



***PAN-EUROPEAN BIOLOGICAL AND LANDSCAPE
DIVERSITY STRATEGY***

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**BUREAU OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE PAN-EUROPEAN
BIOLOGICAL AND LANDSCAPE DIVERSITY STRATEGY**

Twelfth meeting
16 September 2005
Palais des Nations, Geneva

**Draft PEBLDS/MCPFE Joint Statement on Sustainable Forest Management and
the Ecosystem Approach; Results of the MCPFE Expert Level Meeting
(Warsaw, 5-6 September 2005)**

*Document prepared by
the Joint Secretariat for PEBLDS*

Introduction

The meeting of the Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE)/PEBLDS ad hoc Working Group to develop a pan-European understanding on the linkage between the Ecosystem Approach (EA) and Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) was held on 18-21 April 2004, in Krakow, Poland. The meeting was jointly convened by the PEBLDS and the MCPFE under the Framework for Co-operation Between MCPFE and the PEBLDS and as an activity of the Kyiv Forest Biodiversity Action Plan.

A draft PEBLDS/MCPFE Joint Statement on the relationship between the Ecosystem Approach and Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) was prepared based on the outcome of the joint PEBLDS/MCPFE workshop. This draft Joint Statement was circulated to both MCPFE and PEBLDS Council for their comments. The PEBLDS Council did not make any comments to the draft Joint Statement. The draft was then presented at the MCPFE Expert Level Meeting in October 2004 and it was adopted. When the same document was then presented to the PEBLDS Bureau, the Bureau decided to hold consultations as it did not agree with some of the text in the draft. After consultations in Bangkok at SBSTTA 11, consultations between the Chair and representatives of the MCPFE, and consultations during a contact group meeting at the 9th PEBLDS Council in March this year, the PEBLDS Council agreed on a proposal to the MCPFE concerning the text of the Joint Statement.

The MCPFE Liaison Unit-Warsaw discussed the PEBLDS Council proposal with the MCPFE General Coordinating Committee (GCC) before the MCPFE Expert Level Meeting (ELM) held 5-6 September 2005 in Warsaw. At the ELM, the GCC recommended to the Expert Level Meeting to accept the text proposal by the PEBLDS Council concerning the relationship between the Ecosystem Approach and Sustainable Forest Management as follows:

- (1) The concept of SFM as defined and further developed by the MCPFE process is consistent with the application of the ecosystem approach to forest ecosystems in the pan-European region. (page 2: para 2, line 6, Annex 2)
- (2) The second sentence on demonstration projects, which is considered as part of implementation, should be added as part of the joint programme between MCPFE and the PEBLDS, and not in the policy document.

The Chair of the PEBLDS attended the MCPFE ELM and informed the participants that she had consulted with the PEBLDS Bureau and had received their support for the recommendation of the GCC. She assured the meeting that this text would be recommended for adoption at the next PEBLDS Council meeting if adopted by the ELM.

After a long discussion, the ELM decided to adopt the text in the attached joint statement.

Note: The Liaison Unit-Warsaw has published a paper entitled: "The Pan European Understanding of the linkage between the Ecosystem Approach and Sustainable Forest Management" with the outcome of the Joint PEBLDS/MCPFE workshop and can be downloaded from <http://www.mcpfe.org/publications/pdf/> for your information.

THE PAN EUROPEAN UNDERSTANDING OF THE LINKAGE BETWEEN THE ECOSYSTEM APPROACH AND SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

*Joint position of the MCPFE and the Efe/PEBLDS
to be submitted to the CBD and UNFF Secretariats*

Adopted at the MCPFE/ELM, 5 – 6 September, Warsaw, Poland

For adoption at the 10th Meeting of the PEBLDS Council

INTRODUCTION

The Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) is the high level forest policy process in Europe, addressing all dimensions of sustainable forest management (SFM), including forest biodiversity issues. “Environment for Europe” is the high-level process for environment related co-operation in Europe. Within the ministerial process “Environment for Europe”, the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS) constitutes the coordinating framework for efforts to conserve biological and landscape diversity in Europe, including forest biodiversity.

Both the Ministers responsible for forests of 40 European countries and the European Community at the 4th Conference (Vienna, April 2003) as well as the European Ministers responsible for environment at the 5th “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference (Kiev, May 2003), endorsed a Framework for Co-operation between the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) and the Environment for Europe/Pan European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (Efe/PEBLDS).

