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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION
European Forestry Commission

JOINT FAO/ECE WORKING PARTY ON FOREST ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS
Twenty-fourth session

to be held in the Palais des Nations, Geneva
8 – 10 April 2002, starting at 10.00 hrs on Monday, 8 April

Item 3 of the Provisional Agenda

Guidance of work area 2: Forest Resources Assessment

The present document contains the overview of the UN-ECE/FAO Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) activities since the last session of the Working Party (May 2001). It also presents issues to be addressed at the present session with the aim to provide guidance for the future FRA work. After the publication of the Main TBFRA-2000 Report "*Forest Resources of Europe, CIS, North America, Australia, Japan and New Zealand*", the follow-up work has been concentrated on the supply of data and information to the Global FRA, co-operation with the pan-European process on criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management, carrying out the "*TBFRA-2000 Use and Policy Implications Survey*", preparation of TBFRA accompanying papers, publication of the electronic database (CD-Rom, together with the main TBFRA report), public relations work, preparation of the Global FRA Expert Consultation "Kotka-IV" and dissemination of the FRA information. The new Terms of Reference and Mandate define the current and future activities of the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on FRA. The Joint Working Party is invited to guide activities in Work Area 2, including its scope, coverage, methodological approaches and organizational aspects.

A. INTRODUCTION

1. The Assessment of the Forest Resources in the UNECE region (mainly temperate/boreal forests of industrialized countries) is not only a contribution to the FAO Global FRA, but also the main source for reporting to the MCPFE (*Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe*), especially on quantitative indicators of sustainable forest management (SFM).

2. The UN-ECE/FAO Forest Resources Assessment (referred in relevant documents and publications as “TBFRA”) has proved to be a continuous multi-level and multi-functional complex process, rather than a one-time collection/compilation of forest resource information. A number of the regional-level TBFRA findings and outcomes, which often go beyond the core needs of the Global FRA, should be preserved, maintained and further developed. The areas of the TBFRA responsibilities were formulated by the Joint Working Party in May 2001 and included in the Terms of Reference and Mandate of the UN-ECE/FAO FRA Team of Specialists (*Annex I*).

3. At its last session, the Working Party emphasized that the ECE/FAO Forest Resources Assessment needed to function in a “predictable global environment, so that activities in this programme area could be properly planned to make the best possible contribution to the global FRA”. An open and timely process to reach a decision on how to structure and deliver the next round of the global forest resources assessment was considered as an important step in the right direction. The Working Party will be consulted at an early stage of FRA planning, so that it could be able to contribute to this process. The current Working Party session is the appropriate and timely forum to discuss the future work in this area, and to provide guidance to the secretariat and to the FRA team of specialists.

B. DEVELOPMENTS SINCE MAY 2001

a) UN-ECE/FAO FRA Team of Specialists

4. The UN-ECE/FAO Team of Specialists (ToS) on Forest Resources Assessment for a number of years has helped the secretariat to identify and address the key issues related to inventory and monitoring of forest resources, and to carry out the regional and global assessments. The latest meeting of the Team of Specialists was held at the invitation of the Canadian forest authorities, in Victoria (British Columbia), Canada, from 4 to 6 June 2001. The Team overviewed results and accomplishments of the TBFRA-2000, and discussed the current and future forest resources assessment work (*TIM/2001/7/Add.2*).

5. The TBFRA-2000 follow-up work has concentrated on:

- ?? supply of data and information to the global FRA
- ?? co-operation with MCPFE
- ?? carrying out the “*TBFRA-2000 Use and Policy Implications Survey*”
- ?? preparation of TBFRA accompanying papers
- ?? finalising the electronic database (on CD-Rom together with the main TBFRA report)
- ?? dissemination of the TBFRA information.
- ?? public relations work

6. The team proposed that it should concentrate over the next years on the following:

- ?? contribution to the MCPFE activities

- ?? co-operation within the Global FRA Programme
- ?? contribution to the EFSOS work
- ?? preparation for the new round of the assessment, where its expertise would be especially needed and helpful.

