


February 2012

	منظمة الأغذية والزراعة للأمم المتحدة	联合国 粮食及 农业组织	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture	Продовольственная и сельскохозяйственная организация Объединенных Наций	Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura
---	--	--------------------	---	---	---	--

TWENTY-EIGHTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR EUROPE

Baku, Azerbaijan, 19 and 20 April 2012

Agenda Item 8

SUMMARY REPORT OF THE JOINT SIXTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE UNECE TIMBER COMMITTEE AND THE THIRTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE FAO EUROPEAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

1. At the invitation of the Government of Turkey, the FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Timber Committee (TC), entitled "Orman 2011: Forests in a Green Economy", was held in Antalya, Turkey, from 10 to 14 October 2011. In addition to approximately 160 Turkish national experts, 120 representatives from member countries and the European Commission attended the session. Representatives of three international organizations and two regional processes, as well as eleven international non-governmental organizations were also in attendance.
2. The session reviewed the status of, and trends in, forests in the UNECE region drawing from the findings of the State of Europe's Forests 2011 report and the FAO Global Forest Resource Assessment 2010, with a particular focus on data and information related to a green economy. Member States were also presented with the Second European Forest Sector Outlook Study (EFSOS II) and a brief update on the North American Forest Sector Outlook Study and on the Russian Forest Sector Outlook Study.
3. Through a consultative process and in deliberation with Member States and stakeholders, UNECE/FAO developed a draft Action Plan for a Green Economy that was presented to the session. The Plan identified the following five broad areas of activity:
 - Sustainable production and consumption of forest products
 - The low-carbon forest sector
 - Decent green jobs in the forest sector
 - Valuation of and payment for forest ecosystem services
 - Monitoring and governance of the forest sector.

This document is printed in limited numbers to minimize the environmental impact of FAO's processes and contribute to climate neutrality. Delegates and observers are kindly requested to bring their copies to meetings and to avoid asking for additional copies. Most FAO meeting documents are available on the Internet at www.fao.org

4. In the ensuing discussion the Commission and the Committee:
 - i) Welcomed the Action Plan as the basis for discussion at the session and as a reference for action at the national and international levels;
 - ii) Requested the Secretariat to organize a one-day stakeholder meeting to further develop the plan and in particular, to identify actions and related actors;
 - iii) Requested that the Secretariat submit the Action Plan to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN/DESA) as a contribution to the Rio+20 preparatory process and present the Action Plan during the Conference;
 - iv) Decided to continue to refine the Action Plan in the margins of relevant UNECE/FAO meetings in 2012 and 2013 in order to present a final Action Plan for adoption at the next session in 2013;
 - v) Recommended that Member States and international organizations use the Action Plan as one of the bases for identifying relevant topics to be covered by the Joint UNECE/FAO Timber and Forestry Programme of Work during the review process;
 - vi) Requested the Secretariat to develop an online database of relevant case studies and experiences in the UNECE region on the forest sector in a green economy to be collected from Member States and relevant organizations.
5. The session included a special segment on the green economy, composed of five round tables dealing with the following key topics.
 - i) The first round table focused on sustainable production and consumption of forest products. The Committee and the Commission noted the need to:
 - promote sustainable production and consumption of forest products;
 - create a level playing field between wood and other products and materials, making best use of the life-cycle analysis;
 - better communicate the environmental performance of timber;
 - include the construction sector in the value chain.

The session noted that based on its recognized environmental sustainability, the forest sector should be in a position to lead by example and the Action Plan provides a tool to pursue this goal.

- ii) The round table on a low-carbon forest sector reviewed opportunities and related financial, technical, and policy requirements to move towards "green growth" on a low-carbon path. Wood energy was recognized as a sector evolving at a rapid pace and deserving increased attention. Delegates agreed that all forest-related components of mitigation (sequestration, substitution and storage) should be strengthened in carbon accounting under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) regime.
- iii) The round table on green jobs in the forest sector discussed how they help reduce the consumption of energy and raw materials, avoid greenhouse gas emissions, minimize waste and pollution, and protect and restore ecosystems. The session recognized the problem of an ageing forest workforce and the pressing need to attract young workers to the sector. Decent incomes, proper training and safe working conditions were preconditions for recruiting and retaining a skilled workforce. The role of governments and the private sector and their cooperation was emphasized.
- iv) The fourth round table outlined a concept of valuation of ecosystem services in a green economy. The session concluded that payments for ecosystem services can provide effective financing arrangements for activities related to the conservation and sustainable use of natural ecosystems such as forests; and suggested to look further into the possible role of insurance in the development of Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) schemes.
- v) The round table on monitoring and governance in the forest sector highlighted that good information was indispensable for meaningful assessment, informed policymaking and

successful communication. Efforts should continue to enhance the completeness of forest sector reporting, develop methods for analysing collected information, and communicate results. The session was informed about the efforts made by FAO in supporting forest communication networks.

vi) Representatives of the UNECE/FAO Forest Communicators Network presented the draft “take-home message” prepared in the form of objectives and actions that are to be promoted as an outcome of the joint session.

6. Delegates were informed about the activities, recommendations and decisions of the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO), the United Nations Forum on Forests, the Mediterranean Forest Week and Forest Europe, including the decision to begin negotiations for a legally binding agreement on forests in Europe. The Committee and the Commission:

- Welcomed the commitment of interested donors to provide extra-budgetary resources in support of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, including secondment of staff;
- Requested that UNECE and FAO contribute to the servicing of the negotiation of the Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe, as appropriate;
- Requested that UNECE/FAO continue to contribute to the development and implementation of the Forest Europe Work Programme in concordance with the UNECE/FAO Integrated Programme of Work.

7. The Committee and the Commission decided to extend the mandate of, and adopted a new terms of reference for the Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics to include the work of teams of specialists and harmonize their reporting lines. The new arrangements would be valid for a trial period of two years, until the 2013 Strategic Review of the Integrated Programme of Work on Forestry and Timber has been completed.

8. The Committee and the Commission decided on the approach, methodology and timeline of the Strategic Review of the Joint UNECE/FAO Integrated Sub-Programme on Timber and Forestry. The Secretariat was requested to implement the decision so that the results, including a new Joint UNECE/FAO Integrated Programme of Work on Forestry and Timber for the period 2014–2017, could be presented at the joint session in 2013.

9. The session also reviewed the draft Programme of Work of the Timber and Forestry Sub-Programme for 2012–2013 and authorized its submission to the UNECE Executive Committee for formal approval.

10. The session reviewed the implementation of recommendations on forests and climate change made by the Commission and COFO at their previous sessions and noted with appreciation the results. The Commission proposed the establishment of a global platform on forests and climate change to facilitate exchange of experience, science and policy effectiveness. At the European level, FAO and UNECE were requested to integrate and coordinate their efforts with existing initiatives for maximum impact and synergy; and to highlight the positive attributes of wood products in their action plans for greening European economies.

11. The Commission discussed the draft long-term strategy for the global forest resources assessment process as requested by COFO, and agreed to the goals, intent and content. It was further agreed that the greatest emphasis should be placed on quality rather than expansion of scope. The need to concentrate on key issues and to produce results that are consistent over time was noted. The strategic view of continuous improvement was underscored as vital, since the strategy covered nearly two decades during which technology and information needs would change.

12. The Commission developed its recommendations for the attention of COFO as presented in Annex I.

13. The Commission was informed about the review of the mandate and modus operandi of the EFC Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds, and decided to include the mandate

and modus operandi of the Working Party in the overall review process of the joint UNECE/FAO Integrated Programme of Work on Forestry and Timber.

14. The Commission elected Mr Andrey Filipchuk (Russian Federation) as Chair and Messrs. Peter Blombäck (Sweden), Bekir Kayacan (Turkey) and Robert Busink (Netherlands) as vice-chairs, to hold office from the end of the Thirty-Sixth Session until the end of the Thirty-Seventh Session.

15. At the invitation of the Government of Finland, the Thirty-Seventh Session of the EFC will be held jointly with the Seventy-First Session of the TC in 2013.

FAO European Forestry Commission recommendations for the attention of COFO

Priority issues for COFO to consider	Expected outcome of the considerations (information/decision)	Possible follow-up activities for COFO and FAO
How to operationalize the outcome of Rio+20 for the forest sector taking into account developments in other sectors.	Advice for members and FAO	Review at next session (2014)
<p>How to strengthen the role of assessment, analysis and monitoring in policy formulation.</p> <p>Long-term strategy for the global forest resource assessment (FRA).</p> <p>Role of analysis and outlook in support to forest policy development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring state of forests and progress made on sustainable forest management 	<p>Decision</p> <p>Advice for members and FAO</p> <p>Advice for members and FAO</p>	<p>Periodic review by COFO of progress under FRA</p> <p>Results and highlights of regional and global outlook studies are brought to the attention of COFO</p> <p>Periodic reviews</p>
How to promote inter-organizational and inter-sectoral cooperation on forest issues at regional level to ensure streamlined and focused action.	Recommendation	Periodic review of progress

**FAO European Forestry Commission recommendations for the attention of COFO regarding the
FAO Programme of Work**

Priorities for the FAO Programme of Work	Objectives for work on the priorities	Activities to accomplish the objectives, and the level at which these should be implemented (national/regional/global)	Indicators of achievement
Clarify, enhance and communicate the contribution of forests and the forest sector to green pathways for sustainable development.	Comprehensive approach to greening the economy.		
Implement FRA long-term strategy as adopted by COFO.	FRA programme satisfies the growing intergovernmental need for information on forests.		
Continue and enhance programme in forest sector outlook studies.	Provide solid basis for policy and strategy development in the forest sector.		
Create regional climate change adaptations platforms and promote science policy interface and learning. Improve the understanding of the role of forest products in climate change mitigation.	Facilitate science policy interface in climate change; help better integration of the forest sector in mitigation and adaptation policies and actions.		

