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Item 7 of the provisional agenda

**REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES SINCE THE SIXTY-THIRD SESSION
AND PROGRAMME OF WORK TO 2008**

Note by the secretariat

This document presents:

1. A summary of the activities which have been implemented since the sixty-third session of the Timber Committee in September 2005 as well as information on the activities on teams of specialist and the proposed strengthening of the policy monitoring work
2. An evaluation of the sub-programme performance during the biennium 2004-2005;
3. The integrated programme of work of the UNECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission for the period 2006 to 2008 and programme for 2006/7.

The Committee is invited to:

- take note of the activities under the programme of work;
- take note of the activities of teams of specialists;
- discuss proposals for strengthening monitoring of policy and institutions;
- provide guidance on all aspects of the programme of work;
- endorse the integrated programme of work to 2008 and the outputs planned for 2006/7
- review the biennial evaluation of the sub-programme

A. ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED SINCE THE SIXTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE UNECE TIMBER COMMITTEE AND PLANNED FOR 2006-2007

1. Listed below is an account of the activities undertaken since the sixty-third session of the UNECE Timber Committee and those planned for the period to October 2007. Delegations are invited to take note of the activities under each work area and provide guidance for upcoming activities. The UNECE/FAO Integrated Programme of Work is presented in Annex I.

Work area 1 - Markets and Statistics

- (a) Statistics on production, trade, consumption and prices of forest products have been compiled and produced for 2004. Collection of 2005 data is underway.
- (b) Analysis of markets for forest products, notably topical and policy relevant aspects. The *UNECE/FAO Forest Products Annual Market Review, 2005-2006* is under preparation and is expected to be published in August 2006.
- (c) Capacity building for forest products marketing in countries in transition. A workshop on Building Capacity for Sharing Forest and Market Information was held in the Czech Republic, 24-28 October 2005. A Balkan Training Workshop on Forest Products Marketing - from Principles to Practice was held from 3-6 April 2006 in Serbia. Another workshop targeting the wood processing sector is being planned for December 2006.
- (d) Monitoring and analysis of markets for certified wood products is the topic of a separate chapter of the *Forest Products Annual Market Review* and was the topic of the policy forum at the Timber Committee's session in 2005. A discussion paper, *Forest Certification – Do Governments Have a Role?*, based on the policy forum was published in May 2006.
- (e) Public procurement. A one-day, in-session policy forum on “Public procurement policies for wood and paper products and their impacts on sustainable forest management and timber markets” will be held on 5 October 2006 during the 64th session of the Committee.

Work area 2 - Forest resource assessment and indicators of sustainable forest management in the region

- (a) Indicators of sustainable forest management in the region. The secretariat in close cooperation with the MCPFE Liaison Unit Warsaw, has elaborated and circulated the UNECE/FAO Enquiry for data collection and Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management in the Region which will be the main information source for the next MCPFE Report: State of Forests and Sustainable Forest Management in Europe in 2007.
- (b) A Discussion Paper on the Outlook for the Development of European Forest Resources was published in June 2006.
- (c) Regional contribution to Global Forest Resource Assessment. The secretariat cooperated actively in the FRA 2005 by providing the regional contribution to the

Global Forest Resource Assessment. The global FRA was launched in February 2006. Support to development of national systems for forest monitoring is one of the activities of the team of specialists, and is carried out in cooperation with partners such as the EU COST Actions E 43 and E 27.

- (d) A study on “Private Forest Ownership in Europe” has been launched, the questionnaire on the subject was elaborated and tested with some countries, and was sent to countries in April 2006.

