UNECE/ FAO-FCN, MCPFE | 2003 | Completed | V2 para 8; V5 para 5; L1 |
| | | UNECE/ FAO-FCN, MCPFE | 2004 | In preparation | V2 para 8; V5 para 5; L1 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Workshop on best PR practices concerning the sound use of wood and wood promotion campaigns | UNECE/ FAO-FCN | 2004 | Planned | V2 para 8; V5 para 5; L1; H1 |
| Progress | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Publication of the report "Europeans and Their Forests – What Do Europeans Think about Forests and SFM?" was finalized by the Liaison Unit Vienna in August, 2003. ■ Publication of the report "European Consumers and Their Attitudes towards Wood, Substitute Materials and the Image of Forest Industries" was postponed. ■ Organization of the workshop on best PR practices is postponed. | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|--|------|----------------|---|
| Non-wood goods and services | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Seminar on "New Roles and Modes of Operation of Forest Services" | The Netherlands, Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Expert Network ³ | 2004 | Cancelled | V2 para 11 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshop on valuation of the full range of goods and services of forests and their marketing: Progress and issues | MCPFE Liaison Unit, EFI | 2006 | Planned | V2 paras 9, 10; VD paras 7, 25; L1 |
| Competitiveness and innovation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seminar on co-operation of private forest owners (working title) | CEPF,USSE | 2004 | In preparation | V2 paras 18, 19; VD para 12 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seminar on policies fostering investment and innovation in support of rural development | MCPFE Liaison Unit, EFI | 2005 | In preparation | V2 paras 7, 11, 16; VD para 19; L1 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshop on encouraging the establishment of and organisation in associations for SMEs and the workforce, including self-employed and informal workers | ENFE, Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Expert Network | 2004 | Completed | V2 para 19; |
| Progress | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organisation of the seminar on co-operation of private forest owners is postponed until 2006. The seminar on policies fostering investment and innovation in support of rural development is tentatively scheduled for 19-31 March, 2006 in Slovenia. The workshop on encouraging the establishment of and organisation in associations for SMEs and the workforce, as entitled "Sustainable Development of Competitive of Forest Operations in Europe", was convened on 16 September, 2005 in Krakow, Poland. The workshop was organized jointly by the European Network of Forest Entrepreneurs (ENFE) and Polish Association of Forest Entrepreneurs. Financial support was provided by the UK Forestry Commission and Polish National Forest Holding State Forests. The LUW provided a presentation on the role of forestry contractors in the pan-European approach to sustainable forestry as well as assisted the organizers in preparatory work. | | | | |
| Education, training and safety | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Seminar on "Safety in Small-Scale Private Forestry" | Switzerland, France, Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Expert Network | 2007 | Planned | V2 paras 13, 14; L1 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> First international conference of forest training centres | France, Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Expert Network | 2005 | Completed | V2 paras 12, 13, 14; VD para 17; L1; H2; H3 |
| Progress | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 1st International Forestry Training Centres Conference was held on 16-18 February, 2005, at La Bastide des Jourdans, France. In result of the meeting the participants agreed that SFM needed a sustainable workforce. Among other things the linking of forestry networks, establishing of a common database and more effective disseminating of information on developments in education were recommended. New partnerships have been formed, based on the Leonardo programme by the European Commission. New networking platform was established at the website: www.eduforest.org | | | | |

³ The Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training developed into the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Experts Network to implement sustainable forest management (October, 2004). It builds on the activities of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training. In what follows it is always abbreviated to Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Expert Network.

VIENNA RESOLUTION 3

Preserving and Enhancing the Social and Cultural Dimensions of Sustainable Forest Management in Europe

Through the Vienna Conference, the cultural values of forests have gained increased attention. However, many aspects to the social and cultural dimensions within SFM and sustainable development need further clarification.

The actions of Vienna Resolution 3 and the related commitments in the Vienna Declaration aim to improve knowledge and understanding of the social and cultural dimensions to sustainable forest management.

Table 4: Pan-European actions for the implementation of Vienna Resolution 3

| Focus | Actions | Leading actors | Time frame | Status by 03/ 05 | Commitment |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|------------|------------------|---|
| Culture and sustainable development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seminar on the role of forest-related social and cultural aspects in sustainable development in Europe | Sweden, Austria, Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Expert Network EFI, MCPFE Liaison Unit | 2004 | Completed | V3 paras 8, 11; VD para 11; Lisbon GD; L1; H1 |
| Progress | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Seminar on Forest and our Cultural Heritage was held on 13-15 June, 2005 in Sunne, Sweden. The outcome of the seminar that includes recommendations was presented at the ELM, held on 5-6 September, 2005. The results of the questionnaire on data availability on Indicator 6.11 carried out by the LUW supported the seminar discussions and were also presented at the ELM. The seminar proceedings are to be published by Sweden in co-operation with the LUW. | | | | |
| Cultural sites | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution to pan-European Indicator 6.11: Enquiry on forest-related cultural sites through questionnaires and analysis and management of obtained data | MCPFE Liaison Unit, UNECE/FAO, UNESCO | 2006 | Ongoing | V3 para 10; VD paras 17, 25 |
| Progress | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The results of the questionnaire on data availability on Indicator 6.11 serve as a basis for elaboration of a reporting format for Indicator 6.11 in the MCPFE Report on SFM. | | | | |
| Material and non-material aspects | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publication on material and non-material social and cultural dimensions of SFM | MCPFE Liaison Unit | 2007 | Planned | V3 paras 6, 8; L1 |

VIENNA RESOLUTION 4

Conserving and Enhancing Forest Biological Diversity in Europe

At the Vienna Conference, the ministers responsible for forests reaffirmed that the conservation and appropriate enhancement of biological diversity are essential elements in their sustainable management. Their commitments build on former MCPFE work and global decisions, especially within the framework of the CBD and the UNFF.

The pan-European actions for the implementation of Vienna Resolution 4 and related commitments in the Vienna Declaration aim to tackle the pan-European priorities as regards the conservation and appropriate enhancement of forest biodiversity.

Table 5: Pan-European actions for the implementation of Vienna Resolution 4

| Focus | Actions | Leading actors | Time frame | Status by 03/05 | Commitment |
|--------------------|--|---|------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| Ecosystem approach | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ MCPFE ad hoc working group to develop a pan-European understanding on the linkage between the ecosystem approach and SFM | MCPFE, PEBLDS | 2003-2004 | Completed | V4 para 8; V4 Annex; H1; H2 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Integration of the pan-European understanding of the linkage between the ecosystem approach and SFM into relevant processes at global level | MCPFE Liaison Unit, PEBLDS joint secretariat, CBD Secretariat, UNFF Secretariat | 2004-2007 | Ongoing | V4 para 8; V4 Annex; H1; H2 |
| Progress | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The MCPFE and Efe/PEBLDS ad hoc Working Group on Development of the pan-European Understanding of the linkage between the Ecosystem Approach and Sustainable Forest Management was held on 19-21 April, 2004 in Krakow, in co-operation with Poland (the State Forests). ■ The participants of the Working Group agreed that the MCPFE approach to the relationships and linkages between SFM and the EA represented a concrete effort at bringing the EA to the implementation level, and one which should be continued with so that the common goals of SFM and the EA may be achieved. ■ Outcome of the MCPFE and Efe/PEBLDS ad hoc Working Group was published by the LUW in the brochure: "Sustainable Forest Management and the Ecosystem Approach". ■ The "Joint position of the MCPFE and PEBLDS/Efe on the Pan-European understanding of the linkage between the Ecosystem Approach and Sustainable Forest Management" was elaborated and adopted by the ELM, held on 5-6 September, 2005. | | | | |
| Illegal harvesting | Due to the cross-sectoral nature of the issue of combating illegal harvesting the ELM agreed on moving this action from V4 to V1 in the Work Programme with references to the commitments made in the Vienna Declaration and Resolutions V2 and V4 (VD: para 20; V2: para 7; V4: para 7). | | | | |
| Protected areas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Analysis of European networks of protected forest areas concerning the comprehensiveness, representativeness and adequacy of protected forests with regard to the conservation goal | COST E27, MCPFE, PEBLDS, CEC, CoE, UNEP, IUCN | 2005 | Ongoing | V4 paras 10, 11; V4 Annex; H2 |
| Progress | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ It was agreed at the ELM that the MCPFE signatory countries should actively support and participate in COST E27. ■ IUCN was included among the actors involved in the implementation of this action. | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--|--|-----------|---------|--------------------------------|
| Forest classification | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Workshop on a pan-European understanding of forest classification in co-ordination with UNECE/FAO and EEA | MCPFE Liaison Unit, IUCN, UNECE/FAO, CEC-EEA | 2006 | Planned | V4 para 13; VD para 25; H1; H2 |
| Forest genetic resources | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Promotion of the conservation of forest genetic resources as an integral part of SFM and a continuation of pan-European collaboration in this area through the EUFORGEN Networks | IPGRI, FAO | 2004 | Ongoing | V4 paras 5, 16; VD para 22; S2 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ An international forest training programme on forest genetic resources as part of the collaborative capacity-building programme on "Conservation and use of biological diversity for development". | Austria, Sweden, IPGRI | 2004-2008 | Ongoing | V4 para 16; VD para 17; S2; H2 |

Progress

- Technical Guidelines for genetic conservation and use have been developed for 16 tree species. Phase III EUFORGEN (2005-2009) was endorsed by its Steering Committee and presented at the ELM, held on 5-6 September, 2006 Warsaw, Poland.
- IPGRI, the Austrian Federal Office and the Research Centre for Forests (BFW) initiated an international capacity-building programme on forest biodiversity with financial support from the Government of Austria.
- Promoting the conservation of forests genetic resources as an integral part of SFM through the EUFORGEN Networks was presented by IPGRI at the ELM, held on 5 – 6 September, 2005, Warsaw, Poland.

VIENNA RESOLUTION 5

Climate Change and Sustainable Forest Management in Europe

In Vienna Resolution 5, the ministers responsible for forests recognised the threats posed thereto, and to their ability to provide multiple benefits for society, by human-induced climate change, as well as the role of European forests in the global carbon cycle.

The pan-European actions for the implementation of Vienna Resolution 5 and the related commitments in the Vienna Declaration aim to enhance the contribution forests make to reducing net greenhouse-gas emissions, to encourage SFM practices in carbon-sequestration measures and to further increase the adaptability of forests to climate change.

