



FAO / UNECE TEAM OF SPECIALISTS

ON

**SUPPORT AND CONTRIBUTION OF THE FOREST SECTOR TO
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF SOUTH EAST EUROPE AND
THE CIS**

REPORT OF THE FIRST MEETING

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14 – 16 November 2005

FAO Sub-Regional Office for Central and Eastern Europe, Budapest, Hungary

1. BACKGROUND

In the framework of the activities of FAO/UNECE in Central and Eastern Europe a number of initiatives aim towards a better contribution of forest land use to overall sustainable development in the countries of this region. In that respect, the Joint Session of UNECE Timber Committee / FAO European Forestry Commission (October 2004) decided on the establishment of a Team of Specialists (ToS) for CIS and South East Europe, which would have the task to support FAO and UNECE in their forest, forest products and wood industry related activities in the target region, and to provide feedback on the matter.

The objective of this ToS is to enhance effectiveness of international activities (UNECE/FAO) intended to support the contribution of the forest sector to sustainable development in CIS and South East Europe', by enforcing the development of the emerging private forest sector as well as the policy and institutional framework, to improve the integration of forestry with other sectors and also to promote the discussion, dialogue and flow of information between countries. It is expected that this Team will contribute to the improvement of the efficiency of forest sector policies and institutions.

The Team has currently a mandate to work from 2005 to 2008 and will report annually about its activities to the Joint Session of the Bureaux of the UNECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission. The Team is to be composed of country representatives nominated (see Annex 3) by the national Heads of Forestry, representatives of international or non-governmental organizations or delegates from the private sector. The work of the Team requires national support to the Team members and/or specific donations, as there is not any financial support foreseen from UNECE and FAO.

2. MINUTES OF THE FIRST TEAM OF SPECIALISTS MEETING

The main objectives of this first inaugural meeting of the Team of Specialists were:

1. To organise the Team: agree on a work plan, elect the Team Leader, decide about venue and date for next meetings, etc.
2. To advise FAO/UNECE on its Forest Strategy for South East Europe and CIS

The total number of participants was 22 (see Annex 4), representing not only the target countries (from South East Europe and CIS; see Annex 7), but also some non-governmental and international organizations.

In the morning of Monday 14th, the participants were welcomed by the host Mr. András Szepesi, Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Mr. Alexander Korotkov, representing UNECE/ FAO Timber Branch, Mr. Jan Ilavsky, Chair of the FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC), and Mr. Volker Sasse on behalf of Sub-Regional Representative of FAO Maria Kadlecikova. Mr. Volker Sasse, Forestry Officer at FAO/SEUR, presented the secretariat and the meeting agenda (see Annex 2).

In the morning session, moderated by Ms. Constanze Schaaff (Consultant to FAO/SEUR), Mr. Volker Sasse made a presentation (*SEUR Forest Activities in CEE*), where he spoke about the structure and activities of FAO in Central and Eastern Europe, focusing on the projects developed by FAO/SEUR. He also presented the work programme and priorities of FAO in the area.

Mr. Alexander Korotkov highlighted in his presentation (*UNECE / FAO and co-operation with Eastern Europe and CIS*) the experiences of the former Team of Specialists on Countries in Transition (“*ToS to monitor and develop assistance to countries of Central and Eastern Europe in transition in the forest and forest products sector*”) and presented the UNECE Timber Branch activities in this area, stressing the major issues and challenges being faced.

Mr. Jan Ilavsky, member of the Finnish Forest Research Institute in his function as Chair of FAO European Forestry Commission presented the recent history of international cooperation in Europe (*International Cooperation supporting the transition process in the forest sector*), and identified capacity building in non-state forest administration as the main task in transition countries. Mr. Ilavsky also explained the main challenges of the forest land use in the enlarging Europe as well as the Finnish contribution to the transition process of the area.

Mr. Volker Sasse made a presentation (*UNECE/FAO Team of Specialist*) on the Mandate, Objectives and Guidelines of the ToS (see Annex 1), as well as the expected outputs of the first (inaugural) meeting, emphasizing the necessity of working as a Team. He stressed the importance of financial support as a base for the implementation of the work plan of the Team.

In the afternoon session moderated by Mr. Alexander Korotkov, Mr. Volker Sasse presented the *Strategy for FAO and UNECE forestry and timber activities in the CIS and South East Europe, 2005 – 2010*, explained about the objective of this strategy and the elaboration process gone through so far.

After that, Mr. Viktor Badin, from the Association of Non-State Forest Owners of Slovak Republic, made a presentation (*Private forests in Slovakia*), where he pointed out the main characteristics of the forest land use in Slovakia (share of species, ownership regime, etc) and the resulting opportunities and challenges for private forest owners in his country.

Ms. Gulusa Vildanova, specialist on monitoring international projects (Uzbekistan), presented the forestry situation in her country (*Forestry of the Republic of Uzbekistan*), stressing the main characteristics of the sector: absence of private ownership, important need of improvement of forest policies and of management of forest areas, especially with regard to the substantial needs in environmental benefits from forests.

Mr. Volker Sasse and Ms. Constanze Schaaff made a presentation (*Regional integration and sectoral coordination*), where they focused on the changes in the demands and needs of society, the fragmentation of policies related to forest land use and spoke about the objectives of policy coordination (intra and cross-sectoral).

