



Report of the Workshop

“Capacity Building in Sharing Forest and Market Information”

Prague and Křtiny, Czech Republic

24 – 28 October 2005

1. Background

Forests provide essential economic, social and environmental benefits to society. While Central Asia and Caucasus regions possess valuable and sometime unique forests, there is a potential to improve their functions. With the added advantages of skilled labour and good access to forest products markets in Europe or Asia, forest land is well placed to contribute to overall sustainable development, especially in rural areas. In this context making available up to date, well-researched forest resources, forest products market and forest policy information is extremely important, but this represent a challenge in this regions.

With this in mind, the Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic with the State Forest Enterprise (Lesy České republiky s.p.), the FAO Sub-regional Office for Central and Eastern Europe and the UNECE/FAO Timber Branch organized a workshop that was set out to help to extend the capacity of participating countries to collect and share information in the field of forest resources, forest products, marketing and policy. The workshop has been organized in the framework of the Cooperation Agreement between the Czech Republic and FAO under the program GCP/INT/790/CEH – “Training Programs in Selected Areas”. The workshop was addressed to forest resource experts, specialists in forest products/services as well as marketing (including private forest owners and trade associations where these exist) together with forest policy experts and decision makers.

The objectives of the workshop were:

- ❖ To contribute to national capacities for gathering and disseminating forest land-use related statistical data and information;
- ❖ To integrate country experts into international networks of forest information (e.g. on Forest Resources Assessment, Forest Products Market Statistics, Forest policy);
- ❖ To introduce marketing as a tool that might enhance the economic viability of forestry.

Country reports on (1) Forest Resources Assessment, (2) Forest Products Marketing and (3) Forest Policy Instruments and Institutions have been provided by representatives of the participating countries as an input to the workshop (see List of Country Reports in ANNEX 3). Additionally country reports about the forestry sector were provided by representatives from Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. Unfortunately the representatives of these countries as well as from Kazakhstan were not able to participate, because of difficulties related to travel and visa arrangements.

2. Workshop activities

The workshop was attended by 18 participants from 7 countries of Caucasus, Central Asia, Mongolia and Turkey as well as 21 forest sector experts, representatives of international organizations, governments and private forest owners (see List of Participants in ANNEX 2). Participants have been welcomed by representatives of UNECE/FAO Timber Branch, FAO/SEUR, and the Ministry of Agriculture of Czech Republic in Prague.

On Monday morning country representatives introduced themselves in a roundtable and Mr. Miroslav Kravka, Head of Foreign Relations of Lesy České republiky s.p. outlined the objectives and the process of the workshop. The meeting adopted the agenda (see Agenda in ANNEX 1). Furthermore experts from the UNECE gave specific introductions to „*Collecting and Sharing Information on Forest Resources Assessment*” (Alexander Korotkov), “*Forest Product Information and Marketing*” (Ed Pepke) and “*Forest Policy Instruments and Institutions*” (Christopher Prins).

In the afternoon the country representatives started to present the overviews of their country reports. In his report Mr. Matevosyan stressed out the main problem of illegal logging, lack of forest plans and the need of implementation of the forest code in Armenia. Mr. Bahadır Vekilov expressed the need and potential of non-wood products and services in the forests in Azerbaijan. Mr. Paata Torchinava gave an overall picture of the situation of forestry in Georgia. Mr. Nurlan Sultanov from Kyrgyzstan focused mainly on the problems in Forestry marketing in his country. Mr. Hijaba Ykhanbai from Mongolia stressed out the strong need in his country to study more market oriented forest management and policy, where ecological and social aspects are underlined. Furthermore he underlined the demand to improve the clarification of the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders. During the presentation of Mr. Uslu Nuri from Turkey it turned out that Turkey could be seen as a positive example for overcoming problems in forestry. Nevertheless he pointed out the strong need of increasing the share of private forests and focused on the problems of forest fires and soil erosion. Mrs. Gulusa Vildanova mainly concentrated on problems of financial and material means for the development of forest resources in Uzbekistan. Furthermore she identified the main problems in a lack of: qualified specialists in forestry institutions, nfp and information sharing between forestry institutions in Uzbekistan.

