

MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON THE
PROTECTION OF FORESTS IN EUROPE

WORK PROGRAMME

on the Follow-up of the

THIRD MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON THE PROTECTION OF FORESTS IN EUROPE

adopted at the 2nd Expert Level Meeting on the Follow-up of the
Lisbon Conference (28-29 October 1999, Vienna/Austria)
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taken at the meeting

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	II
INTRODUCTION	1
I. THE WORK PROGRAMME OF THE MCPFE	3
1. Strategic Orientation	3
2. Objective	3
3. Decisions on the Lisbon Follow-up	4
4. Structure	5
5. Contributing Actors	7
II. DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE WORK ON THE LISBON FOLLOW-UP	8
1. Dialogue with Society	8
1.1 Public Relations	8
1.2 Public Participation	9
1.3 Education	9
2. Socio-Economic Issues	11
2.1 Rural Development	11
2.2 Renewable Resources - Goods and Services	12
2.3 Training, Education and Gender Aspects	16
2.4 Countries in Transition (CITs)	18
3. Biodiversity and Conservation	20
3.1 Biological and Landscape Diversity	20
3.2 Forests and Climate Change	24
3.3 Management of Mountain Forests	25
4. Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting	26
4.1 National Forest Programmes	26
4.2 Criteria & Indicators for SFM	27
ANNEXES	
Annex 1: Review of the Follow-up of Strasbourg and Helsinki Resolutions	31
Annex 2: Rural Development – Results of the Questionnaire	37
Annex 3: Criteria and Indicators – Results of the Questionnaire	38
Annex 4: Abbreviations	40

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the Third Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (Lisbon, June 1998) the Ministers responsible for Forests recalled the forest related decisions taken at global level, notably at the UNCED (Rio de Janeiro, 1992), and expressed their commitment to meet the objective of sustainable development of society by sharing the following vision (Lisbon General Declaration – Vision – Paragraph 1):

“In the 21st century, the European forest sector, while respecting the social, economic, environmental and cultural functions of forests, will optimise its contribution to the sustainable development of society, especially to the development of rural areas, the provision of renewable resources and the protection of the global and local environment.”

The vision functions as basis of the Work Programme and is reflected in its contents.

In the General Declaration of the Third Ministerial Conference the ministers committed themselves to

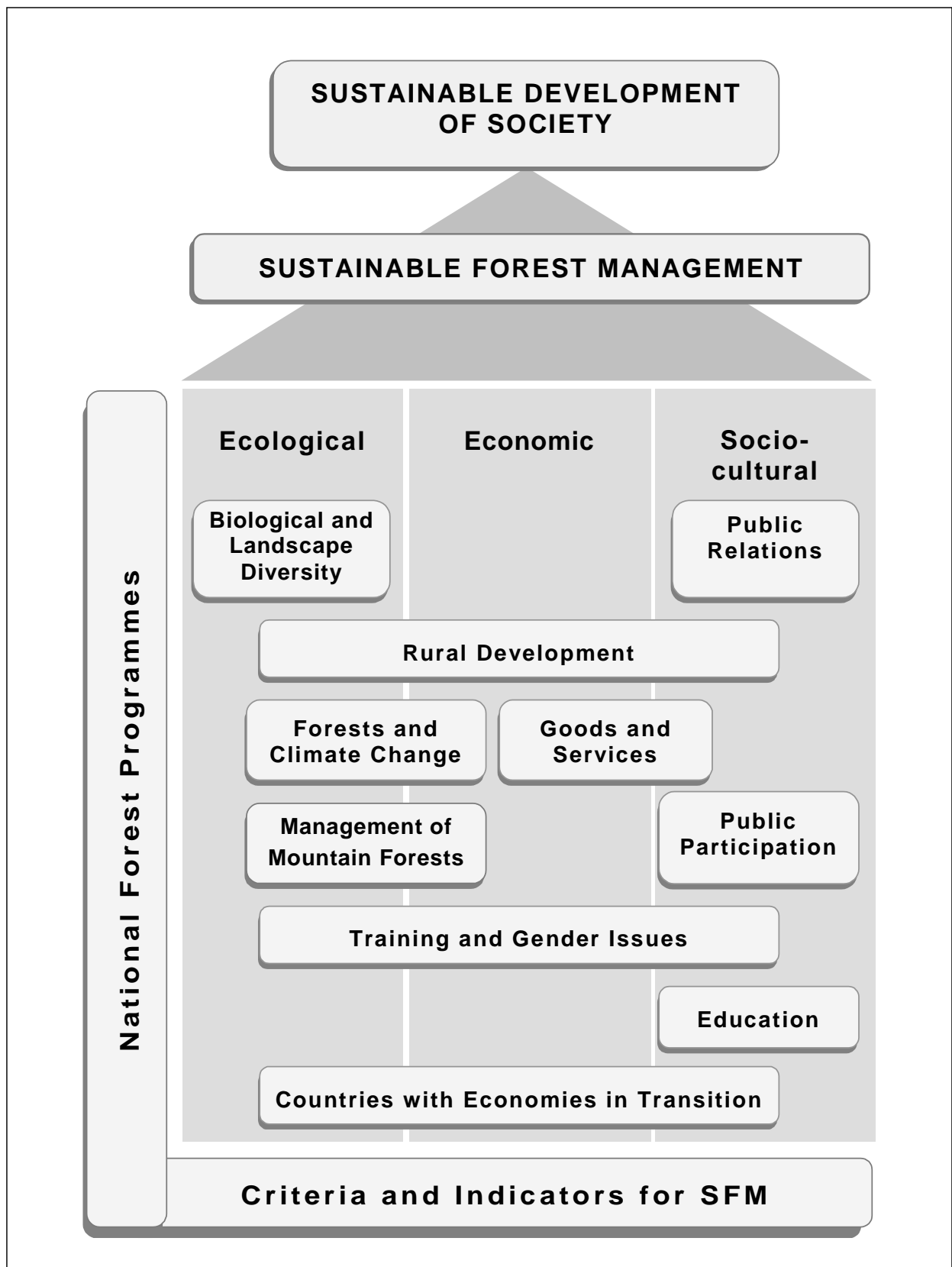
“develop a programme of work to implement the decisions of this (i.e. the Lisbon) Conference and to reinforce the implementation of previous commitments made at Strasbourg and Helsinki Ministerial Conferences, in collaboration with international bodies and organisations, in particular FAO European Forestry Commission, UN/ECE Timber Committee, UNEP; ILO; NGO’s and other relevant stakeholders.”

This Work Programme is intended to be used to put the commitments made by the ministers into action and to progress towards the envisioned long-term objectives of sustainable forest management and sustainable development of society by addressing open common pan-European issues and challenges ahead. It is based on scientific and technical co-operation in Europe and should provide a dynamic approach to problem solving in European forestry through actions at national and pan-European levels.

The Work Programme is generally structured according to the three dimensions of sustainable development and sustainable forest management, namely the ecological, economic and socio-cultural dimensions, in order to make visible the contribution of the work of the MCPFE to these overall objectives (see Figure E1).

Nevertheless, all elements indicated in Figure 1 touch on all three dimensions of sustainable development in principle. The assignment to one or two dimensions was done for reasons of clarity and simplification purposes.

Figure E1: Overview of Elements of the Work Programme



At the pan-European level, the objectives set by the ministers will be addressed by the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) in four main areas of work, each consisting of different elements (Table E1).

The issues and tasks of the Work Programme are implemented in collaboration with international technical and scientific and organisations, making best use of existing knowledge. While the Pan-European Forest Process will concentrate on issues and actions of a more political nature, more technical and research related work are conducted by specific organisations.

Table E1: Areas of work and corresponding elements of the Work Programme

Dialogue with Society	Socio-economic Issues	Biodiversity and Conservation	Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting
Public Participation	Rural Development	Biological and Landscape Diversity	National Forest Programmes
Public Relations	Goods and Services	Forests and Climate Change	Criteria and Indicators for SFM
Education	Training, Education and Gender Issues	Management of Mountain Forests	
	Countries in Transition		

In the following, the concrete work done by the MCPFE and by contributing technical and scientific bodies and organisations concerning the implementation of the identified elements at the pan-European level is summarised in tables.

Table E2: Work of the MCPFE on Dialogue with Society

	Actions	Actors	Time frame	Status by 10/99	Resolution
Public Relations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elaboration of 10 year MCPFE Report 	Liaison Unit Vienna	08/99 - 04/00	On-going	L1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of strategies and tools to better communicate work of MCPFE 	Liaison Unit Vienna with professional consultancy	2000	Planned	L1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Forestry Communicators Forum 	FAO/ECE Team of Public Relations Specialists in the Forest and Forest Industries Sector	2000	Planned	L1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> European Forum on Forest and Society 	FAO/ECE Team of Public Relations Specialists in the Forest and Forest Industries Sector	06/2000	Planned	L1
Public Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarification of concept of "participation" and development of a conceptual framework 	FAO/ECE/ILO Team of Specialists on Participation and Partnerships in Forestry	1999 - 2000	In preparation	L1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision on further work based on report of FAO/ECE/ILO Team of Specialists on Participation and Partnerships in Forestry 	MCPFE	2000	Planned	L1
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seminar on "Public Relations and Environmental Education in Forestry" 	Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training	10/2001	Planned	L1

Table E3: Work of the MCPFE on Socio-Economic Issues

	Actions	Actors	Time frame	Status by 10/99	Resolution
Rural Development					
Rural Development Concept and Forest Policy in Europe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questionnaire: Exploration of issues and approaches 	Liaison Unit Vienna (Elaboration and analysis)	04-09/99	Completed	L1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seminar on the Role of Forests and Forestry in Rural Development 	University of Agricultural Sciences Vienna in co-operation with Liaison Unit Vienna	07/2000	In preparation	L1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of possible voluntary guidance tools 	To be determined at 3 rd ELM	2000	Planned	L1
Contribution of Forests and Forestry to Rural Development in Europe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploration of possible communication and information tools 	Scientific Advisory Group; Participants and Mandate to be determined	2001	Planned	L1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elaboration of information tools on the contribution of forestry to rural development 	Scientific Advisory Group; Participants and Mandate to be determined	2001	Planned	L1
Renewable Resources – Goods & Services					
Valuation of Goods and Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Seminar on Valuation of Forest Goods and Services 	Czech Republic; Co-ordination: Liaison Unit Vienna	2000-2001	Planned	L1
Certification and Labelling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publication of Background Report on SFM-Certification Impact Assessment 	Liaison Unit Vienna jointly with European Commission	09/99 - 02/00	On-going	L1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of Discussion Paper on the Role of Governments in Certification 	University of Agricultural Sciences Vienna	10/99 - 03/00	In preparation	L1
Wood and Substitutes in Relation to Other Sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publication: The Competitive Climate for Wood Products and Paper Packaging 	FAO/ECE Team of Public Relations Specialists in the Forest and Forest Industries Sector	1999	Completed	L1

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seminar on strategies to stimulate and promote the sound use of wood and other forest based products as environmentally friendly and renewable materials 	Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training	2001	Planned	L1
Training, Education and Gender Aspects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshop on "Reducing the impact of forest operations on ecosystems" 	Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training, IUFRO	09/1999	Completed	L1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International seminar on "Forestry Education and Science in the Context of Environmental and Development Problems: Strategies for the XXI Century" 	IUFRO	1999	Completed	L1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshop on "New trends in wood harvesting with cable cranes" 	Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training	11-17/06/00	Planned	L1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshop on "Forestry Information Systems 2000" 	Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training	16-20/05/00	Planned	L1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seminar on women in forestry 	Portugal; Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training;	03 or 04/01	Planned	L1
	Countries in Transition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuation of activities on forestry assistance to CITs, notably further development of H3 Access Database on Assistance Projects 	UN-ECE/FAO		Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshop to facilitate an exchange of information, experiences and major concerns among countries in transition to market economies 		Poland in co-operation with UN-ECE/FAO and the Liaison Unit Vienna	2001	Planned	H3

