

Date of submission:

Regional and Sub-Regional Inputs to UNFF10

Regional/ Sub-regional Organization: FOREST EUROPE (Ministerial Conference on the protection of Forests in Europe)

Name: Ana Belén Noriega Bravo

Title: Head of the Liaison Unit Madrid

Address: C/ Modesto Lafuente 18, Bajo C. 28010. Madrid

Phone/Fax: 914458410 / 911726638

E-mail: anabelen.noriega@foresteurope.org; liaison.unit.madrid@foresteurope.org

Person to contact concerning the submission, if different from the focal point:

Name: Elena Estrada Wilke

Title: Policy Adviser

Address: C/ Modesto Lafuente 18, Bajo C. 28010. Madrid

Phone/Fax: 914458410 / 911726638

E-mail: elena.estrada@foresteurope.org

General Information

The multi-year programme of work (2007–2015) of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) sets a new focus on regional collaboration and partnerships. Since its eighth session in 2009 the Forum has solicited inputs from relevant regional and subregional forest related mechanisms, institutions, organizations and processes as an integral part of session deliberations.¹

At its ninth session, the Forum invited regional and subregional organizations to strengthen their contributions to the work of the Forum and to provide input, in the context of the overall theme for UNFF10, on their efforts towards the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, (herein after referred to as the forest instrument) and its four Global Objectives on Forests, through sharing regional perspectives, approaches and experiences. Regional activities on North-South and South-South cooperation, including triangular cooperation on SFM were also encouraged.

This questionnaire has been prepared by the Forum Secretariat to facilitate regional inputs for the tenth session of the Forum (UNFF10), to be held from 8 to 19 April 2013 in Istanbul, Turkey. In completing this questionnaire, you may choose to extract the relevant information and include it in your submission, if information is already available in an existing report or

¹ Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the parent body of the Forum, through its resolution 2006/49, agreed to “Strengthen interaction between the Forum and relevant regional and subregional forest-related mechanisms, institutions and instruments, organizations and processes , with participation of major groups, as identified in Agenda 21, and relevant stakeholders to facilitate enhanced cooperation and effective implementation of sustainable forest management, as well as to contribute to the work of the Forum.” (paragraph 2)

document. Otherwise, you may provide the reference or document itself to the UNFF Secretariat, indicating the relevant section.

The size of the report of the Secretary General will be a maximum of 8,500 words (approximately 16 pages). In view of this, the Forum Secretariat suggests no more than five pages of written input. We would be most grateful if you could send your inputs to unff@un.org, fax: 917-367-3186) by **30 September 2012**. In light of time constraints and financial limitations, you are kindly asked to provide your input in English.

Section I: Progress towards the implementation of the forest instrument in the context of the overall theme of UNFF10 on “Forests and Economic Development”

A. Progress towards implementation of the forest instrument

1. Briefly describe actions (e.g. regulatory, financial/economic and informational/educational) taken by your organization to foster political commitment for sustainable forest management (SFM).

Please describe the main challenges encountered and/ or lessons learned.

2. Briefly describe efforts taken at the regional level to foster economically, socially and environmentally sound measures that act as incentives for the sustainable management of forests.

Please describe the main challenges encountered and/ or lessons learned.

3. Briefly describe actions taken to enhance regional cooperation to promote international trade in forest products from sustainably managed forests harvested.

Please describe the main challenges encountered and/ or lessons learned.

4. Briefly describe actions taken to enhance regional cooperation to address illicit international trafficking in forest products through the promotion of forest law enforcement and good governance.

Please describe the main challenges encountered and/ or lessons learned.

5. List and briefly describe activities aimed at mobilizing new and additional resources from all sources for SFM.

Please describe the main challenges encountered and/or lessons learned.

6. Please provide additional information specific to your region/subregion on the implementation of the forest instrument and the impact made by the forest instrument on enhancing forest-based economic development.

B. Progress towards GOFs

1. Please describe actions taken by your organization and/or by other public and private organizations (e.g., government, NGOs, private sector, etc.) in your region/subregion to help achieve the following :

GOF1, "Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation"

GOF2, "Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest dependent people"

GOF3, "Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests"

GOF4, "Reverse the decline in ODA for SFM and mobilize significantly increased, new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of SFM"

2. Please provide additional information specific to your region/subregion on progress towards the achievement of the GOFs.

C. Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

1. Please describe studies or initiatives in your region that capture the contribution of forests to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs?
2. What indicators have been, or could be, used to assess the contribution of forests to the MDGs?
3. Please provide additional information specific to your regional/subregional on MDG forest- related work.

Section II: Characteristics of regional and sub-regional cooperation and partnerships

1. Please provide examples of how your region or sub-region is engaged in facilitating cooperation in sustainable forest management? These may include North-South, South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

2. What advances has your organization made in such areas of cooperation?
3. In which areas would your organization like to see stronger international cooperation?
4. Please describe any joint activity relevant to the Forum's work undertaken with member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF)² and/or involving major stakeholders?
5. Please provide additional information specific to your region/subregion on successful cooperation and partnerships, including those with the private sector and other civil society organizations (also known as major groups).
6. Please list (or, if available, provide link to the relevant webpage) the member countries and organizations with whom you work on sustainable forest management issues.

² List the names of CPF member organizations

Response on Section I: Progress towards the implementation of the forest instrument in the context of the overall theme of UNFF10 on “Forests and Economic Development”

A. Progress towards implementation of the forest instrument

FOREST EUROPE enhances the cooperation on forest policies in Europe under the leadership of ministers, and secures and promotes sustainable forest management with the aim of maintaining the multiple functions of forests crucial to society.

The policies on forests and sustainable forest management have been developed at the FOREST EUROPE ministerial process for more than 20 years. The FOREST EUROPE (Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe), launched in 1990, provides a regional policy framework on forests and forestry in Europe. It involves 46 European countries and the European Union as signatories and 40 international organizations as well as 14 countries from other regions as observers. Spain currently holds the chairmanship of FOREST EUROPE.

Ministers responsible for forests in Europe last met in the **Oslo Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe held on 14-16 June 2011 in Oslo, Norway**. The ministerial conference was Europe’s major contribution in the International Year of Forests embracing the entire continent. This huge European event was utilized to jointly position the continent’s forests in the countries and on the international political agenda and strengthen their long-term visibility and awareness about their crucial role.

The FOREST EUROPE Ministerial Conference Oslo 2011 was attended by ministers and high-level representatives from 42 FOREST EUROPE countries and the European Union, 6 observer countries from outside Europe and 29 international organizations. The member countries and the EU took political decisions of highest relevance for forests and society in Europe and throughout the world. The ministers responsible for forests adopted a decision and a mandate where they reflected on the future direction of FOREST EUROPE to preserving forests and safeguard lasting provision of their economic, environmental and societal benefits.

http://www.foresteurope.org/ministerial_conferences/ministerial_conferences

High-priority topics of FOREST EUROPE are to develop and update policies and tools for sustainable forest management; improve monitoring and reporting on forest information; strengthened efforts against illegal logging and related trade; develop a common approach to valuation of forest ecosystem and implement actions to fulfill the shared vision and the related goals and 2020 targets for forests in Europe.

<Please, find attached the Oslo Ministerial Decision on European Forests 2020 and the Oslo Ministerial Mandate for Negotiating a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe>

The **Oslo Ministerial Decision: European Forests 2020** presents FOREST EUROPE new vision and mission for the future of European forests, and decide on 8 goals and 9 targets to be achieved by 2020 in support of the vision, addressing issues related to Sustainable Forest Management as the implementation of NFP’s, improvement of research, communication and information, the sustainable supply of wood and renewable materials, the estimation of the value of forest ecosystem services, climate change adaptation and mitigation, halt the loss of forest biodiversity, combat desertification, increase socio-economic and cultural benefits and eliminate illegal logging and related trade. This decision also designed pan-European actions to be prioritized in the FOREST EUROPE work programme.

