



Report

of the Workshop on:

Capacity Building for Information Exchange on Forest Policies in Caucasus Region

Tbilisi (Georgia), 18-21 September 2006

1. BACKGROUND

Forests in the Caucasus region provide significant social and environmental benefits to society. During the phase of transition towards democracy and market economy, natural resources, such as roundwood, play an important role for prosperity, particularly in rural areas: roundwood presents an easy accessible fuel, construction material and source of income. The forest policy framework is challenged to balance the different, partly contrary interests of the various stakeholders. In this context policy decision making requires the availability of adequate information and data. Experiences from other countries could be useful to adapt to volatile societal needs.

An important step towards the integration of target country experts into international exchange of forest information was the UNECE/FAO workshop on "Building capacities on Sharing Forest and Market Information" held in Prague and Křtiny, Czech Republic, 24 – 28 October 2005. As an outcome of this workshop participants recommended to build national capacities for gathering and disseminating of forest policy data and information and therefore to "Organise specific [sub-regional] follow-up workshops focused on (...) Forest Policy Instruments and Institutions, preferably within the next 18 months" (Declaration of Křtiny, Prague and Křtiny, Czech Republic, 27 October 2005).

In light of that, the Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia, Department of Forestry, the UNECE Timber Section and the FAO Sub-regional Office for Central and Eastern Europe organised the current workshop that aims to support the building of capacities in the Caucasus countries in the field of forest policies.

Goals of the workshop have been to:

- Exchange on priority issues with regard to development of forest resources and production of forest products,
- Inform about policy reforms, current state and policy options,

- Build capacities on gathering and disseminating information on forest policy institutions and instruments,
- Explore means for efficient integration of country policy experts into international processes and networks,
- Discuss opportunities for a protocol on forest management under the Project “Sustainable development and Protection of Mountain Regions of Caucasus”,
- Provide recommendations to national governments and international organisations.

Three experts have been nominated by each of the Heads of Forestry of the target countries: (a) national forest policy, (b) international policy processes (c) forest information processing. These national experts have been requested to provide input to the workshop in terms of:

- Prepare a plenary presentation on Priority Issues in their country structured by (i) forest resources, (ii) forest products markets and (iii) forest policies based on common PowerPoint template.
- Review the Regional Forest Country Profiles for Caucasus countries <http://www.fao.org/forestry/site/34767/en>, provide comments, fill in a forest policy survey submitted in EXCEL format, to a desired extent, and present the outcomes in Working Group 1.
- Get familiar with the various Convention Processes on “Sustainable Development of Mountain Regions” in Europe and identify items for potentially common policy approaches towards forest management in the Caucasus region and present them to Working Group 2.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING

The meeting was attended by 28 participants, among them 20 experts from the target region (see List of Participants in Annex 1).

The meeting was opened by representatives of the Georgian Government, Mr. Paata Torchinava, the FAO Sub-Regional Office for Central and Eastern Europe (SEUR), Mr. Volker Sasse and the UNECE Timber Section, Ms. Franziska Hirsch. They warmly welcomed participants and expressed their wishes for a successful meeting.

The Deputy Minister of Environment Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia, Her Excellency, Ms Sofiko Akhobadze, the Head of the Forestry Department, Mr. Shalva Javakhadze and other representatives of the Georgian government joined the meeting on Wednesday. Her Excellency, Ms Sofiko Akhobadze, in her speech emphasised the importance of forest resource, particularly their environmental values, for sustainable development of Georgia and the Caucasus region in general. She thanked the organisers for the effort and expressed her expectations especially with regard to capacity building on forest policies.

After a brief self introduction by all participants on Monday morning, the secretariat recalled the “Background, objectives, provisional agenda and expected outcomes” of this meeting. The meeting adapted the agenda as attached in Annex 2.

Policy experts from Armenia Mr. Ruben Petrosyan, from Azerbaijan Mr. Bahadir Vakilov, and from Georgia Mr. Paata Torchinava, presented an overview about the forest policy framework in their countries and linked the policy reforms to key developments in forests resources and forests products markets. They described briefly the realised achievements and expectations with regard to policy options on solving pending issues.