Work area 3 - Sector outlook studies: analysis and follow-up

- (a) Implementation and follow up of European Forest Sector Outlook Study (EFSOS). In May 2006 the Joint UNECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics reviewed the recommendations and conclusions made during the Workshop on Policy Consequences of EFSOS, held in Budapest in June 2005. The Working Party endorsed the scope and objectives of EFSOS, with some improvements and modifications. The Working Party agreed that a group should be formed, to develop the concepts and methods for future EFSOS work.
- (b) Forest relevant cross-sectoral issues at the pan-European level. Cross-sectoral dimension. A workshop on Forests - Common Benefits, Shared Responsibilities, Multiple Policies was held in Riga, Latvia in October 2005, in cooperation with MCPFE and the governments of Switzerland and Latvia. The workshop emphasized that MCPFE, FAO and UNECE should review their forthcoming meetings, with the intention of strengthening the cross sectoral dimension. Their secretariats should take every opportunity to communicate the point of view of the forest sector in other fora, and continue to take cross sectoral approach in their activities, notably the sector outlook studies.
- (c) A Discussion Paper “International Forest Sector Institutions and Policy Instruments for Europe: A Source Book” is to be published in summer 2006.
- (d) Sector policy aspects of increased use of wood energy, a preliminary study on the analysis of the volume for wood-energy production was presented to the Working Party for comments and future action. It agreed to set up a task force (consisting of representatives of FAO/Rome, the International Energy Agency (IEA), the EU and UNECE/FAO, and experts nominated by countries and other organizations) to collect data on wood energy in the region. Several countries offered to investigate possibilities to contribute resources to the work and to report back to the secretariat.
- (e) A two-day seminar on energy and the forest products industry will be held in October 2006 in FAO, Rome, Italy, under the joint auspices of FAO, IEA, CEPI and ECE/FAO
- (f) A workshop on mobilizing the forest resource for wood and energy, under the auspices of MCPFE and ECE/FAO, with other partners, will be held in Geneva, probably in January 2007..

Work area 4 - Social and cultural aspects of forestry

- (a) The Joint FAO/ECE Experts Network for the Implementation of Sustainable Forest Management conducted a Seminar on sustainable development of Competitive Forest Operations in Europe in Krakow, Poland, in September 2005.
- (b) An International Seminar on Gender and Forestry was held in June 2006 in Umea, Sweden, hosted by the Faculty of Forest Sciences, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences and supported by UNECE and FAO. A study entitled "Time for Action: changing the gender situation in forestry" was prepared by the team of specialists on gender and forestry and published by FAO
- (c) An expert meeting supported by FAO and ENFE was held in November 2006 to launch the Guidelines on Good Practices in Contract Labour in Forestry and to initiate its implementation.

Work area 5 - Policy and cross sectoral issues

- (a) Contribution to the regional dimension of the global dialogue is discussed at each session of the Committee and the Commission. The Timber Committee Chairman presented to UNFF 6 in February 2006, the contribution made to the regional forest dialogue and cooperation by the FAO/UNECE integrated programme of work.
- (b) Monitoring recent developments in policies and institutions. This is one of the main items discussed at EFC sessions. This topic is the main area of work of the newly created post in the UNECE Timber Section.
- (c) Trends in policies and institutions for the sector in CIS and south east Europe. During the first meeting of the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on support and contribution to sustainable development of the forestry sector in the CIS and South East Europe held in November 2006, the Team discussed its mandate, elected its leaders and members and established its work plan. The second session took place in May 2006 in Uzbekistan. The team is implementing the ECE/FAO Strategy for the Forest Sector of Countries in the Region.
- (d) One of the topics at the Policy Forum of the European Forestry Commission's 33rd session in May 2006 was the "15 years of economies in transition: lessons learned and challenges ahead for the forestry sector".
- (e) Trade and environment issues: extent and cause of illegal logging and related trade: In its May 2006 meeting, the Joint UNECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics reviewed the availability and quality of information on illegal logging and related trade. The Working Party asked the secretariat to consult with possible partners, and make proposals for future action.
- (f) Forest fires, Publication of UNECE-FAO International Forest Fire News (IFFN). At the EFC meeting the team of specialist on forest fires presented a proposal for the development of a "Regional Strategy for Cooperation in Wildland Fire Management in Southeast Europe". In 2006 two issues of "UNECE/FAO International Forest Fire

News” are being published, a special issue on the Russian Federation and another on Southern Europe/Mediterranean countries.

- (g) Sectoral and cross-sectoral communication, in addition to a workshop held in Riga, Latvia in October 2005, the secretariat cooperates with other UNECE bodies e.g. adopting a code of conduct on payment for water related ecosystem services. The Forestry Communicators Network continued its activities, meeting in Spain in September 2006.
- (h) Preparation of forest and forest products country profiles which are published regularly. The forest and forest products country profiles on Uzbekistan and Tajikistan are under preparation.

B. THE WORK OF THE TEAMS OF SPECIALISTS

- 2. The Committee is invited to take note of the activities of the teams of specialists presented in Annex III, and provide guidance where necessary.

C. STRENGTHENING MONITORING OF POLICY AND INSTITUTIONS

- 3. Under the ECE reform, an extra junior professional post has been assigned to the Timber and Forestry sub-programme to strengthen its work on monitoring policies and institutions. The staff member will take up her duties end August 2006. The proposals for this work are presented in Annex IV.
- 4. The Committee is invited to review these proposals and provide guidance on how these new activities should be carried out.

