Results of group work, group 2, Forests and Water, 13 May 2009

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Topic 1, question 1: benefits (national)

“What are the benefits of cooperation between the forest and water sectors?”

- Sustainable problem solving together, change of attitude!
- Cooperation creates additional economic benefits and employment opportunities.
- Holistic perspective – easier to manage ecosystems.
- Make water managers aware about forest functions.
- Clarifying the purpose enhances cooperation.
- Broad cooperation ensures that people’s priorities and needs are taken into consideration.
Topic 1, question 1: benefits (transboundary)

- Forest and water issues are too important to be dealt with only at national level.
- From the spring to the oceans, at all steps, need to be discussed comprehensively.
Topic 1, question 2: obstacles (national)

"What are the obstacles that hinder cooperation between the two sectors?"

- Lack of trust.
- Lack of finances.
- Lack of adequate legislation.
- Lack of political commitment.
- Institutional constraints: different ministries, different departments → institutional barriers.
- Lack of clear leadership.
- Research results do not reach policy / decision makers.
- Lack of curricula specific to forest and water.
- Incomplete inclusion of stakeholders.
There is no real obstacle in the UNECE region for collaboration at international level. Existing structures, processes and institutions are available to foster collaboration.
Topic 1, question 3: solutions (national)

“What are the solutions for additional cooperation between the two sectors?”

- Training / capacity building of different sectors and stakeholders.
- Condition for appropriate and informed legal amendments.
- Develop cross-sectoral curricula.
- Communication, “translation” of research results for policy makers.
- Launching of a website under the MCPFE, link to other mechanisms and institutions (UNECE Water Convention, FAO..).
- Intersectoral institutional structure / watershed committee under which the different institutions / sectors collaborate.
Topic 1, question 3: solutions (national)

- Bring the forest and water issues into the climate change discussions and negotiations.
- Work on a strategy how to get politicians together.
- Spatial / landuse planning should be the “umbrella”.
- Analysis needs and priorities of the people, examine cultural basis of the people.
Topic 1, question 3: solutions (transboundary)

- Water for whom? Needs to be clarified at the basin level.
Topic 2: mechanisms, incentives of agreements

"Do you have national experiences on mechanisms, incentives or agreements to promote forest management for water?"

- Statements from Turkey, Switzerland, Czech Republic, Liechtenstein,
  Austria, Finland, Bosnia-Herzegovina:
- Capacity building.
- Use the money from compensation for sustainable water production.
- Analysis of benefits and costs.
- Ideally both sectors should work together to initiate the mechanism(s).
- Role of private sector, public-private partnerships.
- Basic function of SFM.
Topic 2: mechanisms, incentives of agreements

- Joint development of the mechanism, example of good governance, democratic, public relations exercise.
- Importance of transparency about where the money is going, people have the right to know.