On the base of a compilation of key outcomes of these presentations the following items could be defined as of special importance in the region:

- Significant demand in forest products, due to the lack of other construction materials and energy sources combined with insufficient policy framework, particularly with regard to execution of existing laws and regulation leading partly to illegal activities
- Shortage in up-to-date forestry inventory data
- Fragmentation of forest policies dealing with forest management issues and lack in coordination
- Shortfall in financing of public functions of forests (forest protection measures)
- Forest land degradation due to overgrazing by farm animals
- Decreasing employment opportunities in rural areas

The afternoon session on Monday addressed the “Harmonisation of forest policy approaches”:

Ms. Tamara Mitrofanenko (UNEP, Geneva) focussed on the UNEP activities related to various sub-regional conventions on sustainable development of mountain regions. She shared useful experiences about running a convention process for Alpine, Carpathian and Balkan regions and described the opportunities for sustainable development of the Caucasus mountain region through the harmonisation of national policies.

Ms. Constance Schaaff (Centre for Advanced Training in Rural Development (SLE), Germany), who is currently working in Georgia in a project on sustainable development of Zemo Svaneti, a mountainous region of Georgia, introduced the Experiences from the Carpathian Convention, which has been in place since the beginning of 2006. Countries are making efforts to develop a protocol on sustainable agriculture and forestry addressing common issues of sustainable forest management. She linked the major findings on forest land use of her current project in Svaneti, Georgia, with the opportunities of a legally binding instrument on sustainable forest management in the Caucasus Region.

Mr. Ilia Osepashvili (WWF Caucasus) presented the WWF activities in the Caucasus region. WWF has been working recently on a “Forest Strategy for Southern Caucasus”, which is intended to address the common social and environmental benefits in the region adequately in policy decision making. One of the aims is to increase the share of protected forests (IUCN categories I-IV) from currently 8% to 15% of the total forest area.

Afterwards Ms. Nina Shatberashvili (Regional Environmental Centre (REC) for Caucasus) informed about the ongoing activities of the REC. She described the opportunities and potential inputs from a closer cooperation in the field of forestry for the regional collaboration between governments in the Caucasus region. Thus REC supports the Convention process and a forestry protocol in order to address the conservation of natural and cultural diversity and sustainable development of mountain regions of the Caucasus sufficiently.

In late afternoon the meeting addressed “Forest policy information gathering and dissemination”

Meeting participants have been introduced by Ms. Franziska Hirsch (UNECE Timber Section) on the Joint UNECE/FAO forestry activities in Europe, particularly on the policy dialogues and networks. She described the opportunities and appealed for joint efforts to integrate the Caucasus countries more actively into the pan-European processes. With regard to data and information collection any double work load for the countries needs to be avoided.

Starting from the same strategic point of view on forest policy information gathering and dissemination, Mr. Volker Sasse (FAO/SEUR) presented the outcomes of the work carried out by a consultant, Ms. Diana Pfeiffer, who analysed during her work on Forestry Country Profiles for Central and Eastern Europe together with country representatives the specific information needs and data availability. The outcomes of this network and of the initiated survey will be provided as an input to the work planned by UNECE. The survey was also the subject of one of the working groups on Wednesday.

With regard to the workshop objectives Ms. Anna-Maria Adamia (V. Gulisashvili Forest Institute, Georgia) described the importance of forest research in adapting to new market challenges, the shortfall in research capacities and the potential threats to institutional memory in specific research knowledge on Caucasus mountain forests. She demonstrated options identified by the institute, but applied also for national and international support.

The next day a field trip to Dusheti mountain forest was organised by the Ministry of Environment Protection and Nature Resources of Georgia, where participants have been introduced to forest management and administration, considering nature oriented forestry management approaches as well as to the issue of financing of nature protection and biodiversity measures. During the field trip the participants exchanged their views on forest policy.

The morning session on Wednesday addressed the policy framework of the target countries and was intended to share experiences from other countries.

The session was opened by an introduction to key findings on forests policy framework in CEEC and CIS, presented by Mr. Volker Sasse (FAO/SEUR). He focussed on the still strong economic performance of wood production in Eastern Europe and its impact on the competitiveness of the forest sector in Western Europe.