A complete list of all presentations is provided in Annex 5, and they will be published on the web page of the ToS. The issues raised were discussed intensively and with active participation of the participants.

The morning session on November 15 was organized in three working sub-sessions according to the initially planned three working groups. The three major Program Elements of the Strategy (Forest land use management (moderator Mr. Oystein Aasaaren, Norway), Policy and institutional reforms (moderator Mr. Jan Ilavsky, METLA, Finland), Data collection, analysis and information exchange (moderator Mr. Vit Obrdlik, Czech Republic), were actively discussed by the participants in plenary session.

The discussion was prolonged until the end of the morning session leaving still some open points for further discussion, on the base of which the FAO/UNECE Strategy, namely the program elements and objectives, have been reviewed (see Annex 8).

In the afternoon, the participants went on a field trip to Szolnok, Hungary, (see Annex 9), where Mr. József Luzsi, President of MEGOSZ (Association of Hungarian Forest Owners and Management) and Janos Sárvári, general secretary of MEGOSZ, presented the Association, spoke about the major effects of the floods of the Tisza River in the area and also showed the Team the poplar and ash tree plantations that are being implemented on private land in this flood-prone area. Mr. Luzsi explained about the regime of subsidies that his organization is expecting for these afforestation works (co-financed by the EU, and many subsidies are solicited after the work has been made), and some consequences of the qualification of some private areas as part of the NATURA 2000 Network. Representatives of the Hungarian Authorities of Nature Protection, Hunting and Forestry had also attended, and they answered to the questions raised by the participants.

Back in Budapest, the Team of Specialists met in the evening for a wrap-up session, discussing the organization of future meetings and functions of the Team Leader, and formulating ideas and proposals for the Work Plan of the Team. Some open points were left for the Wednesday morning plenary session.

On Wednesday, November 16, Mr. Volker Sasse recalled the Terms of Reference and Mandate of the Team of Specialists.

During this session the Strategy was discussed in general. Specific suggestions were made on the table with Program Elements and Objectives (see Annex 8).

After that, the proposals from the meeting of Tuesday evening were presented to the Team for plenary discussion; Ms. Gulusa Vildanova, from Uzbekistan, was elected as Team Leader and Mr. Bert-Åke Näslund, from the Swedish National Board of Forestry, as the Vice-Leader.

The functions of the Team Leader were discussed, as well as the proposals for the Work Plan (monitoring of international assistance provided to target countries, review of outcomes of past meetings organized on the objectives of the Team, etc). The findings and recommendations of a UNECE/FAO workshop on "*Building capacities on Sharing Forest and Market Information*",

which was organized in the Czech Republic at the end-October 2005, contributed a lot to the ToS discussion, and especially to the formulation of the working plans of the team.

A survey on the Program Elements and Major Objectives of the Strategy of FAO/UNECE in the target region was provided to the meeting participants (see Annex 6). The meeting discussed the Strategy for FAO and UNECE in Forestry and Timber activities 2005 – 2010 in South East Europe and CIS on the base of the outcomes of the Joint UNECE Timber Committee/FAO European Forestry Commission Bureaux Meeting, April 2005.

At the end of the session, Mr. Volker Sasse thanked the participants for their input, the financial supporters of this meeting, National Board of Forestry of Sweden and Lesy České Republiky Enterprise for their contributions as well as and the secretariat and supporting staff for their efforts. Mr. Alexander Korotkov summarized briefly the outcome of the first (inaugural) ToS meeting, highlighting the achieved spirit of the Team, thanked hosts, all the organizers and participants and closed the meeting.

3. OUTCOMES OF THE TEAM OF SPECIALISTS MEETING

The participants actively discussed the topics presented and succeeded in the following major outcomes:

1. The meeting reviewed the “*Strategy for FAO and UNECE in Forestry and Timber activities 2005 – 2010*”, agreed generally on it as it stands, but made some proposals on the Program Elements and Objectives (see Annex 8). Participants prioritized the identified objectives (see Annex 6).
 2. The meeting discussed the mandate of the Team (see Annex 1), proposed a corrected title for the Team and suggested to propose to the EFC and TC Bureaux to make a clear link between the Program Elements and Objectives of the Strategy and the objectives of the Team of Specialists. It was suggested that the annual reporting activity to the Bureaux of UNECE Timber Committee and FAO European Forestry Commission is the responsibility of the Team Leader together with the Secretariat.
- The Team agreed on establishing a rotation of the Leader post, who would be a person from one of the target countries, and would combine the leadership with the responsibility of organizing the following ToS meeting. The Vice-Leader, from an EU country, will support the Team Leader work.
 - Ms. Gulusa Vildanova, from Uzbekistan, was elected as the first Team Leader, and Mr. Bert-Åke Näslund, from Sweden, was elected as Vice-Leader.
 - It was decided to organize the next meeting in Tashkent / Samarqand (Uzbekistan) during the second half of April 2006. The exact dates and venue of the meeting will be defined by the Team Leader and Secretariat in due time prior to the meeting. The intention is to organize two meetings per year, to keep close and permanent contact between the ToS members and the secretariat.