Table 6: Pan-European actions for implementation of Vienna Resolution 5

| Focus | Actions | Leading actors | Time frame | Status by 03/05 | Commitment |
|---|--|--|------------|-----------------|---|
| Promoting bioenergy and the sound use of wood | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshop on resource mobilisation and comprehensive wood utilisation strategies in support of SFM | MCPFE Liaison Unit, EFI, IIASA, CEPI | 2005 | In preparation | V5 para 5; V2 para 8; VD para 9; L1; H4 |
| Progress | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The workshop on resource mobilisation and comprehensive wood utilisation strategies in support of SFM is tentatively scheduled for 2006. | | | | |
| SFM and greenhouse-gas management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elaboration of a proposal for recommendations for site selection for afforestation and reforestation in the context of UNFCCC | MCPFE Liaison Unit, PEBLDS Secretariat, IUCN, UNEP | 2004 | Ongoing | V5 para 6; V4 paras 11, 12, 15; V4 Annex; H1 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshop on pan-European recommendations for afforestation and reforestation in the context of UNFCCC | MCPFE Liaison Unit, PEBLDS Secretariat | 2006 | Planned | VD paras 17, 21; V5 para 6; V4 para 4; V4 Annex; H1 |
| Progress | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ELM, held on 5-6 September, 2005 was presented recommendations provided by the IUCN publication "Afforestation and Reforestation for Climate Change Mitigation: Potentials for Pan-European Action". The recommendations were adopted as a basis for elaborating the pan-European recommendations for afforestation and reforestation. The recommendations will be discussed at the workshop "Pan-European recommendations for afforestation and reforestation in the context of UNFCCC" to be convened in 2006. | | | | |
| Adaptability of forests | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publication of books: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Forests and Carbon Sequestration" "Environmental Change and Forest management" | IUFRO | 2005 | Planned | V5 para 8; VD para 17; H4 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshop on the role of forest genetic diversity on improving the adaptability of forests to climate change and in maintaining the productivity of forests under changing environmental conditions | IPGRI, IUFRO | 2005 | Planned | V5 paras 8, 10; VD para 22; S2 |
| Progress | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The workshop "Climate change and forest genetic diversity: Implications to sustainable forest management in Europe" will be held on 15-16 March 2006, in Paris, France. | | | | |

REGULAR MCPFE WORK

The pan-European actions outlined above are complemented by a number of ongoing activities which can be characterised as regular work of the MCPFE. The following table highlights these activities, the leading actors involved, and the linkages to the Vienna Resolutions and the Vienna Declaration.

Table 7: Regular MCPFE work

| MCPFE Activities | Leading actors | Status by 03/05 | Commitment |
|---|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mutual participation in meetings and close communication and consultation between the respective secretariats | MCPFE Liaison Unit, UNECE/FAO, PEBLDS secretariat | Ongoing | V1 paras 5, 6; VD para 18 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication and Public Relations activities | MCPFE | Ongoing | VD |
| <p>Progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance of the MCPFE website, and existing information channels such as the Forest Europe Newsletter, as well as dissemination of the MCPFE publications. Establishment of the MCPFE logo, brochure and new website design including a calendar of upcoming meetings and interactive platform called "News from the countries". Making available to all signatories for translation an editable version of Forest Europe and the MCPFE brochure. Preparing promotional materials dedicated to the 15th Anniversary of the MCPFE: posters and presentation on the MCPFE achievements (CD). | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pan-European contribution to the global and regional work of UNFF, CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD, CoE | MCPFE Liaison Unit | Ongoing | V4 paras 4, 10, 14; V4 Annex; V5 para 9; VD paras 18, 23, 24 |
| <p>Progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The MCPFE side event "15 years of partnership in responsibility for European forests – MCPFE contribution to the international dialogue" was organized during the UNFF - 5, held on 16-27 May 2005 (New York, USA) | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research & knowledge transfer, mutual participation at meetings Conference to strengthen science/policy interface and analysis in 2005 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparatory workshop in 2004 | MCPFE, IUFRO, EFI, IIASA, UNU, IPGRI, EFI | Ongoing In preparation Completed | V3 para 11; V4 para 16; VD paras 17, 22; V5 paras 5c, 7 |
| <p>Progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The preparatory workshop for the Conference to strengthen the science/policy interface was convened by EFI on 13 October 2004, in Warsaw, Poland. The current policy issues and ongoing research were summarized. The state of potentials and policy relevance of research for the MCPFE was presented on the basis of a survey carried out by EFI and other inputs. The importance of research and knowledge transfer in the implementation of international commitments of the MCPFE was emphasized at the ELM. The Conference to strengthen science/policy interface and analysis is to be held in 2006. | | | |

| | | | |
|--|--|---------|----------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ SFM-related monitoring, assessment and reporting through C&I; PEOLG update; co-ordination with other C&I processes ■ Working group on data collection and availability for social indicators | <p>MCPFE Liaison Unit, UNECE/FAO</p> <p>MCPFE, ENFE, IFBWW, Poland</p> | Ongoing | VD para 25; L2 |
| <p>Progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The process of elaboration of the report on SFM in Europe for the MCPFE Warsaw Conference was launched: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ both qualitative and quantitative indicators are to be taken into account in the report; ■ the reporting will be performed by the Liaison Unit in co-operation with the Secretariat of UNECE/FAO; ■ the reporting should be harmonized with all relevant international processes. ■ Comprehensive preparatory works have been undertaken by coordinating units (LUW and UNECE/FAO Secretariat). Two meetings were held: the UNECE Team of Specialists(ToS) on "Monitoring forest resources for sustainable forest management in the UNECE Region", (25-27 April 2005, Geneva, Switzerland) and the First Meeting of the AG on the elaboration of the report "State of Forests and SFM in Europe 2007" (14-15 July 2005 Warsaw, Poland). ■ The bilateral co-operation between the LUW and the UNECE Secretariat, the advice obtained from both the UNECE ToS and the AG resulted in elaboration of detailed and comprehensive modalities for the MCPFE reporting as well as of advanced version of an Enquiry for National Reporting (Questionnaire). Enquiry is expected to be the main instrument (structure and guidelines) for the countries' reporting on SFM to the next pan-European Ministerial Conference. ■ Co-operation with the Montreal Process, ITTO, FAO and UNECE was established in regard to the preparation of the joint workshop. The ELM, held on 5-6 September 2005 gave a mandate to the LUW to participate in preparatory works. The workshop is tentatively scheduled for May, 2006 in Bialowieza (Poland). | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Further develop the comparability of the MCPFE Assessment Guidelines for Protected and Protective Forests and OWL in Europe with the IUCN Protected Area Management Categories | MCPFE Liaison Unit, IUCN secretariat | Planned | V4 paras 9, 20 |
| <p>Progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The MCPFE GCC considered the outcome of the COST Action 27 as a valuable input for the implementation of the MCPFE Work Programme. Following, the ELM on 5-6 September, 2005 has supported this recommendation and gave mandate to the Liaison Unit Warsaw to conduct and coordinate the work on producing the Explanatory Note on application of "The MCPFE Assessment Guidelines for Protected and Protective Forest and Other Wooded Land in Europe", which will contribute to the MCPFE Report on SFM. | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Operationalisation of Framework for Co-operation between MCPFE and EfE/PEBLDS, including definition of joint actions in the respective work-programmes of the MCPFE and PEBLDS | MCPFE, PEBLDS | Ongoing | V4 paras 4, 18, VD para 24 |
| <p>Progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Elaboration of the "Joint position of the MCPFE and PEBLDS/EfE on the Pan-European understanding of the linkage between the Ecosystem Approach and Sustainable Forest Management". ■ Cooperation in relation to workshop on illegal harvesting. ■ Participation in the Streamlining European 2010 Biodiversity Indicators process (SEBI2010). ■ Co-operation with the 6. SEBI2010 Expert Group: Sustainable Use Indicators in the works on indicator on "Area of forests under sustainable management". | | | |

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|-------------|---|
| C&I | Criteria and Indicators |
| CBD | Convention on Biological Diversity |
| CEC | European Commission (Commission of the European Community) |
| CEPF | Confederation of European Forest Owners |
| CEPI | Confederation of European Paper Industries |
| CITES | Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora |
| CoE | Council of Europe |
| COST | European Co-operation in the Field of Scientific and Technical Research |
| EA | Ecosystem Approach |
| ECE | Economic Commission for Europe [of the UN] |
| EEA | European Environment Agency |
| EfE | Environment for Europe |
| EFI | European Forest Institute |
| EFSOS | European Forest Sector Outlook Studies |
| ENFE | European Network of Forest Entrepreneurs |
| EOMF | European Observatory of Mountain Forests |
| EUFORGEN | European Forest Genetic Resources Programme |
| FAO | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations |
| FCN | Forest Communicators Network |
| H1 | Helsinki Resolution 1 |
| H2 | Helsinki Resolution 2 |
| H3 | Helsinki Resolution 3 |
| H4 | Helsinki Resolution 4 |
| ICP Forests | International Co-operative Programme on Assessment and Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Forests |
| IIASA | International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis |
| ILO | International Labour Organization |
| IPGRI | International Plant Genetic Resources Institute |
| IUCN | The World Conservation Union |
| IUFRO | International Union of Forest Research Organizations |
| L1 | Lisbon Resolution 1 |
| L2 | Lisbon Resolution 2 |
| MCPFE | Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe |
| MSD | Multi-stakeholder Dialogue |
| npf(s) | national forest programme(s) |
| OWL | other wooded land |
| PEBLDS | Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy |

| | |
|--------|--|
| PEOLG | Pan-European Operational-Level Guidelines |
| PR | public relations |
| S1 | Strasbourg Resolution 1 |
| S2 | Strasbourg Resolution 2 |
| S3 | Strasbourg Resolution 3 |
| S4 | Strasbourg Resolution 4 |
| S5 | Strasbourg Resolution 5 |
| S6 | Strasbourg Resolution 6 |
| SFM | sustainable forest management |
| SMEs | small and medium-sized enterprises |
| UNCCD | United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification |
| UNECE | United Nations Economic Commission for Europe |
| UNEP | United Nations Environment Programme |
| UNESCO | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization |
| UNFCCC | United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change |
| UNFF | United Nations Forum on Forests |
| UNU | United Nations University |
| USSE | l'Union des Sylviculteurs du Sud de l'Europe |
| V1 | Vienna Resolution 1 |
| V2 | Vienna Resolution 2 |
| V3 | Vienna Resolution 3 |
| V4 | Vienna Resolution 4 |
| V5 | Vienna Resolution 5 |
| VD | Vienna Declaration |
| WSSD | World Summit on Sustainable Development |

