

# FINAL REPORT

## Review of the mandate and modus operandi of the European Forestry Commission Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds



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## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

<b>AFWC</b>	FAO African Forestry and Wildlife Commission
<b>COST</b>	European Cooperation in Science and Technology
<b>DS İ</b>	General Directorate of State Hydraulic Works of the Ministry of Forest and Water Affairs of Turkey
<b>DRM</b>	Disaster Risk Management
<b>EC</b>	European Commission
<b>EFC</b>	European Forestry Commission
<b>EFI</b>	European Forest Institute
<b>EFICEEC</b>	EFI Central-East European Regional Office
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>FAO</b>	Food and agriculture organization of the United Nations
<b>FOEN</b>	Swiss Federal Office for the Environment
<b>FOREST EUROPE</b>	Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe
<b>GDF</b>	General Directorate of Forestry of the Ministry of Forest and Water Affairs of Turkey
<b>HELP</b>	Hydrology for the Environment, Life and Policy
<b>ICSU</b>	International Council for Science
<b>IHP</b>	International Hydrological Programme
<b>INTERPRAEVENT</b>	International Research Society on Preventive Protection against Disasters
<b>INTERREG IVC</b>	EU Interregional Cooperation Fund
<b>IRDR</b>	Integrated Research on Disaster Reduction
<b>ISSC</b>	International Social Science Council
<b>IUFRO</b>	International Union of Forest Research Organizations
<b>MAAP</b>	French Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries
<b>NEFC</b>	FAO Near East forestry Commission
<b>PES</b>	Payments for Ecosystem Services
<b>PLANALP</b>	Platform on Natural Hazards of the Alpine Convention
<b>REU</b>	FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia
<b>SEC</b>	FAO Sub-Regional Office for Central Asia
<b>SILVA MEDITERRANEA</b>	FAO Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions
<b>TC</b>	Timber Committee
<b>ToRs</b>	Terms of References
<b>ToS</b>	Team of Specialists
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNCBD</b>	United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity

<b>UNCCD</b>	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
<b>UNECE</b>	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
<b>UNFCCC</b>	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
<b>UNFF</b>	United Nations Forum on Forests
<b>UNISDR</b>	United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
<b>WFD</b>	Water Framework Directive
<b>WP MMW</b>	Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds

## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The European Forestry Commission Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds, formerly called the Working Party on Torrent Control, Protection from Avalanches and Watershed Management, was established by the European Forestry Commission (EFC) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on the occasion of its Third Session on 1 September 1950. The 1<sup>st</sup> Session of the “EFC Working Party on Torrent Control, Protection from Avalanches and Watershed Management” was held in Nancy, France, in June 1952.

In 1970, a seminar on the future orientation of the EFC Working Party was held back-to-back with its 9<sup>th</sup> Session. At the seminar, it was concluded that the terms of reference of the Working Party had to be enlarged to cover five major points in the following order of priority: torrent control, protection from avalanches, soil and water conservation in mountain regions, mountain land use with a special focus on forest land, and the evaluation of the direct and indirect benefits of mountain watershed management. In view of the broadened mandate, it was decided to call the group “EFC Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds”.

The core mission of the Working Party is to bring together member countries of the EFC in order to exchange information on forest and water policies, watershed and risk management practices, to fill knowledge gaps and to follow up on progress made. Its main objectives are to collect information, document technologies, monitor evolution, exchange experiences and discuss progress within mountain ecosystems in view of their sustainable management and conservation. Important areas of consideration are improved mountain livelihood systems and the security of mountain ecosystems, sustainable management with special attention to torrent control, avalanches, risk zoning and mapping, and early warning systems.

The Working Party is continuously confronted with emerging issues of global importance and needs to keep an active reflection alive on the relevance and the impact of its activities. In order to give the Working Party a new profile and to address strategic issues, a major review of its mandate and modus operandi was initiated in March 2011. The review was conducted through a desk review of relevant documents as well as through direct consultations with the Steering Committee of the Working Party, the focal points of member countries, parent bodies and partner organizations.

The main objectives were to identify the most important related topics in different parts of Europe, to assess the current institutional landscape of relevance for the Working Party, and to propose a new mandate, institutional set up and modus operandi as well as potential partnerships.

The review recommends to keep the Working Party as an institutional “chapeau” under which thematic Working Groups would be established. With a such a structure, it will be able to more specifically respond to the diverging needs and priorities within the European region.

Each Working Group should have a leading country, detailed terms of reference, a work plan, clear outputs and expected results, and a defined budget to accomplish its set tasks. Every leading country would be a member of the Steering Committee of the WP MMW, thus ensuring a greater commitment and a more motivated participation in pursuing the theme of interest. Thus, the Steering Committee would receive a stronger mandate. Each member country of the European Forestry Commission can participate in several Working Groups.

Working Groups may be in place for a limited duration, until the task is accomplished, or operate over a longer period of time. Two Working Groups are strongly advocated by several member countries: forests and water, and disaster risk management in mountains. Other proposed Working Groups are on climate change, on mountain meadows and on forest fires.

In this new institutional structure, the services and responsibilities of the Secretariat of the Working Party would obviously increase. In particular, its role would be to coordinate the activities between the Working Groups and to support the work of the Steering Committee. A dedicated staff person, e.g. through secondments or through the APO programme, would be required in the Secretariat to deliver on these responsibilities. Each Working Group would be responsible for the fundraising for its activities, e.g. through the development of project proposals to be submitted to the EC and other relevant donors.

It is further recommended to enhance the collaboration and to intensify the exchange of experiences and lessons learnt with countries from the Mediterranean region and Central Asia as well with other relevant institutional mechanisms such as for example FOREST EUROPE, the UNECE Water Convention, INTERPRAEVENT, etc.

## 2. INTRODUCTION

During its 3rd Session in 1950, the European Forestry Commission (EFC) recommended the establishment of a Working Party to study the technical aspects of torrent control and soil restoration in mountainous regions. At the 4th EFC Session in 1951, the topic of protection against avalanches was added to the programme of work of the newly established technical group.

In 1952, the Working Party on Torrent Control and Protection from Avalanches gathered for the first time primarily to study the problems related to the protection from torrent and avalanche of villages, croplands, lines of communication and hydroelectric works in the densely populated mountain areas of Europe.

On the occasion of the 9th Session of the Working Party, in 1970, a seminar was held to re-orientate the mandate of the group. Terms of references were enlarged to cover soil and water conservation in mountain regions, mountain land use with special reference to forest land, and evaluation of the direct and indirect benefits of mountain watershed management. It was also decided to change the name of the group in “European Forestry Commission Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds” (WP MMW).

Since 1970, which means for the last 40 years, the mandate and modus operandi of the WP MMW have not been structurally reviewed and in early 2012 the need arose to reflect on how the activities of the group fit into the broader current institutional landscape in Europe. In fact, since 1952 a number of processes, programmes and networks have been created in Europe which to some extent deal with similar issues as the WP MMW.

Discussion about the mandate of the WP MMW has been ongoing for many years in the sessions and the Steering Committee meetings and some changes have been introduced, mainly to reduce formalities and promote communication tools. However, the first concrete opportunity to plan for a review of the mandate and modus operandi of the WP MMW was provided by the meeting of the Bureaux of the UNECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission, held in Geneva on 24-25 February 2010.

On that occasion, it was decided that a discussion on the review of the WP MMW would begin at its 27<sup>th</sup> Session. Another important outcome of the meeting of the Bureaux regarded the proposal to amend the Integrated Programme of Work on Timber and Forestry of the UNECE Timber Committee and FAO European Forestry Commission to fully integrate the mandate of the WP MMW.

In this connection, it was observed that the terms of references of the WP MMW could be enlarged to cover the broader topic of forests and water beyond mountain watersheds, considering that no other organizations in Europe have capacity to take over such a cross-sectoral issue.

The proposal to initiate a major review of the mandate and modus operandi of the WP MMW was officially launched at its 27<sup>th</sup> Session, held in Štrbské Pleso, Slovak Republic, on 07 – 10 April 2011.

Participants to the 27<sup>th</sup> Session endorsed the proposal to initiate a review of the WP MMW through an external consultancy and the terms of reference were discussed and agreed upon (see Annex 1). It was decided that the consultancy would be funded through voluntary contributions from member countries and that it would start upon official endorsement by the European Forestry Commission on the occasion of its 35<sup>th</sup> Session. The session was held in Lisbon, Portugal, from 27 to 30 April 2010 and the EFC endorsed the proposal to initiate a consultancy to review the mandate and modus operandi of the WP MMW.

Thanks to voluntary contributions from the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment, the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, and the financial support from FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, the consultancy officially started in March 2012. The main objectives of the review were to:

- Analyze the past and current structure, mandate and modus operandi of the WP MMW;
- Analyze country involvement;
- Compare other ongoing processes, networks and organizations working on similar themes; and
- Propose a new mandate, institutional structure and modus operandi for the WP MMW.

Chapter 3 of the present report describes the methodology that was adopted to implement the review, and Chapter 4 discusses the main findings and recommendations of the review. More detailed outcomes of specific components are presented in the annexes.