- The Team agreed on undertaking steps to prolong and enlarge the budget of the set-up Swedish Trust Fund “*Progress towards market economy in Eastern Europe and consequences for the forest sector*” (FAO/SEUR) in order to ensure the implementation of the Work Plan of the Team of Specialists (Mr. Bert-Åke Näslund, Sweden and Mr. Volker Sasse, FAO/SEUR). The Team also asked the attending representatives of Norway, Finland and Germany to explore funding for the activities of the Team. The situation of these matters will be presented and discussed in the next meeting of the ToS (April 2006).
- The participants were requested to explore further financing possibilities and to prepare draft project proposals for raising resources to ease the implementation of the UNECE/FAO Strategy in South East Europe and CIS. The results of this process will be evaluated in the next meeting of the ToS.
- The Team acknowledged the inputs provided by:
 - Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, for hosting the event.
 - Swedish National Board of Forestry and Foreign Relations Unit of Forests of the Czech Republic, for providing a fundamental financial assistance for the meeting, without which it could have been hardly done.
 - UNECE Timber Branch and FAO/SEUR for the preparation, service and implementation of the first Team’s meeting.
 - All the participants for their attitude, motivation and for their important contributions and ideas.
 - The Secretariat, for the supporting tasks.

3. The meeting agreed on a Team’s Work Plan:

- To elaborate a report and offer it as a contribution to the EFC session in May 2006 in Zvolen, Slovak Republic, in the context of the agenda item “*15 Years of Transition – Lessons learned and Challenges ahead*”; (Team Leader, Ms. Gulusa Vildanova, Uzbekistan and Vice-Leader, Mr. Bert-Åke Näslund, Sweden); for this purpose, to design a draft qualitative survey on transition developments in forest resources, forest products markets and forest policy (Ms. Lyubov Polyakova, Ukraine), being reviewed by the Team and to be sent out by the Team Leader to country experts, and to analyze outcomes and draft a report by March 2006.
- To conduct an analysis of the specific needs of the target countries based on the outcomes of previous international meetings (Ms. Lyubov Polyakova, Ukraine, sources will be provided by FAO/SEUR and UNECE) and to explore further needs for more detailed analysis (Ms. Gulusa Vildanova, Uzbekistan). In the next ToS meeting (April 2006) the outcomes of these analysis will be presented.
- To analyze and monitor the assistance provided by donor countries, NGO’s and international organizations to the target countries of South East Europe and CIS. It was agreed as a first step to prepare (on the base of the experiences with the H3-database) a concept of the structure of the information to be included into the database. The concept will be distributed through the Team for reviewing and discussion during the next ToS meeting (Mr. Aleksander Radosavljevic, Serbia and Montenegro and Mr. Oystein Aasaaren, Norway).
- To ask the ToS members to report on the most relevant developments and emerging issues taking place in their respective countries that will be briefly presented on each Team’s meeting and to inform on relevant outcomes of international workshops and upcoming events (all members of the Team).

- To develop and maintain a ToS web page as a platform for communication and means of promotion of the Team and its activities. The ToS meeting requested FAO/SEUR to establish this site using their web publishing facilities (Secretariat).
- To collect the materials and outcomes of this meeting, including all presentations, reports, photos etc. on a CD, to be sent out to all Team members, and present the outcomes in the ToS web page. This process will be done as soon as the available resources make it possible (Secretariat).
- To send the outcomes of this meeting to the Heads of Forest Land Use in target countries, thanking them in case of attendance for the input provided, respectively inviting for a re/nomination of Team members. This stage will be undertaken simultaneously to the previous one (Secretariat).

FAO/UNECE Team of Specialists on
Support and Contribution of the Forest Sector
to Sustainable Development of South East Europe and the CIS

Mandate

Reference to Integrated Work Program:
**Work Area 5, Program element 5.3; and
Work Area 1: Program element 1.3**

A. OBJECTIVES

Enhance effectiveness of international activities intended to support and contribute to sustainable development of the forest sector in South East Europe and in CIS, notably through:

- Improvement of forest land use management in all forms of ownership
- Implementation of efficient policies and institutional frameworks
- Development of communication and monitoring processes

EXPECTED MAJOR OUTPUTS:

The team will identify priority issues in South East Europe and CIS and will promote a transparent regional discussion of priorities and best practice in reforming policies and institutions in the sector. It will be consulted on the formulation of a strategy for FAO activities for the forest sector of countries in transition. It will advise the UNECE/FAO Secretariat, on the implementation of their programs within the framework of the integrated program of work. Major expected outputs are:

- Assistance in the formulation of appropriate activities;
- Feedback on the effectiveness of the various initiatives;
- Assistance in resource mobilization in support of the various activities;
- Contributions to the sharing of knowledge and information.