On Tuesday the participants have been welcomed by Jaroslav Martinek from “Školní lesní podnik Masarykův les Křtiny” (“Training Forest Enterprise Masaryk Forest Křtiny”) in the Křtiny castle. Experts from Lithuania, Slovenia and Slovakia shared their positive experience in “Sharing Forest and Market Information” during their presentation on “Forest Resources Assessment” (Andrius Kuliesis, Lithuania), “Forest Products Marketing” (Algis Gaizutis, Lithuania), “Forest Policy” (Jan Ilavsky, Slovakia) and “Framework for SFM, especially Forest Monitoring Systems and Inventorying the national forest resources” (Milan Hočevár, Slovenia) with the other participants. Furthermore experts outlined interactions between markets and resources (Douglas Clark, UNECE/FAO), markets and policies (Ewald Rametsteiner, Austria) and within markets (Ed Pepke, UNECE/FAO). Additionally Mr. Richard Vlosky (USA) presented the “A Methodology for Forest Sector Driven Economic Development”.

There was a huge interest about the experiences of other countries, particularly according the records of former transition countries. The participants contributed lively to the discussions and gave useful comments which have been discussed in more detail in the working groups.

A list of the available presentations is included to this report (see List of Presentations in ANNEX 4)

On Wednesday morning field trips were organized separately for the three working groups on (1) Forest Resources Assessment (including the visit of a harvesting, logging and reforestation site, a forest nursery as well as monuments, established in the forest landscape); (2) Forest Products Marketing (including the visit of a harvesting and logging site; a sawn mill and a forest nursery, as well as an introduction to an example for ecotourism) and (3) Forest Policy Instruments and Institutions (including an introduction to “Training Forest Enterprise Masaryk Forest Křtiny” in Křtiny Forest, visit of monuments, established in the forest and a forest school) with problem orientated discussion on site.

Afterwards, participants worked half a day in three working groups on (1) Forest Resources Assessment, (2) Forest Products Marketing and (3) Forest Policy Instruments and Institutions. Each country participant gave a short overview of the major issues, problems and requirements in the particular field of Forestry in their country, and identified capacity building needs. The briefs were used as reference material and basis for discussions within the working group.

On Thursday moderators of the working groups (Gulusa Vildanova, Nurlan Sultanov and Jan Ilavsky) reported back to plenary about working group results (see outcome reports in ANNEX 5) including major issues and problems, policy options and needs of assistants. The results were discussed during the plenary session. During the drafting committee the secretariat drafted conclusions and recommendations for the countries, international organisations and the secretariat on the base of the outcome reports from the working groups and presented them for an intensive plenary discussion.

In closing the workshop the secretariat members thanked the participants and speakers for their contribution to the workshop. They extended special thanks to the organizers from “Lesy České republiky, s.p.” and the “Training Forest Enterprise Masaryk Forest Křtiny”, as well as the interpreters for their constant assistance throughout the week. They also expressed appreciation for the generous sponsorship by the Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic, represented in the workshop by Tomas Krejzar, without which the workshop could not have taken place. In return, the participants thanked the secretariat and the organizers from the Czech Republic for organizing and conducting the workshop.

3. Outcomes and conclusions

Participants used the workshop as an opportunity to directly exchange the major issues, problems and needs in the forestry sector of their countries. Contacts between the representatives were made and the need of closer collaboration between the participatory countries was expressed.

Workshop participants discussed in work groups recommendations to their national governments and international organisations and approved the Declaration of Křtiny (see declaration page 4). The workshop suggested to organise specific single follow-up workshops on (1) Forest Resource Assessment, (2) Forest Products Markets and Marketing, (3) Forest Policy Instruments and Institutions. The preliminary invitation for hosting such kind of workshops on Forest Policy Instruments and Institutions was kindly extended by a Georgia for spring 2006 and on Forest Resource Assessment by colleagues for Kyrgyzstan.

With regard to public relations a CD and website including all documents and presentations of the workshop, a proceeding paper, a flyer including the agenda, list of participants and declaration of Křtiny will be prepared by the staff of “Lesy České republiky, s.p.” and provided to all participants.