In order to get guidance and recommendations from member countries, the preliminary findings of the review were presented and discussed on the occasion of the 28<sup>th</sup> Session of the WP MMW, which was held in Kastamonu, Turkey, from 13 to 15 September 2011. The Secretariat of the WP MMW subsequently presented the results of the review as well as the main outcomes and deliberations of the 28<sup>th</sup> Session to the European Forestry Commission during its 36<sup>th</sup> Session, held in Antalya, Turkey, from 10 to 14 October 2011. The Commission was invited to consider these inputs, provide guidance and make recommendations for the future direction of the WP MMW.

The present report summarizes the entire process of the review as well as the main findings and recommendations for the future structure and work of the WP MMW.



### 3. PRESENT MANDATE, GOVERNANCE AND ACTIVITIES OF THE WP MMW

The European Forestry Commission WP MMW, formerly called the Working Party on Torrent Control, Protection from Avalanches and Watershed Management, was established by the European Forestry Commission of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on the occasion of its 3<sup>rd</sup> Session on 1 September 1950.

In the course of that session, the Commission considered that soil conservation, restoration and improvement in the plains and in hilly districts constituted an extremely wide problem which required the collaboration of all the actors involved in the rational utilization of soil and water resources. On the other hand, the Commission observed that torrent control and soil restoration in mountainous regions, the importance of which is undeniable, were generally entrusted to the forestry services in European countries. Based on these considerations, the Commission recommended the establishment of a Working Party with the objective to study the technical aspects of torrent control and soil restoration in mountainous regions.

In 1951, at the 4<sup>th</sup> EFC Session, the Director General of FAO was requested to contact European governments in order to organize in 1952 the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of a Working Party dealing with issues related to torrent control and protection from avalanches. The 1<sup>st</sup> Session of the “EFC Working Party on Torrent Control, Protection from Avalanches and Watershed Management” was held in Nancy, France, in June 1952. The group considered that the mission entrusted to it by the EFC was primarily to study the problems related to the protection from torrents and avalanches of villages, croplands, lines of communication and hydroelectric structures in the densely populated mountain areas of Europe and therefore adopted the following programme of work:

#### I. TORRENT CONTROL

##### 1. Soil moving torrents:

- a) Control of the major torrent and of its secondary ravines by dams, sills, jetties, revetments, enrockment and protection of banks, dykes, cleaning of beds, drainage of banks.
- b) Diversion tunnels.
- c) Work on the alluvial fans, drainage channels, dry-stone walls, debris collection areas, etc.

- d) Afforestation for protection purposes, minor forestry operations: wattling; fascine-revetments; revetments by other materials; planting of trees on, and revegetating, banquettes and blocks.
- e) Sodding and restoration to natural conditions of catchments areas above the tree line, improvement of pastures, reservation.

2. Boulder moving torrents; areas of boulder origination; areas of boulder accumulation:

- a) Control of the major torrent and of its secondary ravines by dams, sills, jetties, revetments, enrockment and protection of banks, dykes, cleaning of beds, drainage of banks.
- b) Fixation of cliffs, preventive blasting and consolidation on unstable rocky areas.

3. Landslides:

- a) Drainage by open ditches and tile drains; diversion and channeling of water; combined drainage and fixation of the beds by dams.
- b) Afforestation and sodding of slipping land.

II. PROTECTION FROM AVALANCHES:

- a) Prediction and detection of avalanches; study of the snow.
- b) Passive defense, dykes, tunnels, etc.; causing avalanches by artificial means.
- c) Active defense, halting blasts, terraces, banquettes, barriers and snowsheds; various kinds of barriers, reservation, cloture.

In 1970, a seminar on the future orientation of the EFC Working Party was held back-to-back with its 9<sup>th</sup> Session. At the seminar, it was concluded that the terms of reference of the Working Party had to be enlarged to cover five major points in the following order of priority:

- I. Torrent control.
- II. Avalanche protection.
- III. Soil and water conservation in mountain regions.
- IV. Mountain land use, with special reference to forest land, in collaboration with the authorities concerned.
- V. Evaluation of the direct and indirect benefits of mountain watershed management.

In view of the broadened mandate, it was decided to call the group “EFC Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds” (WP MMW).

The core mission of the WP MMW is to bring together member countries of the EFC in order to exchange information on forest and water policies, watershed and risk management practices, to fill knowledge gaps and to follow up on progress made. Its main objectives are to collect information, document technologies, monitor evolution, exchange experiences and discuss progress within mountain ecosystems in view of their sustainable management and conservation. Important areas of consideration are improved mountain livelihood systems and the security of mountain ecosystems, sustainable management with special attention to torrent control, avalanches, risk zoning and mapping, and early warning systems.

The WP MMW has played an important role in the follow-up to Agenda 21, supported FAO's role as task manager for Chapter 13 on mountain ecosystems, contributed to the implementation of the recommendations from the International Year of Mountains (2002) and International Year of Freshwater (2003) as well as of the commitments from Warsaw Resolution 2 “Forests and Water” (2007) of the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe.

The WP MMW meets every two years in a host country, all the 28 sessions held so far are listed in the table below. Each member country is represented by a focal point who is directly nominated by the relevant ministry. National focal points can be based in academic institutions, research institutes or state technical departments. The dialogue among scientists and government technicians is one of the unique and particular features of the group. The Secretariat of the WP MMW is provided by the Forestry Department of FAO. The Steering Committee is composed of the Secretary, of the focal points of the countries which hosted the past three sessions and of the focal points of the candidate host countries for the future two sessions. The Steering Committee is chaired on a rotational biennial basis by the member country that organized and hosted the last session and holds the chair ship for a period of two years. The Steering Committee can meet whenever there is a need to discuss and make decisions concerning a particular issue.

**Table 1. Sessions held so far and host countries**

I Session: Nice, France, 28 June -07 July 1952
II Session: Davos, Switzerland, 27 June -07 July 1954
III Session: 1956 (no information)

IV Session: Vorarlberg, Bregenz, Austria, 09-21 September 1958

V Session: Saragosse, Spain, 3-12 October 1960

VI Session: Italy, 1962 (no further information)

VII Session: Athens, Greece, 31 August - 10 September 1964

VIII Session: Brasov, Romania, 11-21 September 1967

IX Session: Bayern, Munich, Germany, 01-14 June 1970

X Session: Oslo, Norway, 01-11 August 1972

XI Session: Ankara, Turkey, 03-14 June 1974

XII Session: Rome, Italy, 18-27 September 1978

XIII Session: Palerm, Italy, 27 September - 09 October 1982

XIV Session: Andalucia, Torremolinos, Spain, 01-11 October 1984

XV Session: Tyrol, Innsbruck, Austria, 23 September - 04 October 1986

XVI Session: Aix en Provence, France, 12-24 June 1988

XVII Session: Vicenza, Italy, 07-15 March 1990

XVIII Session: Bavière, Oberstdorf, Germany, 15-26 June 1992

XIX Session: Jaca, Spain, 04-15 June 1994

XX Session: Lillehammer, Norway, 01-09 July 1996

XXI Session: Marienbad, Czech Republic, 06-11 Octobre 1998

XXII Session: Toulouse, France, 12-16 September 2000

XXIII Session: Davos, Switzerland, 16-18 September 2002

XXIV Session: Crakow, Poland, 09-11 September 2004

XXV Session: Salzburg, Austria, 24-26 April 2006

XXVI Session: Oulu, Finland, 19-22 August 2008

XXVII Session: Štrbské Pleso, Slovak Republic, 07-10 April 2010

XXVIII Session: Kastamonu, Turkey, 13-15 September 2011

Through the reports and presentations submitted for each session of the WP MMW, the member countries and the external observers from different regions and organizations contribute to a flow of information on watershed-related issues. A number of inter-sessional activities ensure that communication and exchange of information between countries continue on a regular basis. Inter-sessional activities consist mainly of preparation and dissemination of editorial products, e.g. session final reports in three languages (English, French and Spanish), a six-monthly newsletter (7 issues published so far) and the regular update of the web site (<http://www.fao.org/forestry/37705/en/>), and of Steering Committee meetings. The Working Party provides an institutional framework to experts belonging to different sectors to exchange on a regular basis up-to-date information and case studies, often resulting in the production of scientific publications. In this connection, it can be mentioned the recent Springer publication entitled “Management of Mountain Watersheds”, whose coordination and editing was led by the Czech focal point in 2011.

Besides working together with the member countries of the EFC, the WP MMW collaborates with many organizations and processes, such as FOREST EUROPE, UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, EU WFD, IUFRO, UNESCO-IHP HELP, Mountain Partnership, EFI and its regional offices, UN Water, UNFF, UNFCCC, UNCBD, UNCCD, etc.

In order to continue disseminating up-to-date technical and policy information to different groups of stakeholders, the WP MMW must constantly cope with emerging issues of global importance. This is the case of climate change and increased hazards in mountain watersheds. Global warming is affecting vital mountain resources and in turn will negatively impact on the socioeconomic situation of mountain people. The WP MMW is engaged in raising awareness on these issues, by assessing and disseminating state-of-the-art knowledge and strategies of adaptation to climate change.

Acquainted with the most recent national and international institutional developments and the achievements at the level of field projects as well as with the global development priorities in an exchange with countries beyond Europe, the WP MMW always keeps an active reflection alive on the impact of its activities and their relevance to respond to emerging country needs. This is ultimately the reason behind and the justification for the implementation of the review of the mandate and modus operandi of the WP MMW. It aimed to address strategic issues such as the positioning of the group within the evolving institutional landscape in Europe and the appropriateness of the current vision, mission and topics considered.