Table E4: Work of the MCPFE on Biodiversity and Conservation

	Actions	Actors	Time frame	Status by 10/99	Resolutions
Biological and Landscape Diversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ad hoc working group on Biodiversity, Protected Areas and Related Issues 1st session 2nd session 	MCPFE; Organisation and co-ordination Liaison Unit Vienna	11-12/02/99 22-23/06/99	Completed Completed	Lisbon General Declaration (LGD) ¹ , H2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposal on Protected Forest Areas Meeting of Preparatory Group 	Co-ordination Liaison Unit Vienna	20/05/99	Completed	LGD, H2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enquiry on protected forest areas Questionnaire, analysis, meeting 	UN-ECE in co-operation with COST E4 and Liaison Unit Vienna	10/99 - 06/00	On-going	LGD, H2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report on implementation of WP-CEBLDF Collection of information, compilation 	MCPFE; Co-ordination Liaison Unit Vienna	06/99 - Autumn 2000	On-going	LGD, H2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluation of WP-CEBLDF Meeting 	MCPFE; Organisation and co-ordination Liaison Unit Vienna	Autumn 2000	Planned	LGD
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elaboration of new Work Programme on Biodiversity 	MCPFE; Co-ordination Liaison Unit Vienna		Planned	LGD, H2
Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elaboration of expert review comments on draft IPCC Special Report on Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry 	Liaison Unit Vienna in co-operation with GCC	07/1999	Completed	LGD, H4
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elaboration of expert review comments on revised version of draft IPCC Special Report on Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry 	Liaison Unit Vienna in co-operation with GCC	11/1999	Completed	LGD, H4
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exchange of information: FCCC, IPCC-Kyoto Protocol 	MCPFE - Liaison Unit Vienna		On-going	LGD, H4

¹ Note: The Lisbon General Declaration (LGD) is not a resolution. Nevertheless, as the LGD explicitly refers to the Work-Programme on the Conservation and Enhancement of Biological and Landscape Diversity in Forest Ecosystems 1997-2000 (WP-CEBLDF), it has been considered equally important in Table E4.

Table E5: Work of the MCPFE on Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

	Actions	Actors	Time frame	Status by 10/99	Resolution
National Forest Programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determination of common objectives and actions – Workshop on the role of National Forest Programmes in the Pan-European Context 	MCPFE; Liaison Unit Vienna (Organiser)	14-15 /09/99	Completed	L2, LGD (H1, H2)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elaboration of a concept paper for discussion at 3rd ELM 	Liaison Unit Vienna in co-operation with scientific and technical bodies	10/99 - 09/00	Planned	L2, LGD (H1, H2)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further clarification of meanings and dimensions of principles and elements 	MCPFE; Liaison Unit Vienna, scientific and technical bodies	10/2000 -	Planned	L2, LGD (H1, H2)
Criteria and Indicators for SFM					
Improvement of Pan-European Indicators for SFM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determination of common objectives and actions - Comments through questionnaires 	MCPFE; Liaison Unit Vienna in consultation with GCC	04/99 – 09/99	Completed	L2 (H1, H2)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluation of existing indicators under all pan-European criteria 	Liaison Unit Vienna in co-operation with scientific and technical bodies, notably UN-ECE/FAO	11/1999 -	Planned	L2 (H1, H2, S1, S2, S4)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of improved indicators 	To be determined		Planned	L2 (H1, H2, S1, S2, S4)
Towards Harmonising Data Collection and Reporting Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exploration of possibilities to harmonise forest related data collection and reporting systems in Europe through questionnaires and expert interviews 	Liaison Unit Vienna with consultation of and in collaboration with scientific and technical bodies	10/1999 -	Planned	L2 (H1, H2)
Pan-European Reporting on SFM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elaboration of common reporting format for national reports 	MCPFE; Liaison Unit Vienna in consultation with GCC and ELM and in collaboration with scientific and technical bodies	10/2000 -	Planned	L2 (H1, H2)

Furthermore, the resolutions adopted at the Strasbourg and Helsinki Conferences and the on-going activities carried out in the follow-up of these resolutions constitute an essential part of the work of the Pan-European Forest Process. Table 6 indicates linkages to the follow-up of the Lisbon Resolutions.

Table E6: Linkages of Strasbourg and Helsinki Resolutions to Lisbon follow-up

Previous Resolutions		Linkage to Lisbon follow-up
HELSINKI 1993		
H1:	General Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Forests in Europe	L1, L2
H2:	General Guidelines for the Conservation of the Biodiversity of European Forests	L2
H3:	Forestry Co-operation with Countries with Economies in Transition	L1
H4:	Strategies for a Process of Long-term Adaptation of Forests in Europe to Climate Change	L1
STRASBOURG 1990		
S1:	European network of permanent sample plots for monitoring of forest ecosystems	L2
S2:	Conservation of forest genetic resources	L2
S3:	Decentralized European data bank on forest fires	L1, L2
S4:	Adapting the management of mountain forests to new environmental conditions	L1, L2
S5:	Expansion of the EUROSILVA network of research on tree physiology	L2
S6:	European network for research into forest ecosystems	L2

INTRODUCTION

The work of the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) has been focusing on the objective to develop a common understanding of the protection and sustainable management of the European forests, while reflecting the multiple ecological, economic, social and cultural aspects related to forests.

The First Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe took place in 1990 in Strasbourg as a common initiative of France and Finland. The Ministers responsible for Forests and the European Community signed six resolutions and thereby committed themselves to technical and scientific co-operation as well as to common measures for the protection of the European forests.

Through an improved co-operation, especially on the scientific and technical level, significant impetus has been given to the establishment of European databases and observation networks since then.

The intention to implement the forest related results of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), which took place in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro, led to the Second Ministerial Conference, held in 1993 in Helsinki. There the international debate on forests was continued with regard to the European region, resulting in the adoption of four resolutions. For the first time a common definition of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) was agreed upon and biodiversity was given considerable emphasis. Furthermore, an increasing co-operation with countries in transition to market economies (CITs) was decided and strategies regarding the consequences of a possible climate change for forests were initiated.

The elaboration of a common tool to monitor, evaluate and report progress towards SFM, as defined at the Helsinki Conference, was given priority in the follow-up process and led to the development of a set of pan-European criteria and indicators for SFM, to be applied at national level. These criteria and indicators (C&I) show, on the basis of repeated measurement, to what extent the goal of SFM is fulfilled in individual European countries.

The concept of sustainable development¹, as adopted and understood at the UNCED and further pursued and implemented through the follow-up processes, notably the UN-Commission on Sustainable Development, and the related Intergovernmental Panel and Forum on Forests, emphasises the economic, ecological and social dimensions of future policies and strategies by adhering to the necessity to equitably meet the developmental and environmental needs of present and future generations.

The Third Ministerial Conference, held in 1998 in Lisbon, followed the spirit of the UNCED and Helsinki Conference and re-emphasised the further implementation of the overall goal to contribute to the sustainable development of society. In recognising the continuing and complementary nature of new and previous resolutions, the Lisbon Conference focused on forests, people and society and their development.

At the Lisbon Conference thirty-six states and the European Community adopted a general declaration and signed two resolutions. The General Declaration (LGD) of the Conference emphasises the importance of strengthening an effective partnership between the forest sector and society. Resolution L1 addresses the socio-economic

¹ *“Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” (Our Common Future, World Commission on Environment and Development – The Brundtland Commission)*

aspects of SFM. In Resolution L2, the Ministers responsible for Forests adopted the six criteria from the "Pan-European Criteria and Indicators for SFM" and endorsed associated indicators as well as "Pan-European Operational Level Guidelines for SFM" (PEOLG). The PEOLG had been elaborated as a framework of recommendations for SFM for practical use on a voluntary basis, therewith translating the international commitments down to the level of forest management planning and practices.

In addition, a co-operation with the Ministerial Process "Environment for Europe" has been established by endorsing the pan-European "Work-Programme on the Conservation and Enhancement of Biological and Landscape Diversity in Forest Ecosystems 1997-2000" (WP-CEBLDF). As a result of the joint efforts undertaken by the two Ministerial Processes, this work-programme describes urgent needs in the field of forest biological diversity, defining four objectives and eight actions. They represent the fundamental background work for a possible continuation of a broader and more comprehensive programme to be defined after this first period.

With the decisions of the Third Ministerial Conference, Europe confirmed its intention to maintain and enhance the diverse ecological, economic, cultural and social services and benefits of forests in a sustainable way.

I. THE WORK PROGRAMME OF THE MCPFE

1. Strategic Orientation

At the Third Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe the Ministers responsible for Forests recalled the forest related decisions taken at global level, notably at the UNCED, and expressed their commitment to meet the objective of sustainable development of society by sharing the following vision:

“In the 21st century, the European forest sector, while respecting the social, economic, environmental and cultural functions of forests, will optimise its contribution to the sustainable development of society, especially to the development of rural areas, the provision of renewable resources and the protection of the global and local environment.

Society, understanding the multiple roles of forests and recognising the importance of the conservation and sustainable management of forests, will support a sound development of the forest sector by providing conducive regulatory, institutional, economic and social frameworks for practising sustainable forest management, taking informed decisions on the best possible use of wood and non-wood forest products and services, and reducing existing strains on forest health and vitality.

An effective partnership between society and the forest sector will be strengthened, recognising the role of forests as a key renewable resource, the responsibility of forest owners in their sustainable management, and the responsibility of Europe in demonstrating the integration of all forest functions and in the innovative production and use of wood and non-wood forest products and services.

The heritage of healthy and biologically diverse forests for future generations, the positive contribution to the global carbon and hydrological cycles, the protection of soil and water resources, the protection of population and infrastructures against natural hazards, the creation of income and employment particularly in rural areas and the excellence for providing recreational and cultural values for all people, are characteristics associated with forests on which generations of forest owners and society in general have built and will continue to build present and future values.”

2. Objective

In the General Declaration of the Third Ministerial Conference, the Ministers responsible for Forests committed themselves to

“develop a programme of work to implement the decisions of this (i.e. the Lisbon) Conference and to reinforce the implementation of previous commitments made at Strasbourg and Helsinki Ministerial Conferences, in collaboration with international bodies and organisations, in particular FAO European Forestry Commission, UN/ECE Timber Committee, UNEP; ILO; NGO’s and other relevant stakeholders.”

The Work Programme is intended to put the commitments made by the ministers at the Lisbon, Helsinki and Strasbourg Conferences into action and to progress towards the envisioned long-term objectives by addressing open common pan-European issues and challenges ahead. It is based on scientific and technical co-operation in Europe and

should provide a dynamic approach to problem solving in European forestry through actions at national and pan-European levels.

3. Decisions on the Lisbon Follow-up

An initial informal discussion on the follow-up of the Lisbon Conference took place at the Pan-European Round Table Meeting (RTM), held on 26-27 November 1998 in Brussels/Belgium. At the RTM several principles for the follow-up work were identified.

Principles agreed upon were that:

- all previous resolutions and commitments should be dealt with in the future work,
- past work on resolutions should be evaluated,
- areas with added values at the pan-European level should be identified,
- the follow-up should build upon the work already carried out by existing organisations,
- the tradition of transparent reporting and flexibility should be continued.

Furthermore, a list of priority issues was elaborated.