He stressed the increasing needs in social and environmental functions of forests, and linked them to the lack of financing of these functions in the wake of wood production. One major option to overcome the marginalisation of forestry seems to be the coordination of the various forest management related policies and institutions.

Mr. Nuri Uslu (Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Turkey) presented policies affecting forest land use and forest products markets in Turkey. He started with a comprehensive overview on changing public demands and key features in current market developments. Mr. Uslu provided the outcomes of a detailed analysis on public demands from forest land use and emphasised the needs for better coordination of policies dealing with forest land use. He drew attention to policies related to the development and protection of forests, which addresses essential societal needs from forests.

Mr. Anthony Brunello (USAD, Forest Service, International department, USA) presented experiences in administration and management of "Forestry in the United States". He emphasised the role of private forests for wood supply and described the increase of social and environmental demands from public forests, which created lack of coordinated federal natural resource management policies. He presented some major lessons learned from development of forest land use:

- Technological advances, such as improved agricultural productivity and conversion from wood to fossil fuels, took substantial pressure off of forests
- Forest protection, research and extension, and forest inventory and assessment are important government roles
- Stable land tenure and appropriate tax policies are essential to encourage private investment in forests
- Decentralization provides the opportunity to test alternative policies and institutions
- Centralization does not necessarily mean coordinated natural resources policies

Mr. Ivan Paligorov (Dean of Faculty of Business Management, University of Forestry, Bulgaria) presented the Multifunctional Forest Policy Framework in Bulgaria. He emphasised the importance of an analytical approach towards public needs as a base for any successful contribution of forest management to sustainable development. In light of this the social and environmental functions of forest are of essential importance. Public services entail adequate financing. Successful policy decision making in this area requires honest public participation in order to harmonize the interests of the various stakeholders on forest management. (Due to technical reasons this presentation was presented already Monday afternoon.)

Later that morning Mr. Michael Garforth (Tacsus Ltd., UK) presented the process and preliminary outcomes of the Georgian National Forest Policy and Strategy, where he worked as a coordinator. He stressed the following challenges as of special importance for improving further the contribution of forest administration and management to overall welfare in the country:

- Reduce the pressures on forests from rural households, particularly through the provision of alternative energy sources
- Strengthen the controls over forest use by separating government and business functions, enforcing the adoption of management plans, increasing the capacity of the Inspectorate as well as improving forest inventory capacities

- Foster the capacity of forest administration bodies on all levels of governance
- Ensure sufficient funds for regulators and managers to achieve sustainable forest management

Mr. Otar Shengelia (Sustainable Project Implementation Development Agency of the World Bank) presented the current situation in Georgia with regard to forest inventory. He underlined the importance of sufficient inventory data and described this as an issue in Georgia.

On behalf of Mr. Jaime Coello, a Consultant from Spain, Mr. Volker Sasse (FAO/SEUR) presented outcomes of a study on “Public Financing of Forest Management in Croatia”, which is considered as a useful tool for the financing of public services., which might be seen as an interesting pattern for other countries.

After lunch the meeting split into two working groups:

WG 1: Forest policy information gathering and dissemination

Participants of this working group went through the tables of a survey on policy instruments and institutions. The group clarified questions expressed by country experts. It was agreed that the secretariat will improve the survey accordingly and present it for filling in.

WG 2: Harmonisation of forest policy approaches

In this working group participants discussed informally various tools for closer collaboration and identified “Subjects of Common Interests”, as laid out in Annex 4.

In the evening voluntaries gathered together for wrapping-up outcomes and drafting potential meeting recommendations, to be presented next day to the plenary session.

On Thursday morning the meeting went back into plenary session to discuss in details the meeting conclusions and recommendations, the workshop summary report as well as follow-up actions. The meeting adopted Conclusions and Recommendations as laid out in Chapter 3 of this report.

The workshop was held in Russian and English, with simultaneous translation, respectively consecutive translation during the field trip and working in working groups.

Meeting participants requested the secretariat to compile workshop outcomes and to provide this compilation to governments of target countries, international organisations and workshop participants as well as to the public in general through the internet.

