



Workshop on Policy Consequences of EFSOS
Budapest, June 20-21, 2005

NATIONAL REPORT

1. *In what way are the EFSOS 'Conclusions and Policy Recommendations' (pages 209-226) relevant for your country?*

<i>Policy Recommendation</i>	<i>Relevance for Switzerland</i>
Need for policies to stimulate the sound use of wood	This policy recommendation is of outmost importance to Switzerland. It is one of the priority objectives listed in the Swiss National Forest Programme. As a measure a wood promotion programme (wood 21) has been in place at the federal level. Efforts to promote wood are equally made at the cantonal and local levels.
Threats to sustainability in south-east Europe and the CIS sub-region	Not relevant for the national forest policy, but taken into account in bilateral cooperation programmes
Need to devote policy attention to the consequences of the dynamic developments in Eastern Europe and the CIS sub-region	This policy recommendation is relevant to Switzerland in the process of identifying the comparable advantage of the Swiss region particularly in terms of, <i>inter alia</i> , wood production in mid-to long-term.
Improve the economic viability of forest management in Europe	This policy recommendation is of outmost importance to Switzerland. It corresponds with one of the priority objectives in the Swiss National Forest Programme.
Balanced implementation of wood energy policies	This policy recommendation is equally of outmost importance to Switzerland. Corresponding measures were elaborated in the Swiss National Forest Programme. In particular, the contribution of fuel wood as a renewable resource is promoted.
Forestry, wood and climate change	This policy recommendation is of importance to Switzerland. A working group has been established to further political commitment between forest owners and other stakeholders towards a coordinated policy. Measures related to forests and wood as carbon sinks and storage, respectively, were also identified in the Swiss National Forest Programme. Consequences of the Swiss CO ₂ -Law were analysed and taken into account.
Forest law enforcement and governance	Overall in Switzerland there is an effective forest law enforcement in place, amongst other due to good governance and shared responsibilities between the federal, cantonal and local levels. The policy recommendation is nevertheless relevant as it points to the potential damage to

	the general image of wood and sfm. This is taken seriously at the national level. As a consequence Switzerland is supporting all FLEGT processes (Africa, Asia, Europe/N-Asia) by means of expertise, facilitators or finances.
Institutional change in countries in transition	Not relevant for Swiss national policy
Monitoring environmental and social benefits from forests and forestry	This policy recommendation is of outmost importance, as the economic viability of sfm in Switzerland is rather problematic, and public finances are becoming more constraint. Thus a effective monitoring could prove valuable to sensitize decision makers about the benefits they derive from the forests and/or forestry.
Necessity of cross-sectoral approach	This policy recommendation is of outmost importance again. Switzerland has recognized the need for a cross-sectoral approach several years ago and welcomes the MCPFE resolution to this end. The elaboration of the Swiss National Forest Programme made it clear that many of the objectives set out will not be able to be reached without the support of other sectors. Furthermore, the process also showed that the forest provides many services, the costs of which are only partially paid. Important prerequisites for effective cross-sectoral cooperation are that foresters are aware of the need, open for the dialogue and ready for the change.
Need to control forest fires	Forest fires are negligible in Switzerland. Therefore, this policy recommendation can be viewed as less relevant
Employment and the work force	This policy recommendation is important for Switzerland not only in terms of rural development but also in terms of adequate employment in the future. The academic education 'forest engineer' was abolished in 2004; the number of new forestry students in technical colleges remains rather low. The question 'who will manage the future Swiss forests' will have to be addressed in mid-/long-term policy deliberations.
developing the region's comparative advantages	This policy recommendation is of outmost importance to Switzerland. Given the topography of our country, the high labour cost, the low wood prices, we are challenged to find our niche or comparative advantage in terms of wood products as well as non-wood goods and services.
European forest sector in the global context	This policy recommendation is relevant. On one hand because Switzerland – like other countries - needs to know how to deal with changing conditions and the changing global environment. On the other hand Switzerland can share some of its lessons learnt from the restoration of the extensive deforestation and forest degradation that took place at the end of 19 th century, in technical as well as in political and institutional terms.

2. Which of the policy scenario assumptions made in EFSOS fits best to the situation in your country (see Chapter 3)?

For the next few years we do not expect a trend towards greater emphasis on the environment. In the opposite, the recent developments have shown that environmental matters receive less political attention and thus less resources (human and financial).

Besides the ongoing globalization we do not expect significant changes in the market that would lead to changes to forest product prices. Furthermore, we do not expect a sudden increase in research or investment with respect to alternative technologies due to current budget relief programmes.