At the First Expert Level Meeting on the Follow-up of the Lisbon Conference (ELM), which took place on 31 March – 1 April 1999 in Vienna/Austria, the delegates re-emphasised the principles for the follow-up work agreed upon at the RTM and identified a number of issues to be addressed by the Pan-European Forest Process in order to implement the commitments made by the ministers at the Lisbon and previous Ministerial Conferences.

With the aim to identify those resolutions that need further input, the participants of the 1st ELM evaluated the commitments made at the Strasbourg and Helsinki Conferences. The evaluation led to the conclusion that the follow-up work on most of the Strasbourg Resolutions was well under way and would not require additional political input at present. However, best use should be made of potential contributions and synergies with the Work Programme. Therefore, it was decided to clearly indicate linkages between the Strasbourg follow-up and the Work Programme.

Concerning the follow-up work of Helsinki Resolutions the participants of the 1st ELM came to the following results: While the implementation of Resolutions H1 and H2 will mainly be carried out under Lisbon Resolution L2 and the WP-CEBLDF, H3 will receive additional political input through the organisation of a workshop, presumably to be convened in 2000. Work on Resolution H4 will go on as specified in the resolution.

Follow-up work on previous resolutions to be included in the Work Programme as well as possible contributions are indicated in Table 1.

Table 1: Linkages between Lisbon resolutions and previous resolutions

	New actions	On-going actions	Contribution to Lisbon follow-up
LISBON 1998			
L1: People, Forests and Forestry – Enhancement of Socio-Economic Aspects of Sustainable Forest Management	✓		
L2: Pan-European Criteria, Indicators and Operational Level Guidelines for Sustainable Forest Management	✓		
HELSINKI 1993			
H1: General Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Forests in Europe		✓	L1, L2
H2: General Guidelines for the Conservation of the Biodiversity of European Forests		✓	L2
H3: Forestry Co-operation with Countries with Economies in Transition	✓	✓	L1
H4: Strategies for a Process of Long-term Adaptation of Forests in Europe to Climate Change		✓	L1
STRASBOURG 1990			
S1: European network of permanent sample plots for monitoring of forest ecosystems		✓	L2
S2: Conservation of forest genetic resources		✓	L2
S3: Decentralized European data bank on forest fires		✓	L1, L2
S4: Adapting the management of mountain forests to new environmental conditions		✓	L1, L2
S5: Expansion of the EUROSILVA network of research on tree physiology		✓	L2
S6: European network for research into forest ecosystems		✓	L2

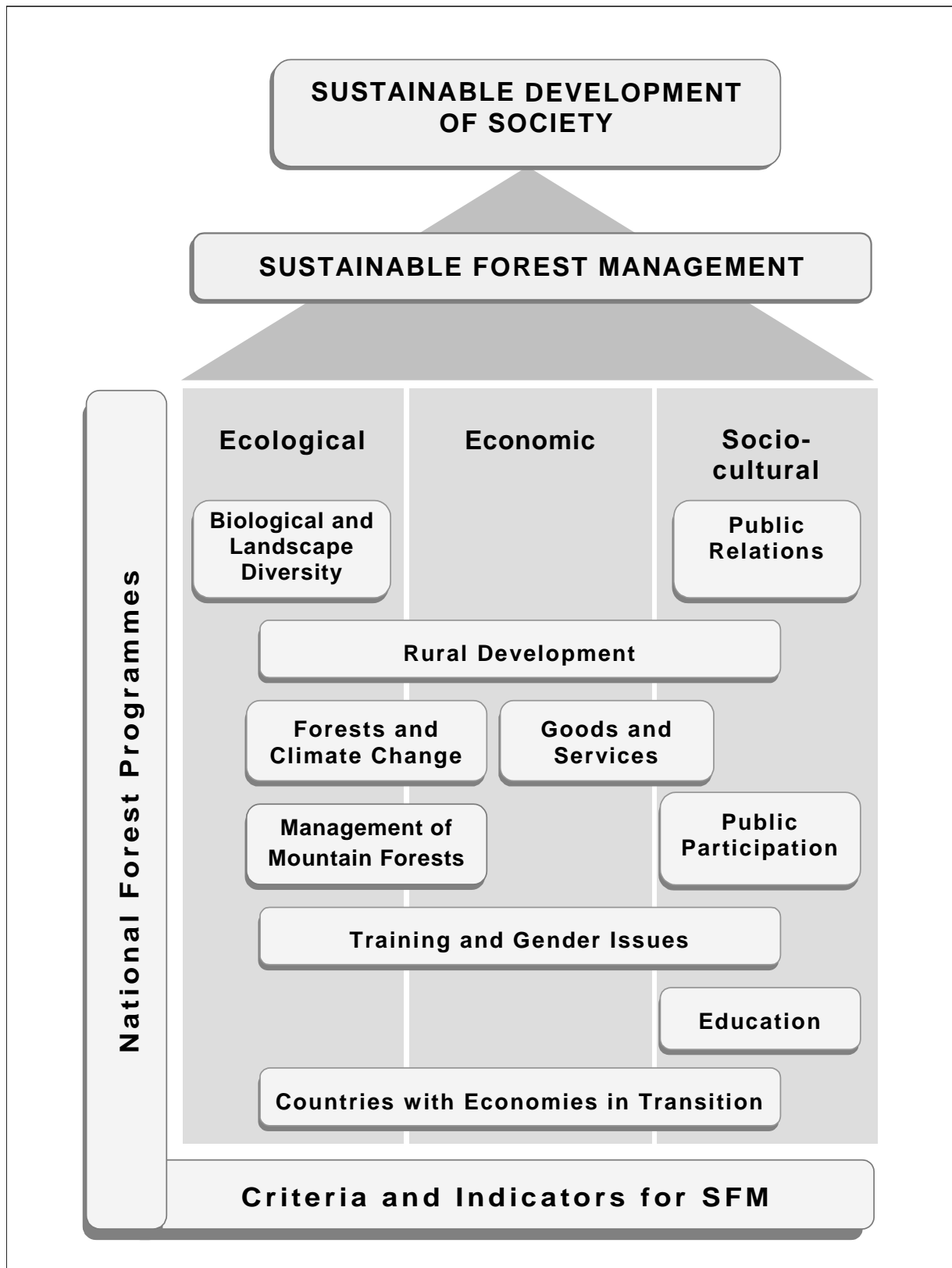
4. Structure

The Work Programme is structured according to the three dimensions of sustainable development and sustainable forest management, namely the ecological, economic and socio-cultural dimensions, in order to make visible the contribution of the work of the MCPFE to these overall objectives.

Correspondingly, individual Work Programme Elements are assigned to the specific dimension(s) of sustainable development and sustainable forest management (i.e. the ecological, economic or socio-cultural dimension) they relate to best². However, all elements touch on all three dimensions of sustainable development in different forms. The assignment was done for reasons of clarity and simplification purposes to be able to have a sound picture which explains the work going on in the MCPFE in a comprehensive way.

² “National Forest Programmes” (NFPs) constitute a conceptual approach or policy framework related to all elements of the Work Programme. In order to indicate the integrative character of NFPs, they are illustrated as a vertical box in Figure 1. “Criteria and Indicators for SFM”, as a policy tool for monitoring and evaluating SFM, refer to all dimensions, which is illustrated through a horizontal box in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Overview of Elements of the Work Programme



5. Contributing Actors

At the Lisbon Conference the ministers reaffirmed the principles for the implementation of the decisions taken at the Ministerial Conferences and committed themselves to progress to turn them into action at the national and pan-European levels.

In accordance with the decisions of the 1st ELM, future work of the Pan-European Forest Process will focus on those issues and tasks with a clear added value at the pan-European level. In this work, best use will be made of existing organisations and know how. Therefore, the Pan-European Forest Process will concentrate on issues and actions of a more political nature while more technical and research related work will be conducted by specific organisations and institutions.

Table 2 gives an overview of the main actors contributing to the Work Programme. For better clarity the elements of the Work Programme are grouped into four main areas of work, namely

- “Dialogue with Society”, including elements predominantly related to the social aspects of sustainable forest management or sustainable development of society;
- “Socio-economic Issues”, containing those tasks notably related to socio-economic aspects;
- “Biodiversity and Conservation”, including issues addressing ecological aspects, as well as
- “Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting”, containing tasks related to policy instruments.³

Table 2: Actors of Individual Work Programme Elements at the Pan-European Level

Work Programme Elements	MCPFE	Main Contributing Actors		
		Technical Bodies (FAO/ECE/ILO/UNEP)	Scientific Bodies (IUFRO/EFI)	Other Bodies
Dialogue with Society				
- Public Participation		✓		
- Public Relations	✓	✓		
- Education		✓		
Socio-economic Issues				
- Rural Development	✓			
- Goods and Services	✓	✓	✓	✓
- Training, Education and Gender Issues		✓		
- Countries in Transition	✓	✓		✓
Biodiversity and Conservation				
- Biological and Landscape Diversity	✓	✓	✓	✓
- Forests and Climate Change			✓	✓
- Management of Mountain Forests		✓	✓	✓
Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting				
- National Forest Programmes	✓			
- Criteria and Indicators for SFM	✓	✓	✓	

³ The Work Programme Elements assigned to these four headings are presented in detail in the “Detailed Description of the Work on the Lisbon Follow-up” (see below).

II. DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE WORK ON THE LISBON FOLLOW-UP

1. Dialogue with Society

Dialogue with society is one of the core elements of the Third Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe. It is a decisive element in the General Declaration of this Conference with the commitment to "Enhance the social and economic elements of sustainable forest management and strengthen the links between the forest sector and society by increasing dialogue and mutual understanding on sustainable forest management and the role of forests and forestry".

Furthermore, dialogue with society is one of the fundamentals of Resolution L1. It is mainly described through the following three issues which can be seen as complementary elements for achieving this dialogue:

1.1 Public Relations

Action 1 of Resolution L1 addresses the issue of public relations in the following way: "Develop, at adequate levels, a dialogue with the public and efficient programmes to increase awareness of the benefits of sustainable forestry for society." Also at the RTM in November 1998 public relations was considered as relevant task.

The Joint FAO/ECE Team of Public Relations Specialists in the Forest and Forest Industries Sector (ToS on PR) offered to provide assistance and guidance to the Pan-European Forest Process on key issues and basic concepts for implementation at national level. In addition to national governmental and non-governmental activities, the ToS on PR will therefore be a focal point, taking up PR issues of relevance to the forest sector. This team is planning to organise an International Forestry Communicators Forum and a European Forum on Forest and Society in 2000.

Work of the MCPFE⁴

The MCPFE is working on a 10 years report with the aim to provide information on the achievements of the Pan-European Forest Process to the interested public. The report will be presented at the eighth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD VIII) in April 2000.

Furthermore, the MCPFE will explore possibilities to better communicate the work of the Pan-European Forest Process to a broader public. Within the means and limits of the MCPFE, feasible communication strategies and tools will be developed making use of professional consultancy.

⁴ *Work of the MCPFE*: Under this heading the implementation concerning the respective elements of the Work-Programme done by the MCPFE – which also implies the commitment for implementation at national level as signed by the ministers – is described.

1.2 Public Participation

The Ministers responsible for Forests stated in the General Guidelines of Resolution L1 that “an adequate level of participation, education, public relations and transparency in forestry is needed”. Consequently the commitment formulated in Action 2 of Resolution L1 stresses the continuation “to develop the conditions for the participation of relevant stakeholders in the development of forest policies and programmes.”

In addition, the PEOLG – endorsed by the ministers in signing Resolution L2 – make reference to the encouragement of participation in their adaptation process to the specific local, economic, ecological, social and cultural conditions, as well as to the respective forest management and administrative systems already in place.

Although mentioned at several occasions in the Lisbon commitments and in various other international contexts, a common understanding of participation is needed. Notably the possible variation of its meaning with regard to public and private ownership as well as to the applicability to different levels within a country’s legal and societal system was recognised for further investigations.