B. BACKGROUND

ESTABLISHED / APPROVED BY	Joint Session of the UNECE Timber Committee and FAO European Forestry Commission, Geneva, October 2004
DURATION	From 2005 to 2008
METHODS OF WORK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings and recommendations to the secretariats, • Intensive communication among the members • Partnerships will be established with relevant governmental and non-governmental organizations, notably MCPFE.
REPORTING	Once a year: to the Joint Bureau Meeting of UNECE Timber Committee and FAO European Forestry Commission
TEAM LEADER	Through next meeting: Team Leader: Ms. Gulusa Vildanova, Uzbekistan Vice-Leader: Mr. Bert-Åke Näslund, Sweden

TEAM MEMBERS	<p><u>Country representatives</u></p> <p>Mr. Ivan Paligorov (Bulgaria, nominated) Mr. Vit Obrdlik (Czech Republic, invited by secretariat) Mr. Jan Ilavsky (Finland, nominated) Mr. Paata Torchinava (Georgia, invited by secretariat) Mr. Jobst-Michael Schroeder (Germany, nominated) Mr. Tamás Lapos (Hungary, nominated) Mr. Oystein Aasaaren (Norway, nominated) Mr. Vlatko Andonovski (Macedonia, invited by secretariat) Mr. Adam Kaliszewski (Poland, nominated) Mr. Aleksander Radosavljevic (Serbia and Montenegro, nominated) Mr. Bert-Åke Näslund (Sweden, nominated) Ms. Lyubov Polyakova (Ukraine, nominated) Ms. Gulusa Vildanova (Uzbekistan, nominated)</p> <p><u>International organizations / NGO's</u></p> <p>Mr. Viktor Badin (Association of non state forest owners) Mr. Gerben Janse (EFI) Mr. Sten Nilsson (IIASA) Mr. Tamas Marghescu (IUCN) Mr. Alexander V. Korotkov (UNECE/FAO Timber Branch)</p>
RESPONSIBLE SECRETARIAT MEMBER	Volker Sasse, FAO/SEUR, Budapest

Original Terms of References and Mandate (Before the 1st ToS meeting)

<p>UNECE / FAO TEAM OF SPECIALISTS ON SUPPORT AND CONTRIBUTION TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FOREST SECTOR IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE AND IN THE CIS</p> <p><i>Reference to Integrated Work Programme: Work Area 5, Program element 5.3; and Work Area 1: Program element 1.3</i></p>	
<p>A. OBJECTIVES</p>	
<p>Enhance effectiveness of international activities intended to support and contribute to sustainable development of the forest sector in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) and in CIS, notably through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a viable and efficient private sector, specifically addressing the needs of forest owners and small scale forest industry enterprises • Enhancing the capacity of public sector institutions especially to provide an effective policy and institutional framework; • Strengthening integration of forestry with other sectors taking into account the cross-sectoral issues; • Improving the sharing and exchange of data, information and knowledge; and • Identifying emerging issues and facilitating dialogue and discussion. 	
<p>EXPECTED MAJOR OUTPUTS:</p>	
<p>The team will identify priority issues in CEE countries and CIS and promote a transparent regional discussion of priorities and best practice in reforming policies and institutions in the sector. It will be consulted on the formulation of a strategy for FAO activities for the forest sector of countries in transition. It will advise the UNECE/FAO Secretariat, on the implementation of their programs within the framework of the integrated program of work. It will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist in the formulation of appropriate activities; • Provide feed back on the effectiveness of the various initiatives; • Assist in resource mobilization in support of the various activities; • Contribute to the sharing of knowledge and information. 	
<p>B. BACKGROUND</p>	
ESTABLISHED / APPROVED BY	Joint Session of the UNECE Timber Committee and FAO European Forestry Commission, Geneva, October 2004
DURATION	<i>From 2005 to 2008</i>
METHODS OF WORK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings and recommendations to the secretariats, • Intensive communication among the members <p><i>Modalities of work (schedule of meetings, communications, possible subgroups or special projects) will be determined by the team at its first meeting. Partnerships will be established with relevant governmental and non-governmental organizations, notably MCPFE.</i></p>
REPORTING	Once a year: to the Joint Bureaux Meeting of UNECE Timber Committee and FAO European Forestry Commission
TEAM LEADER	To be chosen at inaugural meeting.
TEAM MEMBERS	Nominations will be invited from Governments and other stakeholders. The team should be balanced between stakeholders and regions.
RESPONSIBLE SECRETARIAT MEMBER	Volker Sasse, SEUR, Budapest.

FAO/UNECE Team of Specialists on
Support and Contribution to Sustainable Development of the Forest Sector in
Central and Eastern Europe and the CIS
Agenda of the Meeting

14-16 November 2005, Budapest, FAO/SEUR, Benczúr utca 34, H – 1068 Budapest

Time	Monday, 14 November 2005	Who?
9:00	Opening and welcome	FAO/SEUR, UNECE Timber Branch, Hungarian Government
9:30	Introduction of participants	Roundtable
9:45	History, mandate of the team, objectives, approach and expected outcomes	FAO/SEUR, UNECE
10:30	Coffee Break	
10:45	FAO/UNECE Forestry Strategy for Eastern Europe – Process, objective, priority issues	FAO/SEUR
11:15	Major issues in forest land use - Options for policy respond	Plenary discussion
12:00	Lunch break	
13:30	Priority market and policy issues - presentations by target countries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest management and small-scale enterprises • Regulation of forest land use • Regional and sectoral coordination 	Plenary discussion Badin Vildanova Sasse/Schaaff
15:30	Coffee break	
15:45	Priority market and policy issues – continued -	Plenary discussion
18:00	Sightseeing trip- <i>Bus leaves in front of FAO/SEUR</i>	
20:15	Reception at <i>Hotel Benczur</i>	
	Tuesday, 15 November 2005	
9:00	Working groups on the FAO/UNECE Forestry Strategy for Eastern Europe (action plan) structured by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest management and small-scale enterprises • Regulation of forest land use • Regional and sectoral coordination 	Working group moderators
10:30	Coffee Break	
10:45	Working groups - continued -	
11:30	Snack break	
12:00	Field trip to Szolnok: Records from Hungary <i>Bus leaves in front of FAO/SEUR</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private forestry and alternative forms of forest land use • State administration (instruments and institutions) 	FAO/SEUR, Hungarian state administration, MEGOSZ Private forest owner association
16:00	Buffet dinner, afterwards return to Budapest	
20:00	Late night wrap up session <i>at FAO/SEUR</i>	
	Wednesday, 16 November 2005	
9:00	Report of working groups to plenary and discussion	Working group moderators
10:15	Coffee break	
10:30	Action plan and its implementation / Internal matters Meeting summary and conclusions	Plenary discussion
12:00	Closing of the meeting	