LIST OF WEBSITES

| | |
|--|---|
| CBD | http://www.biodiv.org |
| CEC | http://europa.eu.int |
| CEPF | http://www.cepf-eu.org |
| CEPI | http://www.cepi.be |
| CoE | http://www.coe.int |
| ECE | http://www.unece.org |
| EEA | http://www.eea.eu.int |
| EfE | www.unece.org/env |
| EFI | http://www.efi.fi |
| EFSOS | http://www.unece.org/trade/timber/efsos |
| ENFE | http://www.enfe.net |
| EOMF | http://www.eomf.org |
| EUFORGEN | http://www.ipgri.cgiar.org/networks/euforgen |
| FAO | http://www.fao.org |
| FCN | http://www.unece.org/trade/timber/pr/publist/publist.htm |
| ICP Forests | http://www.icp-forests.org |
| IIASA | http://www.iiasa.ac.at |
| ILO | http://www.us.ilo.org |
| IPGRI | http://www.ipgri.cgiar.org |
| IUCN | http://www.iucn.org |
| IUFRO | http://www.iufro.org |
| MCPFE | http://www.mcpfe.org |
| PEBLDS | http://biodiversity-chm.eea.eu.int/information/indicator |
| Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences | http://www.slu.se |
| UNCCD | http://www.unccd.int |
| UNECE | http://www.unece.org |
| UNEP | http://www.unep.org |
| UNESCO | http://portal.unesco.org |
| UNFCCC | http://unfccc.int |
| UNFF | http://www.un.org/esa/forests |
| University of Oulu | http://www.oulu.fi |
| UNU | http://www.unu.edu |
| USSE | http://www.usse.es/home.html |
| WSSD | http://www.johannesburgsummit.org |

REFERENCES

1. **MCPFE**. 2003. Fourth Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe Conference Proceedings, 28 - 30 April 2003, Vienna, Austria. Available at the MCPFE Liaison Unit Warsaw. <http://www.mcpfe.org>
2. **MCPFE**. 2000. General Declarations and Resolutions Adopted at the Ministerial Conferences on the Protection of Forests in Europe. Strasbourg 1990 - Helsinki 1993 - Lisbon 1998 Available the MCPFE Liaison Unit Warsaw. <http://www.mcpfe.org>

ANNEX 1

VIENNA DECLARATION AND VIENNA RESOLUTIONS

VIENNA LIVING FOREST SUMMIT DECLARATION

European Forests – Common Benefits, Shared Responsibilities

1. Living forests are a basis of life on Earth. By sustaining forests, we sustain life.
2. Forests create multiple benefits: they provide the raw material for renewable and environmentally friendly products and play an important role for economic welfare, biological diversity, the global carbon cycle and water balance. They are essential for providing environmental, protective, social and recreational services, especially in the light of an increasingly urbanised society. Forests are an important resource for rural development providing livelihoods for a diverse workforce, local communities, millions of forest owners as well as forest related enterprises. We, as policy makers, are responsible for achieving, in the forest sector and pro-actively with other sectors, a balance between the economic, ecological, social and cultural roles of forests in the context of sustainable development.
3. Forest sector policies contribute to sustainable development as a whole and are themselves often influenced by major cross-sectoral decisions. We are convinced that co-ordination and partnerships are crucial to further promote all benefits of forests in Europe and for the sustainable development of our societies.
4. The Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE), as a regional policy process, has pursued the protection of forests by further strengthening the sustainable management of European forests since 1990. Being aware of the continuous process of implementing previous MCPFE commitments and the emerging new challenges, we commit ourselves to continue our efforts to that end and further contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.
5. Global commitments, most recently those of the WSSD¹, need to be translated for and implemented at the regional, national, and sub-national level. In this respect we underline the role of the MCPFE and other regional forest-related processes and agreements in implementing global commitments on the management, conservation and sustainable development of forests.
6. We also recognise our role in contributing to the development of forest-related commitments at a global scale.

As representatives of the Signatory States and the European Community, we commit ourselves to

Benefiting rural livelihood and urban societies

7. strengthen conditions for the economic viability of sustainable forest management and support the role of forests, forestry and forest-based industries in maintaining and developing rural livelihoods as well as in meeting the demands of urbanised societies,
8. promote incentives for the protection and sustainable management of forests, and remove incentives with a negative impact on forests and their biodiversity,

¹ World Summit on Sustainable Development

9. take measures to increase the sound use of wood from sustainably managed forests as a renewable and environmentally friendly resource,
10. take measures to maintain and strengthen the services of forests in providing protection from natural hazards,
11. fully reflect the social and cultural dimensions of sustainable forest management in forest-related policies,
12. address the challenges that forest owners are facing in Central and Eastern European Countries, especially those related to changes in forest ownership,

Building strong partnerships

13. improve understanding of how policies and strategies developed in other sectors strongly influence the forest sector and vice versa,
14. identify key cross-sectoral issues, actors and interactions and, on this basis, establish a dialogue to seek joint solutions; the resulting policy choices should both further sustainable forest management and sustainable development as a whole,
15. develop new and strengthen existing partnerships at the international and national level between governments, governmental organisations, civil society including non-governmental organisations and the private sector,
16. use national and sub-national forest programmes as a means for effective inter-sectoral co-ordination, reflecting a balanced decision making process,
17. take forest-related decisions based on science, take measures that support and strengthen research and increase interdisciplinary research,
18. continue the fruitful pan-European co-operation with all partners, especially with UNECE/FAO² and Environment for Europe/PEBLDS³, and increase co-operation with other regional forest processes,
19. further develop co-operation among countries with different socio-economic situations, especially with regard to Central and Eastern Europe,

Tackling global challenges

20. take effective measures to promote good governance and forest law enforcement, and to combat illegal harvesting of forest products and related trade, and contribute to international efforts to this end,
21. take concrete measures to contribute to the overall reduction of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere and promote the concept of sustainable forest management in relation to UNFCCC⁴ and its Kyoto Protocol,
22. take further steps to maintain, conserve, restore and enhance biological diversity of forests, including their genetic resources, in Europe and also on a global scale,
23. further support the United Nations Forum on Forests, with the assistance of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, as key intergovernmental mechanisms to facilitate and co-ordinate the implementation of sustainable forest management at all levels,

² United Nations Economic Commission for Europe / Food and Agriculture Organization

³ Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy

⁴ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

⁵ Intergovernmental Panel on Forests / Intergovernmental Forum on Forests

⁶ United Nations Forum on Forests

⁷ Convention on Biological Diversity

24. further promote and contribute to the full implementation of the IPF/IFF⁵ proposals for action, the Multi Year Programme of Work of UNFF⁶ and its Plan of Action, as well as the CBD⁷ Expanded Programme of Work on Forest Biological Diversity and other global forest-related commitments,

Putting MCPFE commitments into action

25. promote sustainable forest management by further implementing, applying, and if necessary improving, criteria and indicators for monitoring, assessing and reporting progress on sustainable forest management; in this regard we endorse the use of the “Improved Pan-European Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management as adopted by the MCPFE Expert Level Meeting, 7-8 October 2002, Vienna, Austria”,
26. develop a work programme for the implementation of the commitments of this Fourth Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe and the reinforced implementation of previous commitments, in co-operation with all relevant organisations, institutions and processes.

VIENNA RESOLUTION 1

Strengthen Synergies for Sustainable Forest Management in Europe Through Cross-sectoral Co-operation and National Forest Programmes

1. Recognising the need to strengthen coherence and synergies between policies aimed at sustainable forest management and other relevant policies, programmes and strategies through adequate approaches aimed at integration and co-ordination,
2. building on the consensus achieved by the IPF⁸, we agree that, as developed in the MCPFE Approach to National Forest Programmes in Europe, a national forest programme (nfp) constitutes a participatory, holistic, inter-sectoral and iterative process of policy planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation at the national and/or sub-national level in order to proceed towards the further improvement of sustainable forest management as defined in Helsinki Resolution H1, and to contribute to sustainable development,
3. noting that nfp processes are an important means to strengthen coherence and synergies within the forest sector as well as between the forest sector and other sectors in order to facilitate work on forest relevant cross-sectoral issues through inter-sectoral co-ordination,
4. aiming to further the concept of national forest programmes in Europe to address the national needs and contribute to the implementation of forest-related global commitments and internationally agreed actions,

the Signatory States and the European Community commit themselves to

5. work towards an improved understanding of cross-sectoral issues at the pan-European level, identify key issues, actors and interaction to be considered in the regional context and enhance co-operation and dialogue to pro-actively seek solutions,
6. enhance inter-sectoral policy co-ordination by establishing or improving mechanisms
 - a) for regular communication between the forest sector and other relevant sectors to increase the exchange of information and consultation,
 - b) to strengthen collaboration with these sectors and to develop inter-sectoral agreement on common priorities,
7. develop and implement national forest programmes, applying, as far as possible, the MCPFE Approach to National Forest Programmes in Europe,
8. using nfp processes among other tools to
 - a) identify and address key cross-sectoral issues of relevance to forests and sustainable forest management,
 - b) assess gaps and inconsistencies in forest-relevant policies, programmes, strategies and legislation and take action to minimise them,
9. encourage the full consideration of the outcomes of nfp processes in overall national sustainable development strategies and other relevant processes and strategies,
10. continuously exchange country experiences gained in the nfp process, in particular the practical application of the MCPFE Approach to National Forest Programmes in Europe, and the use of criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management as a component of the nfp process,
11. make best use of information on mechanisms for implementation and financing of national forest programmes, of research, education as well as national and international programmes, such as the National Forest Programme Facility and PROFOR⁹.

In this context the Signatory States and the European Community adopt the “MCPFE Approach to National Forest Programmes in Europe” (Annex).