D. BIENNIAL EVALUATION 2004-2005 OF THE TIMBER SUB-PROGRAMME

- 5. The Committee is expected to review and evaluate its achievements each biennium, in order to draw conclusions for the future, using the “results based budget” system. The principle of this approach is that UN activities, such as those of the Timber Committee, should not be assessed by the resources devoted to them (a budgetary approach), nor by the activities undertaken (which may or may not be effective), but by the results achieved. These results should be objective and quantifiable. As a small UN sub-programme does not work alone or in a vacuum, results are those to which the sub-programme contributed, not those due exclusively to the sub-programme’s activities.
- 6. At the beginning of each biennium, each UN sub-programme defines “expected achievements” and “indicators of achievement”, and at the end of the biennium, prepares an “programme performance report”, based on a number of “accomplishment accounts”, which are more detailed. In addition, the secretariat carries out “self evaluations” which, to the extent possible are based on formal feedback mechanisms such as user surveys.

7. The programme performance report and summaries of the self evaluations for the Timber sub-programme in the biennium 2004-2005 are set out in Annex V. The full accomplishment accounts and self evaluations are being posted on the website.

8. The Timber Committee is invited to review the programme performance reports and self evaluations and comment on them, in particular the “lessons learned”, with a view to improving performance in the future.

INTEGRATED PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE UNECE TIMBER COMMITTEE AND THE FAO EUROPEAN FORESTRY COMMISSION, 2006-2008, AND PROGRAMME FOR 2006-2007

9. The Committee is expected to review implementation of the UNECE/FAO integrated programme over the last two years, and approve the programme for the period 2006 to 2008. According to the modalities agreed at the Strategic Review, the programme need not be reviewed in detail by the Committee, as the strategic direction has been agreed for the period to 2008. A list of outputs planned for the period from October 2006 to October 2007 is presented in Annex II.

10. The Committee is invited to approve its work programme for 2006-2008, set out in Annex I and take note of the list of planned outputs for 2006-2007 in Annex II.

Annex I

**FAO EUROPEAN FORESTRY COMMISSION AND UNECE TIMBER COMMITTEE
INTEGRATED PROGRAMME OF WORK ON FORESTS AND TIMBER, 2005 TO 2008**

Work area 1 Markets and Statistics	
	<i>Programme elements</i>
1.1	Statistics on production, trade, consumption and prices of forest products
1.2	Analysis of markets for forest products, notably topical and policy relevant aspects
1.3	Capacity building for forest products marketing in countries in transition
1.4	Monitoring and analysis of markets for certified wood products
1.5	Statistics on forest fires
1.6	Team of Specialists on Forest Products Markets and Marketing
Work area 2 Forest resource assessment and indicators of sustainable forest management in the region	
	Programme elements
2.1	Indicators of sustainable forest management in the region
2.2	Regional contribution to global Forest Resource Assessment
2.3	Support to development of national systems for forest monitoring
2.4	Servicing of Team of Specialists on Forest Resource Assessment
Work area 3 Sector outlook studies: analysis and follow-up	
	Programme elements
3.1	Implementation and follow up of European Forest Sector Outlook Study (EFSOS) to be determined
3.2	Forest relevant cross-sectoral issues at the pan-European level
3.3	Sector policy aspects of increased use of wood energy
Work area 4 Social and cultural aspects of forestry	
	Programme elements
4.1	Role of women in forestry
4.2	The social dimension of sustainable forest management in Europe, e.g. safety and health aspects
4.3	Role of contractors
Work area 5 Policy and cross sectoral issues	
	Programme elements
5.1	Contribution to the regional dimension of the global dialogue
5.2	Monitoring recent developments in policies and institutions
5.3	Trends in policies and institutions for the sector in CIS and south east Europe
5.4	Trade and environment issues:
	5.4.1 – extent and cause of illegal logging and trade
5.5	Forest fires
5.6	Sectoral and cross-sectoral communication
5.7	Preparation of forest and forest products country profiles
	Servicing of the Team of Specialists on CIS/SEE