The clarification of the linkages between the Ecosystem Approach (EA) and sustainable forest management (SFM), building on the work achieved so far by the MCPFE on SFM, is one of the joint activities within the Framework of cooperation. The Framework follows up, therefore, on the decisions taken by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) (6th Conference of the Parties to the CBD, Expanded Work Programme on Forest Biological Diversity, 2002) and the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) (2003, third session, Resolution 3/4, para 8) with respect to the clarification of the two concepts at the regional pan-European level.

Following the MCPFE Work Programme and the PEBLDS Forest Biodiversity Action Plan, the session of the Ad-hoc working group on “*Development of Pan-European Understanding of the Linkage Between the Ecosystem Approach and Sustainable Forest Management*” took place on 19-21 April 2004 in Krakow, Poland. The outcome of the Ad-hoc working group is presented in the Annex.

This statement, building on the outcomes of the above Ad-hoc working group and approved by both the MCPFE Expert Level Meeting on 14-15 October 2005 in Warsaw, Poland as well as the PEBLDS...on in....., aims at contributing to the implementation of the MCPFE Work Programme, the PEBLDS Forest Biodiversity Action Plan, and the Expanded Programme of Work on Forest Biological Diversity of the CBD, as referred in the CBD COP Decision VI/22, paragraphs 15 and 18, as well as to the CBD COP Decision VII/11 and the UNFF Resolution 3/4 adopted at its 3rd session. It is a concrete effort for operationalising the EA by applying SFM at the implementation level.

PAN -EUROPEAN UNDERSTANDING OF THE LINKAGE BETWEEN THE ECOSYSTEM APPROACH AND SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

At the pan-European level the concept of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) is defined in Resolution H1: General Guidelines for Sustainable Management of Forests in Europe of the Helsinki Conference (1993) and developed through all other commitments, resolutions and declarations of the Ministerial Conferences held in Strasbourg – 1990, Helsinki – 1993, Lisbon – 1998 and Vienna – 2003. Taking them all into account it is understood by the MCPFE and the PEBLDS processes that *SFM as defined and further developed by the MCPFE process is consistent with the application of the ecosystem approach to forest ecosystems in the pan European region.*^{1 2}

The conceptual linkages between SFM as defined by MCPFE and the EA are described in details in Table 1of the Annex. The existing tools and processes, the MCPFE and the PEBLDS consider as appropriate for implementing Ecosystem Approach through SFM in Europe’s forests are also listed in the Annex which is integral part of this document.

The MCPFE and the PEBLDS note, following the FAO Forest Management Working Paper entitled “Sustainable Forest Management and the Ecosystem Approach: Two concepts, one goal” that the two concepts aim at promoting conservation and management practices which are environmentally, socially and economically sustainable, and which generate and maintain benefits for both present and future generations.

The MCPFE and the PEBLDS welcome the recognition by CBD (Decision VII/11) that SFM can be considered as a means of applying the Ecosystem Approach to forests.

On the issue of cross-sectoral integration and inter-sectoral collaboration (COP 7th Meeting, Kuala Lumpur, 2004: Decision VII/11) to further integrate the concepts of the Ecosystem Approach and SFM, the MCPFE and the PEBLDS consider that the principles of national forest programmes, following the IPF/IFF Proposals for Action, adopt a holistic and inter-sectoral approach, the integration with national sustainable development strategies as well as consistency with international commitments. This approach was adopted as Resolution V1: Strengthening synergies for sustainable forest management in Europe through cross-sectoral cooperation and national forest programmes at the Vienna Ministerial Conference in 2003.

The issues of interactions between forests and other biome/habitat types within a landscape are considered by the MCPFE and the PEBLDS mainly as issues to be taken at the implementation level, although already recognized at the ministerial conferences. In the European context the MCPFE addressed the concern about the effects on other ecosystems in Resolution H1: Sustainable Forest Management is the stewardship and use of forests and forest lands in a way, and at a rate, that maintains their biodiversity, productivity, regeneration capacity, vitality and their potential to fulfill, now and in the future, relevant ecological, economic and social functions, at local, national, and global levels, and that does not cause damage to other ecosystems.”

Conservation of forest biodiversity is considered by the MCPFE and the PEBLDS as an integral part of SFM. Forest biodiversity was a concern at the Helsinki Conference (1993) where the Ministers adopted

¹ Emphasis added by the Joint Secretariat.