⁸ Intergovernmental Panel on Forests: Document E/CN.17/1997/12

⁹ Programme on Forests (hosted at the World Bank)

ANNEX TO VIENNA RESOLUTION 1

MCPFE Approach to National Forest Programmes in Europe

Building on the consensus achieved on national forest programmes (nfps) by the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF) and its successor, the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF), the MCPFE shares the following MCPFE approach to national forest programmes in Europe:

“A national forest programme constitutes a participatory, holistic, inter-sectoral and iterative process of policy planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation at the national and/or sub-national level in order to proceed towards the further improvement of sustainable forest management as defined in Helsinki Resolution H1, and to contribute to sustainable development. It

- is based on national sovereignty and country leadership and on long-term high level political commitment,
- makes best use of existing capacities and is supportive to the development of intellectual, human and institutional capacity in the field of sustainable forest management, and is characterised by the following principles”:

Principles of nfps in Europe:

- Participation
- Holistic and inter-sectoral approach
- Iterative process with long-term commitment
- Capacity building
- Consistency with national legislation and policies
- Integration with national sustainable development strategies
- Consistency with international commitments recognising synergies between international forest related initiatives and conventions
- Institutional and policy reform
- Ecosystem approach
- Partnership for implementation
- Raising awareness

The nfp process could make use of the six pan-European criteria for sustainable forest management (SFM) as a framework which encompasses the ecological, economic and socio-cultural dimensions of sustainable development.

Within the nfp process, policy issues are addressed at the national and/or sub-national level in accordance with the principles of the process as stated below. These issues are derived from various levels, ranging from local to global, and include the national and/or sub-national implementation of relevant international forest related commitments. These include commitments made at the pan-European level and the global level, such as the outcomes of the UNFF, CBD, UNFCCC and CCD¹⁰.

As a tool to periodically monitor, assess and report on the state of and changes in SFM, criteria and indicators for SFM could constitute a component of the nfp process. They can help to evaluate the output of an nfp process with regard to SFM.

¹⁰ At the global level, these commitments notably include the outcomes of the United Nations Forum on Forests, the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests process, as well as the Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests (Forest Principles) and chapter 11 of Agenda 21, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

Principles of nfps in Europe

The MCPFE reaffirms that all general elements and principles of national forest programmes (nfps) agreed upon by the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests are generally of relevance in the European context, given the wide scope of national backgrounds in that region.

In the countries participating in the MCPFE process, the following principles of nfps should be considered as a basis which further specifies the global consensus in the European context. (The principles are not presented in any order of importance.)

Participation¹¹

Nfps are characterised by participation. Building on the findings of the FAO/ECE/ILO Joint Committee's Team of Specialists on Participation in Forestry (ToS) participation can be described as a "voluntary process whereby people, individually or through organised groups, can exchange information, express opinions and articulate interests, and have the potential to influence decisions or the outcome of the matter at hand". The process of participation can be characterised as a process which is inclusive with respect to interests, voluntary with respect to participation, may be a complement to legal requirements, should be fair and transparent to all participants, should be based on participants acting in good faith and sharing benefits and responsibilities, and does not guarantee – or predetermine – what the outcome will be. Sound information, inter alia derived from research, and adequate access to it is an important aspect of effective participation. Decentralisation as well as the development of human and institutional capacity constitute important aspects that are closely linked to participation.

The type or intensity of participation varies from deliberation/consultation to more elaborate forms of collaborative decision-making. Conflict resolution schemes should be applied as appropriate in this respect. The type or intensity of participation can be different in individual phases of the nfp process (formulation, implementation, evaluation) and at different levels (national, sub-national, local).

Furthermore, different models of participation can be applied, spanning from models involving representatives of interest groups or experts to broad public participation. The selection of appropriate models of participation, inter alia, depends on the issues addressed, the nature of the interest groups and the phase of the nfp process, and can vary according to country's specific cultural, social and economic conditions.

Holistic and inter-sectoral approach¹²

Nfps adopt a holistic and inter-sectoral approach that considers the impact of the forest sector on other sectors and the impact of other sectors on the forest sector. Nfps are a comprehensive policy framework for activities in the forest sector. They help to guide policies, strategies and programmes in other relevant sectors at national and sub-national levels, thus creating coherence and consistency of national policies and with international commitments. Raising awareness of forest sector policies and goals to other sectors, participation and developing human and institutional capacity are important aspects closely linked to this holistic and inter-sectoral approach.

Suitable co-ordination mechanisms and instruments, established at sub-national and/or national levels, will allow links to be created both horizontally with other sectors, institutions and stakeholder groups and vertically, between the different levels.

¹¹ Ref. E/CN.17/1997/12, paragraphs 9, 10 as well as 17 lit.(a), (e) and (f)

¹² Ref. E/CN.17/1997/12, paragraphs 8, 9, 10 as well as 17 lit.(a)

Iterative process with long-term commitment¹³

Nfps are long-term iterative processes that are continuously adapted to reflect new knowledge and changes in the natural, economic and socio-political environment. To ensure consistency and continuity, nfps are based on long-term high level political commitment and long-term engagement of stakeholders.

Acknowledging the long-term nature of forests and forestry, suitable monitoring and evaluation procedures are developed, appropriate information collection systems established and appropriate evaluation periods determined. Different approaches and intervals could be chosen for evaluating general (strategic) goals and for evaluating specific targets, measures, activities and topics.

Furthermore, in a holistic, inter-sectoral approach, evaluation procedures for nfps also take into account periods of other sectoral strategies, programmes or plans at national, regional and international levels touching upon forests and the forest sector.

As an instrument for monitoring, assessment and reporting on the state of sustainable forest management (SFM), national and sub-national criteria and indicators for SFM could constitute a component of an nfp. The Pan-European Criteria and Indicators for SFM are a basis for the development of national indicators¹⁴.

Capacity building¹⁵

An nfp process can profit from adequate competencies and skills of the actors involved provided that appropriate participatory models and techniques are applied. Therefore, nfps aim to further develop the intellectual, human and institutional capacity and an enabling environment for sustainable forest management. The importance of building new capacities by means of training, education and research, and making best use of existing capacities is emphasised in particular with regard to Central and Eastern European Countries.

Building capacity and knowledge at all levels also supports and facilitates a holistic and inter-sectoral approach.

Consistency with national legislation and policies¹⁶

Nfps reflect national and/or sub-national needs and priorities and ensure consistency with national, sub-national or local legislation, policies and strategies.

Integration with national sustainable development strategies¹⁷

In the nfp process, SFM in all its dimensions is considered in the context of overall sustainable development. Accordingly, nfps are integrated with national sustainable development strategies.

Consistency with international commitments recognising synergies between international forest related initiatives and conventions

Forests are addressed by various international and regional initiatives and conventions¹⁸. Co-ordination needs in the framework of forest-related initiatives and conventions can be identified at three levels, the national, regional and international level. Nfps aim to strengthen consistency with and

¹³ Ref. E/CN.17/1997/12, paragraphs 10, 17 lit.(a) as well as E/CN.17/2000/14, paragraph 9 lit(e)

¹⁴ Ref. E/CN.17/1997/12, paragraph 17 lit.(d)

¹⁵ Ref. E/CN.17/1997/12, paragraphs 14, 17 lit.(g)

¹⁶ Ref. E/CN.17/1997/12, paragraphs 10, 17 lit.(a)

¹⁷ Ref. E/CN.17/1997/12, paragraph 10

¹⁸ At the global level, these forest related initiatives and conventions notably include the outcomes of the United Nations Forum on Forests, the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests process, as well as the Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests (Forest Principles) and chapter 11 of Agenda 21, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

synergies between relevant initiatives and conventions in each country and identify the appropriate levels and requirements for co-operative efforts and activities.

Institutional and policy reform¹⁹

Developing suitable conditions for SFM might also require institutional and forest/non-forest policy reform, including decentralisation and issues of land tenure arrangements as well as conflict resolution schemes.

Ecosystem approach²⁰

Developing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating national forest programmes takes into consideration the ecosystem approach²¹. However, the relation between the ecosystem approach and sustainable forest management needs to be further explored, taking into account the outcome of the conceptual analysis by the CBD Secretariat.

Partnership for implementation²²

The implementation of forest policies in the framework of nfps can benefit from co-operation between governments, businesses and civil society. In order to improve the effectiveness of an nfp, it makes best use of partnerships and shared resources.

Raising awareness

Forests contribute significantly to the overall well-being of society in rural as well as in urban areas. Nfps are important instruments to raise the visibility of the forest sector and to enhance public awareness and understanding of the multiple benefits of forests for society. Nfps give particular importance to the role of sound information to strengthen public confidence in forest policy and forest management.

Raising awareness of forest sector policies and goals constitutes an important prerequisite to achieve mutual consistency and coherence between the forest policy and other relevant sectoral policies.

¹⁹ Ref. E/CN.17/1997/12, paragraphs 9, 14, 17 lit.(a)

²⁰ Ref. E/CN.17/1997/12, paragraph 17 lit.(a)

²¹ Compare IPF Proposal for action 17 (a) which states that the Panel "encouraged countries (...) to develop, implement, monitor and evaluate national forest programmes, taking into consideration the following: (...), ecosystem approaches that integrate the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of biological resources; (...)."