Short, given the current political environment, we expect that the baseline scenario most likely fits Switzerland best

3. What kind of significant changes are you expecting with regard to your country's forest sector policy in the next 3 – 5 years as a (direct or indirect) result of the EFSOS analysis, conclusions and recommendations?

- Overall cause and effect links between expected significant changes and the EFSOS report are difficult to establish. The reasons being that a) many other processes and/or developments are taking place (see below), and b) several Swiss experts took part in the elaboration of the EFSOS and thus integrated their insights on a regular basis into the processes that took place simultaneously (e.g. Swiss NFP)
- Switzerland finalized its Swiss National Forest Programme (Swiss NFP) in December 2003. As part of that process the status quo as well as the exogenous and endogenous driving forces were analysed, a vision for 2030, objectives until 2015 and related measures were formulated. The priorities of the Swiss NFP – high priority on the protective function of forests, maintenance of biological diversity, increase the economic viability of the forest sector, increase the use of wood, maintain forest health - were taken into account in the subsequent process leading to a partial revision of the Federal Forest Law. In 2003 the federal budget relief programme caused unexpectedly massive budget and staff cuts for the forest sector, which were taken into consideration in the Swiss NFP and also in the partial revision of the forest law. Short, many significant changes occurred already in the Swiss forest sector. International obligations and developments triggered some of them. Others are a result of changes at the government level.
- The participation of Swiss experts in the elaboration of the EFSOS study contributed to the raising of awareness for the significance of cross-sectoral cooperation. The policy recommendations on the cross-sectoral cooperation in the EFSOS report will further prompt action and changes at the national level.
- The trend analysis of the Swiss NFP already pointed it out that there is a need for Switzerland to find its niche within the European context with respect to wood production and industry. The EFSOS report confirms our earlier prognosis. Thus possible changes can be expected with respect to production and processing capacities

4. Who uses the information, conclusions and recommendations presented in EFSOS in your country? Who else could potentially benefit from EFSOS?

- *Forest Sector:*
 - Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape
 - Forest and Wood related Associations and Organizations
 - Research Institutes, Universities, Technical Colleges
- *Other Sectors:*
 - Energy (in particular the Renewable Energy Section)
 - Transport
 - Agriculture
 - Rural Development

5. What process is used to make EFSOS known and review it at the national level?

- *Federal level:*
 - The Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape as well as the Swiss Forest Agency were made aware of the EFSOS publication.
 - A more detailed information session is under discussion.
- *Cantonal level:*
 - Presentation of the most important trends, conclusions and recommendations to the cantonal foresters (under discussion)
- *Other:*
 - Article published in the Swiss Journal of Carpenters
 - Article in the Forest&Wood Journal (non-academic) (in planning phase)
 - Short Article in the Swiss Journal of Forestry (academic) (in planning phase)
 - Round-Table discussion by Swiss Forest Association – link between international and national (under discussion)
 - Web-link (to be established)

6. What are significant information/analysis/ideas to national policy debate (inside and outside sector) added by EFSOS?

- Trends and outlook in the pan-European context - They are important for the deliberations about possible comparable advantages of the Swiss forestry and wood industry.
- Significance of cross-sectoral cooperation – a prerequisite for the achievement of forest policy goals
- Potential of non-wood goods and services – placing a bet on this horse might be critical in the future, as wood lost its comparable advantage due to the low prices and high production costs. The question remains: How important will wood production be in the year 2020 vis-à-vis forest services?
- Fuelwood – Potential: The debate will continue whether to burn the wood, process the wood or leave it to sequester carbon.

7. Do you have any comments on the EFSOS country profile for your country (see attachment)?

- Not applicable, as no country profile was attached

8. What are your suggestions and comments with regard to further UNECE/FAO Forest Sector Outlook activities?

- The objective of EFSOS is to provide decision makers in the forest sector and forest-relevant sectors with information and analysis about long-term trends in the sector and projections of future developments. From a Swiss perspective, the EFSOS clearly fulfills this objective and provides a valuable input for other forest-related sectors as well.
- The UNECE/FAO Forest Sector Outlook study contains significant information for the promotion of sustainable forest management. However, the encompassing report is not easy to 'digest'; efforts should be made to provide a short executive summary
- With respect to the future direction of regional outlook studies Switzerland places high priority on updating the studies at regular intervals, focusing on critical changes and revising the analysis by extending the time horizon of the forecasts
- In order to maintain the required expertise in outlook study analytical techniques or to facilitate the exchange of experiences between countries, we suggest to refrain from expert meetings, and to use e-mail discussion groups during a limited period of time instead.