Meeting participants thanked all contributors for this workshop, particularly the national experts from the target countries for their valuable input and also the hosting organisation, the Ministry of Environment Protection and Nature Resources of Georgia - Forestry Department, namely Mr. Paata Torchinava for the intensive effort carried out in preparation and implementation of this important workshop. Meeting participants

welcomed the support provided by FAO to the workshop and requested to support a follow-up meeting in 2007.

The Ambassador of Turkey, His Excellency Ertan Tezgör, together with authorities of Istanbul city invited the meeting participants for a lunch on Thursday. HE expressed his wishes for further strengthening of sustainable economic and social development in the region and recognised that such workshops as the current one provide significant input to this goal. He welcomed particularly the FAO, UNECE, UNEP efforts to build capacities on policy instruments and institutions in the Caucasus Region.

3. OUTCOMES OF THE MEETING

Meeting participants after intensive discussion agreed on the following

“Conclusions and Recommendations”

Considering the essential importance of Caucasus forests for the sustainable development of the region

Noting about the economic and social potentials of forestry and small scale wood processing enterprises and their importance for national economies, particularly for development of rural areas

Recognizing that the forest policy framework has progressed significantly, but requires further improvements in order to address arising, particularly trans-boundary issues adequately

Considering a shortage in means and tools for forest policy information exchange between the Caucasus countries

Taking note about the ongoing policy process towards an international legally binding instrument as a base for the Sustainable Development of Caucasus Mountains, facilitated by UNEP, REC Caucasus and other international organizations

Taking into account the workshop outcomes arrived from an intensive exchange of experiences in forest policy and institutions, two working groups on “Forest policy information gathering and dissemination” and “Harmonisation of forest policy approaches”, discussion in plenary and the field trip to Dusheti

meeting participants

Appeal to maintain and develop the Caucasus forests through appropriate measures carried out by national governments, assisted by NGOs and international organizations namely through sufficient monitoring of all Caucasus forests

and recommend to:

Intensify collaboration between Caucasus countries (see Annex 3 to the workshop report), namely on forest policies related to law enforcement, forest monitoring and trans-boundary forest protection measures (e.g. forest fire management, pests and diseases)

Facilitate and intensify information and experience exchange on forest policies and institutions between Caucasus countries by appropriate means (e.g. surveys and pilot projects)

Suggest to national governments and international organizations to provide adequate financial and human resources in order to facilitate collaboration

Contribute to Sustainable Development of Caucasus Mountains through an intergovernmental agreement between Caucasus countries on sustainable forest management

Encourage active participation of Caucasus countries in the Ministerial Conference on Protection of Forests in Europe as well as in other pan-European and global processes and dialogues

Provide access to the outcomes of national, pan-European and global policy processes and networks (particularly through the translation of key documents to national languages)

Raise public awareness and ensure public participation in policy decision-making processes

Facilitate free knowledge transfer between Caucasus countries, neighbouring countries and other interested countries, for e.g. through bilateral exchange of junior management staff, scientists and students

Organize a follow-up event on capacity-building on forest policy information exchange in the year 2007

Annexes to this report:

1. List of Participants
2. Agenda
3. Subjects of common interests

List of Participants

of the Workshop on:

Capacity Building for Information Exchange on Forest Policies in Caucasus Region

Tbilisi (Georgia), 18-21 September 2006

(listed under each heading in alphabetic order)

ARMENIA

Ms. Grigoryan, Karine
Ministry of Agriculture Department of Law
Chief
Republic Square, Governmental building 3
AM - 375010 Yerevan
E-mail: moajuridical@yahoo.com
Phone: +374(10)526367
Fax: +374(10)524641

Mr. Petrosyan, Ruben
"Hayantar" SNCO (State Non-Commercial
Organization Forestry
Chief Forester, Deputy Director
129 Armenakyan str.
AM - 375047 Yerevan
E-mail: green.land@web.am
Phone: +374(10)650270
Fax: +374(10)650270

REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

Mr. Khanbabayev, Vagif
Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources
of Republic of Azerbaijan Forest
Rehabilitation and Reforestation / Division
in Gusar
Head
B. Aghayev str. 100a
AZ - 370073 Baku
E-mail:
Phone: +994(12)13852891
Fax: +994(12)13852891

