

**Meeting of the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists  
on Forest Resources Assessment**

*Washington DC, USA, 15-17 September 2004*

***Provisional Agenda***

1. Opening and welcome, arrangements for conducting the meeting (*Dr. Michael Köhl*)
  - Welcome by USDA Forest Service and UNECE/FAO
2. FRA- relating developments since September 2003:
  - Training of the Global FRA National Correspondents and Advisory Group meeting (*November 2003*);
  - NAFC work and developing joint (USA, Mexico and Canada) data protocols for reporting C&I data;
  - Relocation of the MCPFE Liaison Unit to Warsaw (*January 2004*);
  - Launching the Global FRA update 2005 (*March-April 2004*);
  - UNECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Economics & Statistics (*March 2004*)
3. Overview and analysis of the common “core” indicators/variables for C&I reporting in the MCPFE and Montreal processes
  - Countries’ C&I reporting procedures: possibilities and ways of harmonisation and streamlining;
  - Timing & specific requirements of reporting in the two C&I processes;
  - Regional UNECE/FAO Forest Resources Assessment as a “structured tool” for reporting on C&I: experience and potential.
4. Analysis of specific indicators in the MCPFE and Montreal processes (WGs)
5. Terms and Definitions aspect in C&I reporting: how to overcome differences in the national, regional and global FRA definitions (WGs)
6. Availability of the required C&I information at the national level
  - Regional and national capacity building for C&I reporting (objectives, potential, limitations)
7. Global FRA 2005: status of implementation and its implication on MCPFE, Montreal processes
8. Information on UN FCCC developments: Common Reporting Format and IPCC Good Practice Guidance for LULUCF
9. Future role of the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists and the regional FRA work in supporting / contribution to C&I reporting: expectations and practicalities
10. Conclusions and recommendations

*The proposed provisional agenda has to be covered within the 2.5-day working time, starting at 9.30 on Wednesday (15 September 2004), and finishing at 17.00 on Friday (17 September 2004) with the tentative timetable below; the optional excursion is planned on Thursday afternoon (16 September 2004).*

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<b><u>Timetable:</u></b>	<b><i>Wednesday, 15 September 2004</i></b>	<b><i>a.m.: Items 1, 2 and 3</i></b> <b><i>p.m.: Item 3 (cont.)</i></b>
	<b><i>Thursday, 16 September 2004</i></b>	<b><i>a.m.: Items 4 and 5</i></b> <b><i>p.m.: Field excursion (optional, probably in DC or Baltimore)</i></b>
	<b><i>Friday, 17 September 2004</i></b>	<b><i>a.m.: Items 6 and 7</i></b> <b><i>p.m.: Items 7(cont.), 8, 9 and 10</i></b>

**Note:** *The Working Groups (WGs) will be set up for items 4 and 5 of the agenda*

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### **Explanatory Notes**

The UNECE/FAO regional Team of Specialists (ToS) on Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) started its work in March 1995 (inaugural meeting). The Terms of Reference and Mandate of the Team were approved by the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics, adjusted in the process of the regional FRA (TBFRA-2000) implementation, and confirmed/extended until year 2004 at the 25th session of the Working Party (24-26 February 2003). Starting from its first days, the Team of Specialists has been led by Professor Dr. Michael Köhl (Germany).

The 26<sup>th</sup> session of the FAO/ECE Working Party (15-17 March 2004) recommended that a new Team of Specialists on “Monitoring and Promoting SFM in the UNECE region” be convened after the duration of the current ToS on FRA expires in the year 2004. The Bureaux of the UNECE Timber Committee and FAO European Forestry Commission in April 2004 approved the recommendation, and endorsed establishing the ToS on “*Monitoring Forest Resources for SFM in the UNECE region*”, which is expected to be a successor to the present Team. The brief overview of the ToS work since 1995, and the draft Mandate and Terms of Reference of the succeeding team (to be set up in 2005) will be available at the meeting.

