

Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation

Project/Activity Report

Capacity building for countries of the Caucasus and Central Asia for monitoring Sustainable Forest Management

The UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section leads the work on data collection and analysis of information on forests, sustainable forest management, forest products and wood energy in the UNECE region. The Section plays a pivotal role in the collection of data on forest products (Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire – JFSQ) and energy (Joint Wood Energy Enquiry – JWEE). It also serves as a regional center for gathering information on forests and forest management in the Caucasus and Central Asia (CACAS) region for the periodic FAO global Forest Resources Assessments (FRA). The above mentioned processes rely on the UNECE/FAO networks of officially nominated national correspondents, who are responsible for the compilation of thematic reports. For many reasons, the completeness and quality of reporting from countries of the CACAS region are the lowest in the UNECE. The lack of capacity to participate in the international forest reporting processes, limited knowledge on reporting and the language barrier are the major reasons for the weak reporting. Some countries even have not yet nominated a national correspondent due to their limited capacity.

To assist countries of CACAS and to enhance their knowledge for the preparation of national reports for global FRA 2015 as well as for responding to JFSQ and JWEE, the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section in co-operation with the FAO units (Global Forest Resources Assessment Team and Forest Economics, Policy and Products Division), organized two workshops, namely the Technical Meeting of National Correspondents to the Global FRA 2015 from 16 to 17 October and the meeting on reporting on JFSQ and JWEE on 18 October 2013 for national correspondents dealing with monitoring, assessment and reporting on forest resources, wood products and energy in countries of the Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia) and Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan). The workshops were carried out in English and Russian.

The first workshop improved the understanding of the national correspondents from seven countries on the purpose, method and intended use of the FRA questionnaire. For several correspondents (Azerbaijan, Georgia and Kazakhstan) it was the first opportunity to acquaint themselves with international forest reporting. The workshop resulted in enhanced knowledge of the participants on how to interpret FRA questions from both global and countries' specific perspectives. The availability of the Russian version of the questionnaire enabled national experts to actively participate in the discussions during the workshops. The workshop significantly strengthened their capacity to provide complete and up-to-date information about forests' resources, their use, and forest management in the region. The second workshop helped to renew the network of national correspondents and provided them with information on data collection required by the JFSQ and JWEE, as well as on wood energy sources and uses in the participating countries. The capacity created through these workshops will be critical for securing a better regional coverage of the information collected and for increasing the quality and completeness of reporting in this region. As the data collection processes have not been finalized yet, the impact of the workshop on the current data collection will be assessed and available by end of 2014. Furthermore, it is expected that the workshops created a favorable basis for future cooperation between national correspondents and the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section, e.g. for the implementation of the UNDA project "Sustainable forest management for greener economies in the Caucasus and Central Asia" which also includes capacity building activities on data collection and wood energy.

Click on the [link](#) to view the workshop report.

Thematic focus	Venue of the conference/workshop	Date	Total participants/Female participants
FRA, JFSQ, JWEE	Geneva, Switzerland	16-18 October 2013	7/1