7. The new terms of reference and mandate of the TBFRA team of specialists, which had been proposed by the Working Party at its last session, were approved by the Timber Committee in October 2001. The team of specialists has to respond to the new situation and developments, and guidance from the Joint Working Party would be vital for choosing the right directions of the ToS activities within Work Area 2.

8. The next meeting of the team will be held at the invitation of the Polish government in Kraków (Cracow) in May 2002. *The ToS meeting agenda, which covers all the main issues included into the mandate of the team, is being prepared. It will be available at the Working Party session, and the Working Party is invited to comment on the team's activities and plans.*

b) Contribution to the Global FRA; "Kotka-IV" preparation

9. The key TBFRA data were presented in the recently published FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment 2000, and in the FAO flagship publication "*State of the World Forests 2001*" (SOFO). SOFO-2001 was officially launched in October 2001 in Geneva. Some TBFRA data and findings have already been adjusted in these the most recent publications.

10. The close co-operation within the global FRA Programme, and a proper co-ordination of the global FRA activities, will be reinforced with the elaboration of the common global platform for the next round of the assessment (including an agreement on the set of FRA terms and definitions). That would be the key elements (and important pre-requisites) for the future successful work in this area.

11. The global FRA Expert Consultation "Kotka-IV" will be held from 1 to 5 July 2002. The location of the event will be in Kotka (Finland), at the METLA training centre. The title of the meeting (as tentatively agreed) is "*Expert consultation on Global Forest Resources Assessments – linking national and international efforts*". This topic is reflected in the proposed provisional agenda. The agenda, as well as organizational/ administrative, financial/ logistics requirements and the "Kotka-IV" timetable were elaborated at the preparatory meeting held in November 2001 in Rome.

12. The agenda of the forthcoming global FRA consultation responds, in particular, to the request of the Working Party for the international activities which would help member countries to develop further their national forest inventory and relevant capacities, in order to respond adequately and to meet the growing demands for internationally comparable information on forest resources. *The "Kotka-IV" provisional agenda is available for the discussion at the Working Party session (Annex II).*

c) **Cooperation and contribution to EFSOS**

13. The UN-ECE/FAO FRA team of specialists and the TBFRA national correspondents provide significant assistance to the UN-ECE/FAO outlook studies. About 30 countries have supplied forest resources data for the EFSOS baseline study (see TIM/EFC/WP.2/2002/4 for information on EFSOS). These data were provided on the basis of the up-dated TBFRA dataset and current definitions, but with a more detailed break down of the data by age classes, regions, ownership, etc. This is really a challenging work for the FRA community, which was discussed and supported at last meeting of the FRA team in Victoria. Another area of the co-operation between the two work areas is the “*Historical Analysis of Trends of Forest Resources in Europe*”. This project is being run within the EFSOS work area, but will be based on the results of the previous forest resources assessments. The FRA expertise is being shared in the process of the implementation of the historical analysis of trends in European forest resources. *The comments, guidance and recommendations from the Working Party on this particular activity would be very helpful for the next steps in this area.*

d) **Contribution to Improvements of the Indicators of SFM**

14. The TBFRA is providing significant contribution to the preparation of the forthcoming Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe to be held in Vienna in 2003. The original set of Indicators for SFM is being reviewed in the light of experience. The contribution includes the participation of the representatives from the FRA ToS and ECE/FAO secretariat in the work of the Advisory Group, sharing the expertise, which is based on the results of the TBFRA-2000, participation in the series of workshops, and contributing in the preparation of recommendations for the improvements of the Indicators. The recommendations are supposed to be presented to the MCPFE Expert Level Meeting in June 2002. Experience with TBFRA has been a major input in evaluating the original set of indicators. *The Working Party is invited to comment on the activities in this area.*

e) **Reporting on the relevant indicators for SFM**

15. The TBFRA-2000 provides the set of statistical data responding to the majority of the Indicators for SFM of the pan-European Process. The Report to the next (fourth) Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests (April 2003, Vienna) requires updating of the whole set of the TBFRA data. The analysis of the up-dated set of the TBFRA information will constitute a part of the reporting to the Ministerial Conference. The planning and preparation of the new set of FRA data for reporting to the MCPFE has already started. This work is being supported by a consultant.