#### **Item 1: Opening and welcome, arrangements for conducting the meeting**

The meeting will be opened and chaired by the ToS leader Dr. Michael Köhl (Germany). Messrs. Michael Köhl, Brad Smith (USDA Forest Service) and Alex Korotkov (UNECE/FAO) will welcome participants, and make brief opening and introductory remarks. The arrangements for conducting the meeting and discussions at plenary and in working groups, including the programme and provisional agenda, have to be agreed by the participants. The organisers will make technical and organisational announcements.

#### **Item 2: FRA relevant developments since September 2003**

A number of important events in the FRA and FRA-related area have happened since the last meeting of the Team of Specialists (Radebeul / Dresden, Germany, September 2003). Some of the developments might have a crucial implication on the future FRA-related work in the UNECE region, including possible changes in the concept of the regional FRA-related work. The opinion of the Team on these developments, and recommendations to FRA parent bodies concerning the regional FRA work (to be presented) would be very helpful.

a) *Training of the Global FRA National Correspondents and Advisory Group meeting*

The participants will be briefly informed by UNECE and FAO on the contents and the outcome of the training of the FRA National Correspondents (*Rome, November 2003*), which was an important step in the preparation for the Global FRA 2005 update. The other developments relating to the preparation for the FRA update will also be overviewed. The details on the November 2003 training of FRA national correspondent at: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/foris/webview/forestry2/index.jsp?siteId=4041&langId=1>.

b) *NAFC work and developing joint (USA, Mexico and Canada) data protocols for reporting C&I data FRA*

The representatives from USA, Mexico and Canada will present information on the work of the North-American Forestry Commission with regard to reporting on Criteria and Indicators for SFM on the basis of the forest resources assessment datasets. Please, see details at: [http://www.mpci.org/home\\_e.html](http://www.mpci.org/home_e.html)

c) *Relocation of the MCPFE Liaison Unit to Warsaw*

Dr. Roman Michalak, representative of the MCPFE Liaison Unit, will briefly inform the meeting on the MCPFE current plans and working programme, including the activities being implemented by the Liaison Unit after it is moved in January 2004 to Warsaw, Poland. The details are on the Internet: <http://www.mcpfe.org/index.php?kat=11>.

d) *Launching the Global FRA update 2005*

Mrs. Mette Løyche Wilkie (FAO Forestry Department) will inform Team of Specialists on the requirements and timing for the implementation of the global FRA 2005 update. The developments after launching the FRA 2005 process (March-April 2004) will be briefly overviewed. The FAO website for references on FRA 2005: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/foris/webview/forestry2/index.jsp?geoId=0&langId=1&siteId=101>

e) *UNECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Economics & Statistics*

The participants will be informed on the results of the latest session of the UNECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Economics & Statistics (*March 2004*), and on the outcome of the Strategic Review of the UNECE/FAO Integrated Programme of Work with regard to the FRA-related aspects. The Working Party confirmed the necessity to maintain strong regional FRA-related activities in order to satisfy specific regional needs, especially in the area of the “*countries’ reporting to regional fora on C&I for SFM within the MCPFE and possibly the Montreal processes, and mobilizing regional knowledge for the global FRA*”.

The Working Party recommended to set up a new Team of Specialists after the duration of the current regional ToS on FRA expires in the year 2004. The modalities of the future Team’s work, and its main focus, should be adjusted according to the latest developments for FRA and C&I for SFM. The Report of the Working Party will be available at the ToS meeting, and the details of the Strategic Review are available on the UNECE Timber Committee website: [http://www.unece.org/trade/timber/strategic\\_review/2004-strategic-review/2004-strategic-review.htm](http://www.unece.org/trade/timber/strategic_review/2004-strategic-review/2004-strategic-review.htm).

**Item 3: Common “core” indicators/variables for C&I reporting in the MCPFE and Montreal processes**

The “*Analysis of Scope, Coverage and Methodological Approaches for the Regional UNECE/FAO Work on Forest Resources Assessment in the Global FRA Context*” prepared by

Dr. Ewald Rametsteiner, together with the MCPFE and Montreal processes key documentation, will provide the main input for the open discussion under this item at the plenary. The participants are expected to define the list of “core” indicators, which are common for the C&I reporting in the MCPFE and Montreal processes, so that these indicators could be reviewed specifically in the 2 working groups (under agenda items 4 and 5).