#### 4. METHODOLOGY OF THE REVIEW

The exercise was conducted through desk review of relevant documents as well as direct consultations with the Steering Committee of the WP MMW, member countries and partner organizations. The desk review focused on documents retrieved from FAO archives and pertinent institutions' web sites as well as on documentation made available by members of the WP MMW and relevant organizations.

Direct consultations were undertaken through several approaches:

- Questionnaires were distributed to member countries of the WP MMW to solicit their inputs and views concerning the potential new structure and governance of the group, approaches to ensure financial sustainability and thematic areas to be prioritized (for a detailed summary of relevant outcomes see Annex 2).
- A number of member countries of the WP MMW were targeted and consulted for more in-depth feedback and suggestions. These countries included Switzerland, Turkey, Norway and France. Switzerland and Turkey were visited by the consultant in charge of the review while Norway was contacted by phone. As far as France is concerned, the focal point of the WP MMW was interviewed on the phone and the officer in charge of international forestry affairs from the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries was interviewed in person in Geneva, Switzerland, in July 2011 (see Annex 3 for detailed findings of this component).
- Questionnaires were distributed to member countries of the UNECE Water Convention to assess the interest of water sector experts in strengthening their collaboration with forestry experts (relevant results are presented in Annex 4).
- A number of networks and organizations working on topics relevant to the WP MMW were identified and consulted in order to better understand the current institutional mechanisms in Europe as well as to build synergies and collaboration. These included FOREST EUROPE, IUFRO, PLANALP, IRDR, EFI Central-East European Regional Office, FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (REU), FAO Sub-Regional Office for Central Asia (SEC), UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section and the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes. The consultant tasked with the review personally met with the Secretary of the UNECE Water Convention, the Head of the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section and Forestry Officers of REU and SEC (see Annex 5 for relevant outcomes).

- A number of mid-term consultations were undertaken with key stakeholders to discuss progress and core concerns of the review (thoroughly presented in Annex 6). These included:
  - ✓ The joint meeting of the TC and EFC Bureaux held in Geneva, Switzerland, in May 2011;
  - ✓ The Steering Committee meeting of the WP MMW held in Vienna, Austria, in June 2011;
  - ✓ The 28<sup>th</sup> WP MMW Session held in Kastamonu, Turkey, in September 2011;
  - ✓ The Joint 36<sup>th</sup> EFC Session and 69<sup>th</sup> TC Session held in Antalya, Turkey, in October 2011 (attended by the Secretary of the WP MMW).

In total, the following missions were implemented by the consultant in charge of the review: Switzerland (May 2011), Turkey (May 2011), Austria (June 2011), Switzerland (July 2011), Turkey (September 2011).

The next section of the report presents the main findings of the review, the detailed outcomes of the single components are documented in the annexes.

## **5. MAIN FINDINGS OF THE REVIEW AND POTENTIAL OPTIONS FOR THE FUTURE MANDATE AND STRUCTURE OF THE WP MMW**

The main review questions concerned institutional affiliation of focal points of the WP MMW, mandate and topics dealt with, structure and governance, financial sustainability, synergies and collaboration with relevant organizations and institutional mechanisms as well as expectations by member countries.

Overall, the findings of the review evidence a high appreciation for the relevance and activities of the WP MMW, in particular regarding its technical orientation. Information and experience exchange among countries and disciplines revealed to be the main strength of the technical body. The link between science and application, ensured by the participation of professionals belonging to different sectors and institutions, is considered very important and appropriate. The integrated and landscape approach promoted by the WP MMW is appreciated by a broad range of experts.

There are different needs and priorities across the EFC region which are not always addressed by the WP MMW. The following topics were identified, for which the WP MMW could play an important role at European level: forests and water, disaster risk management in mountains, climate change and mitigation of climate change impacts (particularly on water resources), socio-economic aspects related to watershed management, payment for ecosystem services, valuation of forest ecosystem services, and multipurpose management of forests.

In view of the diversity of institutional affiliation and responsibilities of the focal points, the support they receive to implement activities related to the WP MMW varies from case to case. In general, no specific budget is allocated to focal points to animate activities others than the participation to biennial sessions. The main weakness of the present functioning of the WP MMW is deemed to be the absence of a detailed work plan, with defined and time-bound activities, evaluation of progress and achievements and funds to pursue the foreseen outputs.

The review took note of the fact that the WP MMW should be more beneficial for the members and should offer concrete products that would help the experts in their daily work. This is particularly relevant in light of the complex institutional landscape, partnerships and programmes which already absorb time and work of the experts, including UNECE Water Convention, FOREST EUROPE, Alpine Convention, Carpathian Convention, EU, INTERREG IVC, EU WFD, IUFRO, INTERPRAEVENT, PLANALP, etc.

At present there is no institution at the European level with the capacity to take over and lead the work on forests and water. The review findings indicate that the WP MMW could help address this complex and multi-sectoral issue. The review suggests to establish a joint Working Group on forests and water involving, besides the WP MMW, the UNECE Water



Convention and the UNECE Timber Committee. In order to assess the interest of the members of the UNECE Water Convention in this proposal, a questionnaire was distributed . 9 out of 21 responding countries answered that they would be in favor of establishing such a joint Working Group on forests and water, 8 countries replied that they might agree with this proposal, 3 countries responded that they would not agree and one country did not express any opinion. Hesitation with regard to the establishment of the joint Working Group was mainly substantiated by an internal lack of resources and capacity to deal with a new institutional commitment.

The review proposes to expand the geographical coverage of the WP MMW to include all the countries from the UNECE and Mediterranean regions in view of the similar environmental and climatic conditions they share with South European countries.

There is a proposal to split the WP MMW into a number of Teams of Specialists (ToS), in particular on forests and water and on disaster risk management in mountain areas. Compared to a Working Party, a Team of Specialists entails a lower degree of formality, its mandate is renewed every two years and can be easily adjusted. A ToS would be established to study a specific issue which requires particular attention in a given period and would be dismantled again once the job has been completed. It is subject to regular evaluations and it needs to prove its effectiveness in order to be reconfirmed. Teams of Specialists are composed of experts who act in their own capacity, they are not formally nominated by member countries and, therefore, they do not represent any official position. This differs significantly from the status of a Working Party which is a permanent institution with a long-term mandate and made up of official national representatives entitled to deliberate on behalf of their countries. The idea to split the WP MMW into a number of Teams of Specialists is related to the ongoing review of the Integrated Programme of Work on Timber and Forestry of the UNECE TC and FAO EFC for the period 2014-2017. The connected restructuring of the relevant institutional landscape includes the proposal to group the existing seven ToSs under the Joint TC/EFC Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics. Annex 7 visualises the reporting line related to this proposal. In this context, the ToSs eventually coming out from the WP MMW would fit into the same reporting line.

Based on the inputs and suggestions received through the review process, the following options for the future mandate and structure of the WP MMW can be articulated (sequence not structured according to preference):

- Option 1: enlarge the terms of reference of the WP MMW to fully integrate forests and water issues beyond mountain watersheds.
- Option 2: expand the geographical coverage of the WP MMW in order to embrace the entire UNECE as well as the Mediterranean regions. This would be coupled by an institutional fusion in a Joint Working Group with either the UNECE Timber

Committee and Water Convention or the FAO African and Near East Forestry Commissions, depending on the degree of complexity that such fusion would require.

- Option 3: get rid of the present institutional status of the WP MMW and transform the group into a number of Teams of Specialists, e.g. on forests and water or on disaster risk management in mountain areas. This structure would probably entail that the resulting ToSs would fit into the reporting line under the Joint TC/EFC Working Party of Forest Economics and Statistics (see annex 8).
- Option 4a: keep the present institutional set up as an umbrella and establish a number of thematic Working Groups underneath. This option would transform the WP MMW into a similar structure like Silva Mediterranea (<http://www.fao.org/forestry/silvamed/en/>). Each Working Group would be led by one or more member countries and operate according to a defined work plan. Each Working Group would be responsible for the resource mobilization for its own activities. Like in option 3, there was consensus that forests and water and DRM in mountains should be the topics of the first two thematic Working Groups.
- Option 4b: keep the present institutional setup as an umbrella and establish a number of geographic Working Groups underneath to cover the main ecological zones of Europe, e.g. Scandinavian countries, Alpine countries, Carpathian Countries, etc. However, it was noted that such an approach already exists and similar organizations were created in some regions of Europe. Ultimately, this approach would hinder the active participation of some countries already engaged in similar processes.
- Option 5: shift from a country-driven process to a more centralized approach. In this scenario, the Secretariat would be strengthened and entitled to operate in a more proactive way, pursuing active fund-raising for the implementation of research and field projects and coordinating all the necessary activities. Country contributions would be required to establish a permanent post in the Secretariat to perform the related tasks. This approach would ensure a Secretariat that works for the sake of countries and that delivers products which are useful for the daily work of the members.

The options above were presented and thoroughly discussed on the occasion of the 28<sup>th</sup> WP MMW Session, held in Kastamonu, Turkey, from 13 to 15 September 2011. Opinions, suggestions and preferences of the members were received and appraised and a comprehensive proposal to the EFC for the future work of the WP MMW was assembled and endorsed by participants. It is presented in Chapter 6 “Conclusions and Recommendations” of this report.