16. The consultant will prepare an updated set of forest resource information for the MCPFE countries, which would provide the basis for the quantitative part of the MCPFE-2003 Report, as well as for the current updating the Global FRA-2000 data set (presented also on Internet). The list of parameters should correspond to the quantitative SFM indicators of the pan-European process. *The*

Working Party is invited to provide guidance and recommendations for the TBFRA reporting on pan-European Indicators for SFM.

f) Protected and Protective Forests

17. The supplementary survey on the “protected and protective forest areas”, which is being done by MCPFE in co-operation with the ECE/FAO secretariat, is one more example of the excellent ECE/FAO co-operation with the regional process. In replying to TBFRA, the countries interpreted differently the existing IUCN categories of “protected area”, and their replies were not consistent. Furthermore, areas under special regimes for management objectives other than conservation of biodiversity, notably protective forests in mountain areas, are not included in the IUCN definition of “protected area”. A new more detailed questionnaire was sent to the TBFRA country correspondents, and the information on the “protected and protective forest areas” has been compiled into the electronic database and analyzed. The preliminary report was presented to the last round-table meeting of the pan-European process (autumn 2001), and it will be reported to the next pan-European Ministerial Conference. *The Working Party is invited to comment on the work, which is being done in this area.*

g) TBFRA-2000 Use and Policy Implications Survey

18. The joint session of the UNECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Committee in October 2000 took the decision to provide the analysis of “*TBFRA-2000 Use and Policy Implications*”, as the follow-up to the project. The secretariat elaborated a use and policy implications survey, which was widely distributed to current and potential users of TBFRA information. The purpose of the survey was to find out who had made use of the TBFRA, which parts of it have been found most useful, how the information in it has been used, and what are the policy implications of the TBFRA findings. The report was presented to the last session of the Timber Committee in October 2001. Considering the report on the “*TBFRA-2000 Use and Policy Implications Survey*”, the Committee noted that the Survey would be an appropriate tool for further evaluation and structuring the ECE/FAO FRA process (TIM/2001/7/Add.3). *The Working Party is invited to comment on the results of the Survey and to provide recommendations on what findings should be taken into account.*

TBFRA ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION AND POINTS FOR DECISION

a) Cooperation within the FAO Global FRA Programme

19. It is expected that the current session of the Joint Working Party will discuss and comment on the “regional-global” co-operation and partnerships in Forest Resources Assessment work, and provide input to the regional (TBFRA) position at the forthcoming Global FRA Expert Consultation “Kotka-IV”. The outcome of this Expert Consultation will open “doors” for a more precise planning of the UN-ECE/FAO work on forest resources assessment in the future, also by recognizing specific

features of the UN-ECE/FAO Forest Resources Assessment and accepting its regional identity within the Global FRA Programme.

20. The new Global FRA approach, which is being discussed and structured at FAO HQ, should assume a common planning of the process based on a common global platform with the commonly agreed terms and definitions. Still, there is a necessity to discuss implications of the following current (or planned) developments at the global level for the regional FRA, in particular:

- a. approaches within the Global FRA Programme, which would presume a more close involvement of the FAO Regional Commissions in the FRA process;
- b. new Global FRA Team of Specialists, which is supposed to be established / initiated at the “Kotka-IV” expert consultation, and its co-operation with the existing TBFRA Team of Specialists;
- c. process of bringing together definitions of FRA, FCCC, CBD, etc (initiated at the meeting in FAO, January 2002).