Declaration of Křtiny
(Prague and Křtiny, Czech Republic
27 October 2005)

We, the experts and stakeholder representatives of the forestry sectors of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Turkey and Uzbekistan, using also inputs provided by nominees from Turkmenistan and Tajikistan (altogether hereafter referred as participating countries), nominated by the responsible Ministries of our countries, participating in the workshop on "*Building capacities on Sharing Forest and Market Information*" held in Prague and Křtiny, Czech Republic, 24 – 28 October 2005, which was organised jointly by the Czech Republic (Ministry of Agriculture and Forests of the Czech Republic S.E.), FAO (Food and Agriculture Organisation of United Nations) Sub-regional Office for Central and Eastern Europe, and the UNECE/FAO (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe) Timber Branch,

Considering the increasing societal need in essential environmental and social benefits provided by forests as well as the economic potential of forest land use in terms of wood and non-wood goods and services in the participating countries

Recognising the need in comprehensive forest resources monitoring, particularly in forest inventories and management planning, reliable forest products statistics as well as in information about forest policies within the respective regions

Recognising country specifics, such as geographical and climatic conditions, unequal distribution of forests, requiring individual approaches as well as common challenges in sub-regions, e.g. the maintenance and expansion of forest cover and their protective functions in Caucasus and Central Asia sub-regions

Noting that illegal logging of roundwood and related trade, caused partly by lack of alternative energy sources for individual households, leads to uncertainties about the actual development of forests and their management, creates unfair competition and threatens forest ecosystems

Noting the desirability of the active involvement of participating countries into pan-European and global forest land use policy processes and institutions as well as associated networks

Taking into account that differences between national classifications and international information collection systems may require additional resources for adjustments of forest land use related information at the national level

Recognising international assistance provided by numerous countries and international organisations and institutions and thus the need of coordination

Recommend that governments and state forest authorities:

Establish an adequate policy framework to respond adequately to societal needs for essential social and environmental benefits forests offer, yet will allow to meet market demand for wood and non-wood forest products and services without compromising sustainable development of forest resources

Continue to put high priority on nature conservation and biodiversity in the participating countries and promote production of wood, where the essential environmental functions are not threatened

Foster law enforcement and establish a reliable policy framework including realistic state tariffs as a base for economic prosperity, thus reducing illegal logging and related trade, encouraging investments in the forest sector as well as providing the prerequisite for efficient forest resource assessment

Apply specific measures to combat the destruction of forests resulting from fuel poverty, including, where appropriate, the provision of affordable energy from sources other than local forests

Develop scientific methods of forest resources monitoring, particularly up-to-date methods of forest inventory, build capacities and provide sufficient state funds for regular implementation

Increase capacities and improve quality and reliability of statistics on forest products and services (production, trade consumption, employment etc.) and train companies and selected government employees in marketing and strategic management

Build capacities for collection and dissemination of forest policy information (e.g. a legislation database)

Invest further into the rural areas development, thus raising capacities for carrying out forest monitoring and assessment

Provide public access to forest land use related data and information including inventories, statistics, forest products and services' prices as well as databases on policy instruments and institutions

Coordinate national instruments and institutions of various policy actors related to forest land use and promote cross-sectoral dialogue with other sector's policies that have an impact on forest land use and the forest sector in general

Provide sufficient means for active participation in international networks on forest resource assessment, forest products markets and forest land use related policies and undertake steps towards further harmonisation of national inventories and statistics with international requirements

Assist the collaboration on forest land use issues on a bilateral, multinational, sub-regional and European level

Raise public awareness about forests and their benefits, including wood as an environmentally friendly material and energy source

Apply participatory approaches in policy decision making, involving all stakeholder concerned (NGOs, international/local communities)

Recommend that international organizations and institutions:

Support the implementation of the above given recommendations from this workshop in close cooperation with national authorities, using economic development funds (e.g. Official Development Assistance)

Focus on long-term assistance and capacity building rather than short-term financial subsidies

Make use of the considerable existing national expertise to the fullest possible extent and explore, monitor and build upon past, present and planned international assistance provided to participating countries

Integrate the participating countries adequately into international processes and networks by promoting the benefits of cooperation more clearly and by intensifying contacts with the countries including issuing invitations to relevant international meetings timely

Provide assistance to monitoring of forest resources, particularly forest inventories as well as to national forest account and forest resources assessment implementation

Assist national capacity building in market analyse, including collection, validation and dissemination of forest products statistics and support marketing networks and market information systems at the national and international level

Establish an international information network on forest land use related policy institutions and instruments and assist countries in their active participation

