I. Critical themes

Based on the “Shiga Declaration on Forests and Water” (2002, Japan), the “FOREST EUROPE Warsaw Resolution II: Forests and Water” (2007, Poland) and previous internationally formulated recommendations (see publication “FORESTS and WATER, International Momentum and Action” by FAO).

A first assessment by the Steering Committee identified core themes for WG1:

- Impact of forest management operations on water quantity and water quality.
- Forests in a landscape approach (Ecological approach) for Soil and water conservation (Ecosystem services).
- Quantification of water use in the forest and water cycle. Natural forest vs forest plantations.
- Forests in combination with other land uses in different climatic and hydrological conditions.

II. Leading countries

The Steering Committee nominated the following countries to coordinate the activities of WG1:

- Turkey
- Finland
- Poland

III. Potential partner countries

The WG will be open to all member countries and partners. A first assessment by the Steering Committee identified countries and partners with potentially high interest to participate in WG2 activities.

- Switzerland
- Spain
- Sweden
- CZ
- Balkan countries
- Central Asia

IV. Potential partner organizations

- Forest Europe (Warsaw resolution)
V. Products
- Baseline publications on forests and water relations.
- Policy advice to develop institutional frameworks at country level.
- Research programmes (facilitation of University exchange, COST Action).
- Workshops and trainings.

VI. Work plan
2013:
- Approving critical themes and products by SC
- Defining responsibilities by assigning actions to certain partners (lead), drafting of a work programme in detail
- Dissemination plan

2014:
- Field visits of good practices in management of forests concerning water;
- Preparing a publication about methodologies of good forest management practices concerning water;
- Preparation of training material for interested countries (Especially Central Asia);
- Development of strong training networks;
- Training activities for interested countries;

2015:
- Standardisation and harmonisation of management practices for forest an water;
- Drafting final document for management practices;
- Approving publications;
- Training activities and field visits (continued);

VII. Potential resources and funding
- Lead and potential partners offering the organisation of activities and products.
- Travel and accommodation costs must be covered by delegates themselves.
- Lead partners offering the covering of publication costs.