## 6. POTENTIAL COLLABORATION WITH RELEVANT ORGANIZATIONS

National focal points of the WP MMW can be based in academic institutions, research institutes or state technical departments. The dialogue among scientists and government technicians is one of the unique and particular features of the group. Because of its heterogeneous composition, the WP MMW offers positive grounds for collaboration on several thematic areas and fields of work.

According to the institutional landscape presented in Annex 5, the subjects for which the WP MMW has a great scope to establish collaboration are:

- a) Forests and water; and
- b) Disaster risk management in mountains.

Activities, for which collaboration between the WP MMW and other organizations can be established or further strengthened, are:

- a) Research;
- b) Networking, exchange of information and experiences; and
- c) Capacity building and institutional support.

According to these criteria, existing institutions, programmes and mechanisms were identified by the present review and filtered by subject and activity in order to define concrete areas of collaboration with the WP MMW. The list below presents, for each organization considered, the relevant subjects and activities for future cooperation.

- **Alpine Convention**

**Subjects:** forests and water; disaster risk management in mountains.

**Activities:** networking and information and experience exchange; capacity building and institutional support; research.

- **Carpathian Convention**

**Subjects:** forests and water; disaster risk management in mountains.

**Activities:** networking and information and experience exchange; capacity building and institutional support; research.

- **EFICEC**

**Subjects:** forests and water.

**Activities:** networking and information and experience exchange; capacity building and institutional support; research.

- **EU Water Framework Directive**  
**Subjects:** forests and water.  
**Activities:** capacity building and institutional support.
- **FOREST EUROPE**  
**Subjects:** forests and water.  
**Activities:** networking and information and experience exchange; capacity building and institutional support.
- **INTERPRAEVENT**  
**Subjects:** Disaster risk management in mountains.  
**Activities:** networking and information and experience exchange; capacity building and institutional support; research.
- **INTERREG IVC**  
**Subjects:** disaster risk management in mountains.  
**Activities:** networking and information and experience exchange; capacity building and institutional support.
- **IRDR**  
**Subjects:** disaster risk management in mountains.  
**Activities:** networking and information and experience exchange; capacity building and institutional support; research.
- **IUFRO**  
**Subjects:** forests and water; disaster risk management in mountains.  
**Activities:** networking and information and experience exchange; research.
- **PLANALP:**  
**Subjects:** disaster risk management in mountains.  
**Activities:** networking and information and experience exchange; capacity building and institutional support.
- **UNECE Water Convention**  
**Subjects:** forests and water.  
**Activities:** networking and information and experience exchange; capacity building and institutional support; research.

The review highlighted that the WP MMW might play an important role in particular in the technical follow-up to FOREST EUROPE Warsaw Resolution 2 "Forests and Water" and to

political commitments adopted at the 6<sup>th</sup> FOREST EUROPE Ministerial Conference held in Oslo from 14 to 16 June 2011. As far as networking and information exchange is concerned, the WP MMW has a great potential to support the work of FOREST EUROPE.

Other entities, for which the review recommends entering into partnership, are the UNECE Water Convention, INTERPRAEVENT, IUFRO, EFICEC and IRDR.

## 7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

During the 28<sup>th</sup> Session of the WP MMW, a substantial slot of time was allocated to discuss the preliminary findings of the review and the options for the new mandate and modus operandi of the WP MMW presented in Chapter 4.

Members of the WP MMW attending the session in Kastamonu agreed upon the necessity to keep the WP MMW as an institutional “chapeau” under which thematic Working Groups would be established (Option 4a). With a Working Group structure, the WP MMW will be able to more specifically respond to the diverging needs and priorities within the European region. In this connection, thematic (Option 4a) and regional (Option 4b) Working Groups are not deemed to be mutually exclusive.

Similar to the structure of Silva Mediterranea, each Working Group should have a leading country, detailed terms of reference, a work plan, clear outputs and expected results, and a defined budget to accomplish its set tasks. Every leading country would be a member of the Steering Committee of the WP MMW, thus ensuring a greater commitment and a more motivated participation in pursuing the theme of interest. Thus, the Steering Committee would receive a stronger mandate. Each EFC member country is obviously welcome to participate in several Working Groups.

Working Groups may be in place for a limited duration, until the task is accomplished, or operate over a longer period of time. As already pointed out, two Working Groups were already recommended by the session participants in Kastamonu: forests and water (main advocating countries: Finland, Switzerland and Turkey), and disaster risk management in mountains (main advocating countries: France and Austria). Other proposed Working Groups are on climate change, on mountain meadows and on forest fires.

In this new institutional structure, the services and responsibilities of the Secretariat would obviously increase. In particular, its role would be to coordinate the activities between the Working Groups and to support the work of the Steering Committee. A dedicated staff person, e.g. through secondments or through the APO programme, would be required in the Secretariat to deliver on these responsibilities. Each Working Group would be responsible for the fundraising for its activities, e.g. through the development of project proposals to be submitted to the EC and other relevant donors.

In order to avoid excessive institutional complexity, it was decided neither to merge the Working Party with the UNECE Water Convention and the Timber Committee, nor with the FAO Near East and African Forestry Commissions (see Option 2 in Chapter 4). Notwithstanding, it was decided to enhance the collaboration and to intensify the exchange of experiences and lessons learnt with countries from the Mediterranean region and Central Asia

as well with other relevant institutional mechanisms such as for example FOREST EUROPE, the UNECE Water Convention, INTERPRAEVENT, etc.

Working Party sessions will continue to take place on a biennial basis. They will provide sound occasions for exchange, whereas the main agenda items will be the progress reports of the different Working Groups.

Additionally, it was decided to keep the current name of the Working Party. Although a bit long, it allows for the accommodation of all the country needs and priorities.

As requested by the deliberations of the 35<sup>th</sup> EFC session held in Lisbon, Portugal, in April 2010, the findings of the review and the recommendations from Kastamonu were presented by the Secretary of the Working Party to the 36<sup>th</sup> EFC Session, held in Antalya, Turkey, from 10 to 14 October 2011, for consideration and guidance for future course of action. On this occasion, the Commission expressed high appreciation for the work of the Working Party and the outcomes of the review and recommended that the new mandate and modus operandi of the Working Party be included in the overall review process of the Integrated Programme of Work on Timber and Forestry of the UNECE TC and FAO EFC for the period 2014- 2017.

## 8. ANNEXES

### Annex 1

#### Terms of reference for the consultancy

Since the establishment of the Working Party in 1952, a number of processes, programmes and networks have been created in Europe (UNECE Water Convention, Forest Europe, EUROMONTANA, Alpine Convention, etc.) which to some extent deal with similar issues as the Working Party. Over the last years a trend of decreasing interest and participation of the member countries and observers in the activities of the WP MMW can be noted. This situation might indicate that in view of the current complex institutional landscape in Europe, the flood of information, the work load of technical experts (in government as well as academia) and the increasing financial constraints, the WP MMW in its current form is no more attractive enough and fails to get the attention it deserves. This trend leads inevitably to the following fundamental questions which need to be answered:

- How does the WP MMW position itself within this new and evolving institutional landscape in Europe and are the current vision, mission and mandate of the WP MMW still appropriate?
- What are the reasons for the decreasing response by the members to the activities of the WP MMW? Is the way the group is organised and functioning not attractive enough? Are the priorities, on which the group is focusing, not addressing the real, burning and priority issues?
- How can the financial sustainability of the WP MMW be ensured? Could the ownership of the WP MMW by the member countries be increased through the request for financial contributions? What about the idea of initiating WP MMW Projects? Is there scope to do active fundraising with different potential users of WP MMW products?

In order to give the group a new push and to answer these strategic questions, the Steering Committee of the WP MMW proposed at its 27th session to initiate a major review of the WP MMW through an external consultancy. This idea was presented and endorsed at the joint meeting of the bureaux of the EFC/TC/WP on 25 February in Geneva as well as at the 35th session of the EFC in Lisbon. For the consultancy, the following draft Terms of Reference are being proposed:



- Review the current institutional landscape in Europe of relevance for the WP MMW, analyse the mandate and functioning of the different ongoing processes and networks, and identify the potential niches for the WP MMW.
- Analyse the past and current structure, mandate and modus operandi of the WP MMW and blend it with the results of the first component.
- Visit a number of countries and partners which are very active in the WP MMW and find out about the reasons for their motivation as well as about their expectations for the future from the group.
- Visit a number of countries and partners which have been inactive since a number of years and find out about the reasons for this inactivity as well as about their expectations for the future from the group.
- Get acquainted with the most important related topics in different parts of Europe and identify the most relevant issues for the WP MMW. This task is meant to be achieved through questionnaires, consultations with countries, past reports and works.
- Interact with the North American Forestry Commission Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds to know about their experience.
- Analyse the institutional set up of the Expert Groups as a potential alternative to that of the WP MMW.
- Analyse the structure and functioning of Silva Mediterranea to inspire the new set up of the WP MMW.
- Analyse the findings and elaborate a proposal for a new mandate, institutional setup and modus operandi of the WP MMW.
- Develop a proposal for the terms of collaboration with other relevant ongoing processes and existing networks in Europe.