Work of the MCPFE

Taking this need for clarification into account, the participants of the RTM and the 1st ELM agreed to give the mandate for work on this issue to the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training, notably to the Team of Specialists on Participation and Partnerships in Forestry. The results will be subjected to further discussion within the MCPFE. In addition, the decisions of the Ministerial Process “Environment for Europe” at the Århus Conference concerning public participation should be taken into account⁵.

Immediate use of the results of the MCPFE discussion on public participation can be made by integrating them in the work on elements of NFPs within the pan-European context.

1.3 Education

The significance of education is highlighted in Resolution L1. The promotion of “the development of education and training programmes, especially directed to forest owners and managers, focusing on new opportunities and techniques for the production of goods and services from forests under sustainable management” is formulated in Action 6. Regardless of the importance of continuous education the participants of the 1st ELM agreed that this topic would be of national competence, however the facilitation of an exchange of experience could be beneficial. The possibility to exchange experiences in this regard is given through a number of activities of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training, notably through the seminar on “Public relations and environmental education in forestry” in Switzerland in 2001.

⁵ Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters; Århus, Denmark, June 1998

Work of the MCPFE

Education was referred to as being a mainly national or sub-national level task. National implementation will be the main task. The MCPFE could facilitate the exchange of national experiences on educational programmes for children and teachers.

Table 3: Work of the MCPFE on Dialogue with Society

	Actions	Actors	Time frame	Status by 10/99	Resolution
1.1.Public Relations	• Elaboration of 10 year MCPFE Report	Liaison Unit Vienna	08/99 - 04/00	On-going	L1
	• Development of strategies and tools to better communicate work of MCPFE	Liaison Unit Vienna with professional consultancy	2000	Planned	L1
	• International Forestry Communicators Forum	FAO/ECE Team of Public Relations Specialists in the Forest and Forest Industries Sector	2000	Planned	L1
	• European Forum on Forest and Society	FAO/ECE Team of Public Relations Specialists in the Forest and Forest Industries Sector	06/2000	Planned	L1
1.2.Public Participation	• Clarification of concept of "participation" and development of a conceptual framework	FAO/ECE/ILO Team of Specialists on Participation and Partnerships in Forestry	1999 - 2000	In preparation	L1
	• Decision on further work based on report of FAO/ECE/ILO Team of Specialists on Participation and Partnerships in Forestry	MCPFE	2000	Planned	L1
1.3.Education	• Seminar on "Public Relations and Environmental Education in Forestry"	Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training	10/2001	Planned	L1

2. Socio-Economic Issues

2.1 Rural Development

Rural Development was an important subject of the Third Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe in Lisbon in 1998. The General Declaration of this Conference refers to rural development in its Vision by stating that the European forest sector "will optimise its contribution to the sustainable development of society, especially to the development of rural areas, the provision of renewable resources and the protection of the global and local environment".

In this spirit the signatories declared their commitment (General Declaration) to "develop to their full value the potential contributions from the forest sector to rural development, employment, environment and to overall sustainable development of society by implementing the Resolution L1, People, Forests and Forestry – Enhancement of the Socio-Economic Aspects of Sustainable Forest Management". It is specifically mentioned in the General Guidelines of L1 that "the contribution of forestry to sustainable rural development should be fully utilised through the coherence of forest policies and programmes and activities in other sectors, such as agriculture, tourism, environment, energy and industry taking advantage of complementarities and synergies". The future actions stipulated in L1 more specifically define aspects related to rural development.

At the RTM in November 1998 the issue of rural development featured as one of the priority issues to be discussed. It was decided that countries and organisations should comment in detail in written form. The comments subsequently received indicated that a quite high priority was given to rural development/land use planning. At the 1st ELM issues related to rural development were mainly discussed in the context of follow-up work on socio-economic aspects addressed by Resolution L1. Rural development was identified as being of cross-sectoral nature that covers a broad range of aspects. Regarding rural development and a possible programme of work, the 1st ELM decided that the Liaison Unit should collect written comments from signatories and observers and to compile the results until the 2nd ELM, in order to better understand the different backgrounds and views of participants on the issue of rural development.

Consequently a questionnaire on "Rural Development in the Work of the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe" was sent out in July 1999 to collect opinions and comments on rural development and forest policy and on the possible future work of the MCPFE on the issue. The results of this questionnaire form the basis for the work proposed on rural development. A summary of the responses to the individual questions of the questionnaire can be found in Annex 2.

Work of the MCPFE

The further work on rural development, as outlined in this Work Programme, focuses on the two areas suggested by the written comments made by participants of the Pan European Forest Process. The areas are related, whereby the second area builds on the work of the first. The two areas of work are:

1. The Rural Development Concept and Forest Policy in Europe:
exchange of information, the clarification of concepts, methodologies and priorities

2. Contribution of Forestry to Rural Development in Europe:
 exploration of the usefulness of elaborating communication tools and possible elaboration and communication strategies

As a starting point for this work of the MCPFE on the issue of "Rural Development" a seminar on the role of forests and forestry in rural development, jointly organised by the University for Agricultural Sciences Vienna and the Liaison Unit, will be convened in July 2000. Making use of available scientific knowledge, the seminar aims to discuss and clarify the concept of rural development and the role of forests and forestry in rural development.

Table 4: Work of the MCPFE on Rural Development

	Actions	Actors	Time frame	Status by 10/99	Resolution
2.1. Rural Development					
2.1.1 Rural Development Concept and Forest Policy in Europe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Questionnaire: Exploration of issues and approaches 	Liaison Unit Vienna (Elaboration and analysis)	04 - 09/99	Completed	L1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seminar on the Role of Forests and Forestry in Rural Development 	University for Agricultural Sciences Vienna in co-operation with Liaison Unit Vienna	07/2000	In preparation	L1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consideration of possible voluntary guidance tools 	To be determined at 3 rd ELM	2000	Planned	L1
2.1.2 Contribution of Forestry and Forestry to Rural Development in Europe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exploration of possible communication and information tools 	Scientific Advisory Group; Participants and Mandate to be determined	2001	Planned	L1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elaboration of information tools on the contribution of forestry to rural development 	Scientific Advisory Group; Participants and Mandate to be determined	2001	Planned	L1

2.2 Renewable Resources - Goods and Services

Forests as renewable resources and the sustainable provision of goods and services were another important theme of the Third Ministerial Conference. Its General Declaration refers to these aspects in the Vision by stating that the European forest sector "will optimise its contribution to the sustainable development of society, especially to ... the provision of renewable resources" and "recognising the role of forests as a key renewable resource, the responsibility of forest owners in their sustainable management, and the responsibility of Europe in demonstrating the integration of all forest functions and in the innovative production and use of wood and non-wood forest products and services".

In the spirit of the above the signatories declared their commitment to “Further promote sustainable forest management *inter alia* by taking action to stimulate and promote the sound use of wood and other forest based products as environmentally friendly and renewable materials” (General Declaration).

Resolution L1 emphasises the renewable and environmentally friendly nature of wood and non-wood forest products from forests under sustainable management and the importance to contribute actively to the well-being of people, *inter alia* through the provision of a multitude of goods and services, including those non-marketed. In Resolution L1 the ministers committed themselves to address a range of issues:

- valuation of goods and services (L1 – Future Action 9 and 10)
- certification (L1 – Future Action 11)
- wood and substitutes and relation to other sectors (L1 – Future Action 7)

2.2.1 Valuation of Goods and Services

Regarding the valuation of goods and services, the ministers committed themselves to two areas of action in the Lisbon Resolution L1, namely to engage in further research efforts on valuation of the full range of forest goods and services (Action 9) and to promote the incorporation of the results of assessment and valuation into national economic and natural resource accounting systems (Action 10). The valuation of environmental values/externalities was given importance at the RTM in November 1998 and the 1st ELM, but it was also indicated that it constitutes an issue with many aspects and unclear implications. Given the existing wealth of both valuation methods⁶ and of applications of these methods in practice, there are a range of open questions related, e.g. low comparability and political implications.

Concerning the promotion of incorporation of the results of assessment and valuation of wood and non-wood forest goods and services into national economic and natural resource accounting systems there are several international Working Groups, mainly led by the national statistical offices of the European countries and/or by bodies such as EUROSTAT actively working on this specific issue, also on economic accounting for forestry.

Work of the MCPFE

The priority need regarding the issue seems to lie in an exchange of information, experiences and opinions, both between the participants of the Pan-European Forest Process and with practitioners, researchers and the technical bodies that currently work on the issue. The MCPFE will therefore assist in the organisation of an International Seminar on Valuation of Forest Goods and Services, intended to function as information and exchange platform. The Czech Republic offered to check possibilities to host this meeting at the end of 2000 or the beginning of 2001.

⁶ Some of the most important issues are currently addressed by research, such as the assessment of methodologies for valuing biological diversity of forests, as part of the “Work Programme on Conservation and Enhancement of Biological and Landscape Diversity in Forest Ecosystems 1997-2000” of the MCPFE (Action 1.4), valuation is also addressed by IUFRO-Working Groups.

2.2.2 Certification and Labelling

The issue of certification and labelling has been an important topic for consideration at various international governmental levels. The IPF has held deliberations on the issue of governments and certification and labelling at several occasions and has, at its fourth session, recognised that voluntary certification and labelling schemes are among many potentially useful tools that can be employed to promote the sustainable management of forests. It accepted that governments have a critical role in promoting effective sustainable forest management systems and called for a distinction of the role of governments as regulators, as promoters of public policy, and in some countries as forest owners.

In short, the IPF, at its fourth session,⁷

- (a) urged countries to endeavour to ensure that such schemes are not used as a form of disguised protectionism, and are not in conflict with international obligations;
- (b) invited to support efforts in developing countries;
- (c) urged countries to support the application of such concepts as: open access and non-discrimination, credibility, non-deceptiveness, cost-effectiveness, participation, SFM, and transparency;
- (d) invited to carry out further studies;
- (e) invited to consider the CIFOR Research project on criteria and indicators for SFM;
- (f) urged to promote comparability and avoid duplication of efforts among schemes;
- (g) called for an exchange of information and experience.

The Ministers responsible for Forests declared their commitment to "Evaluate the potential impacts of quality assurance systems and programmes such as voluntary and independent forest certification systems on SFM in the line of the proposals for action agreed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF)" (Resolution L1 – Future Action 11). At the 1st ELM it was decided that the Liaison Unit should elaborate proposals on certification for discussion at the next ELM.

In Europe, independently developed private forest certification initiatives have taken up the Pan-European Criteria, Indicators and Operational Level Guidelines for Sustainable Forest Management and use them as a basis for their specific work.

Work of the MCPFE

The work of the MCPFE on the issue of certification and labelling focuses on the assessment of the potential impacts of quality assurance systems and programmes such as voluntary and independent forest certification systems on SFM, according to the commitment to Future Action 11 of Resolution L1.

The task of assessing the impact of SFM certification programmes has been the objective of a recently concluded research project within the Forth Framework Programme of the EU (EU-FAIR Research Project "Policy Analysis of Certification of Forest Management as a Policy Instrument to Promote Multifunctional Sustainable Forest Management"). Its report is due to be published in early 2000 jointly by the MCPFE and the European Commission in fulfilment of the commitment to Future Action 11.

⁷ Shortened version – for the full text see: Report on the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests on its fourth session; E/CN.17/1997/12, p.44

Further action of the MCPFE on the issue of certification and labelling could consider the role of governments and of possible useful contributions by the MCPFE, both to the national and global levels, following the IPF proposals for action, and possibly based on outcomes of the EU-FAIR research project mentioned above which included an analysis on the role of governments in SFM certification.