Mr. Ramazanov, Xhalil
Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources
Forestry Department
Deputy Chief
B. Aghayev str.100a
AZ - 370073 Baku
E-mail:
Phone: +994(12)5030995
Fax:

Mr. Vakilov, Bahadir
Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources
Main Specialist
Bakichanow G. Aghayev str.100a
AZ - 370073 Baku
E-mail: kamil-mid@rambler.ru
Phone: +994(12)5103331
Fax: +994(12)5103331

GEORGIA

Ms. Adamia, Anna-Maria
Forestry Institute Department of Policy
Coordination
Specialist
9 Mindeli str.
GE - 0186 Tbilisi
E-mail: anna_maria_adamia@yahoo.com
Phone: +995(32)317234
Fax: +995(32)317234

Mr Chinchaladze, Shalva
Ministry of Environment Protection and
Natural Resources Forestry Department
Main Specialist
9 Mindeli str.
GE - 0186 Tbilisi
E-mail: info@gfd.gov.ge
Phone: +995(32)329092
Fax: +995(32)537236

Mr. Javakhadze, Shalva
Ministry of Environmental Protection and
Natural Resources, State Forestry
Department Forestry Department
Chairman, Head
9 Mindeli str.
GE - 0186 Tbilisi
E-mail: kmetreveli@iberiapac.ge
Phone: +995(32)329092
Fax: +995(32)537236

Mr. Kvantaliani, Zaza
Ministry of Environment Forest
Department
Head of Division
9 Mindeli str.
GE – 0186 Tbilisi
E-mail: zaza.kvantaliani@gfd.gov.ge
Phone: +995(32)329092
Fax: +995(32)537236

Mr. Osepashvili, Ilia
WWF Caucasus Programme
Forest Officer
11 Aleksidze str.
GE - 0193 Tbilisi
E-mail: iomanipashvili@wwfcaucasus.ge
Phone: +995(32)330154/55
Fax: +995(32)330190

Ms Akhobadze, Sofiko
Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural
Resources
Deputy Minister
6 Gulua str.
GE - 0114 Tbilisi
E-mail: sophiko.akhobadze@moe.gov.ge
Phone: +995(32)329092
Fax: +995(32)537236

Mr Gugunishvili, Zurab
Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural
Resources Forestry Department
Head of Branch
9 Mindeli str.
GE - 0186 Tbilisi
E-mail: info@gfd.gov.ge
Phone: +995(32)329092
Fax: +995(32)537236

Mr Kim, Kijong
International School of Economics at Tbilisi
State University (ISET)
1 Chavchavadze ave. Room 220
GE - 0128 Tbilisi
E-mail: kijongkim@tsu.ge
Phone: +995(89)9422040
Fax:

Ms. Nakaidze, Elena
Forestry Institute
9 Mindeli str.
GE - 0186 Tbilisi
E-mail: nako_elene@yahoo.com
Phone: +995(32)317234
Fax: +995(32)317234

Ms Shatberashvili, Nina
Regional Environmental Center for the
Caucasus
Regional Coordinator
74 Chavchavadze str. Office 901
GE - 0162 Tbilisi
E-mail: nina.shatberashvili@rec-caucasus.org
Phone: +995(32)253649/48
Fax: +995(32)253649/48

Mr. Shengelia, Otar
Sustainable Project Implementation
Development Agency of World Bank
Inventory Consultant
9 Mindeli str.
GE - 0186 Tbilisi
E-mail:
Phone:
Fax: +995(32)537236

Mr. Torchinava, Paata
Ministry of Environmental Protection and
Nature Resources of Georgia Division of
Forestry Monitoring and Development
Forestry Officer
9 Mindeli str.
GE - 0186 Tbilisi
E-mail: paata.torchinava@gfd.gov.ge
Phone: +995(32)329092
Fax: +995(32)537236

TURKEY

Mr. Er, Mustafa
Ministry of Environment and Forestry
Head of Division
Söğütözü cad 14 Yenimahalle
TR- 06560 Ankara
E-mail: mer@cevreorman.gov.tr
Phone: +90(312)2075407
Fax: +90(312)2075454