Duration of the consultancy: 5 months (1 March – 31 July 2011)

Budget for the consultancy: EUR 50,000 (including salary, travels, DSA and operational expenses)

Budget March-July 2010	EUR
Five months of consultancy	20,000

Travels to countries (flights and DSA)	11,800
Report production	11,200
Report translation (French and Spanish)	7,000
Total	50,000

**Budget for the consultancy for the review of mandate and modus operandi of the  
EFC Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds**

The estimated costs are based on the experience of similar activities organized in the past

The consultancy would be funded through voluntary contributions of the member countries. The expected products of the consultancy will be presented and discussed on the occasion of the 28th Session of the WP MMW as well as of the 36th session of the European Forestry Commission.

## Annex 2

### Questionnaires for the focal points of the WP MMW

Questionnaires were distributed to member countries of the WP MMW to solicit their inputs and views concerning the potential new structure and governance of the group, approaches to ensure financial sustainability, synergies and collaboration with relevant organizations and institutional mechanisms, and thematic areas to be prioritized. Respondents were also asked to explain what kind of institutional affiliation and support they had. The questionnaire was sent out on 10 May 2011, it is presented in the box below.

The response rate was quite low, with eight questionnaires completed and submitted by official focal points. Responding countries were Austria, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Poland, Slovak Republic, Spain and Turkey.

The survey revealed that designation modalities for the focal points of the WP MMW can vary quite substantially from country to country. National representatives can be based in different ministries, but also in research institutes, universities, etc. This means that, depending on the country, the participation in the activities of the WP MMW involves different funding mechanisms such as for example research funds, ministerial resources, etc. However, the survey evidenced that in most cases there is no specific budget allocation in the host institution of focal points for the implementation of activities under the WP MMW. This element turned out to be one of the greatest constraints hampering a more proactive participation in the technical body.

The main strength of the WP MMW is deemed to be its capacity to exchange and compile technical expertise and experience from different disciplines and countries. 6 out of the 8 responding countries were in favor of enlarging the mandate of the WP MMW to include forests and water issues beyond mountain watersheds. Other thematic areas prioritized by the respondents were DRM in mountains, socio-economic aspects related to watershed management, payments for ecosystem services, valuation of forest ecosystem services, impacts of climate change on water resources and multipurpose management of forests.

The lack of a work plan and of relevant funds to achieve expected outputs are considered by the respondents to be the main weaknesses. There is unanimous consensus on the proposal to develop, under the label of the WP MMW, thematic project proposals and to submit these to the EC and other potential donor organizations for funding. COST – one of the longest-running European instruments supporting cooperation among scientists and researchers across Europe – is specifically indicated as a potential funding source for the activities of the WP MMW.

As far as the relevant institutional landscape and partnerships are concerned, respondents wrote about their involvement in the following networks, programmes and commitments: Association on Headwater Control, Hydro-Eco International Programme, FOREST EUROPE, Alpine Convention, Carpathian Convention, IRDR, IUFRO, INTERPRAEVENT, PLANALP, EU, INTERREG IVC and EU WFD.

### **Box 1. Blank questionnaire for the focal points of the WP MMW**

#### ***Participation in the WP MMW***

1. You are the Representative to the WP MMW of your country. How have you been nominated?
2. How does the designating institution support your participation in the activities of the WP MMW?
3. What are the most important elements motivating your participation in the WP MMW?
4. What are the reasons, if any, hindering a greater participation in the activities of the WP MMW?
5. Do you have any budget to participate in the WP MMW and where does it come from?

#### ***Mandate of the WP MMW***

6. Are the current vision and mission of the WP MMW still appropriate and do they focus on the real, burning issues?
7. On several occasions, the Steering Committee of the WP MMW, the European Forestry Commission and the Joint UNECE-TC/FAO-EFC Bureaux recommended to include forests and water issues into the mandate of the WP MMW without neglecting its traditional focus on mountain watersheds.
  - 7.1. Do you agree with this proposal?
  - 7.2. If not, why?
  - 7.3. If not, what would you recommend as an alternative to the proposal above?

8. What should be the most important topics to be included in the new mandate of the WP MMW under the mountain watersheds and the forests and water components respectively?

***Governance and financing***

9. What should the new governance structure be in order to reflect the revised terms of reference?
10. Which changes of the modus operandi of the WP MMW would you propose?
11. How could the financial sustainability of the WP MMW be increased and ensured?
12. Should the WP MMW prepare in future thematic project proposals to be submitted to the EU and other donors?

***Positioning within the European institutional landscape***

13. Are there any other on-going processes, networks and institutions which to a certain extent deal with similar issues as the WP MMW?
14. If so, are you involved in any of these existing processes and how?
15. To what extent and in which way should the WP MMW collaborate with other relevant ongoing processes and existing networks in Europe?
16. Do you have any other comment on the restructuring of the WP MMW?

## Annex 3

### In-depth review

Switzerland, Turkey, Norway and France were targeted and contacted for in-depth discussions. Switzerland and Turkey were visited by the consultant in charge of the review while Norway was contacted by phone. As far as France is concerned, the focal point of the WP MMW was interviewed on the phone while the officer in charge of international forestry affairs from the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries (MAAP) was interviewed in person in Geneva in July 2011.

The organizations contacted for the in-depth review were the UNECE Water Convention, FOREST EUROPE, IRDR, IUFRO, PLANALP, INTERPRAEVENT and EFICEC. The Secretary of the UNECE Water Convention was interviewed in person in Geneva in May 2011, while the focal point of FOREST EUROPE for Warsaw Resolution 2 “Forests and Water” and the Director of EFICEC were interviewed over the phone. From IRDR, IUFRO, PLANALP and INTERPRAEVENT, documentation was received concerning mission and thematic focus with a view to identify potential areas of collaboration with the WP MMW. Main findings of the assessment of the institutional landscape are presented in Chapter 5 while a detailed overview is discussed in annex 5.

In addition to the consultations above, the consultant met with the forestry officers of REU and SEC and with the Head of the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section.

In Switzerland there is a good institutional and technical cooperation for the management of forests with protective functions against water-related natural hazards, since forests and water are administered under the same ministry and with sufficient funding. Yet, an even increased cooperation with the forest sector is deemed necessary. In Particular, substantial work is still needed on payments for ecosystem services relating to water, in order to compensate forest owners for additional costs incurred for sound forest management. Forest and water relationships are extremely important for controlling erosion, floods, avalanches and landslides, but also in connection with drinking-water supply. Droughts and forest fires are an additional concern. Forest and water interactions in relation with water quantity, water quality and climate change are areas of increasing importance.

Consultations with experts of the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment revealed that the present mandate of the WP MMW needs to be updated, since problems related to the management of mountain watersheds are basically overcome in Switzerland. Issues related to climate change impacts on water resources, including water quantity and quality and increased water-related natural hazards, as well as the contributions of forests in mitigating these impacts are considered of high relevance for the future commitment of the WP MMW. The Government of Switzerland is in favor of a joint Working Group on forests and water

involving the UNECE Water Convention and the UNECE Timber Committee, coupled with an enlargement of its geographic coverage to include the entire UNECE region. This position was officialised through a note sent by FOEN to the WP MMW on the occasion of its 28<sup>th</sup> Session.

The consultant was invited to visit Turkey primarily to address the question whether or not the mandate of the WP MMW should be enlarged to include forests and water issues. The consultant had the opportunity to interview many national experts belonging to either the forest or water sectors, which in Turkey are administered under the Ministry of Forest and Water Affairs. In addition, the consultant received inputs and suggestions from the General Directorate of Agricultural Research of the Ministry of Agriculture, which conducts important research activities with a focus on water.

The topic of forests and water revealed to be very relevant for Turkey too, primarily because of the prevailing semi-arid and arid conditions in many areas of the country, and the consequent need to carefully balance the water use by the numerous newly established planted forests and the environmental services and goods provided by forest ecosystems. In addition, since 7 000 000 people in Turkey still live in forest land and are directly dependant on forest resources, especially in mountain areas, the terms of reference of the WP MMW established in 1970 are still relevant, especially in connection with socio-economic aspects and rural development.

The focal point of France and the former focal point of Norway (the present one has not yet been nominated) were interviewed over the phone. The position of the two countries was quite similar: the technical expertise of the WP MMW should have a strong focus on natural hazards and connected aspects, such as landslides, rockfalls, floods, avalanches, torrent control, hazard mapping, land use planning, risk communication, engineering works, etc. Obviously, the importance of forests for terrain stability, erosion control and water conservation should not be neglected with this thematic focus. Global warming, with associated disruptive changes in the hydrological cycle and potential disastrous impacts on water resources, should receive increased attention.

As a result of the recommendations from the joint meeting of the Bureaux of UNECE TC and FAO EFC, held in Geneva on 11 May 2011, the consultant met the French officer of MAAP in charge of international forestry affairs. The meeting, which was held in Geneva in July 2011, aimed at discussing the proposal to split the WP MMW into two Teams of Specialists, one dealing with forests and water, the other with disaster risk management in mountains respectively. The proposal, which was made for the first time on the occasion of the joint meeting of the EFC/TC Bureaux held in Geneva on 24-25 February 2010, was confirmed and reiterated by the French Representative in light of the institutional simplification and flexibility that ToSs entail.

## Annex 4

### Questionnaires for the members of the UNECE Water Convention

On the occasion of a number of international conferences over the last three years, an increased collaboration between the forest and water sectors has been recommended by professionals dealing with forests from different perspectives (researchers, managers, technicians, development sector, etc.).

The UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes recognizes the crucial role of the protection and restoration of ecosystems for water management. The importance of forests for water management has been identified in several events under the Convention, nevertheless relevant strategies and objectives for the future programme of work are yet to be defined.

The survey, which is herein summarized, aimed to assess the interest of the water community to cooperate with the forest sector and to identify possible specific areas and activities for such cooperation. The results of the survey fed into the review of the mandate and modus operandi of the WP MMW and informed the Parties to the Water Convention for the development of the 2011-2013 programme of work.

The survey was conducted through a questionnaire distributed to the Parties to the Water Convention. The questionnaire was sent out on 09 July 2011, it is presented in the box below.

#### Box 2. Blank questionnaire for the members of the UNECE Water Convention



UNECE Water  
Convention



Insert here the **COUNTRY** that is responding to the questionnaire

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

Please provide name and contact data of the person, who filled in the questionnaire:

First Name:

Last Name: (Ms/Mr)



Position:

Name of the Organization:

Address:

Telephone:

Fax:

E-mail:

Website:

**1. How are the forest and water sectors organized in your country?**

Same ministry	Different ministries	Other
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Please explain:

**2. How is the cooperation with the forest sector in your country?**

Inexistent	Scarce	Rather good	Good	Excellent	Don't know/ NA
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Feel free to comment:					

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**3. Is an increased cooperation with the forest sector needed in your country?**

No	May be	Yes	Don't know/ NA
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please explain:			

**4. How important are forest and water relationships for the following topics in your country?**

	Not important	Slightly important	Important	Extremely important	Don't know/ NA
Floods:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Erosion:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Landslides:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Droughts:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

quantity:					
Water quality:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drinking-water supply:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Forest fires:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Others:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please explain:					

**5. What kind of activities at the international level would you like to implement together with the forest sector to address the issues above?**

	Not interested	May be	Interested	Very interested	If yes on which topic?	Don't know/ NA
Workshops:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Scientific publications:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Projects:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Policy guidelines:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>

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**6. Do you agree with the proposal to create a joint Working Group on forests and water?**

No	May be	Yes	Don't know/ NA
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please explain:			

**7. Would you participate in the activities of such a group?**

No	May be	Yes	Don't know/ NA
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please explain:			

## **8. Do you have any other comments on this issue?**

The response rate was quite high, with 21 questionnaires completed and submitted from the following countries: Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Republic of Armenia, Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Spain, Switzerland, Turkmenistan, Turkey and Ukraine.

In 9 of 21 the responding countries, forests and water are housed in the same ministry, in the other 12 countries either in two different ministries or within a more complex institutional set up.

16 countries acknowledged a good institutional collaboration between the two sectors, while 5 countries answered that the present collaboration is scarce. 16 countries strongly and 3 countries vaguely emphasized on the need to increase the cooperation between the forest and water sectors. Only 2 countries do not consider an increased collaboration as a priority.

16 out of the 21 responding countries acknowledged the great importance of forest and water relationships for issues directly related to water quantity, water quality and drinking-water supply. Overall, there was clear recognition of the importance of forest management for the mitigation of water related hazards and climate change impacts, and for erosion control. Forest fires ranked high as a topic which needs to receive additional attention.

On the question of establishing a joint Working Group on forests and water and on participating in its activities, 9 parties answered favorably, 8 countries tentatively positive and 3 countries negatively. One party did not express any opinion. Hesitation in regard to the establishment of the joint Working Group was mainly substantiated by an internal lack of resources and capacity to deal with a new institutional commitment.

14 countries expressed strong, 2 countries potential and 5 countries slight interest for the proposed activities that would be implemented at the international level under the joint Working Group on forests and water.

## **Annex 5**

### **Analysis of institutional landscape and organizations' mandates**

The questionnaires submitted by the focal points of the WP MMW evidence a number of international processes, networks and programmes in which members participate. In addition, there are partner organizations that already entertain a collaborative dialogue with the WP MMW and its Secretariat. In order to identify potential synergies and areas for future increased cooperation, an analysis was implemented of the institutional landscape relevant to the WP MMW, the mission and objectives of those organizations which, to a certain extent, deal with similar issues as the WP MMW, and of the existing partnerships. For some organizations it was possible to interview key staff, either on the phone or in person, other organizations sent documentation concerning their mandate and thematic focus. In some cases, information was retrieved from relevant web sites. The paragraphs below present core information on entities which are likely to intensify collaboration with the WP MMW in future.

#### **Alpine Convention**

The aim of the Convention is the long-term protection of the natural ecosystem of the Alps and sustainable development in the area, as well as the protection of residents' economic interests. The guiding principles of the Convention are prevention, polluter-pays and trans-border cooperation.

The Parties to the Convention are Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Slovenia, Switzerland and the European Community.

In order to fulfill their objective effectively, the Parties to the Convention act in the areas of regional planning, the conservation of nature and the countryside, mountain farming, mountain forests, soil conservation, tourism and recreation, energy, transport, prevention of air pollution, water management, population and culture, and waste management.

The Convention provides for the drawing up and adoption of application protocols for each of these areas as well as for resolving disputes between the Parties.

The signatory countries to the agreement are committed to:

- Cooperating on research and scientific assessment projects;
- Developing shared schemes of systematic monitoring and reporting;
- Harmonizing research, observations and data collections;
- Exchanging legal, scientific, economic and technical information;

- Working together with international organizations towards the effective implementation of the Convention and its protocols.

A Conference of the Contracting Parties (the Alpine Conference) holds regular biennial meetings to look at issues of common interest for the Contracting Parties and to make decisions and recommendations. It is set up and chaired by an executive body, the Alpine Conference Standing Committee.

The Convention entered into force for the European Community on 4 April 1998.

### **Carpathian Convention**

The Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (Carpathian Convention) is a framework type mechanism pursuing a comprehensive policy and cooperating in the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians. Designed to be an innovative instrument to ensure protection and foster sustainable development of this outstanding region and living environment, the Convention is aiming to improve the quality of life, to strengthen local economies and communities.

It aims as well at providing conservation and restoration of unique, rare and typical natural complexes and objects of recreational and other importance situated in the heart of Europe, preventing them from negative anthropogenic influences through the promotion of joint policies for sustainable development among the seven countries of the region (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia and Ukraine).

At the Fifth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" (Kiev, May 2003), the Carpathian countries adopted the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians consequently signed by all seven countries.

The cooperation under the Convention takes many forms, including joint bilateral or multi-lateral activities, international assistance, or coordinated national measures, covering the following subjects:

- Integrated approach to land-resource management;
- Conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity;
- Spatial planning;
- Sustainable and integrated water/river basin management;
- Sustainable agriculture and forestry;
- Sustainable transport and infrastructure;
- Sustainable tourism;
- Industry and energy;
- Cultural heritage and traditional knowledge;
- Environmental assessment/information system, monitoring and early warning; and
- Awareness raising, education and public participation.

## **EFICEC**

EFICEEC is the Central-East European Regional Office of the European Forest Institute. It was launched in April 2010 and comprises a forestry network of currently 30 partner institutions in Central and Eastern Europe.

EFICEEC is an international research unit providing integrative forestry-related research and capacity building with a special focus on Central East European countries. In times of global environmental changes and changing demands of modern society it strives to support sustainable land use and innovation in the forest sector through research, networking, capacity building and advocacy.

EFICEEC is hosted by the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (Universität für Bodenkultur Wien, BOKU) and aims to become an inter-disciplinary focal point building on three work areas:

- Forest sector policy and economics, including activities in forest policy analysis, innovation research, and sustainability research.
- Land use change, dedicated to land use modeling with special regard to climate change and bio-energy.
- Forest ecosystem management, dealing with forest management under changing environmental and societal conditions with special focus on mountain forests.

It is the mission of EFICEEC to produce practically relevant results through an integration of practice partners and to grant transfer from scientific advances into forest and land-use practice. It is particularly dedicated to further develop inter- and trans-disciplinary methods in the research on the sustainable use of natural resources. It aims to foster policy making through decision-support-tools and research-based and problem-related advocacy, to build databases on land-use change, forest policy and management in Europe, with a specific attention to the Central and Eastern Europe region, and to offer research-based teaching and capacity building.

EFICEEC will actively develop networks of international collaboration of research institutions on a pan-European and global scale and partnership between science and practice.

## **EU Water Framework Directive**

The Water Framework Directive establishes a legal framework to protect and restore clean water across Europe and ensure its long-term, sustainable use. Its official title is Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy.

The directive establishes an innovative approach for water management based on river basins, the natural geographical and hydrological units and sets specific deadlines for



Member States to protect aquatic ecosystems. The directive addresses inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater. It establishes several innovative principles for water management, including public participation in planning and the integration of economic approaches, including the recovery of the cost of water services.

In its Article 3, the directive calls for the creation of international districts for river basins that cover the territory of more than one Member State and for coordination of work in these districts.

## **FOREST EUROPE**

FOREST EUROPE is the pan-European policy process for the sustainable management of the continent's forests. FOREST EUROPE develops common strategies for its 46 member countries and the European Union on how to protect and sustainably manage forests. Founded in 1990, the continuous co-operation of FOREST EUROPE has led to achievements such as the guidelines and criteria for sustainable forest management. The collaboration of the ministers responsible for forests in Europe has been of great economic, environmental and social importance on the national and international level. High-priority topics of FOREST EUROPE are to strengthen the role of forests in mitigating climate change, secure the supply of good-quality fresh water, enhance and preserve forest biodiversity and provide forest products. Several countries outside Europe and international, non-governmental and private sector organizations participate as observers.