Ministers also took a historical decision and adopted the **Oslo Ministerial Mandate for Negotiating a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe**. This mandate launched negotiations and represents a major step towards creating the necessary structure for a coherent approach to Europe's forests. For more information see: www.forestnegotiations.org

In the Oslo Ministerial Conference the fourth report on the **State of Europe's Forests 2011** was presented. FOREST EUROPE Liaison Unit, in cooperation with UNECE/FAO Timber Section and FAO, has carried out this new enquiry on the state of forests and forest management in Europe. http://www.foresteurope.org/full_SoEF

National correspondents from 36 signatory countries out of 46 in the pan-European region have provided information on the status and changes of forests, their management and applied policies. The information is structured according to the FOREST EUROPE criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management. These Six criteria for sustainable forest management and a set of associated indicators were politically agreed for the pan-European region in 1998. The criteria and indicators aim to provide guidance for developing policies and to assess progress towards sustainable forest management.

A report was also presented on the **Implementation of FOREST EUROPE Commitments**, the national and pan-European actions taken in 2008-2011 to address the commitment of the process. http://www.foresteurope.org/documentos/FOREST_EUROPE_Implementation_Report_web.pdf

The implementation of previous commitments, mainly the Warsaw ministerial commitments, at regional level tackled issues as: Sustainable Forest Management and Climate Change; Wood Mobilization and Sound Use of Wood; Multiple Forest Ecosystem Services, including Forests and Water; Regional-Global Co-operation and Partnership; and Cross-Cutting Activities.

Specifically, under sustainable forest management and sustainability criteria a working group developed a report on "**Sustainability criteria for forest biomass production, including bioenergy**" giving recommendations to the refinement of SFM tools in order to better meet new requirements. And under wood mobilization and sound use of wood, a workshop convened in June 2009 by FOREST EUROPE, the European Commission and UNECE/FAO developed the "**Good practice guidance on sustainable mobilization of wood in Europe**" that provides successful examples for policy makers and practitioners.

http://www.foresteurope.org/documentos/Wood_Mobilisation_Guidance_Brochure.pdf.

After the Oslo Ministerial Conference, the Expert Level Meeting (ELM) held in Madrid on 14-15 February 2012 adopted the **FOREST EUROPE work programme** (http://www.foresteurope.org/docs/ELM/2012/ELM_WorkProgramme2012.pdf) to address the prioritized joint European actions identified in paragraph 24 in the Oslo Ministerial Decision: European Forests 2020 to be carried out in the next period till the next Ministerial Conference. Such actions are:

1. Further development of Sustainable Forest Management and its tools
2. Further improvements in forest monitoring and reporting
3. Strengthened efforts against illegal logging and related trade
4. Valuation of forest ecosystem services
5. Sustainable Forest Management in a Green economy
6. Servicing the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe
7. Communication and Outreach
8. International activities supportive to the follow-up of the Oslo conference

Under the point 3, a **Workshop on governance and forest law enforcement** in order to deal with the problem of illegal logging and related trade in the Pan-European region will be held in Budapest on the 20th-21st of November. The Workshop will be host by the Ministry of Rural Development of Hungary and is prepared by FOREST EUROPE in collaboration with REC (Regional environmental Center).

And regarding the action 4, an **Expert Group to explore and propose a pan-European approach to valuation of forest ecosystem services** and means of its implementation has been set up and will work till end 2013.

The on-going work of the different activities can be found on: www.foresteurope.org

B. Progress towards GOFs / C. Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

Over more than 20 years policies on forests and sustainable forest management have been developed at the FOREST EUROPE ministerial process to its implementation at national and regional level.

1. In the **Oslo Ministerial Mandate** the ministers launch the negotiations negotiations towards a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests. This mandate represents a major step towards creating the necessary structure for a coherent approach to the continent's forests. A strengthened political cooperation in Europe will be vital to achieve a balanced and stable continuity of all environmental, economic and social forest functions and contribute to the achievement of international agreed objectives.

2. In the **Oslo Ministerial Decision on European Forests 2020** the ministers reiterated the commitments to commitments to work towards addressing global environmental challenges and contributing to the achievement of the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on all Types of Forests, with its Four Global Objectives on Forests, as well as other global objectives such as: the Millennium Development Goals, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the climate change commitments. In this decision a new vision for the future European forests was adopted; vision to be achieved by following 8 Goals for European Forests and achieving 9 targets by 2020.