Facilitate comprehensive historical assessment and outlook of the entire forest sector for countries and the region/sub-regions working in collaboration with national experts

Assist countries in annual overview publications on forest resources, forest products markets and policy institutions and instruments

Provide assistance to help countries in their existing efforts to introduce sustainable management of forest resources without including certification as a specific pre-condition

Facilitate bilateral mutual support between transition-experienced countries and participating countries

Organise specific follow-up workshops focused on (1) Forest Resource Assessment, (2) Forest Products Markets and Marketing, (3) Forest Policy Instruments and Institutions, preferably within the next 18 months

Request the UN Convention on Combating Desertification to draw adequate attention to the development of the forests in the participating countries

This document was approved by the participants in a plenary session of the workshop on "Building Capacity for Sharing Forest and Market Information" held in Křtiny (Czech Republic), 27 October 2005.

Agenda

Workshop on:

Capacity Building in Sharing Forest and Market Information

Prague and Křtiny, Czech Republic, 24 – 28 October 2005

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Time	Monday, 24 October 2005	Who?
9:00	Opening and welcome	Ministry of Agriculture (Tomas Krejzar), FAO / SEUR, UNECE Timber Branch
9:20	Introduction of participants	Roundtable
9:50	Introduction: Workshop objectives, process and clarification	Secretariat
10:30	Coffee Break	
10:45	Specific introductions to Sharing Forest and Market Information on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Resource Assessment • Forest Products Information and Marketing • Forest Policy Instruments and Institutions 	Alexander Korotkov Ed Pepke Christopher Prins
12:15	Country reports - Overview: Forest resources and benefits, markets for forest products and services, major policy issues	Country representatives (in alphabetical country order)
13:00	Lunch	
14:30	Country reports - continued -	Country representatives
15:30	Coffee Break	
15:45	Country reports - continued -	Country representatives
16:30	Closing of the session and departure to Křtiny	
20:00	Light dinner in Křtiny	
	Tuesday, 25 October 2005	
9:00	Welcome to Křtiny: Jaroslav Martinek	Školní lesní podnik Křtiny
9:15	Country reports - continued -	Country representatives
10:15	Coffee break	
10:30	Positive Experiences in Sharing Forest and Market Information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Resource Assessment – Lithuania • Forest Products Marketing - experience from Lithuania • Forest Policy – experiences and expectations from Slovakia • Framework for sustainable forest management in Slovenia 	Andrius Kuliesis Algis Gaizutis Jan Ilavsky Milan Hočevar
13:00	Lunch	
14:30	Interaction between forest resources, markets and policy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interactions between markets and resources • Interactions between markets and policies • Interactions within markets 	Douglas Clark Ewald Rametsteiner Ed Pepke
16:00	Coffee break	
16:30	Interaction between forest resources, markets and policy - continued -	
19:00	Dinner	
20:00	Concert in Křtiny Castle	

Wednesday, 26 October 2005		
9:00	Field trip, separately for the three working groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Resource Assessment • Forest Products Marketing Information • Forest Policy Instruments and Institutions - Problem oriented discussion on site -	Lesy České republiky, s.p. in collaboration with the Secretariat
13:00	Picnic lunch	
14:30	Brief exchange about the field trip outcomes	Secretariat
15:00	Forest sector-based marketing and economic development (Presentation)	Richard Vlosky
15:30	Set out of objectives and methods for the working groups	Secretariat
15:45	Coffee break	
16:00	Work in working groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Resource Assessment • Forest Products Marketing Information • Forest Policy Instruments and Institutions Major Issues - Policy Options - Needs for assistance	Work group moderators: Gulusa Vildanova (Uzbekistan) Nurlan Sultanov (Kyrgyzstan) Jan Ilavsky (Slovenia)
18:30	Dinner	
20:00	Visit to nearby caves	Lesy České republiky, s.p.
Thursday, 27 October 2005		
9:00	Progress report form working groups	Work group moderators
9:30	Work in working groups - continued -	Work group moderators
10:30	Coffee break	
10:45	Work in working groups - continued -	Work group moderators
12:00	Plenary Session: Reports from Working Groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major Issues • Policy Options • Action Plan • Needs for Assistance 	Work group moderators
13:00	Lunch	
14:30	Drafting Committee	Secretariat, Work group moderators
15:30	Coffee break	
16:00	Plenary Session: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conclusions and recommendations • Action plan for countries and secretariat • Workshop summary and closing 	Sasse/Clark
20:00	Reception/Dinner National dresses are welcome!	Lesy České republiky, s.p.
Friday, 28 October 2005		
4:00	Departure, bus shuttle to Prague	Lesy České republiky, s.p.
9:00	Informal talks with countries and the secretariat; Drafting Committee	Secretariat
10:30	Coffee break	
10:45	Informal talks with countries and the secretariat	Secretariat
	Additional bus shuttle to Prague	Lesy České republiky, s.p.
12:30	Lunch	
	Departure, bus shuttle to Prague	Lesy České republiky, s.p.