FOREST EUROPE Warsaw Resolution 2 "Forests and Water", endorsed in November 2007, recognizes the interrelations between forests and water. The resolution stresses the role of forests and forest management in protecting water quality and in overall watershed management. The WP MMW may play an important role in the technical follow-up to Warsaw Resolution 2 and to political commitments adopted at the 6<sup>th</sup> FOREST EUROPE Ministerial Conference held in Oslo from 14 to 16 June 2011. In Particular, as far as networking and information exchange is concerned, the WP MMW has a great potential to support the work of FOREST EUROPE.

## **INTERPRAEVENT**

The purpose of the Research Society is to set up preventive protection against disasters, and to further interdisciplinary research to protect human living space against flooding, debris flow, landslides, avalanches and rockfall, as well as anthropogenic (man-made) influences and destruction. As the Society's name implies, the intention is also to carry out research and pass on information concerning the causes of these events.

INTERPRAEVENT is committed to:

- Compile and analyze the causes of natural disasters;
- Develop preventive, damage-minimizing, protective measures;
- Organize international interdisciplinary events;
- Publish the results of scientific work;
- Constantly pass on the latest results of research to decision-makers in politics, administration, science and the economy;
- Bring together international activities and interests;
- Further the regular exchange of information and knowledge;
- Function as the connecting link between science and practice.

The specific aims and practical benefits are:

- The creation of decision-making aids for all questions of technical, planning, administrative and economic preparedness.
- The provision of a basis for decision-makers, in order to safeguard the “public interest” from group interests.
- The facilitation of further training for specialists.
- The provision of a central advisory service for questions and explanations concerning natural occurrences.
- The presentation of scientific discoveries and conclusions in a generally comprehensible form, making them applicable for practitioners.
- The bringing together of research work from different specialist fields.

One important benefit of the INTERPRAEVENT network is the mutual exchange of knowledge and experience. One of the tasks of INTERPRAEVENT is to plan and conduct international interdisciplinary events. Up to now, 10 international congresses have been organized on the topic of preventive protection against natural hazards. These congresses take place regularly, every 4 years, in different regions of Europe and are attended by over 350 experts.

Besides the large congresses, INTERPRAEVENT also offers specialist seminars, which are always organized and financed together with local institutions. In addition, every two years those who are responsible for the subject of natural hazards meet for high-level talks. This meeting - the so called INTERPRAEVENT Summit - serves the counseling preparation for political decisions in the prevention of natural hazards.

Experts from all institutions and member countries bring great commitment and energy to their work on the different bodies (working groups, committees, advisory boards), which is often carried out on a voluntary basis. They thus achieve a constant exchange of information

through the INTERPRAEVENT platform, and achieve continual development in the field of preventive protection against natural hazards at the international level.

## **INTERREG IVC**

INTERREG IVC provides funding for interregional cooperation, its aim is to promote exchange and transfer of knowledge and best practices across Europe. It is implemented under the European Community's territorial co-operation objective and financed through the European Regional Development Fund, which is intended to help reduce imbalances between regions of the Community. The Fund was set up in 1975 and grants financial assistance for development projects. The Operational Programme (a document developed by EU countries and /or regions and approved by the Commission, which defines their priorities) was approved in September 2007 and the period for INTERREG IVC will last from 2007 to 2013. This programme follows on from the INTERREG IIIC programme which ran from 2002 to 2006.

The overall objective of the INTERREG IVC Programme is to improve the effectiveness of regional policies and instruments, it builds on the exchange of experiences among partners who are ideally responsible for the development of their local and regional policies.

The areas of support are innovation and the knowledge economy, environment and risk prevention. Thus, the programme aims to contribute to the economic modernization and competitiveness of Europe. INTERREG IVC is linked to the objectives of Lisbon and Gothenburg agendas.

Typical tools for exchange of experience supported by INTERREG IVC are networking activities such as thematic workshops, seminars, conferences, surveys, and study visits. Project partners cooperate to identify and transfer good practices. Possible project outcomes include for example case study collections, policy recommendations, strategic guidelines or action plans. INTERREG IVC also allows light implementation or piloting, but only if these complement the exchange of experience.

## **PLANALP**

The Platform on Natural Hazards (PLANALP) of the Alpine Convention was set up to develop common strategies designed to prevent natural hazards in Alpine space as well as to deliberate on adaptation strategies.

One of the important tasks of PLANALP is to monitor closely climate change and its effects on hazardous processes such as avalanches, floods and landslides. It is intended to provide the necessary decision-making information for the continued development of the adaptation strategies, as a basis for adjustments to hazard prevention in the Alpine region.

At the end of 2007, the delegates of PLANALP decided to focus on four of the most important problems of integrated natural hazard risk management, which they designated as

"Hotspots":

- Climate change;
- Land use planning;
- Residual risk;
- Risk dialogue.

Population, buildings and important infrastructure facilities can be protected effectively only if the authorities, owners, insurance companies and the population enter into a risk dialogue that targets existing natural risks and derives a plan of action.

### **UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes**

UNECE has to tackle a wide range of water quantity and water quality problems: high water stress and overexploitation of water resources, increasing droughts and floods, contaminated water resulting in water-related diseases, etc. Attempts at solving these complex problems in Europe are further complicated by the essentially transboundary nature of water resources. UNECE member States are aware of the need for cooperation if they are to ensure that transboundary waters are used reasonably and equitably. This positive approach to the problem has been triggered, in no small measure, by the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, which 36 UNECE countries and the European Community have already ratified. In 2003, the Water Convention was amended to allow accession by countries outside the UNECE region, thus inviting the rest of the world to use the Convention's legal framework and to benefit from its experience.

The Convention takes a holistic approach based on the understanding that water resources play an integral part in ecosystems as well as in human societies and economies. The Convention is intended to strengthen national measures for the protection and ecologically sound management of transboundary surface waters and groundwaters. The Convention obliges Parties to prevent, control and reduce transboundary impact, use transboundary waters in a reasonable and equitable way and ensure their sustainable management. Parties bordering the same transboundary waters cooperate by entering into specific agreements and establishing joint bodies. The Convention includes provisions on monitoring, research and development, consultations, warning and alarm systems, mutual assistance, and exchange of information, as well as access to information by the public.

## **IRDR**

ICSU, ISSC and the UN-ISDR have created a new, major international programme – Integrated Research on Disaster Risk – that seeks to address the challenges posed by natural and human-induced environmental hazards. The complexity of the task is such that it requires full integration of the natural, social, health, and engineering sciences. This, coupled with socio-economic analysis, comprehending the role of communications, and understanding public and political response in risk reduction, takes IRDR beyond approaches that have traditionally been undertaken.

The IRDR programme has three research objectives:

- Characterization of hazards, vulnerability, and risk;
- Understanding decision-making in complex and changing risk contexts;
- Reducing risk and curbing losses through knowledge-based actions.

Three cross-cutting themes support these objectives:

- Capacity building, including mapping capacity for disaster reduction and building self-sustaining capacity at various levels for different hazards;
- Development and compilation of case studies and demonstration projects;
- Assessment, data management, and monitoring of hazards, risks, and disasters.

During its first three years, IRDR will focus on building partnerships and undertaking scientific analysis to put in place longer-term projects towards meeting its declared research objectives and overall vision, and contributing to the search for fundamental explanations for the current rise in disaster losses. It will seek to create a global IRDR community made up of scientists of all disciplines, as well as practitioners in disaster risk reduction and management.

## **IUFRO**

IUFRO is the global network for forest science collaboration. It unites more than 15,000 scientists in almost 700 Member Organizations in over 110 countries. Scientists cooperate in IUFRO on a voluntary basis. The work in the IUFRO network is guided by the IUFRO Strategy 2010-2014 in which forest and water interactions have been identified as one of six main thematic areas (Forests for People, Forests and Climate Change, Forest Bioenergy, Forest Biodiversity Conservation, Forest and Water Interactions, Resources for the Future).

The scientific activity of the network is spread over 9 Divisions, subdivided into about 260 Research Groups and Working Parties. In addition, interdisciplinary Task Forces have been established in order to facilitate cross-Divisional collaboration on each of the six themes of the IUFRO Strategy. This structure allows IUFRO to address research needs and priorities of its members, policy-makers, practitioners and stakeholders.

The specific objectives of the Task Forces are:

- Provide tangible research goals and knowledge gaps in thematic area;
- Promote more cross-disciplinarity across IUFRO divisions;
- IUFRO contributions to be more evident in other international processes;
- Prioritise to a few areas for greater collaboration and focus;
- Promote greater dialogue between science and policy actors.

In IUFRO Division 8 Forest Environment, there is one Research Group (Research Group 8.03.00 on natural hazards and risk management) which focuses mainly on protective function of forests against natural hazards and on snow and avalanche research.

The Research Group includes a Working Party on torrent, erosion and landslide control (Working Party 8.03.01) and a Working party on prevention by watershed management and land-use planning (Working Party 8.03.03), which are extremely relevant to the focus of the WP MMW.