Annex II

List of outputs, from October 2006 onwards

Work area 1 - Markets and Statistics

- Statistics on production, trade, consumption and prices of forest products for 2006
- Meeting of the UNECE/FAO Team of specialists on forest products markets and marketing, 6th meeting, 2 October 2006, Geneva
- Joint UNECE/FAO Policy Forum on “Public procurement policies for wood and paper products and their impacts on sustainable forest management and timber markets”, with proceedings
- Capacity building workshop targeting the wood processing sector, December 2006, Croatia
- *UNECE/FAO Forest Products Annual Market Review, 2006- 2007*
- Inter-secretariat Working Group on Forest Sector Statistics, 2007
- Follow up workshop to the Building Capacity for Sharing Forest and Market Information, Krtiny, Czech Republic, 2007
- Joint UNECE Timber Committee and European Softwood Conference Market Discussions (and Policy Forum), October 2007

Work area 2 - Forest resource assessment and indicators of sustainable forest management in the region

- Compilation of information collected for the study on the “Private Forest Ownership in Europe”, end 2006.
- 3rd meeting of the Team of Specialists (ToS) on Monitoring forest resources for sustainable forest management in the UNECE Region, Edinburgh, 2007
- Report on State of Forests and sustainable Forest management in Europe 2007 (for Ministerial Conference)

Work area 3 - Sector outlook studies: analysis and follow-up

- A two day seminar on energy and the forest products industry in October 2006 in FAO, Rome, Italy.
- Meeting on Mobilising wood resources under sustainable forest management for energy and raw material, Geneva, January 2007 (with MCPFE, CEPI and other partners)

Work area 4 - Social and cultural aspects of forestry

- FAO/ENFE expert meeting end of 2006 to launch the Guidelines on Good Practices in Contract Labour in Forestry and to initiate its implementation.
- Joint FAO/ECE/ILO seminar on safety and health in forestry operations: changes, trends & progress, Annecy, France, 2007

Work area 5 - Policy and cross sectoral issues

- Publication in 2006 and 2007 of two issues per year of “UNECE/FAO International Forest Fire News”, a special issue on the Russian Federation and another on Southern Europe/Mediterranean countries.
- Trends in policies and institutions for the sector in CIS and south-east Europe. Workshops are planned for 2007.
- Publication of forest and forest products country profiles on Uzbekistan and Tajikistan in end 2006 and 2007.

Sessions of intergovernmental bodies

- Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics, Twenty-ninth session, Geneva, March 2007, and 2008.
- Timber Committee, October 2007
- Joint Timber Committee/European Forestry Commission session, probably Rome 2008

Annex III

ACTIVITIES OF TEAMS OF SPECIALISTS

The subprogramme has seven teams of specialists. All were founded during the second strategic review in 2004 and have a termination date of 2008 (i.e. during the next strategic review). Their mandates were formally approved by the Committee and the European Forestry Commission in 2004 and are posted on the website. This Annex sets out the activities of the teams in 2005-2006.

TEAM OF SPECIALISTS ON FOREST PRODUCTS MARKETS AND MARKETING (Work area 1)

In 2005 the Team held two meetings, the first in conjunction with the IUFRO World Congress in Brisbane, Australia, in August 2005, the second at the time of the annual Timber Committee Market Discussions in September 2005. They participated in those discussions as both expert speakers, as well as active participants. They were involved with the TC and EFC policy forum in 2005 on “Forest certification—Do governments have a role.” The Team’s work is conducted by three subgroups: Responsible Trade, Market Intelligence and Emerging Markets for Forest Products. Accomplishments include: preparation of the UNECE/FAO policy forum in 2006 on public procurement policies by contributing a background paper on procurement policies and their real impacts on forest products markets; Impacts of illegal logging and illegal trade in key countries and key products; Common approach to wood trade policies in the Balkan region; Using life cycle analysis and Kyoto Protocol to encourage “green building” and wood-framed construction in the UNECE region; Wood energy statistics improvement with the Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics.

TEAM OF SPECIALISTS ON MONITORING FOREST RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT IN THE UNECE REGION (Work area 2)

The Team’s main objective is to advise to the UNECE/FAO and FAO secretariats on the implementation of activities in the work area “*Forest Resources Assessment and Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management in the Region*”. The team contributes to monitoring temperate and boreal forests and, in particular, to the coordination of reporting on Criteria and Indicators (C&I) for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) within the MCPFE processes. It sets up contacts on the C&I reporting procedures with the Montreal process.

The first meeting was held in Geneva in April 2005. The meeting defined a detailed work programme: Elaboration of the detailed Enquiry for countries’ reporting on C&I for SFM to the MCPFE 2007; Advice and support to the regional contribution to the global FRA, specifically the global FRA 2005 implementation; Support to the development of national systems of forest monitoring (e.g. EU COST Action E 43, and E 27); Support and contribution to the institutional cooperation on monitoring of forests, incl., MCPFE, ENFIN, EU LIFE +, etc; Contribution to the Montreal and MCPFE process in possible coordination / harmonisation of the countries’ C&I for SFM reporting.