²² Ref. E/CN.17/1997/12, paragraph 17 lit.(i)

VIENNA RESOLUTION 2

Enhancing Economic Viability of Sustainable Forest Management in Europe

1. Noting that economic viability is a key pillar of sustainable forest management and of crucial importance for maintaining forests and their multiple benefits for society, contributing to sustainable development and to human livelihood especially in rural areas,
2. being aware that sustainable forest management in Europe relies on millions of private owners, forest-related enterprises, public bodies as well as on a highly qualified workforce, and being aware that forests provide raw material, goods and services for a range of sectors and are a basis for income and employment,
3. concerned that conditions for sustainable forest management have led to economic challenges for the forest sector in many regions of Europe,
4. recognising that forests provide a broad range of social, cultural and environmental values to society, striving to improve the economic viability of sustainable forest management through income generated from marketable goods and services as well as, where appropriate, from revenues from currently non-marketed values,
5. building on the related Resolution L1 “People, Forests and Forestry – Enhancement of Socio-Economic Aspects of Sustainable Forest Management” and its follow-up as well as the relevant decisions taken by the UNFF²³, the WSSD²⁴ and the CBD²⁵,
6. aiming to enhance the contribution of European forests and forestry to sustainable development and to human livelihood, especially in rural areas, through encouraging new perspectives and approaches to secure economic viability,

the Signatory States and the European Community commit themselves to

7. adjust policy and legal frameworks and instruments to support sound enabling conditions for sustainable forest management that encourage investment and economic activity in the forest sector, including effective measures for forest law enforcement and for combating illegal harvesting of forest products and related trade,
8. promote the use of wood from sustainably managed forests as an environmentally friendly, renewable and reusable raw material, and thereby contribute to sustainable production and consumption patterns,
9. improve enabling conditions for the market-based provision of a diversified range of non-wood goods and services from sustainably managed forests, inter alia, through identifying and removing unintended impediments and setting appropriate incentives,
10. work towards common approaches to the practical application of the valuation of the full range of goods and services provided by forests and contribute to existing information systems, in cooperation with relevant organisations; incorporate the outcome of these valuations in relevant policies and programmes,
11. enhance the competitiveness of the forest sector by promoting innovation and entrepreneurship among all relevant stakeholders, notably for the efficient provision of new and improved wood and non-wood goods and services,
12. support research as well as mechanisms for the dissemination of generated knowledge,
13. enhance the quality of education, training, extension and skills conducive to the sustainable and competitive development of the forest sector; encourage stakeholders to continuously improve the working environment as well as the safety conditions of forest owners and the forest workforce,

²³ United Nations Forum on Forests

²⁴ World Summit on Sustainable Development

²⁵ Convention on Biological Diversity

14. strengthen the support of institutions concerned with workforce safety and education as well as related research, thus contributing to the future availability of a highly qualified staff and workforce,
15. enhance inter-sectoral co-ordination and collaboration of all sectors relevant for an economically viable management of forests,
16. promote the incorporation of the maintenance and enhancement of the economic viability of sustainable forest management into rural development policies and strategies,
17. promote the use of innovative economic instruments for achieving forest related goals and targets,
18. encourage the voluntary co-operation of forest owners to develop opportunities for improving the economic viability, in particular of small-scale forest holdings,
19. promote the development of and encourage the participation in associations of forest owners, of the forest workforce and of forest entrepreneurs, in particular in Central and Eastern European countries.

VIENNA RESOLUTION 3

Preserving and Enhancing the Social and Cultural Dimensions of Sustainable Forest Management in Europe

1. Recognising the relationship between people and forests and that the social and cultural dimensions of sustainable forest management are reflected in landscapes, historical sites and monuments, artistic, traditional or linguistic knowledge, values, experiences and traditional practices related to forests and uses of wood, non-wood goods and services,
2. based on the understanding that social and cultural values change over time as societies develop, and recognising that globalisation and urbanisation have an effect on forestry,
3. taking into account the decisions of the UNFF²⁶ and the CBD²⁷, related to the social and cultural dimensions of sustainable forest management, and the work done by UNESCO²⁸,
4. aiming to further promote and raise awareness of the social and cultural dimensions of sustainable forest management as an important asset to the education, recreation, environment, rural development and economy of society,

the Signatory States and the European Community, commit themselves to

5. address the social and cultural dimensions of sustainable forest management in national forest programmes and other relevant policies,
6. encourage the identification, expression and communication of the social and cultural dimensions of sustainable forest management inter alia by including them in education and rural development programmes,
7. secure the property rights and land tenure arrangements of forest owners, local and indigenous communities taking into account their economic interests as well as their various social and cultural values, making sure that their land use is in line with sustainable forest management in accordance with relevant national legislation,
8. maintain and further develop both the material (e.g. wood in architecture, medicinal plants) and the non-material (e.g. recreation, well-being, health) social and cultural aspects and benefits of sustainable forest management,
9. maintain and increase the attractiveness of the landscape by, inter alia, enhancing and preserving traditional elements of the cultural landscape; raise awareness of the contribution of traditional knowledge and practices in sustainable forest management for the protection of landscapes, the conservation of biological diversity as well as for protection against natural hazards,
10. identify, assess and encourage the conservation and management of significant historical and cultural objects and sites in forests and related to forests in collaboration with relevant institutions,
11. encourage multi-disciplinary research into the role of the social and cultural aspects of sustainable forest management in the overall goal of sustainable development, including the role of traditional forest-related knowledge.

²⁶ United Nations Forum on Forests

²⁷ Convention on Biological Diversity

²⁸ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

VIENNA RESOLUTION 4

Conserving and Enhancing Forest Biological Diversity in Europe

1. Recognising the importance of forests for biological diversity and reaffirming that the conservation and appropriate enhancement of biological diversity in all types of forests is an essential element for their sustainable management,
2. building on the commitments of Resolution H2 “General Guidelines for the Conservation of the Biodiversity of European Forests”, the CBD²⁹, including its Expanded Programme of Work on Forest Biological Diversity, the IPF/IFF³⁰ Proposals for Action, the decisions of the UNFF³¹, as well as the Plan of Implementation of the WSSD³²,
3. aiming to further maintain, conserve, restore and, as appropriate, enhance forest biological diversity,

the Signatory States and the European Community commit themselves to

4. strive for co-ordinated implementation of the Expanded Programme of Work on Forest Biological Diversity of the CBD and the Proposals for Action of the IPF/IFF at all levels,
5. address the maintenance, conservation, restoration and appropriate enhancement of forest biological diversity in national forest programmes and other relevant policies and programmes, and to set measures to achieve the coherence and mutual supportiveness of these policies,
6. assess the impact of relevant policies and programmes on forest biological diversity, collaborate in removing distortions and failures of policies resulting in loss of forest biological diversity, and in promoting the compatibility of trade regulations with forest biodiversity related goals,
7. provide and analyse information about the impact and underlying causes of illegal harvesting of forest products and related trade on forest biological diversity; take effective measures to combat illegal harvesting of forest products and related trade, and build capacity to ensure effective forest law enforcement,
8. develop a regional understanding of the linkages between the ecosystem approach and sustainable forest management as defined by the MCPFE; share this understanding with the relevant bodies in the assessment of the relation between the ecosystem approach and sustainable forest management at the global level,
9. apply the MCPFE Assessment Guidelines for Protected and Protective Forest and Other Wooded Land in Europe (Annex 2) and further develop them, when appropriate,
10. analyse and further develop protected forest networks, taking into account existing networks, in terms of their comprehensiveness, representativeness and adequacy relative to forest types and the effectiveness of their management with regard to the conservation goal,
11. prevent and mitigate losses of forest biological diversity due to fragmentation and conversion to other land uses and maintain and establish ecological connectivity, where appropriate,
12. promote, as appropriate, the restoration of forest biological diversity in degraded forests and forests established on former forestlands or other landscapes, including plantations, and enhance incentives to promote natural regeneration and regeneration with native tree species and provenances,

²⁹ Convention on Biological Diversity

³⁰ Intergovernmental Panel on Forests / Intergovernmental Forum on Forests

³¹ United Nations Forum on Forests

³² World Summit on Sustainable Development

13. improve the assessment and monitoring of forest biological diversity in Europe, taking into account existing monitoring systems and contribute to harmonised international classification systems through developing a pan-European understanding on forest classification systems including forest types, naturalness and introduced forest species, in line with the Pan-European Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management,
14. contribute to the development of a pan-European strategy which prevents and mitigates the impacts of invasive alien species that threaten ecosystems, in accordance with the decisions of the CBD,
15. promote forest management planning and practices and landscape planning that is specifically suited to maintain, conserve, restore and enhance forest biological diversity, making use of the natural processes of forests,
16. promote the conservation of forest genetic resources as an integral part of sustainable forest management and continue the pan-European collaboration in this area,
17. encourage and support inter-disciplinary research in order to take knowledge-based decisions on sustainable forest management aiming at maintenance, conservation, restoration and enhancement of forest biological diversity
18. continue the fruitful collaboration with the ministerial process “Environment for Europe”/PEBLDS³³, and put into action the “Framework for Co-operation” (Annex 1) by identifying common objectives and activities, especially through the co-operation of the MCPFE Liaison Unit and the Joint Secretariat of the PEBLDS,

and adopt

19. the “Framework for Co-operation” (Annex 1) between the MCPFE and the ministerial process “Environment for Europe”/PEBLDS,
20. the “MCPFE Assessment Guidelines for Protected and Protective Forest and Other Wooded Land in Europe” (Annex 2) whilst proceeding to further co-operate with IUCN³⁴ and its World Commission on Protected Areas to aim at full comparability with their Protected Area Management Categories.

³³ Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy

³⁴ IUCN The World Conservation Union

ANNEX 1 TO VIENNA RESOLUTION 4

Framework for Co-operation Between MCPFE and Environment for Europe / PEBLDS

The Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) constitutes the high-level process for forest policy dialogue and co-operation in Europe, including forest biodiversity issues. “Environment for Europe” is the high-level process for environment related co-operation in Europe. Within the ministerial process “Environment for Europe”, the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS) constitutes the co-ordinating framework for efforts to conserve biological and landscape diversity in Europe³⁵, including forest biodiversity.

PEBLDS has incorporated activities related to forest biodiversity in its first Action Plan (1996 – 2000) under Action Theme “Forest Ecosystems”. PEBLDS also addresses the issue in its current Rolling Work Programme, which is now structured in line with the Strategic Plan of the CBD³⁶, with focus on the European situation through the co-operation of relevant European instruments and processes. The PEBLDS Joint Secretariat collaborates with the CBD Secretariat in the frame of a Memorandum of Co-operation to promote a consistent approach and common objectives for national and regional action to implement the CBD in Europe.

The European ministers responsible for forests have taken regard to the fact that the conservation and appropriate enhancement of biological diversity in all types of forests is an essential element in sustainable forest management. The MCPFE has therefore tackled the subject since its beginnings in 1990 through commitments at the Ministerial Conferences and subsequently in the follow-up processes. The 2nd Ministerial Conference in 1993 in Helsinki explicitly adopted General Guidelines for the Conservation of the Biodiversity of European Forests in Resolution H2 in response to the forests related outcomes of the UNCED 1992³⁷, especially the CBD. In addition biodiversity conservation was explicitly included in the Guidelines for Sustainable Management of Forests in Europe, adopted by the Ministers as Resolution H1. The MCPFE is co-operating with the CBD to contribute to the regional implementation of the decisions on forest biological diversity.

