

Integrated programme of work on forests and timber of the UNECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission

Strategic Review of the programme

Comments and suggestions made by:

Gheorghe Florian Borlea,
Forest Research and Management Institute-ICAS
Aleea Padurea Verde 1
1900-Timiosara, Romania
tel/fax++40 256 220085
e-mail: aicas@mail.dnttm.ro

1. Suggestions for the **strategic objective** of the integrated programme of the UNECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission:

Continuing the work already performed and promoting new aspects of the sustainable development in the forestry sector in order to fulfil economic, social and environmental needs in the region.

I would like to make some suggestions for the specific objectives of the integrated programme of the UNECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission:

-related to region needs:

- Monitor, promote and provide guidance for the sound use of wood/forest resources in the region taking into account avoiding and limiting unsustainable patterns of production and consumption
- Intensify the promotion of indicators of sustainability in forest management (all data used in reporting to TC/EFC by member countries and organisations could be expressed related to indicators of sustainability)
- promote the increase of the forest cover area in the sensitive parts of the region in accordance with FCCC, CCD and CBD
- consider of the work force in the forest and timber product sector as well as in rural areas, especially in countries in transition (partnership with ILO)
- intensify the promotion of public-private partnership in forestry
- continue providing assistance for countries in transition

- addressed to inputs from other actors in the area:

- intensify monitoring of the competition of wood/forest products with other resources and materials
- promote the sound use of wood/forest products as a renewable and environmentally friendly resource in the present-day competitive economic environment
- continue monitoring the forest products flow in the region, including bioenergy/“green energy” produced from wood
- monitor illegal logging.

- addressed to the comparative advantages of the two partners:

- actively contribute to the global forest dialogue and cross-sectoral forest related challenges
- share responsibility with forestry sector partners and all stakeholders
- address key environmental challenges, from biodiversity protection to renewable energy and provide models for future action

2. All included **work areas** should be covered by the integrated programme of work: (policy and cross-sectoral issues; market and statistics; forest resources assessment; technology, management and training, forest sector outlook studies) but prioritisation should be revised.

3. The main **activities and outputs**, taking account of the strategic objective and availability of resources could be maintained except for those related to failed teams (if the case). Additional activities concerning the new objectives/aspects (and related outputs), should be incorporated after debating proposals in the final stage of the strategic review.

4. The **methods of work** should be maintained with some additional elements:

-hold back to back meetings in order to reduce costs and limit frequency

-intensify electronic dissemination and Intranet, focal points

-intensify involvement of professionals (ECE and FAO) for fund raising.

5. Contributions to the integrated programme implementation are made by member countries (activities performed, funds donated, hosting meetings and loaning staff), partners (FAO HQ, ILO, MCPFE), under coordination and support of UNECE/FAO staff in Geneva. **Additional resources** from traditional (trade and environment, ILO) and new partners (energy community?), other intergovernmental organisations (EU?) and NGOs active in the region, could be mobilised for implementing activities of mutual interest (TBFRA, EFSSOS...) and also for cross-sectoral activities.

6. The formal structure is enough flexible to be adapted to the needs evolution.

The changes in the general forest policy, cross-sectoral policy aspects affecting the forestry sector should be identified rapidly, analysed and incorporated in the programme during the strategic review, e.g.:

- Does wood industry nowadays influence the forest management in a sustainable way?
- Does the big demand for high volume and cheap wood influence the forest management qualitative aspects in our region?
- Should we monitor qualitative aspects of the forests in our region?

7. The success of the integrated programme of work could be measured by:

- monitoring the evolution of participation in the activities (quantitative and qualitative aspects),
 - monitoring the number of partners involved in activities,
 - monitoring the number and self-evaluating the quality of outputs,
 - monitoring the demand for outputs (mentions as references, web-site visitors...),
 - monitoring the number and self-evaluating the quality of inputs,
 - evaluating the success of fund raising for specific activities.