All the above activities were implemented (or in the process of implementation) during the reporting period to April 2006. The team will review its work at its meeting in Hamburg in May 2006, in conjunction with the meeting of the MCPFE Advisory Group.

TEAM OF SPECIALISTS ON GENDER AND FORESTRY (Work area 4)

The Team held its first meeting in April 2004 at FAO, and since then has met four times. The team consists of fifteen members from academia, forest owners' associations, private sector, government and FAO. At its first meeting the group decided on the following three areas of work: Gender structures in forestry organizations; gender structures in forest ownership; and, gender and the perceptions of forests. Draft reports on the above three areas were presented at a meeting held at FAO on 30-31 March 2006. The final report "Changing the Gender Situation in Forestry" addresses the three areas mentioned above, as well as indicators and monitoring, and present conclusions and recommendations.

An International Seminar on Gender and Forestry took place in June 2006 in Umea, Sweden, hosted by the Faculty of Forest Sciences, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences and supported by UNECE and FAO.

TEAM OF SPECIALISTS ON BEST PRACTICES IN FOREST CONTRACTING (Work area 4)

The team members represent forest owners, forest industries, forest research, trade union and forest contractors. The main objective of the team is to develop guidelines on "Good Practices in Contract Labour in Forestry", present case studies, develop training material and organize a seminar on good practices in contract work in forestry.

The team met for the first time in May 2004 in Rome to agree on a work structure and to assign tasks and responsibilities to the team members. At meetings held in conjunction with other international meetings and workshops in Warsaw (December 2004), Jönköping (June 2005) and Krakow (September 2005) work progress was discussed and technical issues solved. A final expert meeting supported by FAO and ENFE will be held before end of 2006 to launch the Guidelines and to initiate the implementation.

TEAM OF SPECIALISTS ON SUPPORT AND CONTRIBUTION TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FOREST SECTOR IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE AND IN THE CIS (Work area 5)

The team held its first meeting in Budapest, Hungary in November 2005. The Team agreed on a work plan and advised FAO/UNECE on the Forest Strategy for South East Europe and CIS, made proposals on the Program Elements and Objectives and prioritized the objectives. Another meeting was held in Tashkent/Samarkand (Uzbekistan) in April 2006. The team intends to meet twice a year.

TEAM OF SPECIALISTS ON FOREST FIRE (Work area 5)

Between October 2004 and March 2006 the team concentrated its work on the follow-up of the UNECE/FAO Conference on "Forest Fire Management and International Cooperation in Fire Emergencies in the Eastern Mediterranean, Balkans and adjoining Regions of the Near East and Central Asia" (Antalya, Turkey, 30 March - 3 April 2004) and the consolidation of the UNISDR Regional Wildland Fire Networks that are being built in the ECE region (Baltic, Southeast

Europe, Mediterranean, Central Asia). See EFC paper "Cooperation and networking on forest fires, with a focus on the Balkan and Mediterranean areas". Most important was the regional consultation in the FYR of Macedonia in 2005 where members of the Balkan Network decided to invite neighbouring countries and to expand its area of joint activities to Southeast Europe. The consultation was followed by the first regional wildland fire exercise "Eastern European, Near East and Central Asian States Exercise on Wildland Fire Information and Resources Exchange - EASTEX FIRE 2005" which was a direct follow-up of the Antalya conference.

The coordinator of the team continued to produce UNECE-FAO International Forest Fire News (IFFN). The last two issues focus on "Prescribed Burning in Northwest Europe and the Baltic Region" (IFFN No. 30) and the UNISDR Global Wildland Fire Network (IFFN No. 31). The next issues to be printed soon include a special issue on the Russian Federation (No. 32) and Southern Europe / Mediterranean (No. 33).

The team participated in the sessions of COFO-17 and the Ministerial Meeting on Forests (March 2005) and is currently working for the FAO to implement the recommendations of these meetings, i.e., the development of a Fire Management Code and a Strategy for Enhancing International Cooperation in Wildland Fire Management. The team provided support to the FAO Expert Consultation on Wildland Fire (Madrid, Spain, 10-12 May 2006). At the EFC meeting the team will present a proposal for the development of a "Regional Strategy for Cooperation in Wildland Fire Management in Southeast Europe".