The joint “Work Programme on the Conservation and Enhancement of Biological and Landscape Diversity in Forest Ecosystems 1997–2000”, endorsed by both the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) and “Environment for Europe” at their ministerial meetings in Lisbon and Aarhus in 1998, proved to be a useful tool for the collaboration on forest biodiversity issues between the pan-European forest and environment processes. Based on these experiences, the decision-making bodies of the MCPFE and “Environment for Europe”/PEBLDS underlined the benefit of a continued co-operation. Building on the work done so far and considering the synergies and complementarities to be enhanced by the two processes in relation to forest biodiversity, and the importance of regional approaches in contributing to global fora, the MCPFE and Environment for Europe/PEBLDS agree on the following:

Areas for co-operation

The respective priorities of both processes in the conservation of biological diversity in European forests should be considered as areas for co-operation. Recalling the regional contribution of the MCPFE to global level initiatives and the Memorandum of Co-operation between the PEBLDS Joint Secretariat and the CBD Secretariat, the work under this Framework for Co-operation should also contribute to the deliberation on and implementation of forest biodiversity related global activities.

³⁵ The PEBLDS was endorsed by the ministers of the environment in Sofia in 1995.

³⁶ Convention on Biological Diversity

³⁷ United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro 1992

In this context the collaborative work should focus on pan-European priorities in forest biodiversity conservation in the implementation of the Expanded Work-Programme of the CBD and the UNFF Multi-year Programme of Work and Plan of Action. The forest biodiversity related commitments of the Fourth Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe should be an important basis for the selection of common themes and related tasks for co-operation. The specific themes and related tasks to be selected should especially contribute to creating synergies between the two ministerial processes and to facilitate a joint regional contribution to ongoing global processes.

The co-operation between the MCPFE and “Environment for Europe”/PEBLDS should also serve as a stimulus for co-operation at global level (UNFF-CBD/other CPF partners) and for other regions.

Modalities of co-operation

The selection of common themes and related tasks for co-operation should be undertaken by both the MCPFE Expert Level Meetings and PEBLDS Council Meetings. The results should be reflected in the respective work programmes, indicating the joint activities. Along the same lines, the results of the common pan-European activities should be reported regularly to MCPFE Expert Level Meetings and PEBLDS Council Meetings. A joint presentation of results and/or proposals to the ministerial conferences of the MCPFE and “Environment for Europe” and to global fora such as CBD and UNFF should take place when appropriate.

The Framework for Co-operation between MCPFE and EfE/PEBLDS does not have a specific time limit. Priorities for co-operation will, however, change over time. The priority themes for co-operation for the first period after the endorsement of the Framework for Co-operation are reflected in the annex to this document.

ANNEX TO FRAMEWORK FOR CO-OPERATION

Priority Themes for Co-operation Between MCPFE and EFE/PEBLDS for the Period 2003-2005

This annex presents priority themes and tasks for co-operation, which were selected for the period 2003-2005 as a rolling work programme, which will be updated, as required.

Themes for co-operation

Pan-European contributions to the four following themes, which are global and pan-European priorities at the same time, are considered suitable areas for co-operation between PEBLDS and MCPFE. All these themes refer to commitments made at the 4th Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe:

- The theme "Ecosystem approach" will contribute to the clarification of the relationship between the Ecosystem Approach and Sustainable Forest Management (SFM), building on the work achieved so far by MCPFE on SFM.
- The theme "Protected forest areas" will contribute to the global work on protected forest areas and simultaneously contribute to the general work on protected areas for CBD-COP7 (2004) by making a link between the concepts of protected forest areas and protected areas in general. In the pan-European context, the work will build on existing work on protected areas of the MCPFE and current work on ecological networks.
- The theme "Forest law enforcement with regard to biodiversity conservation" is a global cross-cutting issue, which is also of pan-European relevance and refers to the impacts of illegal harvesting and related trade and institutional capacity building.
- The elaboration of "Recommendations for site selection for afforestation" in the context of the decisions of the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol, taking account of biodiversity interests, was identified as a fourth area of co-operation. This work will build on recent work by IUCN and UNEP, adapted to the European situation.

ANNEX 2 TO VIENNA RESOLUTION 4

MCPFE Assessment Guidelines for Protected and Protective Forest and Other Wooded Land in Europe

1. Introduction

The MCPFE Assessment Guidelines for Protected and Protective Forest and Other Wooded Land in Europe are an outcome of the implementation of the joint “Work-Programme on the Conservation and Enhancement of Biological and Landscape Diversity in Forest Ecosystems 1997 – 2000” of the MCPFE and “Environment for Europe”³⁸. They are based on the analysis of national data on protected and protective forest and other wooded land in the European countries, which has been collected in the frame of a supplementary TBFRA³⁹ enquiry in 2000. The MCPFE Assessment Guidelines were elaborated in a consultative process in preparatory groups, working groups and workshops, involving the countries and organisations participating in the MCPFE.

The MCPFE Assessment Guidelines aim to give a comprehensive picture of protected and protective forest and other wooded land in Europe, while keeping links to international classification systems used for all kinds of protected areas⁴⁰. As comparability at the international level is a goal of the MCPFE Assessment Guidelines, terms and definitions used are in compliance with the TBFRA terminology.

The MCPFE Assessment Guidelines for Protected and Protective Forest and Other Wooded Land in Europe should thus provide an important tool for further MCPFE work on the conservation of all types of forest and other wooded land.

2. General Principles

Protected and protective forest and other wooded land have to comply to the following general principles in order to be assigned according to the MCPFE Assessment Guidelines:

- Existence of legal basis
 - Long term commitment (minimum 20 years)
 - Explicit designation for the protection of biodiversity, landscapes and specific natural elements or protective functions of forest and other wooded land
- “Explicit designation” in the context of these guidelines comprises both:
- Designations defining forest and other wooded land within fixed geographical boundaries delineating a specific area
 - Designations defining forest and other wooded land not within fixed geographical boundaries, but as specific forest types or vertical and horizontal zones in the landscape

Data on forest and other wooded land according to these two designation types should be distinguished in the reporting.

In addition to the regimes complying to these principles, the MCPFE takes account of protected and protective forest and other wooded land based on voluntary contributions without legal basis. As far as possible these forests and other wooded lands should be assigned to the same classes as used for the legally based regimes. However, data on these forests and other wooded lands should be compiled separately.

³⁸ The pan-European ministerial process of the ministers for the Environment

³⁹ Temperate and Boreal Forest Resource Assessment of UNECE/FAO

⁴⁰ There is a clear distinction between protected forests and protective forests, as the first are especially dedicated to the conservation of forest biodiversity, while protective forests are mainly managed for the protection of other natural resources, infrastructure and people.

3. Structure

Protected and protective forests and other wooded lands are grouped according to their main management objective. In addition, restrictions to interventions are used as distinguishing factors. As a result, five classes of protected and protective forest and other wooded land in Europe are defined. As far as possible these classes are associated to the respective Protected Area Management Categories of IUCN – The World Conservation Union⁴¹. In addition, they are linked to the designation types used by EEA⁴² in its Data Base on Designated Areas. The intention is to establish proper linkages between the MCPFE Assessment Guidelines for Protected and Protective Forest and Other Wooded Land in Europe and these systems, which are used for all kinds of protected areas. The references are agreed with IUCN and EEA as indicated in the table below.

| MCPFE CLASSES | | | EEA* | IUCN** |
|---------------|--|---|------------|--------|
| 1 | Main Management Objective "Biodiversity" | 1.1: "No Active Intervention" | A | I |
| | | 1.2: "Minimum Intervention" | A | II |
| | | 1.3: "Conservation Through Active Management" | A | IV |
| 2: | Main Management Objective "Protection of Landscapes and Specific Natural Elements" | B | III, V, VI | |
| 3: | Main Management Objective "Protective Functions" | (B) | n.a. | |

* References as identified in the Standard Data Form of the Natura 2000 and Emerald networks, and used in the same way in the framework of the Common Database on Designated Areas (CDDA), managed by the EEA on behalf of two other organisations (Council of Europe and UNEP-WCMC). The groups (A, B or C) are related to designation types and not to individual sites.

** Indicative reference:

- The equivalence of IUCN Categories may vary according to the specific management objective (of the forested part) of each individual protected area. A technical consultation process with IUCN and its World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) is underway to ensure full comparability between the MCPFE and IUCN systems.
- IUCN Categories III, V and VI have biodiversity conservation as their primary management objective. However, they fit more easily under MCPFE Class 2 than 1

The area of forest and other wooded land assigned to the classes 1 and 2 should not be summed up with the data collected under class 3 to avoid double counting.

4. Definition of Classes

The individual classes of protected and protective forest and other wooded land are defined by the management objective and restrictions to interventions as follows:

Class 1: Main Management Objective "Biodiversity"

Class 1.1: "No Active Intervention"

- The main management objective is biodiversity
- No active, direct human intervention is taking place
- Activities other than limited public access and non-destructive research not detrimental to the management objective are prevented in the protected area

Class 1.2: "Minimum Intervention"

- The main management objective is biodiversity
- Human intervention is limited to a minimum

⁴¹ World Conservation Union

⁴² European Environment Agency

- Activities other than listed below are prevented in the protected area:
 - Ungulate/game control
 - Control of diseases/insect outbreaks
 - Public access
 - Fire intervention
 - Non-destructive research not detrimental to the management objective
 - Subsistence resource use
 - In case of expected large diseases/insect outbreaks control measures using biological methods are allowed provided that no other adequate control possibilities in buffer zones are feasible.
 - Subsistence resource use to cover the needs of indigenous people and local communities, in so far as it will not adversely affect the objectives of management.