Mr. Kaplan, Erdem
General Directorate of Forestry
Head of Production and Marketing Dept.
Orman Gen. Müd. Isl. Pazarlama Dairesi
Baskanligi (2 Nolu bina)
TR - 06560 Gazi- Ankara
E-mail: ekaplan51@yahoo.com.tr
Phone: +90(312)2964143
Fax: +90(312)2964145

Dr. Nuri, Uslu
Ministry of Environment and Forestry
Deputy Undersecretary
Söğütözü cad No 14 Yenimahalle
TR - 06560 Ankara
E-mail: nuslu99@yahoo.com
Phone: +90(312)2078025
Fax: +90(312)2076298

INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS

Mr. Brunello, Anthony J.
USDA Forest Service International
Programs
Russia, Europe, Near Asia Program
Coordinator
14th Street, NW, Suite 5500W
US - 1099 Washington D.C
E-mail: tbrunello@fs.fed.us
Phone: +1(202)2193309
Fax: +1(202)2734750

Mr. Garforth, Mike
Tacsus Ltd
Consultant
15 Galaktion Tabidze str.
GE - 0105 Tbilisi
E-mail: mgarforth@tacsus.ge
Phone: +995(99)504833
Fax: +995(32)932290

Ms Hirsch, Franziska
UN Economic Commission for Europe
Trade and Timber Division
Associate Economic Affairs Officer
Palais des Nations (Office 435-1)
CH - 1211 Geneva 10
E-mail: franziska.hirsch@unece.org
Phone: +41(22)9172480
Fax: +41(22)9170041

Ms Mitrofanenko, Tamara
UNEP - United Nations Environment
Programme ROE
Scientific Collaborator
11-13 Chemin des Anémones
CH - 1219 Geneva
E-mail: tamara.mitrofanenko@unep.ch
Phone: +41(22)9178278
Fax: +41(22)7973420

Mr. Sasse, Volker
FAO
Forestry Officer
Benczúr utca 34.
HU – 1068 Budapest
E-mail: volker.sasse@fao.org
Phone: +36(1)4612028
Fax: +36(1)3517029

Mr. Meskhi, Mamuka
Ministry of Agriculture, FAO Representation
Office in Georgia
Assistant FAO Repr. In Georgia
41 Kostava str.
GE - 0179 Tbilisi
E-mail: faogeorgia@gol.ge
Phone: +995(32)333112
Fax: +995(32)333112

Mr. Paligorov, Ivan
University of Forestry Natural Resources
Management
Assoc. Prof., PhD, Dean of Faculty of Business
Management
10 Kliment Ohridsky bul.
BG - 1756 Sofia
E-mail: ivpalig@ltu.bg
Phone: +359(2)8680804
Fax: +359(2)8622830

Ms. Schaaff, Constanze
Humboldt University Berlin Center for
Advanced Training in Rural Development
Hessische str. 1-2
DE - 10115 Berlin
E-mail: constanze.schaaff@gmx.net
Phone: +49(30)96061735
Fax:

Agenda

of the Workshop on:

Capacity Building for Information Exchange on**Forest Policies in Caucasus Region**

