

Third meeting of the Expert Group on Adaptation to Climate Change

5 April 2019, Prague, Czech Republic

Venue: Pavilion of Wood Sciences, Faculty of Forestry and Wood Sciences, Kamýčká 129, 165 00
Prague 6 - Suchdol

Annotated Agenda and Preliminary Time schedule

9,00 – 9,03	1. Opening of the meeting
9,03 – 9,05	2. Adoption of the agenda
9,05 – 9,20	3. Update on recent Forest Europe meeting outcomes and how they relate to the EG mandate
9,20 – 9,30	4. Survey on the status of implementation of adaptation measures in the pan-European region: updated analysis + discussion
9,30 – 11,15	5. Coping with intensified forest disturbances: reflections on ThinkForest – FOREST EUROPE Event and consequences for climate change adaptation in forestry. Expert Group evaluation on recent forest disturbance impacts and suitability (and limits) of existing adaptation measures - Introduction
11,15-11,30	Coffee break
11,30 – 12,30	6. Break out group discussions on Expert Group evaluation on suitability and limits of adaptation measures: a) reviewing development since 2009 on observed climate change impacts, disturbance damages and the parallel evolution of adaptation measures; b) assessing suitability of existing adaptation measures and identification of knowledge gaps
12,30 – 13,00	7. Examples of successful initiatives at national or international level: current initiatives and important new projects related to forest risks and climate change adaptation
13,00 – 14,00	Lunch break
14,00 – 15,30	8. Preparation of the publication covering the existing knowledge base on adaptation measures in the pan-European region: identifying key messages for policy recommendations, outlining chapters, assigning teams of authors
15,30- 16,00	9. Update on workshop: “Management of forests to combat climate-change-driven risks: Policies and measures for increasing forest resilience and climate change adaptation in Europe”.
16,00 – 16,30	10. Further steps and organization of work

ANNOTATIONS

1. Opening of the meeting

2. Adoption of the agenda

3. Update on recent Forest Europe meeting outcomes and how they relate to the EG mandate

A need for a common pan-European approach to protection of forests against various threats has been the initial impulse for launching the intergovernmental cooperation in 1990 and became the central theme of the previous ministerial conferences. Due to unprecedented intensity, frequency and spatial coverage of recent forest disturbance impacts across Europe linked to climate change, adaptation of forests and SFM to climate change has gained growing attention at policy level in many European countries. The implementation of Madrid Ministerial Resolution 2 “Protection of forests in a changing environment“ through the FOREST EUROPE Work Programme 2016–2020 focuses on integrating climate change adaptation considerations into Sustainable Forest Management. The recent expert level meeting (ELM) of Forest Europe discussed a proposal for a holistic forest disturbance risk management initiative as a potential common action to respond to climate change driven risks in forests. The Forest Europe Liaison office Bratislava will report on the outcomes of the ELM, highlighting the relevance of the decisions for the future work of the Expert Group on Adaptation to Climate Change.

4. Survey on the status of implementation of adaptation measures in the pan-European region: updated analysis + discussion

In line with the Work Programme adopted by FOREST EUROPE for the period 2016–2020, the Expert Group carried out a questionnaire survey on the current status of implementation of adaptation measures in the pan-European region. Preliminary results were presented at the 2nd meeting of the Expert Group. Following this meeting a few additional country responses have been received. EFI will present the updated survey results and the Expert Group is invited to discuss and interpret the findings of the survey, with the aim to identify some key messages to be highlighted in the forthcoming Forest Europe publication “Integration of adaptation measures into SFM in Europe”.

5. A) Coping with intensified forest disturbances: reflections on ThinkForest – Forest Europe Event and consequences for climate change adaptation in forestry.

The joint ThinkForest and FOREST EUROPE event will be held on 4th of April 2019, back to back to this meeting. The members of the Expert Group will be informed about its main outcomes and are invited to discuss the consequences of the results for climate change adaptation in forestry and to consider them in the following work of the Expert Group.

