



RESOLUTION L1
People, Forests and Forestry –
Enhancement of Socio-Economic Aspects of Sustainable Forest Management

The Signatory States and the European Community,

- A. Recalling the objectives of sustainable forest management as stated in the Forest Principles¹ adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED)² and recalling the definition of sustainable forest management adopted at the Helsinki Ministerial Conference in Resolution H1³,
- B. Recognising the significant role of the forest sector and sustainable forest management in the overall sustainable development of society,
- C. Recognising the importance of the social and economic functions of forests together with the environmental, ecological and cultural functions as essential elements for sustainable forest management, and the need to address these in order to positively respond to increasing and sometimes conflicting demands of society,
- D. Aware of the need for an increasing dialogue between the forest sector and the general public to define widely accepted objectives for forest policy,
- E. Affirming that forests and forestry constitute one of the main pillars of sustainable rural development and recognising the complementarity between forestry and other sectors for sustainable development,

¹ Forest Principles – “Non-legally binding authoritative statement of principles for a global consensus on the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests”

² ‘Forest resources and forest lands should be sustainably managed to meet the social, economic, ecological, cultural and spiritual human needs of present and future generations’

³ ‘*Sustainable management* means the stewardship and use of forests and forest lands in a way, and at a rate, that maintains their biodiversity, productivity, regeneration capacity, vitality and their potential to fulfil, now and in the future, relevant ecological, economic and social functions, at local, national and global levels, and that does not cause damage to other ecosystems’

- F. Aware of the contribution of the forest sector in most European countries as a source of direct and indirect employment, and the potential to generate new job and income opportunities mainly in rural areas in such diverse businesses as non-traditional small scale industry, other forest related activities such as recreation and eco-tourism, and other emerging ventures,
- G. Recalling that sound and adequate regulatory, institutional and economic frameworks are important for practising sustainable forest management,
- H. Recalling that forest management in Europe, relies on millions of private owners as well as on the activities of state bodies and other public structures with long traditions and rights,
- I. Emphasising the renewable and environmentally friendly nature of wood and non-wood forest products from forests under sustainable management, and that development of proper assessment and valuation methods are needed for the non-marketed forest goods and services,
- J. Acknowledging the valuable contribution of the FAO/ECE/ILO⁴ Team of Specialists on Social Aspects of Sustainable Forest Management, notably through the report "People, Forests and Sustainability";

commit themselves to promote:

1. *The implementation of the General Guidelines and Future Actions set out in this resolution;*
2. *The exchange of experience and co-operation in carrying out the Future Actions within Europe through existing international organisations and institutions.*

PART I: GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. The interaction between forestry and society in general, should be promoted through partnerships, and be strengthened by raising general awareness of the concept of sustainable forest management and the role of forests and forestry in sustainable development. Therefore an adequate level of participation, education, public relations and transparency in forestry is needed.
2. Sound regulatory, institutional and economic frameworks should be maintained and improved at national level, conducive to enabling and motivating all forest owners to practice sustainable forest management and to make long term investments in forestry.

⁴ FAO – Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, ECE – United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and ILO – International Labour Organisation

3. Structures of co-operation, particularly organisations of forest owners, should be encouraged in their development and capacity to reinforce sustainable forest management practices and to facilitate *inter alia*, information flow, production and marketing of products and services, including new and hitherto non-marketed forest products and services.
4. The contribution of forestry to sustainable rural development should be fully utilised through the coherence of forest policies and programmes and activities in other sectors, such as agriculture, tourism, environment, energy and industry taking advantage of complementarities and synergies.
5. The marketed and non-marketed cultural, social and environmental services of forests should be assessed and their contributions to society and sustainable rural development should be integrated in the overall policies and programmes of the forest and other sectors.
6. New employment and income opportunities in sustainable forestry should be stimulated notably through diversification of activities related to forests.
7. Human resources development policies should stimulate the adaptation to changing job opportunities related to forests, broaden the competence of forest owners and managers and forestry workforce in forest management, and to strive to offer equal opportunities in employment, income, training and careers.
8. Gender aspects in European forestry and their potential in further development of sustainable forest management should be recognised and fully utilised.
9. The production, marketing and consumption of wood and other forest products and services from forests under sustainable management, a key renewable resource, should be actively promoted as a means for improving the economic viability of forest management, taking advantage of the new market opportunities.

PART II: FUTURE ACTIONS

The Signatory States and the European Community, commit themselves to:

1. Develop, at adequate levels, a dialogue with the public and efficient programmes to increase awareness of the benefits of sustainable forestry for society .
2. Continue to develop the conditions for the participation of relevant stakeholders in the development of forest policies and programmes.
3. Explore ways and means to maintain and develop at national level sound regulatory, institutional and economic frameworks conducive to enabling and motivating all forest

owners to practice sustainable forest management and to make long term investment in forestry.

4. Adapt education and training systems and programmes contributing to the development of a highly skilled, multidisciplinary workforce, also enhancing the involvement of women in forest related activities.
5. Encourage studies on gender aspects of forest policy and practices in Europe especially in the context of education, training, communication and decision making to improve sustainable forest management.
6. Promote the development of education and training programmes, especially directed to forest owners and managers, focusing on new opportunities and techniques for the production of goods and services from forests under sustainable management.
7. Encourage comparative studies of wood and non-wood substitutes, considering their complete life-cycles and strive for conditions favourable for the production, marketing and consumption of wood and other products and services from forests under sustainable management, as viable alternatives to competing products using non-renewable natural resources, generating more employment and income.
8. Promote the improvement and application of appropriate safety and health standards and practices, professionalism of forest owners, forest workers, and contractors, and skills certification.
9. Engage further research efforts on the socio-economic aspects of sustainable forest management, in particular on the assessment and valuation of the full range of forest goods and services, in order to provide reliable information for policy and decision making and public dialogue.
10. Promote the incorporation of the results of assessment and valuation of wood and non-wood forest goods and services into national economic and natural resource accounting systems.
11. Evaluate the potential impacts of quality assurance systems and programmes such as voluntary and independent forest certification systems on sustainable forest management in the line of the proposals for action agreed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF).