

Date of submission:

The eleventh session of the UNFF (UNFF11) will be held from 4 to 15 May 2015 in New

Section I: Progress towards the implementation of the forest instrument and the achievement of the GOFs as well as the contribution of forests and the IAF to the internationally-agreed development goals, including the MDGs

A. Progress towards implementation of the Forest Instrument

1. Briefly describe actions (e.g. regulatory, financial/economic and informational/educational) taken by your respective regional, sub-regional organization/process to foster political commitment for sustainable forest management (SFM).

Adoption of the new ECE/FAO Integrated Programme of Work 2014-2017 of the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI) and the FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC) by the joint session of the Committee and the Commission Metsä2013", held from 9 to 13 December in Rovaniemi Finland. The overall goal of the Integrated Programme of Work is to "support member countries and relevant organizations, (113710)8.4-6.4(ond rel)der.4(ies)-ia

green economy.

- x Facilitate training of and information exchange between National Correspondents e.g. on forest product market statistics;
- x Promote and support innovation in the forest industries and the adding of maximum value to forest products through cooperation between research organization and industry;
- x Foster the use of wood in higher value applications, especially construction;
- x Gather and disseminate better and more reliable market data e.g. web based market information systems at both the national and regional levels

4. Briefly describe actions taken to enhance regional cooperation to address illicit international trafficking in forest products through the promotion of forest law enforcement and good governance.

The Rovaniemi Action Plan includes some examples of actions taken to enhance regional cooperation to address illegal trafficking of forest products built in pillar E on policy development and monitoring of the forest sector in relation to a green economy:

A.7 Objective: To ensure that only legally produced forest products enter the market.

A.7.1 Exchange national experiences with regulations on illegal logging.

A.7.2 Analyse and monitor the effectiveness and long term impacts and consequences of the US Lacey Act and EU timber trade regulation on the sector (inside and outside the region), with participation from other regions.

A.7.3 Assess the gap between *sustainability* and *legality* in the relevant law of UNECE region countries.

Please describe the main challenges encountered and/or lessons learned.

5. List and briefly describe activities aimed at mobilizing new and additional resources from all sources for SFM.

One of the Rovaniemi Action Plan principles for the UNECE region forest sector in the emerging green economy aims to mobilize new sources for SFM: The forest sector takes all externalities fully into account in policy making, introducing payment for forest ecosystem services (PES) whenever appropriate. Some activities in support of the development of PES are listed in Pillar D: to take all externalities fully into account in policy making, introducing payment for forest ecosystem services whenever appropriate and, in particular under the second objective: Payment and markets for forest ecosystem services: moving from theory to practice.

Other activities in the past:

- Workshop and publication on PES (www.unece.org/index.php?id=35574)
- Workshops on wood mobilization
- Workshop on climat6.4(fo) TD .0001 Tc .002es393031 Tw0p9t6.4(fo) 4(a)ce865 0 TD E(d)15 Tc .073 E(d)s

Forests are a natural capital. PES is not a solution *per se*, but is a complementary tool to legislation and regulations. Valuation is a prerequisite but can be done in a more pragmatic way. PES are often unique, innovative, linked to local conditions and developed from the demand side. They need up scaling rather than mainstreaming.

Some traditional forest products (paper) are declining and alternative uses or products have to be developed to secure production and related revenues. There is still potential for increasing provision for wood.

Competition for products (industrial wood-energy) can stimulate growth of prices and

GOF4, "Reverse the decline in ODA for SFM and mobilize significantly increased, new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of SFM"

See point 5.

comprehensive framework on the role of wood energy in member States.

- x Forest Sector Outlook Studies provide policy makers, analysts, as well as civil society and private sector decision makers with information and analysis about long-term trends in the sector, projections of future developments of forest sector, which can include the impact of relevant policy choices.

2. What indicators have been, or could be, used to assess the contribution of forests to the MDGs?

Several set of indicators are used for reporting on SFM and the contribution of forest sector to sustainable development:

- FAO FRA global forest variables (at the global level)
- Pan-European indicators at the regional level,
- Indicators of the forest sector contribution to a green economy
- Indicators on the forest sector contribution to achieving SDGs

Furthermore, the innovative method on SFM assessment (**SEMAFOR** - see GOF3 comment for more information) has been developed with the use of the set of pan-European indicators. The method is being applied on a pilot basis.

3. Please provide additional information specific to your respective regional, sub-

The UNECE/FAO has contributed to the Forum's deliberations; however the input has not really been taken into account for future action.

3. What measures has your organization undertaken to strengthen the current IAF? Please list the most important measures (maximum five):

Due to the lack of mandate and mechanisms, the ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section could engage in implementing the IAF to a limited extent, i.e. through the preparation of UNFF Study including reporting on GOFs, organization of discussions and panels on UNFF in our meetings whenever relevant not to lose sight of the global dimension. However, important work to strengthen the IAF, has been done in an indirect way, through activities to support, promote SFM and the sector.

4. How would your respective regional, sub-regional organization/process envisage a strengthened regional/sub-regional component in a future IAF?

Regional Economic Comissions are ideally placed to strengthen the regional tools for implementing the IAF at the regional level, guide the implementaiton and to monitor and asses progress in achieving its goals, but also could be mandated to "translate" and implement the UNFF decisions and the post-2015 forest agenda at the regional level. The joint ECE/FAO section could be more involved in assiting countres in the IAF implementation process, in particular if the role of RECs are formally recognised in the IAF implementary mechanism. This would have a synergy effect on the work of both global and regional organizations, help to coordinte work, avoid duplication and possible conflicts in implementing SFM at these two levels.

5. Has your respective regional, sub-regional organization/process worked jointly with member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests⁴ (CPF) or major stakeholders to support the work of UNFF? If yes, please evaluate the overall

6. How would your respective regional, sub-regional organization/process envisage a strengthened collaboration with CPF member organizations and/or major stakeholders in a revised IAF?

By fully including UNECE in CPF as a member.