FOREST COMMUNICATORS NETWORK (FCN) (Work area 5)

Met in Sofia, Bulgaria, in June 2004 and in Poland in October 2005. The Network elaborated a first outline for an international event on communication in forest sector policy, which according to the mandate is to be conducted by 2008. A subgroup was established to start work on guidelines on best practices in forest communications. The second part of a study, based on an enquiry, on consumer attitudes, which will specifically focus on the public perceptions concerning forest products and the forest industry is underway. The next meeting will be held in Spain in 2006. FCN members helped the secretariat to develop its own communication strategy.

Annex IV

PROPOSALS FOR STRENGTHENING THE MONITORING OF POLICY ISSUES AND INSTITUTIONS

In the context of the UNECE Reform the Timber Committee was asked to submit proposals to the Executive Committee on ways and means to strengthen its monitoring and analysis activities relating to forest policy and institutions. The resources of the Timber sub-programme have been strengthened by an additional staff member at the medium/junior professional level who will take up her post end August 2006. Set out below are the proposed activities in this area, for the guidance of the Timber Committee. The same proposals were submitted to the FAO European Forestry Commission in May 2006.

Needs and objectives underlying the proposal

Sustainable forest management calls for a balance between economic, ecological and social dimensions. This goal cannot be achieved without strong and stable policies and institutions for the sector. There have been significant changes in forest sector policies and institutions in the ECE region over recent years, and there is now a major opportunity to learn from these developments by an international exchange of experience.

Forest sector policy makers, and those responsible for sustainable development, in EECCA and other parts of the ECE region, need up to date, structured, information on developments in national, sub national and regional forest policies and institutions so that they can base their own decisions on a good understanding of the rapidly evolving international policy environment and benefit from the experience, positive or negative, of others faced with the same issues. International processes, including MCFE, UNFF, CBD and CSD also require this information to guide their own decision making.

The Timber and Forests sub-programme is expected to monitor and analyse, with its many partners, the developments in the forest sector and sustainable forest management. It already plays a leading role in monitoring production and trade of forest products and the forest resource. However, there is no equivalent system in place to monitor changes in national or sub-national policies and institutions for the sector. Thus, if a country changes its forest law, privatises or nationalises forest land or a state forest agency, implements new measures to prevent illegal logging or puts in place incentive systems for forestry or forest industry, there is no system for collecting and making available this information, or analysing international or regional trends and no single place for the international community to obtain this information.

With its continuity of experience, its wide networks, especially in forest policy circles, and its many partnerships, notably with MCPFE, the Timber and forests sub-programme is ideally placed to lead a process to put in place a system to monitor forest sector policies and institutions, and thereafter to collect, validate and make available the information for the benefit of all. This information base could serve as a basis for a joint programme of capacity building, through exchange of experience, with FAO and other partners.

In addition, the Timber Committee has been very active in developing cross-sectoral activities, notably with the sub-programmes on energy, trade development and environment, including

water. A workshop specifically devoted to cross sectoral issues, in October 2005 recommended a strengthening and mainstreaming of this approach. Thus the cooperation with the Committee on Sustainable Energy should be developed, notably in the field of information and policies for wood energy. Likewise the Timber sub-programme has participated in work on a code of conduct for payment of water related ecosystem services under the Water Convention.

The attached table sets out in more detail the secretariat's ideas on activities and outputs of the additional post

Expected outcome	Activities	Resources (per year)
Creation and maintenance of system to monitor policies and institutions	Consultation with partners, notably MCPFE and FAO, creation of conceptual and organisational framework, request and check information, make available on paper/web, update regularly	6 work months 2006-2007 (creation phase), then 2 work months
Monitoring and analysis of policies and institutions	Reports to regular intergovernmental meetings (including those of partners, such as MCPFE and FAO) on status and trends of policies and institutions in the sector, input to outlook studies, investigations of agreed topics	2 work months 2006-2007, then 4 work months
Capacity building in policies and institutions	Organisation of workshops on strengthening sector institutions in south east Europe, EECCA	2 work months 2006-2007, then 4 work months
CROSS-SECTORAL ANALYSIS AND PROJECTS		
Selected cross sectoral activities with other ECE and partner bodies: analysis and workshops	Identify relevant and realistic projects, e.g. on wood energy status, trends and issues with Committee on Sustainable Energy, on code of conduct for ecosystem management for water supply with Water Convention, then provide timber/forest input. Facilitate cross sectoral input into forest/timber analysis	2 work months

