

UNECE and FRA: half a century of global-regional cooperation

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Topics of presentation

- Overview of UNECE/FAO Timber Section
- Recent FRA relevant actions in Europe
- Why should there be global-regional cooperation?
- Next steps

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UNECE/FAO Timber and Forestry

- Cooperation between a UN regional commission and the FAO Forestry Department (since 1948)
- Based on active country participation, and inter-agency partnerships esp. with MCPFE, small secretariat, joint programme
- Five **interlinked** work areas:
 - Markets and statistics
 - **Forest resource assessment**
 - Sector outlook studies
 - Social/cultural aspects
 - Policy and cross sectoral
- European Forest Week, 20-24 October 2008 (ECE, FAO, EU, MCPFE): « Help the planet – use trees well »

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Recent FRA relevant actions in Europe

- From 1950, regular regional inventories (timber focus)
- 1993: MCPFE criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management: a target set by policy makers
- Regular reporting to Ministerial Conferences
- TBFRA 2000 showed it was possible to report on SFM
- Strengthening institutions for cooperation and consensus: team of specialist, Kotka process, national correspondents ...
- ECE/FAO leads regional work for FRA
- *State of Europe's Forests 2007: the best yet!*

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Advantages of global-regional cooperation

- Avoids double reporting, more efficient use of resources
- Coherence of regional and global contextual frameworks (definitions)
- Addresses regional specificity in a global framework
- Global level can get closer to national correspondents and other regional networks
- Regional level can safely ignore areas where the global level takes the lead (e.g. remote sensing)
- Global level has easier access to policymakers (RFC sessions)
- Ideas « migrate » from regional to global and *vice versa*

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Disadvantages of global-regional cooperation

- More need for communication and compromise
- Defining the global minimum structure
- Timetabling for regional and global events of equal importance (e.g. FRA 2005, MCPFE 2007, FRA 2010)
- None of these outweigh the advantages

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Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire

- An example of excellent global-regional cooperation for forest products markets (annual)
- Four organisations: ECE, FAO, Eurostat, ITTO
- One questionnaire and definitions
- Contacts and validation by one organisation only for each country
- Data shared (global level is FAOSTAT)
- Intersecretariat Working Group meets twice a year: absolutely necessary!



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Next steps in Europe

- Learn from experience with State of Europe's Forests 2007, especially on policies and institutions, and monitoring SFM (« traffic lights »)
- Team of specialists meets in Vienna in May
- Seek consensus on emerging issues, (e.g. forest types) in good time
- Collect and validate data for European countries in FRA 2010
- Propose relevant information for bioenergy/climate change policy debate (potential wood supply)
- Alex Korotkov retired: successor being chosen



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Questions, discussion?

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