21. The Joint Working Party may wish to address the role of ECE/FAO, a regional partnership, which has made a significant contribution to the global FRA, and future global FRA work. To streamline discussion, the secretariat proposes a few questions:

- how can the global and regional processes be managed to achieve an optimum balance between global and regional objectives and capacities?
- in other words, how to develop a global monitoring process built on comparable data collected through regional processes, while giving each region the possibility to address those issues of overriding policy importance?
- how to communicate and plan effectively and efficiently between the intergovernmental global organs (COFO, UNFF, CBD, FCCC), and the regional level (Timber Committee, European Forestry Commission, MCPFE), and the expert community (TBFRA team of specialists, proposed global team, the scientific community)?
- how to reconcile the information needs of a whole range of very different organizations and processes, all of whom require forest relevant information. Examples are UNFF, FCCC, CBD, criteria and indicators processes (e.g. MCPFE, Montreal). A start has been made on global definitions, but inevitably data collection questions will arise and interact with the sets of definitions being developed and the various groups involved.

b) TBFRA methodology (terms and definitions) and organization

22. The common understanding on concepts, methodology, terms and definitions for the forest resources assessment is essential. The assessment of the traditional forest inventory parameters has to be accompanied (when necessary) by the concentration on improvements in the “new” areas, like biodiversity, forest condition, biomass and carbon accounting, NWGS. The next global assessment, and notably the question on “what data collection methods are appropriate for each country”, should be discussed and agreed at an early stage of preparation. There could be different opinions for the

organisations of the future FRA work and of the future division of labour (e.g. by geographic region, by ecological zone, by capacity of forest institutions, by membership of international organisations or processes), and that the solution chosen must be realistic and acceptable to all countries and partners concerned. The UNECE and FAO have made a commitment to maintain the internationally used FRA terms and definitions substantially unchanged (with some possible refinements to be done as soon as possible, in case when that would really be unavoidable).

23. With respect to the methodology of the future UN-ECE/FAO assessment, the Working Party is invited to discuss how to streamline the FRA reporting requirements, and to comment and approve (or change) the following specific approaches:

- The enquiry/questionnaire approach should be maintained at the regional level
- The network of TBFRA national correspondents should be maintained and regularly up-dated
- The TBFRA core dataset should periodically be updated in the periods between main reporting
- Different auxiliary sources, e.g. Internet, could be involved to provide estimates, when the original country data are missing, although they should be passed for review to national correspondents.

c) Capacity building of the national forest inventories

24. The workload requested from the national correspondents, and their burden to prepare country data/information in the FRA process, should not be underestimated, especially when different data sources and partners have to be consulted, and when the difficult process of “trouble-shooting” and checking inconsistencies in the data-sets have to be done. The challenge is how to reduce reporting burden on countries and provide meaningful, reliable and cost-effective information on forest resources. The national forest inventory capacity building is an essential element of the global FRA, which facilitates also outcome/ output of the regional forest resources assessments.

25. More strategic planning, profiling and resources at the national level should be anticipated, and must be done for the future assessments, especially taking account the pressure of new information demands; a possible expansion of the “data acquisition period” (time allocated for replies to FRA enquiries) at the national level should be considered.

d) The TBFRA scope, coverage and periodicity

26. The Working Party might consider the following:

- Reducing the number of parameters asked for reporting by countries in the FRA questionnaires (especially those which need more research work, or available only at the local level) might help to improve the reliability of data, while reducing the coverage of the survey. Should this be considered for future assessments?

- Is it desirable to present the FRA information in the future assessments by ecological zones, or forest types, or should “regionalisation” of the data, i.e. presenting them at sub-national levels, be considered as a possibility of the additional global FRA “value-adding”?
- Is it feasible to report data at the international level with such demanding and challenging breakdown of parameters? What parameters could be considered in this respect?
- Should social questions e.g. “employment in forestry” aspects also be looked at by FRA?

27. The Working Party is invited to review its earlier decision that a “10-year periodicity of the implementation of the comprehensive assessment of the temperate and boreal forest resources with the publication of the Main FRA Report, would be the most appropriate” (i.e. the next main regional FRA report would be TBFRA-2010). The mechanism, modalities and periodicity of updating the existing top (“policy important”) forest resources parameters on a more frequent basis, so that to respond to demands of the major TBFRA users like the MCPFE, SOFO or other international forest policy processes, should be considered specifically.