*a) Countries' C&I reporting procedures: possibilities and ways of harmonisation and streamlining*

It is expected that participants of the meeting (representatives of C&I reporting countries) share their experience and discuss the issues of the C&I reporting procedures. Any ideas and recommendations on possibilities and ways of harmonisation and streamlining the countries' C&I reporting should be explored and addressed. From the “harmonization and streamlining” point of view the participants are expected to address the question “What would each like to see in each other's C&I frameworks and reports?”. The keynote presentations by Roman Michalak (MCPFE) and Brad Smith (Montreal process) on the issues raised under this agenda item will contribute to the discussion.

*b) Timing & specific requirements of reporting in the two C&I processes*

The participants will consider specifically the timing and special requirements of reporting in the two C&I processes. The ToS is expected to review specific indicators and share experiences on review of indicators (e.g. what was the process used for the MCPFE review, lessons learnt, etc). The stakeholder engagement - formal processes for international stakeholders and informal for domestic ones, and the issue of “domestic applications” of C&I, should also be discussed.

*c) Regional Forest Resources Assessment as a “structured tool” for C&I reporting*

The experience and potential of the regional FRA-related work, including the contribution to previous rounds of C&I reporting, also with reference to the current global FRA 2005 requirements, have to be discussed. The question was raised by the Montreal process countries “*whether the MCPFE process (European countries) are planning on investigating the implications of adopting 7 thematic areas into MCPFE process*”.

**Item 4: Analysis of specific indicators in the MCPFE and Montreal processes**

The two working groups will be set up during the ToS meeting to review and analyze the “core” and specific indicators in the MCPFE and Montreal processes. The working groups are expected to come up with suggestions (proposals) on possibilities and ways of harmonisation and streamlining the countries' reporting on those particular indicators, and also to recommend on the future reporting approaches on the most “difficult” variables to be reported to the C&I processes.

**Item 5: Terms and Definitions in C&I reporting**

The two working groups have to address the issue of differences in the national, regional and global FRA definitions, and to come up with suggestions (conclusions) on how this problem could be solved.

**Item 6: Availability of the required C&I information at the national level**

Mr. Michael Köhl will make a keynote presentation covering the aspects of data availability and reliability. The findings of the two working groups have to be presented under this item.

The participants will discuss and conclude on the outcome of the working groups and on the situation with the availability of the required C&I information at the national level. The issue of the regional and national capacity building for C&I reporting (objectives, potential, limitations) is to be addressed as well.

**Item 7: Global FRA 2005: status of implementation and its implication on MCPFE, Montreal processes**

Mrs. Mette Løyche Wilkie will provide a brief introduction. Some time will be allocated to present briefly a couple of FRA 2005 country reports (Canada, Russia, UK...). The other ToS members (FRA National Correspondents) might also wish to take an opportunity to address the status (and issues) in the FRA 2005 implementation, and implications of this work. After the presentations, the round-table discussion will be open (duration of the discussion under this item depends on the time-table).

**Item 8. Information on UN FCCC developments**

Mr. Roman Michalak will provide a brief presentation on the “*Common Reporting Format and IPCC Good Practice Guidance for LULUCF*”. The discussion of the implication of the UN FCCC developments for the C&I and FRA country reporting will be discussed (duration of the discussion under this item depends on the time-table).

**Item 9. Future role of the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists**

On the basis of the decision taken by the parent bodies (UNECE Timber Committee and FAO European Forestry Commission) to set up a new Team of Specialists on “*Monitoring Forest Resources for Sustainable Forest Management in the UNECE region*”, the future regional FRA-related work, and its role in supporting / contribution to C&I reporting have to be discussed. The participants might wish to discuss the ToR and Mandate of the new Team (as proposed by Bureaux) with regard to expectations and practicalities. The recommendations of the outgoing Team will be invaluable for the future ToS activities.

**Item 10. Conclusions and recommendations**

The results of discussions at plenary and in working groups, and findings of the Team of Specialists will be summarised under this item, so that to be included in the Report of the ToS meeting. The final report of the meeting will be prepared by the secretariat (traditionally) after the meeting, and agreed (by correspondence) with all participants.