² The previous sentence inserted by the PEBLDS Council at their 9th Meeting: “*Demonstration projects to implement the EA through SFM as described above should be carried out within the pan-European region.*” was removed by the Expert Level Meeting and modalities for adding to the programme of work of the MCPFE are being considered.

general guidelines for the conservation of biodiversity of European forests (Resolution H 2). At the 3rd Ministerial Conference (Lisbon, 1998) the Ministers adopted a set of criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management, subsequently revised and endorsed at the Ministerial Conference in Vienna (2003), which includes Criterion 4: Maintenance, Conservation and Appropriate Enhancement of Biological Diversity in Forest Ecosystems. Furthermore, the area of forests and other wooded land protected to conserve biodiversity, landscapes and specific natural elements are Pan-European indicators for SFM.

MCPFE and Efe/PEBLDS ad hoc Working Group on

Development of the pan European Understanding of the linkage between the Ecosystem Approach and Sustainable Forest Management

Outcome of the session held in Krakow, Poland, 19-21 April, 2004.

1. Introduction

Following the MCPFE Work Programme and the PEBLDS Forest Biodiversity Action Plan, the session of the Ad-hoc working group on “*Development of Pan-European Understanding of the Linkage Between the Ecosystem Approach and Sustainable Forest Management*” took place on 19-21 April in Krakow, Poland. The meeting was organised by the MCPFE Liaison Unit Warsaw in cooperation with PEBLDS Secretariat. The Government of Poland contributed to the organisation of the meeting by funding a field trip to the Tuszyn Forest District of the Regional Directorate of the State Forest in Krosno.

Fifty one participants from 23 countries and the European Commission and eight international organisations took part in the deliberations.

Mr. Piotr Borkowski, Head of the MCPFE Liaison Unit Warsaw opened the session and welcomed the participants on behalf of the Liaison Unit Warsaw. Dr. Edward Lenart, The Deputy Director of the Forestry Department of the Polish Ministry of the Environment welcomed the participants on behalf of the Minister of the Environment of Poland. Ms Ivonne Higuero addressed words of welcome on behalf of UNEP/PEBLDS.

Mr. Ingwald Gschwandtl (Austria) was elected as chairman of the ad hoc Working Group by the participants, and he chaired the plenary sessions. The two discussion groups were chaired by Ms. Conceicao Ferreira (Portugal) and Ms. Ivonne Higuero (UNEP/PEBLDS).

Practical examples of the application of the EA through SFM in forest ecosystems were demonstrated and discussed during the field trip.

2. Mandate of the Working Group

Both the European Ministers responsible for forests at the Vienna Conference (April 2003) as well as the European Ministers responsible for environment at the 5th Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Kiev, May 2003), endorsed a Framework for Co-operation between the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) and the Environment for Europe/Pan European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (Efe/PEBLDS).

The Framework for Cooperation proposed, as one of the joint activities, the clarification between the Ecosystem Approach (EA) and sustainable forest management (SFM), building on the work achieved so far by the MCPFE on SFM. The Framework thus follows up on the decisions taken by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) (6th Conference of the Parties to the CBD, Expanded Work Programme on forest biological diversity, 2002) and the United Nations Forum on Forest (UNFF) (2003, third session, Resolution 3/4, para 8) with respect to the clarification of the two concepts at the regional pan-European level.

To follow up on the decisions it was decided at the MCPFE Expert Level Meeting, October 2003 in Vienna, to establish an Ad hoc Working Group to elaborate on the relationship between SFM and the EA within the European context and, in particular, to elaborate on the clarification between the two concepts based on the MCPFE experience and achievements with regards to SFM. The PEBLDS Council at the Madrid Conference (January, 2004) agreed to support the ad hoc working group under the Forest Biodiversity Action Plan proposal.

This action aims at contributing to the implementation of the MCPFE Work Programme, the PEBLDS Forest Biodiversity Action Plan and the Expanded Programme of Work on Forest Biological Diversity of the CBD, as referred in the CBD COP Decision VI/22, paragraphs 15 and 18.

3. Background

The Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe is a high-level political initiative for co-operation on the most important concerns and challenges regarding forests and forestry in Europe. This process is based on a series of conferences at the ministerial level and specific follow-up procedures. At the conferences, aspects of the highest political interest and concerns are dealt with by the ministers responsible for forests, which are then expressed in the form of Resolutions as well as General Declarations. Following the Ministerial Conferences, the decisions agreed by the ministers are further specified and put into action at expert meetings, namely by means of the development of a Work Program that integrates actions to be taken at the pan-European level. In addition, it is the Member States' responsibility to implement the commitments at national level.

Launched in 1990, this political platform for dialogue on European forest issues involves around 40 European countries and the European Community. Furthermore, non-European countries and international organizations participate as observers allowing non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations to contribute with their knowledge and ideas.