FAO/UNECE Team of Specialists on
Support and Contribution to Sustainable Development of the Forest Sector in
Central and Eastern Europe and the CIS

Nomination of Team Members
by Heads of Forest Administration

Background

A Team of Specialists on Support and Contribution to Sustainable Development of the Forest Sector in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) and the CIS was established by the Joint Session of the UNECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission in October 2004. UNECE and FAO rely heavily on the advice and support of the team in developing and guiding their activities in CEE countries and the CIS. The inaugural meeting of the Team will take place in Budapest 14-16 November 2005.

The Heads of Forest Administration are requested to nominate one member per country for the Team. The person nominated should have a good understanding of transition issues in general, and in the forestry sector in particular, and be able to devote at least two weeks of work to the Team's activities every year. In addition, it is expected that the nominated person should have access to sufficient funds to attend at least one team meeting every year, and to participate effectively in other activities, as decided. The UNECE and FAO, unfortunately, could not provide financial support for participation in the team's activities.

Please return by **15 October 2005** to: *FAO/SEUR@fao.org*, or fax: + 36 1 351 70 29

Herewith I, in my function as the Head of Forest Land Use of:

..... Country

First name: Last name (Mr/Ms):

Organization:

Full address:

Phone (with country code): Fax:

E-mail address:

nominate as a member of Team of Specialists on Support and contribution to sustainable development of the forest sector in Central and Eastern Europe and the CIS:

First name: Last name (Mr/Ms):

Country: Title or position:

Organization/Institution/Company:

Full address:

Phone (with country code): Fax:

E-mail address:

Specialist in:

Forest resource development:

Forest products and services:

Forest land use policy:

Others please specify

Representative of:

Private forest owners/industry:

State administration:

NGOs:

Others please specify

Date/City: Signature/Stamp:

FAO/UNECE Team of Specialists on

Support and Contribution of the Forest Sector to Sustainable Development of South
East Europe and the CIS

14-16 November 2005, Budapest, FAO/SEUR, Benczúr utca 34, H – 1068 Budapest

List of participants

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FAO/UNECE Team of Specialists on
Support and Contribution of the Forest Sector to Sustainable Development of South
East Europe and the CIS

14-16 November 2005, Budapest, FAO/SEUR, Benczúr utca 34, H – 1068 Budapest

List of presentations

Organization/ Country	Name	Title
FAO	Volker Sasse	SEUR Forestry Activities in CEE
UNECE	Alexander Korotkov	UNECE / FAO and co-operation with Eastern Europe and CIS
Finland	Jan Ilavsky	International Cooperation supporting the transition process in the forest sector
FAO	Volker Sasse	UNECE/FAO Team of Specialist
FAO	Volker Sasse	Strategy for FAO and UNECE forestry and timber activities in South East Europe and CIS
Private Forest Owners Slovakia	Viktor Badin	Private forests in Slovakia
Uzbekistan	Gulusa Vildanova	Forestry of the Republic of Uzbekistan
FAO	Volker Sasse, Constanze Schaaff	Regional Integration and sectoral coordination

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Survey on Objectives of the Strategy

The 14 objectives of the Strategy were evaluated by 11 participants, in order to get an indication about the priority of the objectives (see table below). Using a scale from 1 (least important) to 5 (most important), the objectives were ranked according to the priorities of the countries or organizations the participants represented. As indicator for the importance of the objective the average values (arithmetic means) of the given ranks for each objective were calculated. The calculated standard deviation shows how diverse the evaluation ranks are for each objective.

The major results of the evaluation are presented following:

According to the different interests of the participants representing their countries and organizations the evaluation varied in some case quite much (see further remarks).

The averages given in the table below indicate that **high importance** can be assigned to the **objectives 4, 7 and 10**. It should be noted that according to the objective 4 the ranking was relative diverse (see standard deviation in the table below).

Furthermore an additional **comment** by the representative of Germany related to subject 7 to include “not only law but also other activities” should be taken into consideration.

Minor importance was attached to the **objective 1**. But it should be noted that the distribution of the ranking was relative diverse (see standard dev. in the table below). Mainly state stakeholders from Poland, Uzbekistan, Georgia and Macedonia evaluated the objective 1 quite low. Uzbekistan made an additional **comment** according to the objective 1 “not to consider non-state forest owners”.

Furthermore the opinions about the priority of the **objective 8** were relative different (see standard dev. table below).

E.g. Georgia was given to this objective no importance at all, whereas representatives from Germany, Poland, the Czech Republic and Serbia Montenegro attached more importance to this objective.