2.2.3 Wood and Substitutes and Relation to Other Sectors

Wood as a renewable natural resource plays an important role for sustainable development of society. By signing Resolution L1 the Ministers responsible for Forests in Europe committed themselves to “Encourage comparative studies of wood and non-wood substitutes, considering their complete life-cycles and strive for conditions favourable for the production, marketing and consumption of wood and other products and services from forests under sustainable management, as viable alternatives to competing products using non-renewable natural resources, generating more employment and income” (L1 – Future Action 7).

At international level several technical and research bodies devote considerable resources in this broad field of work, and many funding opportunities are provided by governments, including the Fifth Framework Programme of the EU. EFI is conducting research on impacts of major international changes on the European forest cluster, and other projects are on-going in this area or have been concluded very recently, such as the EU-FAIR Project on consistent life cycle analysis of wood products.

The UN/ECE Timber Committee is planning a Seminar on “Strategies to stimulate and promote the sound use of wood and other forest based products as environmentally friendly and renewable materials” in 2001. Also other technical bodies, for example the Joint FAO/ECE Team of Public Relations Specialists in the Forest and Forest Industries Sector, work on the issue. The team has recently published a study on “The Competitive Climate for Wood Products and Paper Packaging”. A further source of information is the White Paper on the EU forest based industries competitiveness currently in elaboration by the EU.

Work of the MCPFE

This area of action is considered to constitute mainly a task to be taken up by responsible bodies at national level and to be mainly carried out by scientific and technical bodies at international, national and sub-national levels. Nevertheless, it seems of importance to further encourage and support studies in this vital field and to actively communicate results.

Table 5: Work of the MCPFE on Renewable Resources – Goods & Services

	Actions	Actors	Time frame	Status by 10/99	Resolution
2.2. Renewable Resources – Goods & Services					
2.2.1 <i>Valuation of Goods and Services</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Seminar on Valuation of Forest Goods and Services 	Czech Republic; Co-ordination: Liaison Unit Vienna	2000 - 2001	Planned	L1
2.2.2 <i>Certification and Labelling</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publication of Background Report on SFM-Certification Impact Assessment 	Liaison Unit Vienna jointly with European Commission	09/99 - 02/00	On-going	L1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation of Discussion Paper on the Role of Governments in Certification 	University for Agricultural Sciences Vienna	10/99 - 03/00	In preparation	L1
2.2.3 <i>Wood and Substitutes in Relation to Other Sectors</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publication: The Competitive Climate for Wood Products and Paper Packaging 	FAO/ECE Team of Public Relations Specialists in the Forest and Forest Industries Sector	1999	Completed	L1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seminar on strategies to stimulate and promote the sound use of wood and other forest based products as environmentally friendly and renewable materials 	Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on forest Technology, Management and Training	2001	Planned	L1

2.3 Training, Education and Gender Aspects

By signing Resolution L1 the Ministers responsible for Forests in Europe committed themselves to “Adapt education and training systems and programmes contributing to the development of a highly skilled, multidisciplinary workforce, also enhancing the involvement of women in forest related activities” (Future Action 4), to “Encourage studies on gender aspects of forest policy and practices in Europe especially in the context of education, training, communication and decision making to improve sustainable forest management” (Future Action 5), to “Promote the development of education and training programmes, especially directed to forest owners and managers, focusing on new opportunities and techniques for the production of goods and services from forests under sustainable management” (Future Action 6) as well as to “Promote the improvement and application of appropriate safety and health standards and practices, professionalism of forest owners, forest workers, and contractors, and skills certification” (Future Action 8).

The level of quality in training and education is one of the major contributing factors for the level of quality of SFM in Europe. The adaptation of its services to contemporary needs is mainly in the responsibility of the organisations offering training and education services and therefore not primarily a task for the international field. Several international technical and research bodies have established structures to offer international exchange of know how and the opportunity to learn.

The Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training offers several courses annually, such as the recently conducted seminar on “Reducing the impact of forest operations on ecosystems”, on “New trends in wood harvesting with cable cranes” in Austria in June 2000, on “Forestry Information Systems 2000” in Finland in May 2000 and on “Public relations and environmental education in forestry” in Switzerland in 2001.

IUFRO is conducting international seminars, such as the recent international conference on “Forestry Education and Science in the Context of Environmental and Development Problems: Strategies for the XXI Century” in the Ukraine. Several other bodies, e.g. EFI, actively promote the international exchange of students or organise summer schools on specific topics.

Over the years gender aspects have increasingly been raised as an aspect that requires enhanced political and societal attention, both in regard to their current and potential future role in the European forestry sector and in the potential of further development of SFM.

Several initiatives are on-going or will be conducted in the near future in Europe to raise the sometimes low level of awareness of gender aspects, and of the level of information. The above mentioned Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training will conduct a seminar on women in forestry in Portugal in 2001.

Work of the MCPFE

Training and education is seen as being mainly a national or sub-national level task. At a pan-European level it is important to further raise awareness of the necessity of continuous learning through training and education. This can *inter alia* be done by further promoting the dissemination and use of the PEOLG. Concerning gender aspects the most important next step seems to lie in raising the level of awareness of the importance and the many aspects touched and to encourage further research, and to actively support seminars and meetings on the issue.

Table 6: Work of the MCPFE on Training, Education and Gender Aspects

	Actions	Actors	Time frame	Status by 10/99	Resolution
2.3 Training, Education and Gender Aspects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshop on "Reducing the impact of forest operations on ecosystems" 	Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training, IUFRO	09/99	Completed	L1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International seminar on "Forestry Education and Science in the Context of Environmental and Development Problems: Strategies for the XXI Century" 	IUFRO	1999	Completed	L1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshop on "New trends in wood harvesting with cable cranes" 	Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training	11-17/06/00	Planned	L1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshop on "Forestry Information Systems 2000" 	Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training	16-20/05/00	Planned	L1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seminar on women in forestry 	Portugal; Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training	03 or 04/01	Planned	L1

2.4 Countries in Transition (CITs)

By adopting Resolution H3 at the 2nd Ministerial Conference, the ministers committed themselves to "promote and support co-operation for mutual benefits" through a number of specific actions "in order to provide relevant expertise and advice, and to invite appropriate organisations and institutions to do likewise." They concluded "such co-operation may take the form of transfer of knowledge, and of bilateral and multilateral projects, and should focus on technical, scientific, institutional and legal matters" (Part 1: General Guidelines - 3)

Since the Helsinki Conference in 1993, the participating countries of the MCPFE have contributed to the implementation of Resolution H3 by a large number of bilateral and multilateral actions and projects, covering a wide range of forestry issues (including study tours, workshops, training projects, research programmes, technical development, know-how transfer and others).

UN-ECE/FAO, as international co-ordinator for Resolution H3, has developed an H3-Access Database as a tool for monitoring and co-ordination of activities in this area. This database contains information on about 500 projects of assistance and co-operation reported by donor and recipient countries and organisations. Furthermore, UN-ECE/FAO contributed to the implementation of the Resolution H3 through a number of other activities, notably the organisation of workshops.

The participants of the 1st ELM highlighted the efforts undertaken in the implementation of Resolution H3 and encouraged further efforts in this area. It was stated that, since the adoption of Resolution H3 in 1993, CITs have experienced diverse developments regarding forestry, which should be taken into consideration in further work of the MCPFE in this area. It was decided to support and facilitate an exchange of information, experiences and major concerns among CITs.

Work of the MCPFE

Taking into account the commitments made at past Ministerial Conferences and the decisions taken at the 1st ELM, the MCPFE will continue to support the efforts and activities undertaken by UN-ECE/FAO and other initiatives aiming at the promotion and support of co-operation with CITs.

Furthermore, the MCPFE will co-operate in the organisation of a workshop to facilitate an exchange of information, experiences and major concerns among CITs. Poland has offered to host the workshop, which will presumably be convened in 2001.

Table 7: Work of the MCPFE on Countries in Transition

	Actions	Actors	Time frame	Status by 10/99	Resolution
2.4.Countries in Transition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuation of activities on forestry assistance to CITs, notably further development of H3 Access Database on Assistance Projects 	UN-ECE/FAO		Ongoing	H3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshop to facilitate an exchange of information, experiences and major concerns among countries in transition to market economies 	Poland in co-operation with UN-ECE/FAO and the Liaison Unit Vienna	2001	Planned	H3

3. Biodiversity and Conservation

3.1 Biological and Landscape Diversity

In the context of the follow-up process of the Helsinki Conference the “Work-Programme on the Conservation and Enhancement of Biological and Landscape Diversity in Forest Ecosystems 1997-2000” (WP-CEBLDF) was elaborated in 1997 as a joint effort of the MCPFE and “Environment for Europe”, the Ministerial Process initiated by the European Ministers of Environment. The WP-CEBLDF was endorsed by the Ministers responsible for Forests in Europe at the 3rd Ministerial Conference (LGD 2.b), and at the fourth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” (Århus/Denmark, June 1998) the Ministers of Environment expressed their commitment to contribute to its implementation.

Biological diversity includes diversity within species (genetic diversity), between species and of ecosystems. The WP-CEBLDF focuses on the diversity of ecosystems as this was considered as most relevant at the first stage. The WP-CEBLDF proposes four objectives further specified into eight actions. The objectives are based on Resolution H2 “General Guidelines for the Conservation of the Biodiversity in European Forests” and on the objectives specified under Action Theme 9 “Forest Ecosystems” of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS). It can be considered as a Pan-European contribution to the work programme for forest biological diversity of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and takes account of relevant conclusions and proposals for action of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF).

At the RTM in November 1998 steps for the further implementation of the WP-CEBLDF were discussed. It was decided that the Liaison Unit should convene a meeting of an *ad hoc* Working Group on “Biodiversity, Protected areas and Related Issues” based on written comments and information provided by signatories and observers. In this context Protected Forest Areas (PFAs) were defined as one priority issue and it was emphasised that all aspects of it should be dealt within the WP-CEBLDF implementation, too.

At the 1st session of the working group (11-12 February 1999, Baden-Helental/Austria) the participants agreed on the implementation of the actions under objectives 1, 3 and 4 and decided to convene a preparatory group meeting preparing a proposal for the further treatment of actions and issues under objective 2. The results of the working group were confirmed by the 1st ELM.

The Preparatory Group on Objective 2 of WP-CEBLDF met in Vienna/Austria on 20 May 1999 and elaborated a proposal on a Pan-European approach to definitions and classifications of PFAs. The 2nd session of the working group (22-23 June 1999, Semmering/Austria) adopted the proposal and agreed on the further procedure of implementation of the WP-CEBLDF.

3.1.1 Implementation of the Actions of the WP-CEBLDF

The decisions on further work on the actions are as follows:

Objective 1: Conservation and appropriate enhancement of biodiversity in SFM

- *Action 1.1: Identify indicators for assessing biodiversity of forest ecosystems at national and sub-national levels.*
The results of the EU-FAIR-project BEAR led by the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency are used as implementation. The BEAR project aims at elaborating

biodiversity evaluation tools, i.e. indicators for assessing biodiversity of forests in Europe, by defining biodiversity, identifying key parameters and by developing key indicators for assessing biodiversity. The project will report to the MCPFE in 2000.

- *Action 1.2: Develop knowledge on the impact of different forest management practices on biodiversity. Review the knowledge on how forest management systems/plans can maintain and enhance biological diversity, while ensuring their economic viability.*
The action will be implemented at national level. The Liaison Unit provided a frame for reporting of initiatives and will compile the information on activities reported by the participants and observers.
- *Action 1.3: Develop operational level guidelines for sustainable forest management.*
The action was implemented through the elaboration of the Pan-European Operational Level Guidelines for Sustainable Forest Management (PEOLG). The PEOLG were adopted in Resolution L2 in Lisbon in 1998.
- *Action 1.4: Assessment of methodologies for valuing biological diversity of forests.*
The Liaison Unit will compile existing reports on methodologies for valuing biological diversity of forests and contact the European Forest Institute to discuss research in this field.

