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Timber Committee

Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party
on Forest Economics and Statistics

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**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION**

European Forestry Commission

**GUIDANCE ON WORK AREA 5: ELEMENTS ADDRESSING MONITORING AND
ANALYSIS OF POLICIES AND INSTITUTIONS**

AGENDA ITEM 8.1 – Review and plans

Note by the secretariat

Summary

The Working Party provides guidance to UNECE/FAO and FAO on monitoring and analysis of forest sector policies and institutions according to its mandate, revised in 2008. The Working Party is invited to take note and comment on developments mentioned in this document, including the pan-European enquiry on qualitative indicators and the global online information repository on forest policies and institutions.

1. According to its revised mandate, the Working Party, since its session in 2009, has taken on guidance functions on aspects of Work Area 5, Policies and Institutions. This Work Area is responsible for the collection, validation and dissemination of information on forest policies and institutions, which is increasingly linked to information collection on forest resources.

I. Reporting processes on forest policies, legislation and institutions

2. For the first time, tables on forest policies and institutions have been included in the overall dataset for the Global **Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) 2010**, under “Policy and legal framework”, “Institutional framework”, “Education and research” and “Public revenue collection and expenditure”. The UNECE/FAO secretariat collected and validated this data for countries in eastern Europe and central Asia. All Global FRA data was gathered and analyzed by FAO, and final FRA country tables and report are expected to be published in Spring 2010.

3. In preparation for the sixth Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (now called “Forest Europe”) planned to be held in Norway in June 2011, UNECE/FAO, in cooperation with Forest Europe¹ Liaison Unit in Oslo and FAO, has drafted the 2011 enquiry on **pan-European qualitative indicators for SFM** and the national implementation of MCPFE commitments since 2007.

4. These qualitative indicators include a first part on overall policies, institutions and instruments:

- national forest programmes,
- institutional framework,
- legal and regulatory framework,
- financial and economic instruments,
- and informational means.

5. A second part is on policies, institutions and instruments for each of 12 policy areas:

- land use and forest area and other wooded land,
- carbon balance,
- health and vitality,
- production and use of woods and non-wood goods and services,
- provision of recreation,
- biodiversity,
- protective services,
- economic viability,
- employment,
- public awareness and participation,
- research, training and education,
- and cultural and spiritual values.

6. The questionnaire was prepared on the basis of MCPFE qualitative indicators as approved at the Vienna Ministerial Conference in 2002, as well as lessons learned through previous enquiries (State of Europe’s Forests 2007, FRA 2010). The questionnaire was reviewed by members of the Team of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management, members of the Advisory Group on the elaboration of the next State of Europe’s Forests report, as well as by Forest Europe national

¹ “FOREST EUROPE” has recently replaced the abbreviation “MCPFE” as the brand name of the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe

correspondents. Their comments were taken into account to the extent possible. In particular, questions on financial instruments and economic policy were reformulated, with the aim of facilitating both reporting work by correspondents and data analysis. The questionnaire “Reporting on Pan-European Qualitative Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management and National Implementation of MCPFE Commitments” was sent to Forest Europe correspondents in early March 2010, asking for submission of national reports by mid-May 2010. The data collected will be processed by UNECE/FAO by Fall 2010, and a first draft report is expected by end of 2010. Results from this enquiry will be presented, together with the reporting outcomes on pan-European quantitative indicators, in the 2011 report on the *State of Europe’s Forests*. Country reports will also be made available online.

5. *The Working Party is requested to take note and comment on these developments.*

II. Inter-Secretariat Coordination Group on Monitoring Forest Policies and Institutions: implementation of the global online information repository on policies & institutions

7. UNECE/FAO and FAO have, through the Inter-Secretariat Coordination Group on Monitoring Forest Policies and Institutions, developed an online global information repository aimed at providing comprehensive, comparable, up-to-date and easily accessible data on forest policies and institutions. The draft structure proposed by UNECE/FAO for this dataset was reviewed and endorsed by the Working Party at its 2009 session. The repository is currently being implemented jointly with FAO, and should be publicly available as soon as FRA 2010 data is officially released.

