

FOREST EUROPE

LIAISON UNIT MADRID NEWSLETTER 1/12

FOREST EUROPE Puts into Operation the Oslo Ministerial Conference Decisions

The General Director of Rural Development and Forest Policy, Ms. Begoña Nieto Gilarte, opened FOREST EUROPE's Expert Level Meeting (ELM) which was held in Madrid on the 14th and 15th of February in order to put into operation the Oslo Ministerial Conference decisions. This was the first event organized by the Spanish Co-Chairmanship of the Ministerial Conference on Protection of Forest in Europe.

During two marathon discussion days, more than 100 attendees from 29 countries and 19 international organizations such as environmental and social NGOs, forest owners' federations, unions, forestry industry and scientific community discussed the FOREST EUROPE Work Programme for the next years.



FOREST EUROPE Work Programme

Pan-European Follow-Up of the FOREST EUROPE Oslo Ministerial Conference

The Work Programme is elaborated with the aim to put the Oslo FOREST EUROPE Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe decisions into pan-European actions and to move forward in order to meet the envisioned long-term objectives of sustainable forest management (SFM).

On 14-16 June 2011 in Oslo, Norway, the Ministers adopted the European Forests 2020 decisions with goals, targets and strategic actions for the protection and sustainable management of forests. Moreover, ministers took a historical decision and launched negotiations on a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe.

The following are the activities clustered according to thematic elements arising from these commitments.

- 1. Further development of Sustainable Forest Management and its tools.** Two types of activities have been designed. The first one is an analysis of the state of art of the implementation of former decisions on SFM regarding monitoring and development of forest policies. In the second one a working group will explore improvements and proposals in SFM guidelines and other existing tools, followed by a round table meeting.
- 2. Further improvements in forest monitoring and reporting.** The activities will include carrying out a joint data collection with FAO's FRA, the development of the tools for monitoring and reporting on the achievements on 2020 goals and targets, including reporting on national achievements. The next report on the State of Europe's Forests should reflect SFM improvements in policies and implementation.
- 3. Strengthen efforts against illegal logging and related trade.** A workshop on governance and forest law enforcement has been designed to identify effective measures and future priorities.
- 4. Valuation of forest ecosystem services.** This action will be addressed by a group of experts who will explore and propose a pan-European approach to evaluate forest ecosys-

tems services and means to facilitate implementation. A workshop will follow to identify priorities and measures.

5. Sustainable Forest Management in a Green Economy. Two types of activities have been designed. In the first one, a working group on employment and social aspects of Sustainable Forest Management should propose regional approaches to fostering green jobs for rural development. In a second activity a working group should develop an approach to address the role of forests in a green economy in order to raise awareness and foster decision making.

6. Servicing the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe. Liaison Unit Madrid was requested to service the negotiation process jointly with the other leading actors.

7. Communication and Outreach. The Communication Strategy will continue enhancing and raising awareness and better understanding of forests contributions to sustainable development. Also Liaison Unit Madrid will undertake communications activities related to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Legally Binding Agreement on Forest in Europe. FOREST EUROPE participation in global and regional fora will be enhanced among the forest community and general public.

8. International activities supportive to the follow-up of the Oslo Conference. There will be two workshops, one on forests in transition to a Green Economy, and another on Financing Forest Ecosystem Services. A Working group on Combating Desertification and Dry Zone Forestry, and another on Urban Forestry were proposed.

For more information about the work programme, please contact:

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Successful First Round of Forest Negotiations in Vienna



The First Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee for a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe (INC1), held at the United Nations Offices in Vienna, Austria, from 27th February to 2nd March 2012, was a success.

At the UN Vienna facilities, around 120 attendees from 35 countries, plus European Union, 1 observer state, and 16 international organizations such as environmental and social NGOs, forest owners' federations, unions, forestry industry, scientific community, and even archaeologists, requested the INC Bureau to elaborate a first draft of the negotiating text of the agreement, providing specific guidelines in an annotated table of contents.

The first session of the Committee was devoted to solving organizational issues, preparing road map of negotiation process, and drafting first variant of document texts for negotiations. The Committee members favoured the negotiation of a framework agreement with firm commitments that would clearly add value and address all types of forests.

The next INC-Forests2 session will be held in Bonn from the 3rd to 7th September 2012.

For more information, please visit www.forestnegotiations.org

Technical Workshop Prepares Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015 in Ispra

A technical workshop for "Preparations for the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015" was held on 12-16 March at the European Commission Joint Research Centre (JRC) in Ispra, Italy.

The work was structured in 10 topics: forest area type and functions; stock (volume, biomass, carbon); protective functions and ecosystem services; biodiversity and conservation; disturbance and degradation; measuring process to SFM; economics and livelihood; joint data collection and exchange plan; projections and integration of remote sensing into country reporting.

The experience gained during the elaboration of the FRA 2010 performance data was used in order to get a sense of how countries responded to and were able to report.



Joint Statement on Forests and Services

The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the Montreal Process, FOREST EUROPE and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), endorsed a joint statement of collaboration. In this joint statement, the four organizations underscored that: forests across the globe are constantly facing pressures, such as continued deforestation and growing social demands for products and services; and that forests are increasingly recognized for their important contributions in solving global environmental challenges, such as climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation. They further recognized that their knowledge and experience in tracking and reporting on forest conditions and trends is of great value and relevance to emerging issues.



Upcoming International Events:

-CBD SBSTTA 16. Location: Montreal (Quebec), Canada Date: 30 April - 4 May 2012

Contact Info: secretariat@cbd.int

-Rio+20. Location: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Date: 20-22 June 2012.

Contact Info: uncsd2012@un.org

-INC-Forests2. Location: Bonn, Germany. Date: 3-7 September 2012

Contact Info: INC-Forests@foresteurope.org

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