Class 1.3: “Conservation Through Active Management”

- The main management objective is biodiversity
- A management with active interventions directed to achieve the specific conservation goal of the protected area is taking place
- Any resource extraction, harvesting, silvicultural measures detrimental to the management objective as well as other activities negatively affecting the conservation goal are prevented in the protected area

Class 2: Main Management Objective “Protection of Landscapes and Specific Natural Elements”

- Interventions are clearly directed to achieve the management goals landscape diversity, cultural, aesthetic, spiritual and historical values, recreation, specific natural elements
- The use of forest resources is restricted
- A clear long-term commitment and an explicit designation as specific protection regime defining a limited area is existing
- Activities negatively affecting characteristics of landscapes or/and specific natural elements mentioned are prevented in the protected area

Class 3: Main Management Objective “Protective Functions”

- The management is clearly directed to protect soil and its properties or water quality and quantity or other forest ecosystem functions, or to protect infrastructure and managed natural resources against natural hazards
- Forests and other wooded lands are explicitly designated to fulfil protective functions in management plans or other legally authorised equivalents
- Any operation negatively affecting soil or water or the ability to protect other ecosystem functions, or the ability to protect infrastructure and managed natural resources against natural hazards is prevented

VIENNA RESOLUTION 5

Climate Change and Sustainable Forest Management in Europe

1. Recognising the threats posed to forests by human induced climate change, including their ability to provide multiple benefits for society, and being aware of the role of European forests in the global carbon cycle,
2. taking into account Resolution H4 “Strategies for a Process of Long-term Adaptation of Forests in Europe to Climate Change”⁴³ the decisions in the follow-up to the UNFCCC⁴⁴, its Kyoto Protocol and the Marrakech Accords, as well as the decisions taken at the WSSD⁴⁵,
3. underlining that the main emphasis should be put on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions,
4. aiming to ensure the sustainable management of European forests and the sustained provision of their multiple benefits whilst enhancing their contribution to the overall reduction of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere,

the Signatory States and the European Community commit themselves to

5. contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas net emissions, inter alia from burning fossil fuels through
 - a) promoting the efficient and sound use of wood in order to replace non-renewable resources and energy intensive production techniques,
 - b) promoting a significant increase in the efficient generation and use of bio-energy from sustainably managed forest resources as well as wood residues,
6. contribute to the implementation of the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol by maintaining the carbon stock and enhancing carbon sequestration of forests in Europe through
 - a) encouraging sustainable forest management practices, taking into account the possible implementation of forestry activities under the Kyoto Protocol,
 - b) national forest programmes or plans that provide appropriate guidance so that afforestation and reforestation takes due regard of environmental, in particular biodiversity, economic and social values, with a view to mitigating potential negative effects of large scale afforestation,
 - c) supporting research and analysis on the potential scope and methods of carbon sequestration in forests and of carbon storing in forest products, of related benefits and costs as well as ways and means to share them,
7. support research and, as appropriate, monitoring activities to better understand the possible impact of climate change on forests and on their goods and services, and on their ability to reduce the impact of disasters, such as extreme weather events, including floods, and other calamities,
8. enhance policies and measures and develop forestry for a better adaptability of forests to climate change,
9. further contribute to the on-going work under the UNFCCC on the elaboration of methods to estimate, measure, monitor and report changes in carbon stocks in forest ecosystems and forest products, based on existing systems and in co-operation with relevant organisations,
10. share experiences at the pan-European level on forest-related national and regional strategies for mitigation of and adaptation to climate change and contribute to develop related policies; contribute actively to the further deliberations of the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol in order to ensure that decisions on forest-related measures as well as their implementation are taken in line with sustainable forest management

⁴³ This reference applies only to those MCPFE countries that have signed Resolution H4.

⁴⁴ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

⁴⁵ World Summit on Sustainable Development

ANNEX 2

IMPROVED PAN-EUROPEAN INDICATORS FOR SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

INTRODUCTION

Since the first set of Pan-European Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) had been developed in the early 90s, experience has shown that criteria and indicators are a very important tool for European forest policy. In the meantime knowledge and data collection systems as well as information needs have gradually developed further. Thus, initiated through the Lisbon Conference in 1998, the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) decided to improve the existing set of Pan-European Indicators for SFM.

This document contains the improved set of quantitative and qualitative Pan-European Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management.

An Advisory Group¹, representing relevant organisations in Europe, was formed to ensure that best use is made of the existing knowledge on indicators and data collection aspects in Europe and to assist the MCPFE during the improvement process. The Advisory Group consulted with a wide range of experts through a series of four workshops. These workshops ensured that the diversity of national situations and experiences as well as the work undertaken by various bodies in Europe were adequately reflected. The first MCPFE Workshop on the Improvement of Pan-European Indicators for SFM was held in March 2001 in Triesenberg, Liechtenstein. The second workshop took place in September 2001 in Copenhagen, Denmark, the third one in January 2002 in Budapest, Hungary. The fourth and final workshop was convened in May 2002 in Camigliatello Silano, Italy.

The indicators under all criteria, as presented in this document, are results of these four workshops and the work of the Advisory Group. The improved Pan-European Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management have been adopted at expert level at the MCPFE Expert Level Meeting, 7-8 October 2002 in Vienna, Austria.

More detailed information on rationales, international data providers, measurement units, current periodicity of data availability as well as underlying definitions is given in the supplementary documents “Background Information for Improved Pan-European Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management” and “Relevant Definitions Used for the Improved Pan-European Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management”.

¹ Members of the Advisory Group were: Mr. Michael Köhl (IUFRO/UNECE Team of Specialists TBFA 2000), Mr. Thomas Haußmann (ICP Forests), Mr. Tor-Björn Larsson (European Environment Agency), Mr. Risto Päivinen (European Forest Institute), Mr. Derek Peare (IWGFS/Eurostat) and Mr. Christopher Prins (UNECE/FAO).

QUANTITATIVE INDICATORS

| Criteria | No. | Indicator | Full text |
|---|-----|--|---|
| C 1: Maintenance and Appropriate Enhancement of Forest Resources and their Contribution to Global Carbon Cycles | 1.1 | Forest area | Area of forest and other wooded land, classified by forest type and by availability for wood supply, and share of forest and other wooded land in total land area |
| | 1.2 | Growing stock | Growing stock on forest and other wooded land, classified by forest type and by availability for wood supply |
| | 1.3 | Age structure and/or diameter distribution | Age structure and/or diameter distribution of forest and other wooded land, classified by forest type and by availability for wood supply |
| | 1.4 | Carbon stock | Carbon stock of woody biomass and of soils on forest and other wooded land |
| C 2: Maintenance of Forest Ecosystem Health and Vitality | 2.1 | Deposition of air pollutants | Deposition of air pollutants on forest and other wooded land, classified by N, S and base cations |
| | 2.2 | Soil condition | Chemical soil properties (pH, CEC, C/N, organic C, base saturation) on forest and other wooded land related to soil acidity and eutrophication, classified by main soil types |
| | 2.3 | Defoliation | Defoliation of one or more main tree species on forest and other wooded land in each of the defoliation classes "moderate", "severe" and "dead" |
| | 2.4 | Forest damage | Forest and other wooded land with damage, classified by primary damaging agent (abiotic, biotic and human induced) and by forest type |
| C 3: Maintenance and Encouragement of Productive Functions of Forests (Wood and Non-Wood) | 3.1 | Increment and fellings | Balance between net annual increment and annual fellings of wood on forest available for wood supply |
| | 3.2 | Roundwood | Value and quantity of marketed roundwood |
| | 3.3 | Non-wood goods | Value and quantity of marketed non-wood goods from forest and other wooded land |
| | 3.4 | Services | Value of marketed services on forest and other wooded land |
| | 3.5 | Forests under management plans | Proportion of forest and other wooded land under a management plan or equivalent |
| C 4: Maintenance, Conservation and Appropriate Enhancement of Biological Diversity in Forest Ecosystems | 4.1 | Tree species composition | Area of forest and other wooded land, classified by number of tree species occurring and by forest type |
| | 4.2 | Regeneration | Area of regeneration within even-aged stands and uneven-aged stands, classified by regeneration type |
| | 4.3 | Naturalness | Area of forest and other wooded land, classified by "undisturbed by man", by "semi-natural" or by "plantations", each by forest type |
| | 4.4 | Introduced tree species | Area of forest and other wooded land dominated by introduced tree species |
| | 4.5 | Deadwood | Volume of standing deadwood and of lying deadwood on forest and other wooded land classified by forest type |
| | 4.6 | Genetic resources | Area managed for conservation and utilisation of forest tree genetic resources (in situ and ex situ gene conservation) and area managed for seed production |
| | 4.7 | Landscape pattern | Landscape-level spatial pattern of forest cover |
| | 4.8 | Threatened forest species | Number of threatened forest species, classified according to IUCN Red List categories in relation to total number of forest species |
| | 4.9 | Protected forests | Area of forest and other wooded land protected to conserve biodiversity, landscapes and specific natural elements, according to MCPFE Assessment Guidelines |

| | | | |
|--|------|---|---|
| C 5: Maintenance and Appropriate Enhancement of Protective Functions in Forest Management (notably soil and water) | 5.1 | Protective forests – soil, water and other ecosystem functions | Area of forest and other wooded land designated to prevent soil erosion, to preserve water resources, or to maintain other forest ecosystem functions, part of MCPFE Class "Protective Functions" |
| | 5.2 | Protective forests – infrastructure and managed natural resources | Area of forest and other wooded land designated to protect infrastructure and managed natural resources against natural hazards, part of MCPFE Class "Protective Functions" |
| C 6: Maintenance of other socio-economic functions and conditions | 6.1 | Forest holdings | Number of forest holdings, classified by ownership categories and size classes |
| | 6.2 | Contribution of forest sector to GDP | Contribution of forestry and manufacturing of wood and paper products to gross domestic product |
| | 6.3 | Net revenue | Net revenue of forest enterprises |
| | 6.4 | Expenditures for services | Total expenditures for long-term sustainable services from forests |
| | 6.5 | Forest sector workforce | Number of persons employed and labour input in the forest sector, classified by gender and age group, education and job characteristics |
| | 6.6 | Occupational safety and health | Frequency of occupational accidents and occupational diseases in forestry |
| | 6.7 | Wood consumption | Consumption per head of wood and products derived from wood |
| | 6.8 | Trade in wood | Imports and exports of wood and products derived from wood |
| | 6.9 | Energy from wood resources | Share of wood energy in total energy consumption, classified by origin of wood |
| | 6.10 | Accessibility for recreation | Area of forest and other wooded land where public has a right of access for recreational purposes and indication of intensity of use |
| | 6.11 | Cultural and spiritual values | Number of sites within forest and other wooded land designated as having cultural or spiritual values |