28. Until now the TBFRA process has covered the UNECE region plus Australia, New Zealand and Japan, with generally satisfying results. This grouping is approximately that of temperate/boreal industrialized countries. However:

- ?? some countries included may be considered developing countries and their institutions are sometimes not strong enough to enable them to participate in the questionnaire approach suitable for most of the group;
- ?? some major developing temperate/boreal countries with similar ecological conditions to TBFRA countries are not included, notably some members of the Montreal process;
- ?? four countries (Australia, Canada, Russia, USA) are so large, with such specific forest issues, that they require special treatment.

Should the “TBFRA region” be widened (e.g. to include all Montreal process countries), or narrowed (e.g. by collecting data for some central Asian countries alongside those for tropical countries, and not in TBFRA)?, or should the approach be modulated according to the type of information required?

29. With respect to the geographical coverage and the UN-ECE/FAO FRA boundaries, there should also be considered (in the framework of the global FRA strategy) the following aspects: need to bridge gaps between temperate/boreal countries and regions; possibility/necessity to expand the TBFRA area to all the Montreal process countries; possibility of delineation of temperate and boreal forests, and presentation of the forest resources information separately for each of them; possibility and possible options of the presentation of the FRA sub-national data, by ecological zones, types of forests, biomes, or other criteria. The implication of establishing the Global FRA Team of Specialists has to be addressed, also with respect to geographic coverage: should the TBFRA include in the future work Australia, Japan and New Zealand, as it used to be so far?

e) **General points**

30. Additionally to the excellent cooperation with the MCPFE process, there should be maintained and further developed more close links with other ongoing forestry and forest policy international dialogues and processes, notably UNFF, FCCC, CSD, and the Montreal process.

31. Despite the different views on the ICP-Forest process being expressed by different experts, the inclusion of the information on defoliation into the UNECE FRA datasets could be justified, and worth to be repeated in the future, particularly taking account that a “new scheme” of the assessing of forest conditions (covering biodiversity and carbon sequestration) is to be applied.

32. The Working Party is invited to urge all UNECE member countries to confirm (or nominate new) national correspondents for the Forest Resources Assessment work to be run by the secretariat within the Work Area 2. These correspondents should provide a significant contribution in the future work in this area under the guidance of the TBFRA Team of Specialists.

33. The public relations work, including the dissemination of the TBFRA results and promoting the UNECE FRA Programme, should be continued and reinforced, especially in the framework of the ECE/FAO Forestry Communicators Network.

34. The publication of country profiles on the forestry and forest products sectors of countries in transition (the activity is being done by the ECE/FAO in cooperation with national experts as regularly as resources allow and available) is going on. The most recently published were the country profiles on Armenia, Republic of Moldova and the Russian Federation (as the TBFRA-2000 follow-up). The country profile on forestry sector of Georgia is in preparation. The forestry profiles of transition countries will continue to be published depending on the resources available.

35. Fund raising, including in-kind contributions from governments, is essential for successful implementation of the planned FRA work, and it should be in the focus of attention of the secretariat. The Working Party might wish to express its warm thanks to all member countries, partners and contributors to the FRA programme for its efficient support, which is being provided by different means, including sharing the information, providing data, organization of meetings, allocation of funds, loaning experts (APO, visiting scientists) and many others ways.

36. The Working Party is invited to review, comment and provide recommendations concerning for the Work Area 2 of the Integrated Programme of Work as a whole, and its planning for the period 2002-2004 (*Annex III*).

CONCLUSIONS

37. The work, which is being done by the national correspondents, team of specialists, and all those contributing to activities on the forest resources assessment, should be maintained and further

developed. The balance should be found between the planned tasks and the available resources. The resources should be adequate not only for the implementation of the key FRA activities, but also for the development of national forest inventory capacities to provide necessary information.