List of participants

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List of available country reports of the workshop

Country	Name	Report on Forest:	Reports available in English (E)/Russian (R)
Armenia	Martun Matevosyan	Policy	E/R
	Andranik Ghulijanyan	Resources Assessment	E/R
Azerbaijan	Bahadir Vekilov	Policy	E/R
	Sadig Salmanov	Resources	E/R
Georgia	Paata Torchinava	Policy	E/R
Kyrgyzstan	Nurlan Sultanov	Products Marketing	R/-
	Chinara Yakupova	Resources Assessment	R/-
Tajikistan	Ivan Ustyan	Policy	E/R
	Khukmatullo Akhmadov	Resources Assessment	E/R
Turkmenistan	Ashyr Allamyradov	Summary report on Forest Policy and Forest Resources Assessment	E/R
	Abdurahim Abdurahmanov		E/R
	Akmuhamed Kuliyeu		E/R
Uzbekistan	Akmal Ismatov	Policy	E/R
	Alishon Mamatkarimov	Products Marketing	E/R
	Gulusa Vildanova	Resources Assessment	E/R
Mongolia	Hijaba Ykhanbai	Policy	E/R
Turkey	Uslu Nuri	Policy	E/R
	Ramazan BALI	Products Marketing	E/R

List of available Powerpoint presentation of the workshop

Organisation/ Country	Name	Title
UNECE/FAO	Christopher Prins	Forest Policy Instruments and Institutions
UNECE/FAO	Ed Pepke	Forest Products Marketing & Information
UNECE/FAO	Ed Pepke	Intro: Interactions Between Forest Resources, Markets and Policy
UNECE/FAO	Ed Pepke	Forest Products Market Interactions
UNECE/FAO	Douglas Clark	Interactions between forest resources and markets
UNECE/FAO	Alexander V. Korotkov	FRA for Sustainable Forestry UNECE/FAO and regional demands for FRA- and C&I-related information
Austria	Ewald Rametsteiner	Policy and market interactions - Policies influencing markets and vice versa
Finnish Forest Research Institute	Jan Ilavsky	Policy and institutional aspects of the transition of the forest sector in the Slovak Republic
		Area of cooperation (figure)
Kyrgyzstan	Nurlan Sultanov	Review about Forestry in Kyrgyzstan
Mongolia	Hijaba Ykhanbai	Forest Policy in Mongolia
Turkey	Nuri Uslu	Forestry Policy in Turkey
Uzbekistan	Gulusa Vildanova	Review of the forestry of the Republic of Uzbekistan
Lithuania	Algis Gaižutis	Forest Products Marketing - experience from Lithuania
Lithuania	Andrius Kuleshis	Forest Resources Assessment - experience from Lithuania
Slovenia	Milan Hočevar	Framework for sustainable forest management in Slovenia
USA	Richard Vlosky	A Methodology for Forest Sector Driven Economic Development

Outcomes of the Working Groups

1 Report of the working group on Forest Resources Assessment

Focus of the discussion: “Major issues in the NFI and Forest Resources Assessment, options and trends in the NFI and FRA (Forest Account) development, needs for assistance, supporting activities”.

The meeting of the group started from the brief self-introduction of the Working Group participants, and then each of the country representatives provided the presentation of the key issues on the matter.

After these presentations, the major issues and factors promoting or hampering the successful implementation of activity on forest inventory in the countries of the region were defined, as well as the need of the countries in the additional assistance was discussed. The organization of a regional workshop on forest inventory and FRA was proposed as one of the ways of such support in the near future.