## **Annex 6**

### **Mid-term consultations**

A number of mid-term consultations were undertaken with key actors in order to discuss progress and core concerns of the review and to get timely advice and suggestions to address the way forward. The main outcomes of these mid-term consultations are summarized in the paragraphs below.

#### **Joint meeting of the TC/EFC Bureaux, Geneva, Switzerland, 11 May 2011**

The consultant in charge of the review updated participants in the meeting on the state of work regarding the review and the calendar for the further implementation of this exercise. Participants requested to be fully involved in the review process and to be regularly informed about progress. Additionally, the consultant was requested to take into consideration and to further explore the proposal of France to split the WP MMW into two Teams of Specialists on forests and water and disaster risk management in mountains respectively.

#### **Meeting of the Steering Committee of the WP MMW, Vienna, Austria, 28 – 29 June 2011**

At the meeting, the consultant presented the preliminary findings of the review. The participants emphasized that the WP MMW should be more responsive to country needs and more beneficial for the work of the members, offering concrete products which would help the experts in their daily activities. There was discussion about the option to shift from a country-driven process to a more centralized approach. In this scenario, the Secretariat would be strengthened and entitled to act in a more proactive way and to deliver products which the members can use in their daily work. Financial contributions from the countries would be required to establish a post in the Secretariat to perform the needed work.

#### **28<sup>th</sup> Session of the WP MMW, Kastamonu, Turkey, 13 -15 September 2011**

During the 28<sup>th</sup> WP MMW Session, a substantial slot of time was allocated to discuss the preliminary findings of the review. Participants agreed upon the necessity to keep the WP MMW as an institutional “chapeau” under which thematic working groups would be established. Similar to the structure of Silva Mediterranea, each working group should have a leading country, detailed terms of reference, a work plan and a defined budget to accomplish the tasks.

Every leading country would be a member of the Steering Committee of the WP MMW, thus ensuring a greater commitment and a more motivated participation in pursuing the theme of interest. Each EFC member country can obviously participate in several working groups. Working groups may be in place for a limited duration, until its task is accomplished. Two

working groups were already proposed by the session participants: forests and water (main advocating countries: Finland, Switzerland and Turkey), and disaster risk management in mountains (main advocating countries: France and Austria).

The role of the Secretariat in this new institutional structure would be to coordinate the activities between the working groups and to support the work of the Steering Committee. A dedicated staff person, e.g. through secondments or through the APO programme, would be required in the Secretariat to deliver on these responsibilities. Each working group would be responsible for the fundraising for its activities. Additionally, it was decided to intensify the exchange of experiences and lessons learnt with countries from the Mediterranean region and Central Asia as well with other relevant institutional mechanisms such as for example Forest Europe, the UNECE Water Convention, INTERPRAEVENT, etc. WP MMW sessions will continue to take place on a biennial basis.

### **36<sup>th</sup> Session of the European Forestry Commission, Antalya, Turkey, 10 – 14 October 2011**

During the 36<sup>th</sup> Session of the European Forestry Commission, under agenda item 11d, the Secretary of the WP MMW presented the key findings and recommendations from the review as well as from the discussions in Kastamonu. This reporting had been requested on the occasion of the 35<sup>th</sup> EFC Session held in Lisbon in April 2010.

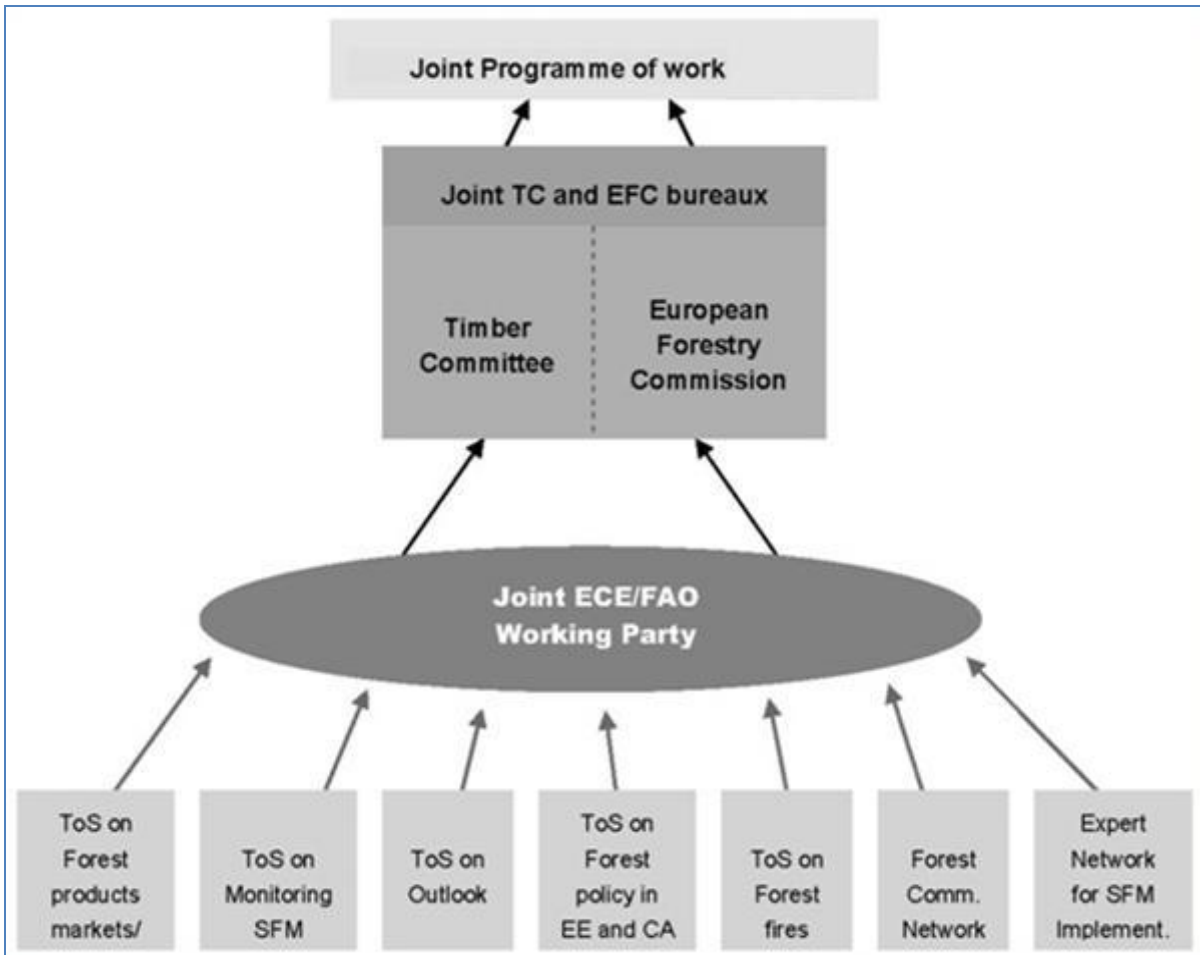
The Secretary informed participating countries that the WP MMW is considered an important technical body by members and partners and, therefore, needs to be strengthened.

The report by the Secretary was well received by the session participants. However, no decisions were taken with regard to the recommendations. The Commission decided to include the mandate and modus operandi of the WP MMW in the overall review process of the Integrated Programme of Work on Timber and Forestry of the UNECE TC and FAO EFC.



**Annex 7:**

**New proposed reporting line under the Joint TC/EFC Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics**



## **Annex 8**

### **List of documents consulted**

- Questionnaires submitted by the focal points of the WP MMW
- Questionnaires submitted by the Parties to the UNECE Water Convention
- Report of the joint meeting of the Bureaux of UNECE TC and the FAO EFC, 24-25 February 2010
- Report of the joint meeting of the Bureaux of UNECE TC and FAO EFC, 11 May 2011
- Report of the joint meeting of the Bureaux of UNECE TC and FAO EFC, 25 March 2011
- Report of the Steering committee meeting, 18-19 October 2010
- Report of the 27<sup>th</sup> WP MMW Session
- Report of the 68<sup>th</sup> Timber Committee Session
- Report of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Joint FAO/UNECE WP MMW on Forest Economics and Statistics
- Report of the 28<sup>th</sup> WP MMW Session
- Documents and reports of past WP MMW and EFC sessions
- Report of the Joint Sixty-eighth Session of the Timber Committee and Thirty-fifth Session of the European Forestry Commission
- Report of the Joint Sixty-ninth Session of the Timber Committee and Thirty-sixth Session of the European Forestry Commission
- Text of the Alpine Convention
- Text of the Carpathian Convention
- IUFRO Strategy 2011-14
- FOREST EUROPE Warsaw Resolution 2 “Forests and Water”
- FOREST EUROPE Work Plan 2008: follow up to the 5<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference in Warsaw

- FOREST EUROPE Oslo Ministerial Decision: European Forests 2020
- FOREST EUROPE Oslo Ministerial Mandate for Negotiating a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe
- PLANALP Hotspots paper
- Summary of IRDR activities, July 2011
- Web site of EFICEC: <http://www.eficeec.efi.int/portal/>
- Web site of INTERPRAEVENT: <http://www.interpraevent.at/?lng=4>
- Web site of INTERREG IVC: <http://www.interreg4c.eu/>
- Web site of the UNECE Water Convention: <http://www.unece.org/env/water.html>
- Web site of the EU Water Framework Directive:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/participation/notes\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/participation/notes_en.htm)