38. The UN-ECE/FAO Forest Resources Assessment will continue to provide important information relevant to the development of strategies and policies at the national and international level, and facilitating the implementation of global and regional forestry strategies.

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Annex I**TERMS OF REFERENCE & MANDATE OF UN-ECE/FAO FRA TEAM OF SPECIALISTS***Reference to Programme Work Area 2.*

UN-ECE/FAO TEAM OF SPECIALISTS ON FOREST RESOURCE ASSESSMENT	
A. TERMS OF REFERENCE	
ESTABLISHED BY:	The Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics, 19 th session, 1993.
References:	TIM/EFC/WP.2/23 Programme element 2.7
MANDATE:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✍ to advise the UN-ECE/FAO and FAO secretariats on the implementation of activities in Work Area 2 “<i>Forest Resources Assessment</i>” of the Integrated Programme of Work; ✍ to advise on the concept, classifications, definitions and methods of the forest resources assessment implementation, taking into account current developments concerning indicators of sustainable forest management, UNFF, other relevant international processes, as well as ECE/FAO outlook studies; ✍ to advise on updating key parameters between the main forest resource assessment 10-year cycles; ✍ to advise on communication of forest resource assessment results, and implications of FRA results to a wider circle of users.
DURATION:	To 2004
MOST RECENT REVIEW:	Joint Working Party, 23rd session, May 2001, TIM/EFC/WP.2/2001/9.
REPORTING:	Joint Working Party
EXPECTED OUTPUT IN THE NEXT 18 MONTHS: - TBFRA-2000 Use and Policy Implications Survey, contribution to the MCPFE process, and European Forestry Sector Outlook Studies	
B. INFORMATION SHEET (as of 10 July 2001)	
ACTIVITIES	
Past:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✍ Kotka III meeting in 1996; meetings of the team, March 1995, April 1996, March 1997 (Switzerland), March 1998 (Italy) March 1999 (Geneva), May 2000 (Finland), June 2001 Victoria B.C. (Canada); ✍ Meetings of national TBFRA correspondents for CITs in Gmunden (Austria) 1997 and Geneva 1997; ✍ Review and revision of the final draft Main TBFRA-2000 Report; ✍ Publication of the Main TBFRA-2000 report, and the TBFRA database (CD-Rom and Internet) ✍ Publication of the TBFRA-2000 accompanying papers
Ongoing:	Follow-up to TBFRA-2000 and preparation of next round of the ECE/FAO Forest Resources Assessment; Consolidation of experience and lessons learnt from TBFRA-2000, also based on replies to the “ <i>Use and Policy Implications Survey</i> ” and other sources, notably as regards definitions and measurement of “new” parameters, especially those with high policy relevance;
Future:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✍ participation, as requested, in preparation of next round of the global Forest Resources Assessment; ✍ support and contribution to the MCPFE process in improving indicators for sustainable forest management, UNFF related processes (as requested) and co-operation with ECE/FAO outlook studies; ✍ consideration of how to update key parameters between the main FRA 10-year cycles; ✍ consideration of communication of forest resource assessment results to a wider circle of users.
References:	TIM/EFC/WP.2/2001/9
TEAM LEADER:	Professor Michael Köhl (Germany)
CURRENT PARTICIPANTS:	Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States, European Commission, UNEP, EU/Joint Research Centre (Ispra), WWF, European Forest Institute, World Conservation and Monitoring Centre

Annex II**DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE “KOTKA-IV” EXPERT CONSULTATION**