3. Also the main findings of the analysis of the role of FOREST EUROPE as a regional process in the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on forests conducted on 2007 is still in place.
<Please, find attached the *MCPFE-NLBI analysis*>

Regarding the actions taken towards the achievements of the Four Global Objectives on Forests, as well as the Millennium Development Goals, it can be highlighted out of the implementations of FOREST EUROPE commitments: the outcomes of the Workshop held in Rhodes on 2010 on the **"Assessment of forest fire risk and innovative strategies for fire prevention"** (http://www.foresteurope.org/documentos/FOREST_EUROPE_Forest_Fires_Report.pdf); the conclusions of the workshop on forests and water convened in Antalya, Turkey on May 2009 **"Sustainable Forest Management and Influences on Water Resources: Co-ordinating Policies on Forests and Water"** (http://www.foresteurope.org/documentos/FOREST_EUROPE_Forest_Fires_Report.pdf); and the recommendations to the refinement of SFM tools in order to better meet new requirements developed on **"Sustainability criteria for forest biomass production, including bioenergy"** (http://www.foresteurope.org/docs/work_programmes/MCPFEWG_sustainabilitycriteriaFinalreport.pdf).

Response on Section II: Characteristics of regional and sub-regional cooperation and partnerships

The main tasks that FOREST EUROPE has to undertake are: to develop and update policies and tools for sustainable forest management; to monitor, assess and facilitate implementation of commitments on forests and sustainable forest management in all European countries and in the region as a whole; to promote education, research and the use of scientific knowledge and facilitate sharing of experiences across countries, sectors and stakeholders on all aspects of sustainable forest management and other forest related issues; and to raise awareness and understanding of contributions by FOREST EUROPE to sustainable forest management.

Regarding these important tasks, one of the main lines that FOREST EUROPE is undertaking is to strengthen the cooperation in sustainable forest management among international criteria and indicators processes. To this end, the Montreal Process, FOREST EUROPE, the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) collaborate in a joint workshop in Victoria (Canada) on October 2011 to “**Streamline Global Forest Reporting and Strengthen Collaboration among International Criteria and Indicator Processes**”.

(http://www.foresteuropa.org/docs/work_programmes/EN_ProceedingReport_JointWorkshopwithMP-FE-ITTO-FAO.pdf). This on-going work is being developed

The implementation of the ministerial commitments is carried out by countries at the national level and through the FOREST EUROPE Work Programme at the pan- European level in cooperation with the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the European Forest Institute (EFI), the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), as well as other partners.

A couple of examples of joint activities relevant to the Forum's work undertaken with key organizations are:

1. FOREST EUROPE convened a side event at CBD SBSTTA 15, in Montreal, Canada: "**Policies for Sustainable Forest Management in Europe**" where participants learned about the contributions of the European forest policy process through the presentation of the Oslo Ministerial Decision and Oslo Ministerial Mandate.
2. FOREST EUROPE collaborate in the **Lviv Forum on Forests in a Green Economy**, a Country-led initiative in support of the UNFF that took place on September 2012 in Lviv (Ukraine), where opportunities for implementing the concepts and requirements of the Green Economy in the forest sector of Eastern Europe and Northern and Central Asia were tackle.

In this context, the FOREST EUROPE secretariat Liaison Unit Madrid is also collaborating with the Forest Communicator's Network (FCN). Communicating key messages and political decisions are important to enhance knowledge of Europe's work for sustainable forest management among policy and decision makers, the media and public, create dialogue and engage action.

FOREST EUROPE is the platform for dialogue and decision making on forest issues at the political level with the aim to protect and sustainably manage forests. FOREST EUROPE also provides a forum for interaction between the ministers responsible for forests and the public, non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations. The involvement of stakeholders and public is a fundamental principle of the FOREST EUROPE process which influences its decisions.

FOREST EUROPE involves 46 European countries and the European Union as signatories and 14 countries from other regions and 40 international organizations as observers.

- *FOREST EUROPE signatory countries can be found in:*

http://www.foresteuropa.org/about_us/list_signatories

- *FOREST EUROPE observer countries and organizations can be found in:*

http://www.foresteuropa.org/about_us/observers