1.1 Participants

Moderator of the Working Group: Gulusa Vildanova (Uzbekistan)

Technical backing/ advice: Milan Hočevár (Slovenia)

Participants:

Andranik Ghulijanyan (Armenia)

Sadiq Salmanov (Azerbaijan)

Parmen Megrelishvili (Georgia)

Chinara Yakupova (Kyrgyzstan)

Enkhtuya Batkhoo (Mongolia)

Jiri Silhanek (Czech Republic)

Alexander Korotkov (UNECE/FAO Secretariat)

1.2 Status and defining factors, issues and problems

1. Unequal distribution of forests on the territory of countries, specific climatic conditions and relief complicate the national forest inventories and forest account;
2. The national legislation has an important implication on the classification of forests, their management and consequently inventory and account;
3. Illegal (uncontrolled) cuttings contribute to uncertainties in the defining the current state of the state forest fund and forests in general;
4. Lack of resources and funding hampers the forest inventory and forest account, or even makes it eventually not possible at all (FRA 2005 reports were implemented in the majority of the participating countries in the stretched resources situation, and similar comprehensive reporting would not be possible without additional resources in the future);
5. The difference between the national and FAO classifications and definitions complicates the situation with FRA-related reporting and thus demanding additional resources;
6. The lack of qualified forest specialists at the national level complicates the development of NFI, forest account, monitoring and management of forests in majority of the participating countries;
7. Specifics of protective functions/ values of forests in the region demand accurate and very careful approaches to their market utilization (marketing);
8. Traditional and often out-of-date methods of forest inventory prevent the collection of all the range of parameters/ variables required in the international reporting (e.g. FRA);

9. On-going expansion of the protected areas prevents further degradation of the state forest fund lands, which can be observed in a number of countries of the region;
10. The annual scale of forest inventory and forest assessment work is not sufficient and these works are being implemented irregularly;
11. Trade in wood products and supply of non-wood products in general influence positively the availability of resources in the forestry sector for the forest inventory and FRA-related works;
12. The Convention on Desertification should provide more substantial (and practical) influence on the development of the forestry sector in the Central Asia and Caucasus countries;
13. Introduction and promotion of new types and methods of forest inventory demands an advanced technical backing (GIS, other equipment), and additional resources are needed even if the high-level specialists in the country are available;
14. State budget funding of the forest sector in general, and NFI in particular, is insufficient for the implementation of required activities;
15. Current programmes of international cooperation, which are being implemented in a number of countries on the bilateral basis (e.g. Kyrgyzstan-Switzerland), or with international funding organizations (e.g. FAO, WB, etc.) influence positively the development of forestry sector in a whole and forest inventory in particular;
16. The collection of the data/ information about the forest and OWL, which are in the possession of other stakeholders (ministries, organizations, institutions), i.e. beyond the influence of the state forest service authorities, meets certain difficulties and should be coordinated at the national level;
17. Forest inventory and forest account in the frontier areas (near borders) as well as in areas/territories beyond the influence of the national forest authorities faces additional obstacles;
18. There are no common up-dated/modern system of inventory and account used by different forest stakeholders in the country;
19. Bilateral relations/cooperation between the participating countries and with potential donor-countries should be further developed;
20. Each country of the region has its own specifics and aspects of the above noted- issues and problems, and thus demands specific and individual approaches for their solutions.

1.3 Major needs and requirements

- Improvement and harmonization of methodological and legislative basis with detailed range of legislative acts supporting and facilitation the forest inventory, and the state forest account work;
- Creation of the common information network supported by the international organizations, which could be accessible to the countries of the region;
- Assistance in publishing of annual reports with the forest inventory and state forest account data;
- Creation of a forestry database which could be accessible for neighboring countries with the purpose to control and reduce the illegal logging;
- Increasing of awareness and knowledge of forest sector's specialists about international experience in the forest inventory and the forest resources assessment (training);
- Financial and technical assistance of international organizations in forest inventory and state forest account implementation;
- Investing the forestry enterprises (especially in rural areas) for the facilitating the forest monitoring;
- Assistance in the development of the national institutional structures in the forestry sector;
- Cooperation and application of new technologies in forest inventory and forest account;
- Assistance in forest certification and development of the national standards

1.4 Suggested solutions and activities (at the first stage)

Organization of an international workshop specifically focused on the national forest inventory/ forest resources assessments (state forest account) and methods of data collection (*place and date to be decided*). The preliminary invitation for hosting such a workshop was kindly proposed by Georgian and Kyrgyz colleagues. The expected outcome of the workshop should include more concrete proposals and plans of actions for NFI and other FRA-related work, thus contributing to the SFM in the countries of the region.