Σ = 35 quantitative indicators

QUALITATIVE INDICATORS

A. Overall policies, institutions and instruments for sustainable forest management

- A.1 National forest programmes or similar
- A.2 Institutional frameworks
- A.3 Legal/regulatory frameworks and international commitments
- A.4 Financial instruments/economic policy
- A.5 Informational means

B. Policies, institutions and instruments by policy area

| Ind. No. | Crit. | Policy area | Main objectives | Relevant institutions | Main policy instruments used | | | Signific. changes since last Ministerial Conference |
|----------|-------|---|-----------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|---|
| | | | | | Legal/regulatory | Financial/economic | Informational | |
| B.1 | C1 | Land use and forest area and OWL * | | | | | | |
| B.2 | C1 | Carbon balance | | | | | | |
| B.3 | C2 | Health and vitality | | | | | | |
| B.4 | C3 | Production and use of wood | | | | | | |
| B.5 | C3 | Production and use of non-wood goods and services, provision of especially recreation | | | | | | |
| B.6 | C4 | Biodiversity | | | | | | |
| B.7 | C5 | Protective forests and OWL | | | | | | |
| B.8 | C6 | Economic viability | | | | | | |
| B.9 | C6 | Employment (incl. safety and health) | | | | | | |
| B.10 | C6 | Public awareness and participation | | | | | | |
| B.11 | C6 | Research, training and education | | | | | | |
| B.12 | C6 | Cultural and spiritual values | | | | | | |

*OWL = other wooded land

ANNEX 3

CHAIRMAN'S SUMMARY¹ OF THE MULTI-STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE

INTRODUCTION

The Multi-stakeholder Dialogue (MSD) on 28 April 2003, as part of the Fourth Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe – the Living Forest Summit – involved representatives of the five major groups namely, Forest Owners, Forest Industry, Social NGOs, Environmental NGOs and the Scientific Community. These stakeholder groups include all non-governmental and research organisations which participate in the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) process (see Annex).

The MSD included statements by the focal points of the five major groups², followed by a dialogue with ministers responsible for forests in Europe³ and with representatives of intergovernmental organisations. This Chairman's Summary reflects the highlights of the first MSD between the major groups, Ministers and intergovernmental organisations.

STATEMENTS BY MAJOR GROUPS, MINISTERS AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

In their statements, all five major groups stressed the positive role of the MCPFE as an important forum for open dialogue that brings together a wide range of stakeholders to discuss forest related issues of common concern and relevance to Europe. The MCPFE was characterised as a learning process that facilitated the understanding of each other's needs, concerns and challenges. It was further noted that the MCPFE had made a significant contribution towards the achievement of a balance between all dimensions of sustainable forest management (SFM). A number of issues that require political attention, were also identified.

The Forest Owners stressed the importance of: (i) securing property and land tenure rights as a basis for SFM; (ii) the contribution of forest owners as key partners in the implementation of SFM; (iii) the challenges faced by the forest owners in Central and Eastern European Countries; and (iv) voluntary co-operation of family forest owners. SFM requires long-term strategies, visions and action. Within this long-term perspective, forest owners encounter difficulties in accommodating some recent concepts on the forest policy agenda, such as "ecosystem approaches" and "landscape restoration". The conservation of forest biological diversity is considered to be an integral element of SFM. Further efforts would be needed to develop the full market potential and value of non-marketable benefits. To maintain and to enhance the economic viability of SFM there is a need to build on adequate mechanisms for compensating forest owners for the cost of providing non-marketable benefits to society. A more balanced approach is needed to the discussion on climate change, which should focus on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions instead of the best possible allocation of carbon sinks.

¹ The Chairman's Summary, prepared by Mr. Jagmohan Maini, former Head and Co-ordinator of the Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests, will be included in the conference proceedings of the Living Forest Summit.

² The focal points were the "Confederation of European Forest Owners" (major group "Forest Owners"), the Confederation of European Paper Industries (major group "Forest Industry"), the European Network of Forest Entrepreneurs (major group "Social NGOs"), WWF International (major group "Environmental NGOs") and European Forest Institute (major group "Science Community").

³ This also includes the high-level representative of the European Community.

The Forest Industry underlined the significant economic and employment contribution by forest industry associated with SFM. The issues of concern included: (i) wood availability constrained by new policy instruments in the field of forest protection, climate change and energy production; (ii) the need to facilitate mutual recognition of certification schemes for SFM with the objective to avoid counterproductive competition among different existing schemes; and (iii) the need to promote the use of wood and wood products to substitute other less sustainable materials and products; this objective can be accomplished through enhanced partnerships between forest owners, policy-makers, industry and environmental organisations.

The Social NGOs emphasised that a qualified forest workforce, including workers, staff and entrepreneurs, play a vital role in SFM. There is concern about the economic viability and social security of the workforce associated with the ageing workforce and the declining number of people employed in forestry. Furthermore, as a result of increasing replacement of direct labour, there is concern about maintenance of qualification, health, safety and core labour standards. Accordingly, it is essential to initiate appropriate action to maintain a viable workforce for their continuing contribution to SFM as well as to support economic viability of all people earning their living from forestry and to maintain their knowledge and traditions. More specifically, there is a need to promote close co-operation by social and economic stakeholders in order to: encourage development of skills and environmental knowledge by means of training; and to implement occupational health and safety standards in national forest programmes (nfps). The Ministers were urged to promote the development of stable employment and to support raising awareness about the role of forestry workforce, staff and entrepreneurs, particularly in rural areas.

The Environmental NGOs called upon the Ministers to give protected forests an equal standing in relation to SFM. While SFM, as defined by the MCPFE within its criteria and indicators, would be one pillar towards the maintenance of high ecological values of forests, it did not adequately reflect the demands of maintaining forest biodiversity. In this context, gaps were seen in existing forest protected area networks at the national level. Furthermore many European protected areas lack adequate protection and may only be paper parks. The MCPFE Assessment Guidelines for Protected and Protective Forest and Other Wooded Land in Europe were welcomed as a step in the right direction.

The Scientific Community stressed the importance of science, research and capacity building for knowledge-based, innovative forest policy formulation and successful implementation in rapidly changing socio-economic and environmental conditions. There is a need to develop appropriate instruments and mechanisms to provide scientific input to MCPFE activities as well as to integrate research in the follow-up work of the Conference. To achieve this objective, consideration should be given to establish a European Network of NGOs modelled after the Stakeholders' Network of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) established to support the United Nations Forum on Forests. As a part of the follow-up process to the Living Forest Summit, the scientific community indicated its intention to organise an International Conference with the aim to bring together policy makers and the scientific community and to discuss the contribution of science in the ongoing MCPFE process. Research should also be an integral component in all stages of an nfp process. There is a need to enhance the utilisation of the results of existing research and to undertake further research directed towards the topics addressed in the Vienna Declaration and the Resolutions adopted at the 4th Ministerial Conference.

The Ministers and the head of the delegations from Austria, Norway, Poland and the United Kingdom welcomed the views expressed by the major groups and noted that the issues raised by the major groups were included in the Vienna Declaration and the five Resolutions under consideration

at the 4th Ministerial Conference. It was emphasised that forest protection is an integral element of SFM. Certification was considered as a market-based instrument. The Pan-European Criteria and Indicators for SFM are a useful reference tool for certification. The positive experience to reconcile two certification systems in the UK was noted. The significance of an economically viable forest sector and the partnership between the public and private sector was emphasised.

The interventions by the Director General, International Plant Genetic Research Institute (IPGRI), Deputy Director General, Department of Forestry, United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the President, International Union of Forest Research Organization (IUFRO) noted the contributions of their respective organisations to areas of priority concern identified by the MCPFE.

OVERVIEW OF THE DISCUSSION

The first MSD, held at the opening session of the Fourth Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, provided a unique opportunity to exchange views between the five major groups, Ministers as well as observer countries and intergovernmental organisations. The MSD focused on the formulation and implementation of forest policy and practices in Europe as well as the future strategic directions of MCPFE. Since 1990, the MCPFE process has addressed a wide range of complex and crucial forest issues. It was widely recognised that the MCPFE is very dynamic, responding to changing circumstances and playing a significant role in implementing SFM in Europe as well as helping to shape international forest policy deliberations. Strong ministerial engagement and commitment to SFM was welcomed as a significant aspect of the MCPFE process. It was recognised that forest policy is cross-sectorial, and that SFM involves maintaining economic viability, social security and environmental integrity. Research input to national forest programmes as well as to policy formulation, implementation and monitoring of progress was considered to be essential.

Many participants emphasised the need to:

- encourage strong participation of stakeholders in forest policy deliberations and implementation;
- explore appropriate valuation of all benefits, including environmental services provided by forests;
- clarify: the integration of protected forest areas within the concept of SFM; the relevance of the ecosystem approach; landscape restoration; and compatibility between various certification schemes;
- enhance a viable network of representative protected forest areas;
- assist colleagues in Central and Eastern European Countries as well as in countries with economies in transition in their efforts towards implementation of SFM;
- strengthen implementation and monitoring of progress of the past and current MCPFE commitments.

Finally, the discussion also demonstrated that there is a high awareness of the importance of Europe's forests, and that all stakeholders have a significant role in implementing SFM and they share the responsibility for maintaining Europe's forests and their multiple benefits for the present and future generations.

ANNEX: MAJOR GROUPS PARTICIPATING IN THE MSD

Major group “Forest Owners”:

- Confederation of European Forest Owners (CEPF)
- Committee of Agricultural Organisations in the EU (COPA)
- European Landowners’ Organisation (ELO)
- Fédération Européenne des Communes Forestiers (FECOF)
- Union of Foresters of Southern Europe

Major group “Forest Industry”:

- European Confederation of Woodworking Industries (CEI Bois)
- Confederation of European Paper Industries (CEPI)

Major group “Social NGOs”:

- European Network of Forest Entrepreneurs (ENFE)
- International Federation of Building and Woodworkers (IFBWW)
- Union of European Foresters (UEF)

Major group “Environmental NGOs”:

- Greenpeace
- WWF International

Major group “Scientific Community”:

- European Forest Institute (EFI)
- International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)
- International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI)
- International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO)
- United Nations University (UNU)