An additional **comment** to **objective 5** was contributed by the **Ukrainian representative**: “It should be political decision for implementation”.

The comments should be considered in the next version of the Strategy.

OUTCOMES OF A SURVEY AMONG MEETING PARTICIPANTS

Evaluation: Strategic framework program for FAO/UNECE activities in South East Europe and CIS 2005-2010

	Program elements and objectives	Country / Organization	D	FI	BG	PL	CZ	SM	UN	UZ	UA	GE	MK
		Stakeholder	Res/Edu	NGOs	Res/Edu	State	State	State	IO	State	Res/Edu	State	State
No.	Forest land use management	Average rank	Rank by participants										
1	• Improve management and marketing by non-state forest owners (e.g. associations, capacity building)	3.3	5	5	4	2	3	5	4	0	5	1	2
2	• Promote economic viability and employment through capacities building for diversification of products/services and innovations	3.8	3	3	5	4	4	4	5	3	5	3	3
3	• Explore income opportunities from social and environmental benefits and services by encouraging the implementation of multifunctional forest management	3.8	2	4	5	4	3	4	5	4	3	4	4
4	• Improve state management and marketing through e.g. exploring possibilities for outsourcing of business management functions, particularly by long term leasing agreements	4.4	2	3	5	5	5	4	4	5	5	5	5
	Policy and institutional reforms	Average rank	Rank by participants										
5	• Promote essential social and environmental benefits of forest ecosystems and wood, as a renewable and environmental friendly material for different users	4.2	4	5	4	5	3	4	5	4	3	4	5
6	• Develop and coordinate forest land use related policies institutions and instruments	3.9	3	4	5	5	3	5	3	5	4	3	3
7	• Develop further law enforcement, doing an effort to reduce illegal logging	<u>4.5</u>	5	4	5	5	4	4	4	5	5	5	4
8	• Promote economic viability through market reforms and market developments, e.g. support to private forest owners association, promote innovation policies, improve access to external funds, explore possibilities for deregulation of wood production and develop forest land consolidation	4.1	5	3	4	5	5	5	5	4	5	1	3

	Program elements and objectives	Country / Organization	D	FI	BG	PL	CZ	SM	UN	UZ	UA	GE	MK
		Stakeholder	Res/Edu	NGOs	Res/Edu	State	State	State	IO	State	Res/Edu	State	State
9	• Apply participatory approaches in policy decision making processes and setup adequate institutional frames	3.9	2	4	5	4	4	4	4	5	4	3	4
	Data collection, analysis and information exchange	Average rank	Rank by participants										
10	• Integrate target countries adequately into international processes, networks and institutions dealing with data collection, analysis and information exchange	<u>4.9</u>	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	5	5	5
11	• Facilitate cross-sectoral dialogue between forest sector and other sectors and integrate forest policy adequately in the general economic planning	4.1	2	5	4	4	5	4	4	5	4	4	4
12	• Monitor and analyze international assistance provided to forest land use and forest industry	3.4	3	3	3	4	3	5	4	4	2	3	3
13	• Develop nat. and int. information networks on forest resources (inventories, valuation of forest ecosystems services, forest products markets (statistics) and forest land use related policies (legislation databases)	4.1	4	4	5	4	3	3	5	5	5	4	3
14	• Provide public access to data and information and to promote better communication between involved stakeholders	3.5	3	4	4	3	4	4	3	5	4	3	2

Ranks in bold are indicating high priority while grey ones are low priority indicating. Underlined ranks in bold indicate objectives with high priority.

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Target countries of the Team of Specialists

Area	Country
South East Europe	Albania
	Bosnia and Herzegovina
	Bulgaria
	Croatia
	Romania
	Serbia and Montenegro
	The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
CIS	Armenia
	Belarus
	Georgia
	Kazakhstan
	Kyrgyzstan
	Republic of Azerbaijan
	Republic of Moldova
	Russian Federation
	Tajikistan
	Turkmenistan
	Ukraine
	Uzbekistan

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Program Elements and Objectives of the FAO/UNECE Strategy on forestry and timber activities in South East Europe and CIS, 2005 – 2010

* *Forest land use = Conglomerate of all human activities in forests (forestry, recreation services, non-wood forest products etc.) and benefits provided by forest ecosystems (e.g. water retention and filtering, carbon storage etc.) corresponding to society's needs and market demands*

** *Forest Sector= Forest Land Use + Wood Industry*

PROGRAM ELEMENTS AND OBJECTIVES
<u>Forest land use management</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve management and marketing by private / non-state forest owners (e.g. associations, capacity building)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote economic viability and employment through capacities building for diversification of products/services and innovations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore income opportunities from social and environmental benefits and services by encouraging the implementation of multifunctional forest management
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve state management and marketing through e.g. exploring possibilities for outsourcing of business management functions, particularly by long term leasing agreements
<u>Policy and institutional reforms</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote social and environmental benefits of forest ecosystems
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote wood as a renewable and environmental friendly material with adequate state measures, taking into account national specifics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and coordinate forest land use related policies institutions and instruments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop further activities to reduce illegal logging and related trade, among others by law enforcement.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote economic viability of forest land use through market reforms and market developments aiming at sustainable development of forest resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the implementation of participatory approaches in policy decision making processes and setup adequate institutional frames
<u>Communication and monitoring processes</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate target countries adequately into international processes, networks and institutions dealing with data collection, analysis and information exchange
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate cross-sectoral dialogue between forest sector and other sectors and integrate forest policy adequately in the general economic planning and policy making
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor and analyse international assistance provided to forest land use
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop national and international information networks on forest resources (inventories, forest resources assessment, valuation of forest ecosystems services) forest products markets (statistics) and forest land use related policies (legislation databases)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide public access to data and information and to promote better communication between involved stakeholders