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- 1 Opening of the meeting (plenary)**
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- 2 Objectives of the expert consultation (plenary)**
- 3 Reports from on-going activities (plenary)**
- 3.1 Plan and priorities of the FRA Programme
- 3.2 Report from FAO expert consultation on forest definitions
- 3.3 Possibly more ...
-
- 4 Review of the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2000 (plenary)**
- 4.1 Process review of FRA 2000 - lessons learnt
- 4.2 User perspectives on the FRA 2000 process, results and implications
-
- 5 Linking national forest inventories to global assessments - including approaches to fill information gaps (plenary)**
- 5.1 Country views on linkages between national information needs/situation and international reporting requirements
- 5.2 Information gaps at national level - situation and cases
- 5.3 FAO's approach to support national forest inventories and assessments
- 5.4 Feasibility of low intensity sampling approach for national inventories, including cases
- 5.5 Review of technological and methodological options to meet national information needs
- 5.6 Biodiversity indices in national forest inventories
-
- 6 Recommendations for future global assessments and reporting (plenary)**
- 6.1 "Generic scope" of FAO's global forest assessments, including what is missing in the current assessments?
- 6.2 Future options for global assessment: methods, mechanisms, contents, format and frequency
- 6.3 Current international reporting requirements - mandates, mechanisms, overlaps and potential synergies
- 6.4 Role of independent remote sensing studies in global forest assessments
-
- 7 Working groups dealing with agenda items 5 and 6 (working groups)**
-
- 8 Study tour**
-
- 9 Working groups continues, preparation of reports**
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- 10 Presentation of working groups reports (plenary)**
-
- 11 Establishment of a global Team of Specialists in support of global forest resources assessments (plenary)**
- 11.1 Rationale, formalities and Terms of Reference
- 11.2 Tentative workplan
-
- 12 Formulation and adoption of recommendations (plenary)**
- 12.1 Proposals for support to national inventories and assessments
- 12.2 Proposals for global assessments and reporting
- 12.3 Terms of reference and work plan for the global FRA Team of Specialists
-
- 13 Any other matters, Closing (plenary)**
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Annex III**Work Area 2: Planning for 2002 – 2004**

Programme element	Description	Outputs	Duration
Work area 2: FOREST RESOURCE ASSESSMENT			
2.1 Collection, updating and validation of data on forest resources; FRA methodological development, including work on the terms and definitions	Collection of forest resources data of the industrialised countries, mostly through national correspondents. Harmonisation of the relevant terms and definitions, and the development of methods and approaches. Checking, validation, storage, processing and dissemination of data.	Data stored in database, made available on Internet (ECE & FAO web-sites), information supplied on request to parent bodies and major clients.	Continuing
2.2 Main regional reports: strategic planning within the Global FRA Programme	Implementation of a comprehensive assessment of the forest resources of the region, and publication of the results, with the dissemination of the information.	Main reports, CD-ROMs, etc.	Periodic, at the 10-year intervals
2.3 Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management: improve concepts, supply data at the international level	The contribution to the work on improvement of the existing sets of Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM), mainly within the pan-European process. Providing data for SFM monitoring at the national level.	Advising, and reporting, to the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe as agreed.	To 2004
2.4 Contribution to Global FRA, including the expert consultation "Kotka-IV"	Providing data on the forest resources of the industrialised countries to the Global FRA process; participation in the elaboration of the common global framework for the forest resources assessment; and in the development of the assessment methods.	Sets of data on the temperate and boreal forest resources, including the Main TBFRA Reports, and interim data sets. Guidelines for the assessment(s)	Continuing
2.5 Country profiles of countries in transition	The periodic preparation by national experts, and publication, of forestry country profiles of the central and eastern European and CIS countries. The profiles will provide supplementary, more specific and detailed information on forestry sectors of these countries than in FRA reports.	<i>"Forest and Forest Products Country Profiles"</i> published as Study Papers	Periodic, depending on demands and resource availability
2.6 Special studies (biodiversity, forest condition, carbon flows etc.)	Accompanying papers on the most acute and interesting FRA issues will be prepared and published, following the accomplishment of the periodic main FRA reports.	Publications of special studies as Study Papers or Discussion Papers.	Periodic, depending on demands and resource availability
2.7 Information network, work area administration	Maintenance and regular up-dating of the network of national correspondents, and the TBFRA team of specialists (ToS), so that these structures would support, advise and contribute to the implementation of activities 2.1 to 2.6.	Meetings of the ToS according to its mandate, and periodic meetings of national correspondents.	Continuing