2 Report of the working group on Forest Products Marketing Information

2.1 Participants

Moderator of the Working Group: Nurlan Sulanov (Kyrgyzstan)

Technical backing: Ed Pepke (UNECE/FAO Secretariat)

Participants:

Samuel Saakyan (Armenia)

Zaza Kvantaliani (Georgia)

Nurlan Sulanov (Kyrgyzstan)

Bat-Ochir Bayasgalan (Mongolia)

Ramazan Bali (Turkey)

Alijon Mamatkarimov (Uzbekistan)

Branko Glavonjic (Serbia and Montenegro)

Arvydas Lebedys (FAO)

Douglas Clark (UNECE/FAO Secretariat)

Ed Pepke (UNECE/FAO Secretariat)

Richard Vlosky (UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Products Markets and Marketing)

2.2 Major issues

1. Illegal logging, production and trade, which occur to some extent in all countries, negatively affects the entire forest sector. For forest products markets, it makes accurate statistical information impossible, puts downward pressure on prices, and is a constraint on legal production and trade.
2. Protective forests need to be considered for multiple uses, otherwise opportunities are lost for economic value.
3. Rising energy prices and the energy crisis is creating more illegal logging for firewood.
4. Prices for forest products should be transparent and regularly reported.

2.3 Policy options

1. A comprehensive policy framework is needed to sustainably develop the entire sector.
2. A positive economic climate is needed to encourage investment and realistic tariffs could help wood trade and domestic processing
3. New institutions and structures, including new marketing agencies integrated into international networks should be established.

2.4 Needs for assistance

1. Building capacity in market analysis, including collection, validation and dissemination for governments, industry, university and other stakeholders
2. Joint comprehensive assessment of the entire sector (from markets to forests), more than one country (Caucasus Region and Central Asia Region), with country and international experts working together.
3. Wood manufacturing processes need modernization.
4. Economic development assistance is needed to strengthen the entire sector, to create employment, and to reduce the pressure for illegal logging and trade.
5. Build international marketing networks and market information systems at the national and international level.
6. Prices should be published to encourage fair trade between importers and exporters
7. Training is needed in marketing, production, strategy, management for companies and governments.

3 Report of the working group on Forest Policy Instruments and Institutions

3.1 Participants

Moderator and technical backing of the Working Group:

Jan Ilavsky (Finnish Forest Research Institute)

Participants:

Martun Matevosyan (Armenia)

Bahadir Vekilov (Azerbaijan)

Paata Torchinava (Georgia)

Hijaba Ykhanbai (Mongolia)

Uslu Nuri (Turkey)

Akmal T. Ismatov (Uzbekistan)

Jaroslav Martinek (Czech Republic)

Pavel Mauer (Czech Republic)

Leif Strömquist (Sweden)

Jan Ilavsky (Slovakia)

Volker Sasse (UNECE/FAO Secretariat)

3.2 Major issues, problems and requirements

Coordination of Forest land use policies about:

- inventory/planning
- education and research
- non-wood forest products
- respond to societal needs and market demands

Cross-sectoral dialogue with policy about:

- agriculture
- rural development
- land use planning
- energy (renewable energy)
- mitigation poverty

Development and protection of forests:

- ecological functions
- biodiversity and protective functions
- ecotourism
- afforestation/reforestation
- health /diseases of forests
- soil fixation/erosion, mitigation desertification and fires

Data and information requirements:

- forests inventory
- forest product statistics
- monitoring
- exchange

Policy formulation and law enforcement:

- illegal loggings

Country specific issues:

- Increase the share of private forests, especially in Turkey and Azerbaijan

3.3 Suggested ways of solutions

Capacity building:

- national/local, regional
- education/research
- raising public awareness

Regional collaboration:

- bilateral
- multinational/sub-regional
- between sub-regional and European processes and information networks

Enhance participatory approaches:

- stakeholder involvement
- government/NGOs
- international/local communities
- transparency of decision making

→ Request international organizations to support implementation of the conclusion drawn above in close cooperation with national authorities