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Field Trip Information

Program

November 15, 2005

- | | |
|-------|--|
| 13:50 | Arrival at Kótelek, premises of the Forest Owners Management Association, at the local culture house |
| 14:00 | Introduction of the private forest management in Hungary and the host, the Forest Owners Management Association |
| 14:20 | Consultation between the invited authorities (on the field of hunting, forestry, environmental protection) and forest owners |
| 15:10 | Site introduction on the floodplain of the Tisza River |
| 16:00 | Returning to the culture house |
| 16:10 | Buffet reception for the guests and the invited persons |

1. Introduction of the Hungarian private forest management

42% of the approximately 2 million hectare forest area in Hungary i.e.: 800 000 hectares are owned by nearly 250 000 private persons. After the system change and in order to manage the privately owned forest areas, different companies, associations, forest management companies, limited liability companies were formed.

Previously, the forest management units started to work, lacking in any kind of tradition, almost spontaneously. In Hungary the private forest management has a past history only, not a recent one. Nowadays its present history is starting to be formed, and its future depends on us.

As the privatisation has ended, the private forests of 800 000 hectare is composed as follows: Mainly the young forest areas of inferior quality have been privatised. This has its effect in the operation of the private forest management today as well. With the start of forest plantations – meaning 10-14 000 hectares annually in recent years – the private forest area has been increased by further young forests, since in Hungary forests can only be planted by private owners, because the vast majority of the arable land is in the hand of private persons.

Out of the total private forests, at present approximately 650 000 hectare private forests are functioning, this means roughly the 70% of the total. In the European Union this figure is around 90% and our task is to increase our figure to a similar level in Hungary. The annual tree cutting capacity of Hungary is 7 million m³ (considering our growing stock of 336 million m³) meaning that we cut 80% of the harvestable tree quantity. 38% of the primary assortment originating from tree cutting is coming from holdings. In summary we can state that in Hungary the private forest management is functioning, only 65% of its tree cutting capacity is used, the forest regenerations are carried out professionally and the reforestation is significant, therefore we can say that the forest management is sustainable and future oriented.

The organisation and the good professional functioning of the private forest management have been greatly assisted by the large scale forest holding system formed during the last 4 years. Approximately 45 forest holdings are managing a forest area of 220 000 hectares in the country. At each forest holding the professional work is considered as good, their logistical centres are well developed, their technical equipment and mechanization are appropriate compared to the circumstances. However, they hardly meet the EU standards.

The private forest management is represented and the professional culture is spread by the National Association of Private Forest Owners and Foresters, having directly and indirectly some 25 000 members. In connection with the private forest management in Hungary one can recognise some conflict situations.

2. Relation between nature protection and the Hungarian private forest management

In 1996 the Law on Nature Protection in Hungary entered into force introducing several limitations to the Hungarian private forest owners.

For more than 8 years the law did not have any implementation act, therefore nobody was entitled to get any compensation. In the autumn of 2004 this legal deficiency was solved, but so far all the submitted compensation claims have been rejected by the Nature Protection Authority, saying that compensation can only be paid when damages really occur. Legally, it is not possible to pay compensation for lost revenue or income.

We also share the philosophy that we have to protect our nature values together, since they serve the existence of all of us. The private forest owners want to be part of fulfilling this objective, but we must not forget that due to the various protection limitations serving public aims, such income losses and extra costs arise which the owners and foresters are not able to undertake.

There is a similar situation in connection with the NATURA 2000 network. 21% of Hungary has been placed under protection in this way, and we are afraid that we will be the nature reserve of Europe, since in the European Union this is proportionally the biggest area within one country. When the network has been set up, none of the owners has been advised, half of them still do not know that his area has been qualified as a protected one. However, the limitations already exist, but the size of the compensation will only be decided after June 1, 2007.

As I previously mentioned some bad experience relating to compensation, the Hungarian private forest owners are afraid that again they will have no access to any kind of compensation.

3. Forest plantations in Hungary co-financed with the EU

The Hungarian private forest owners plant annually approximately 12 000 hectares on former agricultural land. Considerable workforces are employed in order to complete these activities. Without getting any contribution from the state, the employment possibilities are increasing in the rural areas in a self-made way, because the forest plantations take place there.

In connection with forest plantations the problem lies with financial issues and keeping the deadlines. Today is 15 November, 2005 and throughout Hungary the autumn forestation works have already started. This work is mainly carried out and financed by the previously mentioned large-scale forest holdings. However, roughly 25% of the amount due to afforestations done last year has not been paid to the forest holders until today.

Otherwise the system itself is good and is functioning well and by continuously raising the unit prices, significant agricultural areas can be transformed into forests in the future as well. We expect that in 2006 the forest area will reach the 2 million hectare in the country.