Annex V

Evaluations of the biennium 2004-2005: Timber sub-programme

A. Programme performance reports

Expected accomplishment 1: Better understanding of the situation, outlook and policy issues of the forest and timber sector

Through our monitoring and analysis, notably the European Forest Sector Outlook Study (EFSOS), we gave prominence to major emerging policy issues, including the growth of the forest sector in Eastern Europe, the importance of illegal logging and forest certification, and thereby helped Governments, the private sector and other stakeholders to develop policies and strategies, in the short, medium and long term. The usefulness of our activities is evidenced by the strong support visible during a formal strategic review of the programme, as well as by the use of EFSOS by the EU for its Forestry Action Plan, numerous downloads of major outputs (e.g. 175,000 in six months from timber website in Jan-June 2005) and positive assessment by users of our publications (over 90% satisfied users in a formal user survey).

We learned to improve communication by identifying target user groups more clearly, and focusing the content and format of the outputs to their needs, as well as paying close attention to their feedback. Our experience this biennium also confirmed the importance of involving all stakeholders in developing the programme, as well as encouraging their participation in meetings etc

Expected accomplishment 2: More in-depth exchange of policy relevant experience on topical issues, including a gender perspective

We provided objective and neutral data and analysis and a series of focused workshops, seminars and policy forums (e.g. on role of governments in certification, information capacity building, forest sector strategies) where information and experience were shared, and conclusions drawn. Teams of specialists addressed a wide range of issues, including forest fires, role of women in forestry, assistance to countries in transition, use of contractors in forest work etc. Often the conclusions of these activities were drawn to the attention of national or international bodies as a help to identifying and clarifying the major policy issues of the day for consideration. Nearly 900 participants attended 18 seminars, workshops and policy forums held under the auspices of the sub-programme. All were asked to fill out an evaluation form. 93% of 243 respondents declared themselves satisfied with the events (4 or over on a scale of satisfaction from 1-5) It is therefore safe to assume that these participants benefited from the events. The great majority stated in the evaluation that they were able to use the information and experience they gained at the events in their country

Whereas effective communication is usually sufficient to attract the active participation of sector experts from western Europe and North America, this does not apply to the countries of south east Europe and EECCA (East Europe, Caucasus and central Asia), nor of other sectors. To

achieve this, resources are necessary, to pay costs and to solve the numerous organisational issues which arise. Some extra budgetary funding has been made available but more is needed.

Expected accomplishment 3: Improved availability of data on indicators of sustainable forest management in the region

Internationally agreed sets of indicators are needed to help governments measure and compare progress towards sustainable forest management. With the Liaison Unit of the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, the secretariat of the sub-programme has lead responsibility for this work at the pan-European level. In addition, data for Europe and Russia are provided through the sub-programme for the MDG indicator “reversing deforestation”. In 2004-2005, work was carried out to implement the revised indicator set for the next Ministerial Conference scheduled for 2007: In addition, the data for Europe were collected, validated and analysed in the context of the Global Forest Resource Assessment (FRA) 2005, led by FAO, released in November 2005. The two main outputs of the sub-programme in this area provide a baseline for policy makers and all those concerned with sustainable forest management in Europe. Their structure, concepts and data are used by many national and international policies and research. TBFRA 2000, although now 5 years old, was downloaded over 6,000 times in 2003, 10,405 times in 2004 and 5,000 times in the first half of 2005. The report for the Ministerial Conference 2003 was downloaded 8084 times from the timber website in the year from September 2004, and at least 3456 times from the MCPFE website. The Global FRA 2005 will be the fundamental reference document on the status and trends of the forest resource of the world for the next 5 years.

Our experience confirmed the importance of making close partnerships with other organisations, of developing and consulting a strong network of national experts, and of the necessity of being open to policy level signals: difficulty in measurement is not a reason to ignore important dimensions of the resource. The importance of stability in concepts and structures, as the only way of measuring trends over time has also been stressed many times and is now accepted by all actors

B. Self evaluations

1. Alignment of sub-programme with members’ needs and priorities

Aim and process of review

The timber sub-programme is long standing and thereby runs the risk of becoming stuck in out of date habits, whether for priorities, substance or methods. It is therefore of the highest importance that from time to time the whole programme be subject to an in-depth review, with all concerned, and nothing taken for granted. The first such “Strategic Review” took place in 2001, and already agreed that the exercise should take place at regular four yearly intervals. The second strategic review, the subject of this evaluation took place in 2003-2004, and culminated at the joint session of the two intergovernmental bodies responsible for the sub-programme, the ECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission.