Objective 2: Adequate conservation of all types of forests in Europe

The MCPFE together with UN/ECE decided to conduct a supplementary TBFRA enquiry on PFAs to get the necessary background information and data level for the implementation of the related actions. A clearer picture of the national protection regimes in Europe was considered necessary to come to a common pan-European understanding of definitions and categories of protected forest areas. The questionnaire will be sent out in autumn 1999. The analysis of the enquiry will be carried out in close co-operation with the COST E4 Project "Forest Reserves Research Network" and the Liaison Unit in the first semester of 2000 .

- *Action 2.1: Definition of criteria for setting priorities for forest conservation.*
Criteria for selection of PFAs were seen as a prerequisite for conducting a gap-analysis according to Action 2.2. It was agreed that the criteria for an overall assessment of existing PFAs described in the documents of IFF on programme element II.d (iii) – i.e. adequacy, connectivity and effectiveness – should be used as basic principles for selection of PFAs. In addition, Portugal (Mr. Francisco Rego) and UNEP (Mr. Sippi Jaakkola) are jointly co-ordinating the elaboration of a background paper on possible criteria for setting priorities for forest conservation. This background paper will be included in the report on the implementation of WP-CEBLDF.
- *Action 2.2: Gap analysis of the efficiency of existing instruments and initiatives for the establishment of a forest ecological network.*
Using the outcomes of COST E4 (Forest Reserves Research Network), Natura 2000 and EMERALD networks a gap analysis should be carried out in the context of the next work-programme on Biological and Landscape Diversity. Based on the results of the gap analysis the establishment of a pan-European network as laid down in Helsinki Resolution H2 may be considered.

Objective 3: Clarification of the role of forest ecosystems in enhancing landscape diversity

- *Action 3.1: Review information on the role of forests in increasing landscape diversity based on current practices, land use patterns and land use regulations.*
The action will be implemented at national level. The Liaison Unit provided a frame for reporting of initiatives and will compile the information on activities reported by the signatories and observers.

Objective 4: Clarification of impacts of activities from other sectors on forest biodiversity

- *Action 4.1: Identify major impacts on forest biological diversity arising from the activities of other sectors.*
The action will be implemented at national level. The Liaison Unit provided a frame for reporting of initiatives and will compile the information on activities reported by the signatories and observers.

Work of the MCPFE

The Liaison Unit is co-ordinating the implementation of the WP-CEBLDF in collaboration with UNEP, as organisation responsible for Action Theme 9 "Forest Ecosystems" of the PEBLDS, and organisations contributing to specific actions.

UN/ECE in co-operation with the Liaison Unit and COST E4 will carry out an enquiry concerning PFAs in Europe as refinement and addition to the TBFRA work. The final version of the questionnaire will be distributed to national TBFRA correspondents and COST E4 members in autumn 1999. The results of the analysis will then be discussed at a meeting which will be convened in mid 2000.

The Liaison Unit is collecting information provided by the signatories and observes on national and regional initiatives related to the actions of the WP-CEBLDF. Based on the outcomes of this survey and the results of the relevant international projects carried out by organisations the Liaison Unit will compile a report on the implementation of the WP-CEBLDF by autumn 2000.

Following the presentation of the report an evaluation of the implementation of the WP-CEBLDF will take place as basis of the further work on biodiversity and conservation. In this context the Liaison Unit will convene a workshop where signatories and observers analyse strengths and weaknesses of the WP-CEBLDF and define the gaps and issues to be addressed in future.

Consequently the elaboration of a 2nd work-programme on Biological and Landscape Diversity is planned by the end of 2000. It will be based on the evaluation of the WP-CEBLDF, a gap analysis of the implementation of commitments and objectives of the MCPFE and priority issues coming up in the future work.

Table 8: Work of the MCPFE on Biological and Landscape Diversity

	Actions	Actors	Time frame	Status by 10/99	Resolutions
3.1. Biological and Landscape Diversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ad hoc working group on Biodiversity, Protected Areas and Related Issues 1st session 2nd session 	MCPFE; Organisation and co-ordination Liaison Unit Vienna	11-12/02/99 22-23/06/99	Completed Completed	Lisbon General Declaration ⁸ , (LGD), H2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposal on Protected Forest Areas Meeting of Preparatory Group 	Co-ordination Liaison Unit Vienna	20/05/99	Completed	LGD, H2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enquiry on protected forest areas Questionnaire, analysis, meeting 	UN-ECE in co-operation with COST E4 and Liaison Unit Vienna	10/99-06/00	On-going	LGD, H2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report on implementation of WP-CEBLDF Collection of information, compilation 	MCPFE; Co-ordination Liaison Unit Vienna	06/99- Autumn 2000	On-going	LGD, H2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluation of WP-CEBLDF Meeting 	MCPFE; Organisation and co-ordination Liaison Unit Vienna	Autumn 2000	Planned	LGD
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elaboration of new Work Programme on Biodiversity 	MCPFE; Co-ordination Liaison Unit Vienna		Planned	LGD, H2

⁸ Note: The Lisbon General Declaration (LGD) is not a Resolution. Nevertheless, as the LGD explicitly refers to the "Work-Programme on the Conservation and Enhancement of Biological and Landscape Diversity in Forest Ecosystems 1997-2000" (WP-CEBLDF), it has been considered equally important in Table 8.

3.2 Forests and Climate Change

The issue of forests and climate change has been addressed by the Ministers responsible for Forests in Europe since the First Ministerial Conference in Strasbourg in 1990, in particular through Resolution H4: “Strategies for a Process of Long-term Adaptation of Forests in Europe to Climate Change”. The ministers committed themselves to support measures for the mitigation of climate change and the limitation of greenhouse gas emissions as provided for in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC). Research activities concerning the impact of climate change on forests and their possible adaptation as well as on the mitigation of adverse effects of climate change by forests are advocated. The IUFRO Task Force Environmental Change was given the mandate to co-ordinate the implementation of H4.

In the General Declaration of the Lisbon Conference the ministers share the vision that positive contribution of forests to the global carbon cycle will continue. They – in line with UN-FCCC – committed themselves to promote SFM contributing to the mitigation of the negative effects of climate change by, *inter alia*, evaluating the respective role of forest ecosystems as carbon sinks and reservoirs combined with growing use of long life-cycle wood products.

At the RTM the interrelation between climate change and forests was defined as an issue to be dealt with. The participants of the 1st ELM decided to continue working on the future actions as specified in the Resolution itself, and that the related new issues of “Kyoto Protocol” and “function of forests as carbon sinks” should be linked to the Lisbon General Declaration. Policy principles of the MCPFE concerning the theme were discussed. It was agreed that the Liaison Unit should elaborate a statement of the Pan-European Process to be submitted to the FCCC-Secretariat/IPCC before the publication of the Special Report on Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry.

Work of the MCPFE

Implementing the decision of the 1st ELM, the Liaison Unit worked out expert review comments on the draft IPCC Special Report on Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry⁹ and submitted them to the respective secretariat in July 1999. The MCPFE is also going to comment on the recently published revised draft version of the report.

Furthermore the Liaison Unit is intensifying the exchange of information with the FCCC/IPCC secretariats as decided by the participants of the MCPFE.

⁹ The draft IPCC Special Report on Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry constitutes a comprehensive and detailed report on the scientific and technical implications of carbon sequestration strategies related to land-use, land-use change and forestry.

Table 9: Work of the MCPFE on Climate change

	Actions	Actors	Time frame	Status by 10/99	Resolutions
3.2.Climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elaboration of expert review comments on draft IPCC Special Report on Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry 	Liaison Unit Vienna in co-operation with GCC	07/1999	Completed	LGD, H4
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elaboration of expert review comments on revised version of draft IPCC Special Report on Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry 	Liaison Unit Vienna in co-operation with GCC	11/1999	Completed	LGD, H4
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exchange of information: FCCC, IPCC-Kyoto Protocol 	MCPFE - Liaison Unit Vienna		On-going	LGD, H4

3.3 Management of Mountain Forests

The work of the MCPFE on “management of mountain forests” was initiated at the 1st Ministerial Conference. In view of changed influences on and conditions for mountain forests the ministers acknowledged the need to further strengthen and develop the management of mountain forests in Europe and adopted Resolution S4: “Adapting the management of mountain forests to new environmental conditions”.

In 1998, the responsibility for co-ordinating follow-up work on Resolution S4 within the MCPFE was changed and assigned to the European Observatory on Mountain Forests in collaboration with FAO and IUFRO. An overview of the follow-up can be found in Annex 1 of the Work Programme (page 33).

4. Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

4.1 National Forest Programmes

The topic of National Forest Programmes (NFPs) received considerable attention during the IPF process. At its fourth session IPF adopted a series of elements which could serve as a frame for designing an NFP in each country.

Elements mentioned are:

- appropriate participatory mechanisms involving all interested parties
- decentralisation, where applicable
- empowerment of regional and local government structures consistent with the constitutional and legal frameworks of each country
- recognition and respect for customary and traditional rights and secure land tenure arrangements
- ecosystem approaches that integrate the conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable use of biological resources
- adequate provision and valuation of forest goods and services
- national sovereignty and county leadership

A set of principles for NFPs was developed by FAO. They were noted at IPF 3 and formed the basis for the discussion on IPF elements for NFPs. Furthermore FAO conducted a world wide survey on NFPs including the European countries.

In addition to the global work on defining elements for NFPs by forest policy fora also the scientific community in Europe started to discuss the possible contribution of science to NFPs in two seminars. As a consequence a COST project on NFPs was initiated which will start at the second half of 1999.

As a result of the attention given to the topic of NFPs on a global scale the MCPFE discussed – following the principle of flexibility regarding new political issues – the topic of NFPs at its 1st ELM. The participants of the meeting gave the mandate to the Liaison Unit to convene a workshop on NFPs in order to clarify the importance and possible role of NFPs in the pan-European context

The Workshop on the Role of NFPs in the Pan-European Context was convened in Tulln/Austria on 13-14 September 1999. As main result the participants agreed that the approach and the IPF principles regarding NFPs are relevant for Europe. However, differences in importance might appear especially on the sub-national level. The meeting was considered to be a starting point for further necessary discussions and clarifications on NFPs at the pan-European level, emphasising that NFPs would always remain an issue of national sovereignty.

The aim of this pan-European efforts concerning NFPs is to give a definition and guiding principles of NFPs for European countries which can be applied for designing a NFP on a voluntary basis, also indicating the European Concept of NFPs within the global discussion.

Work of the MCPFE

The results of the Workshop on the Role of NFPs in the Pan-European Context will be published by the Liaison Unit.

Follow-up actions to be considered:

- Elaboration of a concept paper in collaboration with scientific and technical bodies and the Liaison Unit;
- Further work on IPF elements in the pan-European context, according to the prioritisation indicated in the working groups. Results of the work done within COST Action E19 as well as results of the Team of Specialists on Participation and Partnership in Forestry, established under the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training and experiences of FAO could be an important input for discussion.