4. Rural development

In Hungary the forest management only occupies a small segment on the work scope of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. In the country though, every fourth hectare is forest, serving public aims as well. Regarding these points we would like if the forest management could get appropriate attention in Hungary as well as in the European Union and also that in each phase of the 2007 – 2013 EU budget the forest management could get access to tenders in connection with rural development. It is vital to the Hungarian private forest holders but I believe that also to each inhabitant of Hungary.

In the end I would like to ask everyone to help the operation of the Hungarian private forest management, because the professional management of the existing forests and the plantations of new forests are not only in the interest of the private forest holders but each Hungarian citizen as well.

5. Company introduction

The Forest Owners Management Association was established among the first by private persons in 1995 in Hungary. Following the system change it was formed in order to manage the privatised forest areas, previously owned by the Hungarian government and collective farms. The company undertook to cultivate the forests on the Middle-Tisza region, on the inundation area of the Tisza River.

Disregarding the initial difficulties, during the past 10 years the company was able to maintain a levelled development and in the meantime it could also broaden its activities. At present through its related companies it carries out forest management, forest management services, afforestation, wood trade and traditional agricultural activities.

At present it manages 250 hectares of forest owned by the Association itself and also it manages or controls 3 800 hectares of rented forests. On a commission basis the company renders forest management services on 1 500 hectare area of the Hortobágy National Park, where the nature conservation is a primary aspect.

Since 1995 our company has taken part in including significant private forest areas into management. Our harvesting volume (own, purchased and contracted) reaches approximately a total of 15 000 m³ in 2005. Each year we successfully completed all forest regeneration procedures on our own and contracted areas. At present we do not have any hectare delay in the regeneration procedure. In 2005 we carry out forest plantation on a 100 hectare traditional agricultural area, financed together with the EU.

In order to complete the forest regeneration, the afforestation and harvesting procedures with the appropriate technology, we possess the suitable machinery as follows:

- 1 special forest forwarding machine
- 1 special forest branch cutting and dragging machine
- 2 high output power machines, over 200 horsepower
- 1 tracked ground repair and stump lifting bulldozer
- 1 ditch loader
- 3 power machines of 50 horsepower
- 1 long vehicle, suitable for international transportation as well

as well as work machines, trailers, power saws, ploughs, pit drillers, planting machines, disks, subsoil looseners, manual and mechanical clearers of the cutting area, stem crushers and rotation clearing saws, hoes.

The company is directed by a forestry specialist. The professional work is carried out by a forestry specialist. The book-keeping is done by a book-keeper with the assistance of an administrator. Our company also employs a well trained forestry skilled worker and a machine operator. The direct procedures are mostly done by professionally trained entrepreneurs.

The timber assortments of the tree harvesting are sold to local and EU plants. Together with our large scale forest holders we export an annual quantity of 1 500 m³ poplar lumber to Italy. From Slovakia and Ukraine we import 1 000 m³ pine material annually.

Our company does not carry out any individual hunting activity but it works closely together with the local hunting companies in protecting the forest and the game population. The hunting

companies focus their attention to game control and our company provides wood material and forage to the game managers.

Our company is a member of the National Association of Private Forest Managers, the Hungarian Chamber of Agriculture and the Hungarian Council of Planting Material and Product.

6. General climate and soil description of the inundation forests of the Forest Owners Management Association on the Middle-Tisza region

The climate of the region: forest steppe climate. The area is situated in the middle section of the plain; the climate is basically a forest steppe climate. In this climate the average temperature is 10.7 Celsius, the annual precipitation is 524 mm and 382 mm in the vegetation period per year. The figures measured nowadays differ negatively from this with the exception of the temperature which is higher.

The concrete situation is modified by the floods. At flooding the humidity conditions change over the flooded area and there is enough water for the assimilation. The problem is caused by the water stagnating in the summer time. In the warmed up water the quantity of oxygen is reduced and the trees die in the still water.

About the geographical area, the following climate description can be given: The Lower-Jász plain is one of the driest regions of the Great Hungarian Plain and the country itself. Its dryness can be compared to that of the Hortobágy. The majority of the precipitation falls at the beginning of the summer, 55 mm monthly and the least falls in January, 24 mm per month. The secondary maximum in the autumn is very weak. The rain distribution is strongly continental meaning that in the rainiest month it rains twice as much as in the driest one. The unpredictability of the rain is high which means that the rain quotient of the rainiest and driest years is bigger than in the other regions of the country.

Due to the insufficient precipitation and warm summer, the annual water deficiency is the highest here, it moves between 150 – 175 mm. The prevailing wind is south-western and north-eastern. The height above sea level is 85-88.5 m.

The area lies in a deep, medium-deep position. The topographical feature of the area is plain, gradually upgrading (ascending), easily accessible by machines. Half of the forest area is affected by water on a temporarily basis, while the other half on a permanent basis.

7. Soil description

On the area we find a humid alluvial soil and in the deeper layers we can also find alluvial meadow soil. The upper layer is a kind of clay and does not contain silt, pH-value 6.8, neutral, the humus content is 2.1%. In the second layer there is predominantly silt in a value of 2.2%, therefore its pH-value is 7.5, slightly alkaline. Humus content is 1.4%. The third layer is again a kind of clay, here the general content of silt is 3.5%, the pH-value is 7.9, slightly alkaline and the humus content is 1.1%.