

# FOREST EUROPE

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The MCPFE Newsletter of the Liaison Unit Oslo

## **MCPFE Working Group on “Sustainability Criteria” for Forest Biomass Production, including Bioenergy**

The MCPFE Working Group on “sustainability criteria” for forest biomass production, including bioenergy, has assessed the applicability and potential need for update of the MCPFE tools for sustainable forest management in relation to new demands. The group finalised its work at the third meeting in Uppsala, Sweden, 11-12 June 2009. The participants expressed their gratitude to Sweden for taking the lead in the work, and agreed on recommendations that will be brought to the MCPFE Expert Level Meeting for consideration in November 2009.

The working group pointed to the broad acceptance and support for the MCPFE tools in general. Nevertheless, the lack of binding status of the tools, including their limitations concerning verification purposes, was identified as an issue for the tools’ use by regulatory processes and institutions.

The working group recommended that the MCPFE tools should be refined and further developed to serve assessment of performance and verification of sustainable forest management. Possible refinements include revisions of indicators and operational level guidelines, and thresholds values on specific elements that can be used for verification purposes at European or national levels. Secondly, the working group recommended that the role of forest management in relation to climate change mitigation and adaptations should be clarified and strengthened for actions in the signatory countries of the MCPFE. The working group’s suggestions include further investigation of strategies for adaptation of forests to climate change, implications of land use changes on climate change mitigation and adaptation, and mitigation potentials of, e.g. bioenergy and wood constructions.

## **UN Climate Change Negotiations Sustainable Forest Management and Climate Change - Approaches to Mitigation and Adaptation**

The government of Norway and the MCPFE Liaison Unit Oslo organised a side event during the UNFCCC climate change negotiations in June 2009, in Bonn, Germany. The International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) and the Confederation of European Forest Owners (CEPF) contributed at the event.

A numerous audience learned about the MCPFE process, tools developed and climate change relevant contributions by the MCPFE since its start in 1990. IUFRO presented key findings of their recent scientific assessment of adaptation of forests to climate change, stressing the importance of sustainable forest management in reducing the vulnerability of forests. CEPF highlighted the role of active use of forest resources and the precondition of sustainable forest management in mitigating climate change.

The discussion focused on how sustainable forest management can contribute in a future climate regime. Different experiences and opinions were raised, and various interpretations of what sustainable forest management encompasses were evident.

The presentations and a summary of the event can be found at:

[www.mcpfe.org/forests\\_and\\_climate\\_bonn](http://www.mcpfe.org/forests_and_climate_bonn)

## **Exploring Possibilities for a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe**

The second meeting of the *MCPFE Working Group on exploring the potential added value of and possible options for a legally binding agreement on forests in the pan-European region* was held on 19-20 May 2009 in Oslo, Norway. The meeting's goal was to agree on options for a possible legally binding agreement on forests in Europe, analyse any added value of such an agreement and assess pros and cons of the different options. Preliminary results of the ongoing MCPFE review were presented, and its implications on the work for a possible legally binding agreement were discussed.

Two options for a legally binding agreement were agreed upon for further analysis. In preparation for the next meeting of the working group, analyses will be conducted on the assessment of costs and possible implications of an LBA on selected international forest agreements, bodies and processes. Also, a possible negotiation process will be described. The next meeting is scheduled for 1-2 September 2009 in Rome, Italy.

## **Workshop on Forests and Water**

95 participants from 27 countries and 7 organisations from the MCPFE and UNECE regions and neighbouring countries attended the workshop on Forests and Water in Antalya, Turkey on 12-14 May 2009. The aim of the workshop was to examine the interrelations and mutual influences of forests and water, how countries approach these topics, and how they currently are and could be reflected in forest and water policies.

Key note speeches introduced the scientific relationships between forests and water, the international attention to the topic, as well as the linkage to climate change. Country presentations illustrated specific national approaches. Furthermore, the participants discussed how to improve the coordination of forest and water policies and possible payments for ecosystem services.

In order to promote services provided by forests, solve water related problems in a sustainable way and further develop forest tools to specifically address water problems, the participants highlighted the benefits of cooperation between people working in forest and water sectors.

The workshop addressed the need for developing cross-sectoral curricula, communicating research results to policy makers and managers, developing strategies for different water users and communicating the benefits of integrated forest and water management. The cooperation between the two sectors should be further promoted, particularly at the national level, e.g. through communication on the MCPFE Resolution on Forests and Water.

Presentations and outcome from the workshop:

**[www.mcpfe.org/forests\\_and\\_water](http://www.mcpfe.org/forests_and_water)**

## **Announcement: Meeting on Social and Cultural Values in Sustainable Forest Management**

27-29 October, 2009, Florence, Italy

IUFRO's scientific guidelines on social and cultural values have been developed to facilitate implementation of the MCPFE Vienna Resolution on Social and Cultural Dimensions of Sustainable Forest Management. The meeting in Florence aims to have a technical discussion on how these guidelines could be focused and broadened for implementation in all MCPFE countries.

## **Workshop on Wood Mobilisation**

An MCPFE workshop on strategies for increased mobilisation of wood resources from sustainable sources was held on 16-18 June 2009 in Grenoble, France. The workshop was organised by the UNECE/FAO, EFI, CEPI, CEPF, COPA-COGECA, ENFE, EUSTAFOR and MCPFE, with support from the French Ministry of Agriculture and CEMAGREF.

The workshop covered policy developments on wood mobilisation by the MCPFE and others, and examples of national and regional practical mobilisation measures. Promising mobilisation measures were identified and follow-up activities were recommended.

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