Table 10: Work of the MCPFE on National Forest Programmes

	Actions	Actors	Time frame	Status by 10/99	Resolution
4.1. National Forest Programmes	• Determination of common objectives and actions – Workshop on the role of National Forest Programmes in the Pan-European Context	MCPFE; Liaison Unit Vienna (Organiser)	14-15 /09/99	Completed	L2, LGD (H1, H2)
	• Elaboration of a concept paper for discussion at 3 rd ELM	Liaison Unit Vienna in co-operation with scientific and technical bodies	10/99 - 09/00	Planned	L2, LGD (H1, H2)
	• Further clarification of meanings and dimensions of principles and elements	MCPFE; Liaison Unit Vienna, Scientific and technical bodies	10/2000 -	Planned	L1, LGD (H1, H2)

4.2 Criteria & Indicators for SFM

The Pan-European Criteria and Indicators (C&I) were developed as a common policy instrument for evaluating process towards SFM. The 6 criteria represent the consensus achieved by the European countries on the most important aspects of SFM on a conceptual level. The fulfilment of the criteria is evaluated through 27 most suitable quantitative indicators, showing the fulfilment of the respective criterion and changes over time, and 101 example descriptive indicators, providing information on the existence and effective implementation of a related policy framework.

In Resolution L2 the Ministers responsible for Forests formally adopted the six criteria for SFM from the "Pan-European Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management" and endorsed the associated indicators as a basis for international reporting and for development of national indicators. They also committed themselves to "proceed to implement, continuously review and further improve the associated indicators." This

commitment was re-emphasised by the delegates of the 1st ELM. The participants recognised the need to consider the indicators under all criteria with regard to possible improvements and to further work towards harmonising international data collection and reporting systems.

In order to clarify views and expectations of the signatories and observers of the MCPFE and to give political-level orientation for further work on C&I, a questionnaire on the "Improvement of Pan-European Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management, Data Collection and Reporting" was elaborated by the Liaison Unit and sent to the signatories and observers of the MCPFE in July 1999.

The results of the questionnaire reflect the commitment of the signatories and observers to continuously review and carefully improve the existing indicators associated to the criteria for SFM, and to further work towards harmonising data collection and reporting systems.

The comments submitted give rather concrete indications on weaknesses and suggestions for possible improvements of existing indicators. Furthermore, they underline the usefulness of exploring possibilities of aggregation of data as well as of enhancing comparability and compatibility of the Pan-European C&I with other sets of C&I for SFM. As regards possible procedures for further work on indicators, there was consensus that the MCPFE should lead the process, making best use of existing expertise and knowledge.

A clear majority of commentators also underlined the usefulness to explore possibilities to improve and/or facilitate data collection on the situation of European forests and supported the idea to collect data on the Pan-European C&I for SFM also for the next Ministerial Conference, given that new data will be available.

A detailed description of the results of the questionnaire can be found in Annex 3.

Work of the MCPFE

Further work of the Pan-European Forest Process on C&I will be based on the results of the questionnaire as well as on decisions taken at previous meetings. It will notably focus on three main areas:

- Improvement of existing indicators associated to the six criteria for SFM:

In the questionnaires, the signatories and observers of the MCPFE clearly outlined most relevant principles for the improvement of existing indicators. It was stated that future work on indicators should take into account the long-term nature of the concept of C&I for SFM. It should build upon experiences made and know-how of signatory states, technical and scientific bodies, and it should reflect information needs of today's society and the forest sector, where appropriate. In line with these principles, work on the improvement of the pan-European indicators will best be carried out in two steps:

- In a first step, an evaluation of existing indicators under all criteria will be conducted in co-operation with relevant scientific and technical bodies, notably UN-ECE/FAO, in order to identify most relevant weaknesses and needs for improvement.
- In a second step, a draft set of carefully revised indicators will be elaborated based on the outcomes of the evaluation. In order to make best use of existing knowledge

In the questionnaires, different scenarios regarding sequence and degree of the involvement of technical and scientific bodies in further work have been presented.

- Exploration of possibilities to harmonise forest related data collection and reporting systems in Europe through questionnaires and expert interviews

The comments submitted by signatories and observers underline the usefulness of enhancing efforts and exploring possibilities to harmonise forest related data collection and reporting systems in Europe, as envisioned by the ministers in Resolution L2.

- Elaboration of common reporting format for national reports

The results of the questionnaire indicate a need for better guidance and support in the preparation of national reports through a common pan-European reporting format. It was pointed out that guidance is especially needed with regard to reporting on descriptive indicators.

Table 11: Work of the MCPFE on Criteria and Indicators for SFM

	Actions	Actors	Time frame	Status by 10/99	Resolution
4.2. Criteria and Indicators for SFM					
4.2.1. Improvement of Pan-European Indicators for SFM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determination of common objectives and actions - Comments through questionnaires 	MCPFE; Liaison Unit Vienna in consultation with GCC	04/99 - 09/99	Completed	L2 (H1, H2)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluation of existing indicators under all pan-European criteria 	Liaison Unit Vienna in co-operation with scientific and technical bodies, notably UN-ECE/FAO	11/1999 -	Planned	L2 (H1, H2, S1, S2, S4)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of improved indicators 	To be determined		Planned	L2 (H1, H2, S1, S2, S4)
4.2.2. Towards Harmonising Data Collection and Reporting Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exploration of possibilities to harmonise forest related data collection and reporting systems in Europe through questionnaires and expert interviews 	Liaison Unit Vienna with consultation of and in collaboration with scientific and technical bodies	10/1999.-	Planned	L2 (H1, H2)
4.2.3. Pan-European Reporting on SFM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elaboration of common reporting format for national reports 	Liaison Unit Vienna in consultation with GCC and ELM and in collaboration with scientific and technical bodies	10/2000 -	Planned	L2 (H1, H2)

Annex 1: Review of the Follow-up of Strasbourg and Helsinki Resolutions

Strasbourg Resolutions

Resolution	Countries	Programmes and Projects	Co-ordinating Institution(s)	Implementation	Linkages
S 1 – European Network of Permanent Sample Plots for Monitoring of Forest Ecosystems	34 + EC ¹⁰ + USA + Canada ¹¹	<p>Close co-operation between:</p> <p><i>International Co-operative Programme on the Assessment and Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Forests (ICP Forests)</i> established by UN/ECE under its Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP);</p> <p><i>European Union Scheme on the Protection of Forests against Atmospheric Pollution</i> (Council Regulation (EEC) No. 3528/86), extended by Regulation (EC) No. 307/97</p>	<p>Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forestry, Germany</p> <p>Programme Co-ordinating Center (PCCC) of ICP Forests c/o Bundesforschungs-anstalt für Forst- und Holzwirtschaft, PCC of ICP Forests;</p> <p>European Commission</p>	<p>Establishment of two monitoring levels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Level I</i>: ca. 20.000 plots; annual assessment of tree crown condition; once in 1994/95 assessment of soil condition and nutritional status of forests; - <i>Level II</i>: ca. 800 selected intensive monitoring plots; since 1994 assessment of crown condition, soil and soil solution analyses, analyses of chemical contents of needles and leaves, etc.; first results of in-depth analysis of the data obtained from Level II-plots available in 1999 (management and interpretation of data carried out by FIMCI – Forests Intensive Monitoring Co-ordinating Institute). <p>Additional research carried out in the framework of other international programmes (e.g. EXMANN, NITREX)</p>	<p>Co-operation with H4</p> <p>Some key parameters of ICP Forests/EU serve as criteria following H1</p> <p>Regular contacts with international co-ordinators of S6 and H2</p>

¹⁰ European Commission

¹¹ Number of countries participating in the common monitoring activities (Source: Follow-up Reports on the Ministerial Conferences on the Protection of Forests in Europe, Volume I, Lisbon, June 1998)

Resolution	Countries	Programmes and Projects	Co-ordinating Institution(s)	Implementation	Linkages
S 2 – Conservation of Forest Genetic Resources	34 +EC	<i>European Forest Genetic Resources Programme (EUFORGEN)</i>	International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI) in close collaboration with FAO	<p>Through five species-oriented networks (Conifers, European Poplars, Mediterranean Oaks, Noble Hardwoods, Social Broadleaves). Collaborative activities of the networks include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regular exchange of data and info; - Development of conservation strategies; - Development of technical guidelines, common descriptors and databases; - Preparation of joint project proposals; - Exchange of genetic materials; - Literature overviews; - Public awareness activities; - Collaboration with other regional programmes (Central Asia, Africa). <p>The Programme is governed by a Steering Committee of National Co-ordinators.</p> <p>Internet web page established and 20 publications produced since 1995.</p>	S4, S6, H1-H4 – collaborative links in the area of forest biodiversity Contribution to PEBLDS and CBD
S 3 – Decentralized European Data Bank on Forest Fires	35 ¹² +EC	Establishment of a decentralised database in the internet (creating links between different "forest fires" web sites)	General Direction of Forests, Portugal (International Co-ordinator); European Commission; Forest Fires Network of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions (Silva Mediterranea), Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics	<p>Collection of Forest Fire Statistics 1994-1996 and 1995-1997 (published in Timber Bulletin and in the internet http://www.unece.org/trade/timber/ff-stats.html)</p> <p>European Union Scheme on the protection of forests in the Community against fire (Council Regulation No. 2158/92)</p> <p>Training and information measures (e.g. organisation of two workshops and a specialised course by CIHEAM, Siva Mediterranea, FAO)</p>	

¹² Number of countries which replied to the enquiry on forest fire statistics carried out in 1998 by the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics (Source: Timber Bulletin , Vol. LI, ECE/TIM/BULL/51/4) with approval of the UN-ECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission

Resolution	Countries	Programmes and Projects	Co-ordinating Institution(s)	Implementation	Linkages
S 4 – Adapting the Management of Mountain Forests to New Environmental Conditions	24 ¹³ +EC	<i>European Mountain Forest Action Plan (EMFAP)</i>	<p>The European Observatory of Mountain Forests (International Co-ordinator);</p> <p>The Working Party European Forestry Commission/FAO on the Management of Mountain Watersheds;</p> <p>IUFRO Task Force on Forests in Sustainable Mountain Development</p>	<p>Establishment of three homogeneous working groups concerning three areas (Mediterranean countries, Alpine countries, Eastern and Baltic countries):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Involvement and commitment of a large group of institutions and agencies; - Preparation of periodical progress reports requested by the follow-up group; - Participation in international meetings and workshops. <p><i>European Mountain Forest Action Plan</i> including five actions¹⁴:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assessment of environmental and socio-economic situation of mountain forests (starting from a first White Book on Mountain Forests in Europe; up-dating through International Workshop); 2. Development of a communication network (starting from a regular written information note disseminated to forest-interested people, groups and institutions); 3. Identification of national pilot-sites for monitoring of C&I and stability indices, exchange of experience; 4. Establishment of a decentralised referential framework of available environmental and socio-economic data, including the outcomes of action 3; 5. Organisation of training activities on specific themes aimed at different stake-holders, leading to sustainable forest management. 	Targeted links will be established with all other resolutions

¹³ Number of countries that adopted principles of Resolution S4 at the Strasbourg Conference (Source: Follow-up Reports on the Ministerial Conferences on the Protection of Forests in Europe, Volume I, Lisbon, June 1998; European Observatory of Mountain Forest - EOMF)

¹⁴ Guidelines and questionnaires on the implementation of the five actions will be provided by the International Co-ordinator.