5. B) Expert Group evaluation on recent forest disturbance impacts and suitability (and limits) of existing adaptation measures - Introduction

Expert Group members will be asked to respond to a short survey questionnaire before the meeting. Two questions relate to observations of recent forest disturbance impacts in the Forest Europe signatories. The results of the survey responses will be presented by EFI and the Expert Group is invited to discuss and interpret the findings of the survey.

6. Break out group discussion: Expert Group evaluation of suitability and limits of adaptation measures: a) reviewing development since 2009 on observed climate change impacts, disturbance damages and the parallel evolution of adaptation measures; b) assessing suitability of existing adaptation measures and identification of knowledge gaps

Break out group A) will review survey responses and interpret findings related to survey questions which evaluate the development of climate change /disturbance impacts over the last decade as well as the evolution of adaptation strategies: (tentative wording, exact questions may still change)

Have you noticed an increase in the observed climate change impacts in your country and have they exceeded expectations around the year 2009?

- *Have you noticed an increase in the observed climate change impacts in your country (Yes / No)*
- *Have these observed impacts exceeded expectations (Yes / No)*

Has there been noteworthy development of the (experiential) knowledge on climate change adaptation in your country since 2009? (Yes / No)

- *If yes, which new knowledge has been developed?*
- *Have new adaptation measures been developed/implemented?*

Break out group B) will analyse the qualitative evaluation questions to assess the suitability and limits of current adaptation strategies.

Are the measures currently implemented in your country suited to deal with the observed impacts? (Yes / No)

Can you name impacts, that are not well enough addressed by existing measures?

The Expert Group evaluation was prepared by a Task Force which held a skype meeting on February 13th and has scheduled a second skype meeting on March 1st 2019 to finalise the survey and to plan the interactive sessions of the 3rd Expert Group meeting in Prague. Two Task Force members will be asked to chair the break out groups A and B. EFI will compile the survey responses before the meeting and share them with the Task Force members. The survey responses will be processed with the aim to aggregate similar responses and to check for regional patterns in the responses. The aggregated responses will be presented on posters / flip charts and discussed in the breakout groups. During the discussion session, additional statements may be added to the posters / flip charts. Following the discussion, Expert Group members in Break out group B) will be asked to indicate (dis)agreement with the qualitative expert responses by putting coloured stickers next to each statement (four colours indicating strong agreement – moderate agreement – moderate disagreement – strong disagreement). Statements with strong support will be selected to be included as key messages in the forthcoming Forest Europe publication “Integration of adaptation measures into SFM in Europe”.

7. Examples of successful initiatives at national or international level: current initiatives and important new projects related to forest risks and climate change adaptation.

A template was distributed to Expert Group members before the meeting to collect successful initiatives at national or international level. The Expert Group will review the compiled list with inputs received and briefly discuss which examples should be added to the publication “Integration of adaptation measures into SFM in Europe”. A small number of good examples may be selected to be presented as good practice examples with a brief description in the publication (e.g. in 0.5 – 1 page long boxes).

8. Preparation of the publication covering the existing knowledge base on adaptation measures in the pan-European region: identifying key messages for policy recommendations, outlining chapters, assigning teams of authors

The main outputs of the Expert Group will be presented in the Forest Europe publication “Integration of adaptation measures into SFM in Europe”. Throughout this 3rd Expert Group meeting the Expert Group members will collect content and material for the publication. In this session, the structure of

the publication will be reviewed (based on a draft Table of Content prepared by EFI as input for the meeting) and refined. Teams of authors will be assigned to the different chapters and if time allows, the teams will start developing chapter outlines and highlight key messages as basis for policy recommendations.

9. Update on workshop: “Management of forests to combat climate-change-driven risks: Policies and measures for increasing forest resilience and climate change adaptation in Europe”.

The draft agenda of the workshop will be presented including the tentative list of key note speakers and suggestions for country examples. The Expert Group is invited to provide guidance especially on developing contents and expected outcomes for the interactive discussion sessions of the workshop and how these can provide useful material for the publication.

10. Further steps and organization of work

The Forest Europe Liaison unit will present the schedule for the work of the Expert Group and the finalisation of the publication. Expert group members are invited to exchange views and agree on further steps, time schedule and work modalities.

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