8. The repository information, which is available for most countries worldwide, is mainly based on data from Global FRA 2010 reports. Datasets are more elaborate when additional information is available on a regional or national basis, e.g. for the pan-European region through the MCPFE qualitative indicators. The dataset will indicate the different sources from which information is drawn, to allow for verification and reference for additional details. This database will become an integral part of the “policy and institutions” section of the FAO Forest Sector countries profiles (<http://www.fao.org/forestry/country/en/>).

9. New data on forest policies and institutions will be available for pan-European countries in 2011, through the enquiry on MCPFE qualitative indicators carried out in preparation of the 6th Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe and the next *State of Europe’s Forests* report. The Inter-Secretariat Coordination Group on Monitoring Forest Policies and Institutions should discuss options for revising the repository structure and integrating this new data, collected using a slightly different framework, by end-2010, and then implement the update accordingly.

10. Some limits of the current approach for this repository were raised at meetings of the Teams of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management and on Forest Policy in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. According to the FAO approach, the repository only provides “officially validated” data, i.e. from the Global FRA or the *State of Europe’s Forests* enquiry, and does not allow for interim updates. However, this entails the risk of displaying outdated data, as the enquiries are only carried out every 4 or 5 years. Furthermore, filling the repository for all countries requires significant UNECE or FAO staff resources. Some national representatives suggested that the task of providing data for the repository should be a national responsibility and the correspondents, would be directly responsible for the data verification and updates. This would however increase the reporting work of national correspondents, with the risk that only a limited number of countries would finally contribute. An intermediate solution could be to also provide in the repository links to countries’ official information sources on forest policies and institutions. If this was not feasible under the FAO online repository,

another way to ensure users' access to the most up-to-date information could be to provide these links under the policy webpages of the UNECE/FAO website, with the possibility for national correspondents to suggest and update links.

10. *The Working Party is requested to take note of the developments of the online repository, and provide guidance on issues of data collection and update.*

III. Monitoring and analysis of cross-sectoral policy developments

11. A policy forum was organized in October 2009 during the Timber Committee session, on the topic "The forest sector in the green economy". It enabled representatives from Governments, industries, research centers, NGOs, and other stakeholders to evaluate the situation of the forest sector in the context of the global economic crisis; to identify opportunities for the sector's contribution to a more sustainable society and a greener economy; and to discuss means of positioning the sector to emerge strengthened from the crisis. Discussions tackled the opportunities of green building, wood energy and environmental services from forests. The secretariat prepared a discussion paper which summarizes the exchange of views at the forum. It is currently available at <http://timber.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/publications/DP-54.pdf> and should be available later in print.

12. At the annual UNECE Timber Committee Market Discussions in 2009, the Committee called for a "multi-stakeholder workshop in 2010, dedicated to tariff and non-tariff trade barriers and emerging trade regulations on timber". As a result, the secretariat has prepared a one-day workshop on "Emerging trade measures in timber markets", together with the Economic Research and Statistics Division of the WTO Secretariat (<http://timber.unece.org/index.php?id=270>). It will be held on 23 March 2010, just before the meeting of the FAO/UNECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics. The objective of the workshop is to discuss with expert speakers the economic impacts of trade and trade-related measures on timber markets, taking into account the role of trade in timber markets and the link between trade liberalization and key challenges facing the forest-based sector. The items to be discussed are the following: tariffs, including the status of on-going WTO negotiations; export restrictions; subsidies; measures to address illegal logging and associated trade such as US Lacey Act Amendment and EU Forest Law Enforcement on Governance and Trade Action Plan "due diligence" proposal; and other non-tariff measures including public procurement regulations and phytosanitary measures.

13. A new policy officer loaned by France joined the Timber Section in October 2009, thus increasing capacities for monitoring and analysing policy developments in the region, in particular on cross-sectoral issues.

14. *The Working Party is requested to take note and comment on these developments.*