Resolution	Countries	Programmes and Projects	Co-ordinating Institution(s)	Implementation	Linkages
S 5 – Expansion of the EUROSILVA Network of Research on Tree Physiology	20 ¹⁵ +EC	<i>EUROSILVA Network</i> (COST Action E 6 EUROSILVA: Tree physiology research)	University of Oulu, Finland	EUROSILVA Network consisting of over 440 projects, research groups and scientists working in 3 different working groups (Growth and Development, Tree Nutrition and Water Relations, Biotic and Abiotic Interactions) Regular exchange of ideas and promotion of research concepts through annual workshops (since 1996)	
S 6 – European Network for Research into Forest Ecosystems	35 ¹⁶ +EC	<i>EFERN (European Network for Research into Forest Ecosystems)</i>	International Union of Forest Research Organisations (IUFRO)	Major achievements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishment of a database (containing 1198 institutions, scientists and projects) and of an internet based communication system (http://efern.boku.ac.at); - Review of concepts and problems for sustainable forest management on a European level (results to be published in a special issue of the journal "Forest Ecology and Management"); - Identification of a number of research areas of high priority; - Development of a concept "Ecosystem and Landscape Forestry – ELF"; - Establishment of a research consortium for application to the EU 5th Framework Programme on a concerted action for "Ecosystem and Landscape Forestry" with participation of 30 European countries; - Elaboration of a proposal for a COST-activity "European Net for Forest Ecosystem and Landscape Research – ENFORS". 	Co-operation with H4 concerning the joint use of EFERN database; Involvement in EURO-SILVA; Contact to ICP Forests

¹⁵ Number of countries joining the EUROSILVA Network (Source: Follow-up Reports on the Ministerial Conferences on the Protection of Forests in Europe, Volume I, Lisbon, June 1998)

¹⁶ Number of countries represented in the EFERN database (state: December 1998)

Helsinki Resolutions

Resolution	Countries	Programmes and Projects	Co-ordinating Institution(s)	Implementation	Linkages
H1 – General Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Forests in Europe	36 + EC	<p>Pan-European Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Pan-European Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management</i> - <i>Pan-European Operational Level Guidelines for Sustainable Forest Management (PEOLG)</i> <p>National activities</p>	<p>Liaison Unit Vienna;</p> <p>Collaboration with UN-ECE/FAO</p>	<p>Quantitative information on most of the indicators for sustainable forest management was collected through the Temperate and Boreal Forest Resource Assessment 2000 (TBFRA-2000)</p> <p>National activities as laid down in national reports</p>	L1, L2
H2 – General Guidelines for the Conservation of the Biodiversity of European Forests	36 + EC	<p>Pan-European Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Pan-European Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management</i> - <i>Pan-European Operational Level Guidelines for Sustainable Forest Management (PEOLG)</i> - <i>Work-Programme on the Conservation and Enhancement of Biological and Landscape Diversity in Forest Ecosystems 1997 – 2000</i> <p>National activities</p>	<p>Liaison Unit Vienna</p> <p>Collaboration with UN-ECE/FAO</p> <p>Co-operation with Ministerial Process "Environment for Europe"</p>	<p>Quantitative information on most of the indicators for sustainable forest management was collected through the Temperate and Boreal Forest Resource Assessment 2000 (TBFRA-2000)</p> <p>National activities as laid down in national reports</p>	L1, L2

Resolution	Countries	Programmes and projects	Co-ordinating Institution(s)	Implementation	Linkages
H3 – Forestry Co-operation with Countries with Economies in Transition	24 ¹⁷	H3-Database	UN-ECE/FAO	Survey of user needs (1995) Construction of a database containing detailed information on more than 430 projects regarding forestry assistance to CITs	
H4 – Strategies for a Process of Long-term Adaptation of Forests in Europe to Climate Change	23/27/20 ¹⁸	Several reports are in preparation, with a view to publication in 1999 or 2000. They include reports on: - Impacts of greenhouse gases on forests (ed. Karnosky, Ceulemans, Scarascia-Mugnozza and Innes) - Interactions between forests and natural hazards under conditions of climate change (ed. Sidle, Chigira) - Impacts of climate change on forest processes (ed. Kräuchi, Bugmann) - Implications of climate change for forest management (ed. Mohren, Landsberg, Innes) All reports to be published as books by CAB International (UK)	International Union of Forest Research Organisations (IUFRO), Task Force on Environmental Change	Seven areas for research as cited in Resolution H4 (Part I: Areas for Research; Part II, Point 8) Monitoring of the implementation of the Resolution through: - Questionnaires addressed to the national contact persons and experts; - Organisation of Expert Meetings. Inquiry on utilisation of wood as renewable energy source	Linkages to Resolutions S1, S2, S6 Active links with H1 and H2

¹⁷ Number of countries which responded to the second survey of user needs carried out by UN-ECE/FAO in 1995 (Source: Interim Report on the Implementation of Resolution H3 of the Helsinki Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe; UN-ECE Timber Section, Geneva, 1997)

¹⁸ Number of responses to the first / second / third questionnaire to national correspondents (December 1994 / September 1996 / November 1997; Source: Follow-up Reports on the Ministerial Conferences on the Protection of Forests in Europe, Volume I, Lisbon, June 1998)

Annex 2: Rural Development – Results of the Questionnaire

As decided at the 1st ELM, a questionnaire on "Rural Development in the Work of the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe" was sent out in July 1999.

By 20 September 1999 a total of 21 filled in questionnaires were returned (20 countries and 1 observer sending collected comments of member organisations). 20 questionnaires were further analysed.

All responding participants were of the opinion that rural development (RD) is a viable approach to current and future forest policy. In almost all countries RD is an issue in national forest policy, however, at a different degree, and with different aspects discussed. The main field of discussion are socio-economic issues and the relations between forest policy and rural development.

The most commonly agreed relevant aspects of RD in the context of forest policy in the pan-European region were identified as being the environment, employment, rural tourism, small and medium sized enterprises, and education (in this order). Local products, rural services, infrastructure, cultural and gender aspects followed. Several commentators additionally pointed out the issue of maintaining lands and landscapes.

Concerning the role of the MCPFE two areas were mostly mentioned. These were the clarification of concepts, methodologies and priorities, and, considerably more important, communication, such as highlighting the presence, roles and importance of the forest sector within rural development and communication of the concept of RD, e.g. through the elaboration of information tools.

Both aspects were subsequently seen as useful tasks for further work on RD within the Pan-European Forest Process. Two thirds of respondents supported work on the clarification of the actual contribution of forestry to RD in Europe (e.g. through RD – Forestry Criteria and Indicators). Regarding clarification of the concept, some noted that this is a necessary precondition for clarifying the contribution of forestry and for elaborating information tools, be it criteria and indicators, guidelines or other. One participant noted that it would be helpful to set common guiding principles for RD policies.

It was also expressed that fora for exchanging information, such as meetings, workshops, or seminars and closer contacts with experts in the field were needed and a scientific advisory group was suggested by one participant as possible body for work.

Concerning the relation of Rural Development and National Forest Programmes (NFPs), it was a widely held view that NFPs constitute the overall frame within which RD should be addressed. Most participants also highlighted the significant and multiple relations of work on RD and work on other aspects of Resolution L1.

Annex 3: Criteria and Indicators – Results of the Questionnaire

Following the decisions of the 1st ELM, the Liaison Unit elaborated a questionnaire on the "Improvement of Pan-European Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management, Data Collection and Reporting" in order to clarify views and expectations of the signatories and observers of the MCPFE and to give political-level orientation for further work. The questionnaire was sent to all participants of the MCPFE in July 1999. By 20 September 1999 the Liaison Unit received a total number of 21 completed questionnaires submitted from 20 signatory states and 1 observer organisation.

The results of the questionnaire reflect the commitment of the signatories and observers of the MCPFE

- to continuously review and carefully improve the existing indicators associated to the criteria for SFM, and
- to further work towards harmonising data collection and reporting systems.

The majority of the replying countries consider the existing structure of the Pan-European Criteria and Indicators for SFM adequate, as it would reflect the ongoing long-term process of monitoring and evaluating SFM.

Rather concrete indications and suggestions were given by the signatories and observers on existing weaknesses and possible improvements of existing quantitative indicators. Weaknesses indicated and suggestions made for possible improvements relate to

- the coverage of individual criteria through existing indicators in general
- areas within individual criteria not adequately covered by existing indicators,
- the interpretation of terms and/or formulations and underlying definitions,

Concerning the coverage of individual criteria through existing indicators in general, the answers received indicate that at present notably Criteria 4 ("Biological Diversity") , 5 ("Protective Functions") and 6 ("Other Socio-Economic Functions and Conditions") are not adequately covered by existing indicators.

A number of sometimes very detailed proposals were made regarding possible improvements of individual indicators. The answers received relate to areas to be covered through additional indicators as well as to modifications of existing indicators. Areas most frequently indicated by commentators include "carbon balance" (Criterion 1), "forest management" (Criterion 3), "biodiversity" (Criterion 4), "protective functions" (Criterion 5) as well as on "other socio-economic functions" of forests and forestry. It was also stated that in some cases, though the indicators themselves are considered appropriate, it is difficult to collect data at national level.

Several commentators stressed the need for further clarification and improvement of terms and definitions. It was pointed out that in some cases terms and/or formulations are vague or ambiguous, bearing the risk of divergent interpretations or misinterpretations. Examples for such terms and formulations were presented in the questionnaires. In this context, the necessity of further guidance regarding the interpretation of indicators, e.g. by means of an interpretation manual, was emphasised.

The majority of commentators also underlined the usefulness of exploring possibilities of further aggregation of data, notably for better communication to decision makers and the public, as well as of enhancing comparability and compatibility of the Pan-European C&I with existing sets of C&I for SFM of other international and regional initiatives, notably with the Montreal Process.

As concerns further improvement of descriptive indicators rather heterogeneous answers were submitted by the commentators. While some countries underline the adequacy and usefulness of existing descriptive indicators, others see a need for improvement. Examples for possible improvements include to explore possibilities to structure descriptive indicators separate from quantitative indicators or even separate from criteria, to improve definitions and to do methodological work on how to organise their presentation.

A broad range of proposal was made by the commentators concerning possible procedures for further work on indicators. While there was consensus that the signatories and observers of the MCPFE should lead the process, the proposals presented by the commentators include a broad range of scenarios regarding the involvement of technical and scientific bodies at different stages and in different ways.

A clear majority of commentators underlined the usefulness to explore possibilities to improve and/or facilitate data collection on the situation of European forests and supported the idea to collect data on the Pan-European C&I for SFM also for the next Ministerial Conference, given that new data will be available.

Concerning reporting on C&I, it was especially pointed out by a number of commentators that there is a strong need for better guidance on the elaboration of national reports, including the option to develop a common pan-European reporting format.

Annex 4: Abbreviations

BEAR	Biodiversity Evaluation and Assessment Research - Indicators for Forest Biodiversity in Europe
C&I	Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CITs	Countries with Economies in Transition
COST	Coopération européenne dans le domaine de la recherche scientifique et technique
CSD (VIII)	Commission on Sustainable Development (8 th session)
EEA	European Environment Agency
EFI	European Forest Institute
EFICS	European Forest Information and Communication System
ELM	Expert Level Meeting
EMFAP	European Mountain Forest Action Plan
OMF	European Observatory of Mountain Forests
EU	European Union
EUROSTAT	Statistical Office of the European Communities
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
FCCC	Framework Convention on Climate Change
ICP Forests	International Co-operative Programme on Assessment and Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Forests
IFF (3)	Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (3 rd session)
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPF (3)	International Panel on Forests (3 rd session)
IUFRO	International Union of Forestry Research Organisations
LGD	General Declaration of the Lisbon Conference
MCPFE	Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe
NFPs	National Forest Programmes
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PEBLDS	Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy
PEOLG	Pan-European Operational Guidelines for Sustainable Forest Management
PFA	Protected Forest Areas
RD	Rural Development
RTM	Round Table Meeting
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
ToS on PR	FAO/ECE Team of Public Relations Specialists in the Forest and Forest Industry Sector
UN/ECE	United Nations Economic Council for Europe
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro 1992)
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
WP-CEBLDF	Work-Programme on the Conservation and Enhancement of Biological and Landscape Diversity in Forest Ecosystems 1997-2000