

FOURTH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE  
ON THE PROTECTION OF FORESTS IN EUROPE

28 – 30 April 2003, Vienna, Austria



**VIENNA RESOLUTION 3**

**PRESERVING AND ENHANCING THE SOCIAL AND CULTURAL  
DIMENSIONS OF SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT IN EUROPE**

1. Recognising the relationship between people and forests and that the social and cultural dimensions of sustainable forest management are reflected in landscapes, historical sites and monuments, artistic, traditional or linguistic knowledge, values, experiences and traditional practices related to forests and uses of wood, non-wood goods and services,
2. based on the understanding that social and cultural values change over time as societies develop, and recognising that globalisation and urbanisation have an effect on forestry,
3. taking into account the decisions of the UNFF<sup>1</sup> and the CBD<sup>2</sup>, related to the social and cultural dimensions of sustainable forest management, and the work done by UNESCO<sup>3</sup>,
4. aiming to further promote and raise awareness of the social and cultural dimensions of sustainable forest management as an important asset to the education, recreation, environment, rural development and economy of society,

*the Signatory States and the European Community, commit themselves to*

5. address the social and cultural dimensions of sustainable forest management in national forest programmes and other relevant policies,
6. encourage the identification, expression and communication of the social and cultural dimensions of sustainable forest management inter alia by including them in education and rural development programmes,
7. secure the property rights and land tenure arrangements of forest owners, local and indigenous communities taking into account their economic interests as well as their various social and cultural values, making sure that their land use is in line with sustainable forest management in accordance with relevant national legislation,

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations Forum on Forests

<sup>2</sup> Convention on Biological Diversity

<sup>3</sup> United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

8. maintain and further develop both the material (e.g. wood in architecture, medicinal plants) and the non-material (e.g. recreation, well-being, health) social and cultural aspects and benefits of sustainable forest management,
9. maintain and increase the attractiveness of the landscape by, inter alia, enhancing and preserving traditional elements of the cultural landscape; raise awareness of the contribution of traditional knowledge and practices in sustainable forest management for the protection of landscapes, the conservation of biological diversity as well as for protection against natural hazards,
10. identify, assess and encourage the conservation and management of significant historical and cultural objects and sites in forests and related to forests in collaboration with relevant institutions,
11. encourage multi-disciplinary research into the role of the social and cultural aspects of sustainable forest management in the overall goal of sustainable development, including the role of traditional forest-related knowledge.