All aspects of the programme were considered within the scope of the review, which concentrated however on priority setting, as resources are very limited, as well as developing

partnerships. The process was transparent and open, culminating in an open-ended bureaux meeting which agreed the main points. The results were endorsed by a joint session of the parent bodies in 2004.

Results

The end result was an integrated ECE/FAO programme in the field of forests and timber which had the full support of members and stakeholders, was realistic and well coordinated with other activities in the region. This has resulted in a strong sense of ownership, better understanding of the strengths and limitations of the programme, and a clear commitment to activities and objectives for the medium term (until 2008, when the third strategic review is planned). This considerably simplifies the annual programming discussions.

Lessons learned

The strategic review of the programme in 2003/4 confirmed the usefulness of this approach, in reaching consensus, setting priorities, giving ownership, improving communication, simplifying procedures. Indeed, it seems to have been a factor in the rather positive evaluation of the timber sub-programme in the context of the wider ECE reform process.

The approach will be maintained in the future.

2. Effectiveness and efficiency of exchange of policy relevant experience

Aim and process of review

One major objective of the sub-programme is to exchange experience on a wide range of issues. The main means whereby this exchange is organised is meetings: these range from large formal meetings of permanent bodies to small focused workshops. In order to measure success of the meetings as forums for information exchange and to improve the meetings' contents and format, standard evaluation forms have been distributed to all participants, and the comments and evaluations analysed afterwards.

Results

The collated evaluation forms for the 10 meetings in 2004-2005 show that in two meetings, over 90% of respondents gave high marks (defined as over 4 on a scale of 1-5), in five meetings 80-90% of respondents gave high marks, in two meetings 70-80%, and in one meeting only 60% gave high marks. This constitutes clear evidence that the great majority of meetings under the sub-programme are considered useful and of high value by the participants. In general, the meetings in 2005 received higher marks than those in 2004, but the number of observations is not sufficient to yield a trend

Each meeting is different in objectives, format, location and target group, so it is not valid to draw more general conclusions. However, some practical and technical issues (importance of distributing a timetable daily in large meetings, quality of slides, desire for coffee breaks etc.) do recur and are taken into account when we plan other meetings.

Lessons learned

The exercise of asking participants for their evaluation and discussing their answers is itself beneficial and helps increase the client orientation of the timber team. This is helping us to

steadily improve our performance. However, many delegations are themselves not used to this approach, and may be unwilling to express more negative or critical ideas. We should not only continue to circulate evaluation forms and discuss their contents with a view to improving our performance but make even greater efforts to increase the number of respondents and the frankness of their comments.

3. Quality of information and analysis provided

Aim and process of review

The Timber sub-programme's major objective is to monitor and analyse developments in the sector, which includes making available the results of the work to governments, private sector and civil society in a form and with a scope which provides them with the information and analysis they need. Decisions about resource allocation and priorities are taken in accordance with formal lines of authority but take into account, to the extent possible, feedback from users and guidance from intergovernmental bodies. A system has been put in place to keep the secretariat well informed of this feedback and guidance. This system is briefly described here

There are two main parts:

- Guidance from the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics which provides guidance to the 3 work areas relevant to monitoring and analysis. The Working Party is an intergovernmental body, mostly attended by sector experts and thus well reflects the views of member governments.
- Periodic formal user surveys addressed to users of sub-programme outputs, which are often publications. The frequency of these surveys is limited by resources, but the most recent was carried out in 2005 and was presented to the Working Party (TIM/EFC/WP.2/2005/9)

Results

The main results of both types of feedback is that the scope and format of the sub-programme outputs is in broad accordance with countries' and stakeholders' needs and priorities, given the resources available. Numerous suggestions have been made to improve the quality and focus of the outputs, but there is no suggestion for a radical change of priorities. These detailed suggestions are not discussed here. Naturally most respondents to the user surveys would prefer more and more detailed outputs, but they are also aware of the limitations imposed by resources. To the extent that changes can be implemented within existing resources, or by developing new partnerships the secretariat makes every effort to implement them. Indeed, we consider that the quality and relevance of the outputs had been significantly improved over recent years through this process.

Lessons learned

The close relationship with Government experts through the Working Party, reinforced by periodic formal user surveys, has greatly strengthened the quality of the sub-programme outputs, by guiding the secretariat on users' needs and priorities and by providing much detailed and useful constructive advice. This approach should be continued. Formal user surveys should be carried out for all parts of the sub-programme.