Tbilisi (Georgia), 18-21 September 2006

Monday, 18 September 2006		
9:00	Opening and welcome by organizers and hosts	Georgian Government FAO/SEUR, UNECE/Timber
9:15	Introduction of participants	Roundtable
9:30	Introduction to the meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Background, objectives, agenda, expected outcomes 	Secretariat, FAO/SEUR
10:00	Coffee break	
10:20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Priority issues in Armenia: Forest resources, Forest products, Forest policy framework: reforms, achievements, issues, options 	R. Petrosyan, Armenia
11:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Priority issues in Azerbaijan: Forest resources, Forest products, Forest policy framework: reforms, achievements, issues, options 	B. Vakilov, Azerbaijan
11:40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Priority issues in Georgia: Forest resources, Forest products, Forest policy framework: reforms, achievements, issues, options 	P. Torchinava, Georgia
12:30	Lunch	
14:00	Harmonisation of forest policy approaches: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conventions on sustainable development – opportunities for forest policy in the Caucasus region Experiences from the Carpathian Convention Forest Strategy for Southern Caucasus Protocol on forest management under the convention on “Sustainable development of Mountain Regions of Caucasus” 	T. Mitrofanenko, UNEP/Geneva C. Schaaff, Centre for Advanced Training in Rural Development I. Osepashvili, WWF Caucasus N. Shatberashvili, REC Caucasus
15:30	Coffee break	
15:50	Forest policy information gathering and dissemination: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNECE/FAO Forest networks: options for policy information networking Regional Forest Country Profiles/Forest policy survey Multifunctional forest policy framework in Bulgaria Forest research in Georgia 	F. Hirsch, UNECE/Timber V. Sasse, FAO/SEUR I. Paligorov, Bulgaria A.-M. Adamia, Georgia
19:00	Dinner	

Tuesday, 19 September 2006		
9:00	Field trip on forest management and administration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on administration and management of nature oriented forestry management and financing of nature protection and biodiversity measures 	Field trip guide: Hosts
19:00	Rustic Dinner in the forests/Reception	Host
Wednesday, 20 September 2006		
		Responsible
9:00	Introduction to the forest policy framework in CEEC International experiences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest policy framework in Turkey • Forestry in the United States 	V. Sasse, FAO/SEUR U. Nuri, Turkey A. Brunello, USA
10:30	Coffee break	
10:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Bank Financed Forest Development Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forest Policy in Georgia - Improve Forest Inventory Methodology in Georgia • Public Financing of Forest Management in Croatia 	M. Garforth, Tacsus Ltd. O. Shengelia, SDPIA V. Sasse, FAO/SEUR
12:00	Lunch break	
13:30	Division in 2 parallel working groups: <p><u>WG 1: Forest policy information gathering and dissemination</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations on the Forest Policy Survey <p><u>WG 2: Harmonisation of forest policy approaches</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations on potentially common policy approaches towards forest management 	Working group moderators: (to be selected later) Working groups guidelines: Secretariat, FAO/SEUR
15:00	Coffee break	
15:20	Work in Working Groups continued	
19:00	Dinner	
21:00	Late night wrap-up and synthesis of recommendation (voluntary)	Secretariat, FAO/SEUR
Thursday, 21 September 2006,		
9:00	Plenary: Conclusions and recommendations, workshop summary and follow-up	Secretariat, FAO/SEUR
12:30	Lunch break	

Subjects of Common Interests

Defined by the Workshop on:

Capacity Building for Information Exchange on Forest Policies in Caucasus Region

Tbilisi (Georgia), 18-21 September 2006

Sustainable Forest Management

1. Planning and implementing forest management, including:
 - a. Inventory,
 - b. Spatial Planning: planning of the forest zones, deciding what zones have what function and what management,
 - c. Functional Forest Management Planning
 - d. Silvicultural aspects
2. Protection and guarding
 - a. Flora and fauna protection
 - b. Forest fires
 - c. Pests and diseases
3. Ecotourism: between the countries
4. Hunting
5. Forest restoration and expansion
 - a. Nurseries
 - b. Plantations

Forest institutions and policies

6. Forest ownership
 - a. Private
 - b. State
 - c. Community
 - d. Church
7. Institutional issues concerning the state sector: difficulties of dividing the forestry sector between several ministries
8. Forest financing: should it be only government, or both state and private, environmental and social benefits: the expenditures, the management costs how they should be met
9. Monitoring of illegal trade. Strengthening the legal trade in wood products between the Caucasus countries
10. Control of the use of the forest resources:

Data, information, communication

11. Scientific cooperation: exchange in information, knowledge, data, experience, expert scientist exchange, students from forestry faculties exchange
12. Implementation of national, regional and international projects: incorporating exchange of experience
13. Interaction between local communities on the forest, increasing community participation in forest management
14. Awareness raising among the public on forest issues
15. Professionals training: increasing the level of knowledge and expertise among them and exchange between countries
16. Data: Forest monitoring, harmonization of import and export data, inventory