Since 1990, four Ministerial Conferences on the Protection of Forests in Europe have taken place. These are regarded as milestones in the development of international forest policy: Strasbourg (1990), Helsinki (1993), Lisbon (1998), and Vienna (2003). The fifth Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe will take place in Warsaw. The MCPFE also recognizes the significance of these commitments at the regional and global levels. It contributes to the implementation of the forest related decisions of the UNCED and its follow-up process within the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF) and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF). The MCPFE obtained observer status to the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and participates in its work.

Furthermore the MCPFE contributes to the provisions of the United Nations Conventions, particularly the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and its Expanded Work Programme on Forest Biological Diversity.

In regards to biological diversity, and in addition to the two specific resolutions (H2: General Guidelines for the Conservation of the Biodiversity of European Forests and V4: Conserving and Enhancing Forest Biological Diversity in Europe.) the MCPFE has implemented the "Work Programme on the Conservation and Enhancement of Biological and Landscape Diversity in Forest Ecosystems 1997-2000" (Biodiversity Work Programme) in co-operation with the European ministers responsible for the environment and the Ministerial Process Environment for Europe/PEBLDS.

4. Outcomes

4.1. General Conclusions

The participants of the working group welcomed the recognition by CBD (Decision VII/11) that SFM can be considered as a means of applying the Ecosystem Approach to forests. They also noted that the FAO Forest Management Working Paper entitled “Sustainable Forest Management and the Ecosystem Approach: Two concepts, one goal”³ states that the two concepts aim at promoting conservation and management practices which are environmentally, socially and economically sustainable, and which generate and maintain benefits for both present and future generations.

Participants stated that at the pan-European level the concept of SFM is defined in Resolution H1: *General Guidelines for Sustainable Management of Forests in Europe* of the Helsinki Conference (1993) and developed through all other commitments, resolutions and declarations of the Ministerial Conferences held in Strasburg – 1990, Helsinki – 1993, Lisbon – 1998 and Vienna – 2003. Taking them all into account the analysis made in the meeting showed SFM to be the concrete means of applying the Ecosystem Approach to forest ecosystems in the European region. (See Section 4. 2 below)

Concerning the request of the Conference of the Parties to CBD (COP 7th Meeting, Kuala Lumpur, 2004: Decision VII/11) to further integrate the concepts of the Ecosystem Approach and SFM, with special emphasis on three critical issues, the participants expressed the following view:

Better cross-sectoral integration and inter-sectoral collaboration: At the 4th Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (Vienna - 2003), the Ministers signed Resolution V1 on strengthening synergies for sustainable forest management in Europe through cross-sectoral cooperation and national forest programmes. The principles of national forest programmes, following the IPF/IFF Proposals for Action, adopt a *holistic and inter-sectoral approach*, the *integration with national sustainable development strategies* as well as *consistency with international commitments recognising synergies between international forest-related initiatives and conventions*.

Interactions between forests and other biome/habitat types within a landscape: The participants of the meeting considered that this is mainly an issue to be taken at the implementation level, although already recognised at the ministerial conferences. The definition of SFM in the European context addressed the concern about the effects on other ecosystems in Resolution H1: *Sustainable Forest Management is the stewardship and use of forests and forest lands in a way, and at a rate, that maintains their biodiversity, productivity, regeneration capacity, vitality and their potential to fulfil, now and in the future, relevant ecological, economic and social functions, at local, national, and global levels, and that does not cause damage to other ecosystems.*⁴

Biodiversity conservation issues, in particular through continued development of criteria, indicators and forest management certification programmes and including protected areas: Biodiversity was a concern at the Helsinki Conference (1993) where the Ministers adopted general guidelines for the conservation of biodiversity of European forests (Resolution H 2). At the 3rd Ministerial Conference (Lisbon, 1998) the Ministers adopted a set of criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management, which includes Criterion 4: Maintenance, Conservation and Appropriate Enhancement of Biological Diversity in Forest Ecosystems. The Pan-European indicators were further developed and endorsed at the 4th Ministerial Conference (Vienna, 2003) as “Improved Pan-European Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management”.

³ FAO (2003), Sustainable forest management and the ecosystem approach: two concepts, one goal. Wilkie M.L., Holmgren P., Castaneda F., FAO Working Paper FM 25

⁴ MCPFE (1993), Resolution H1 Preamble, Para D.

Under Criterion 4 the list of indicators includes among others, Indicator 4.9 (Protected forests): area of forest and other wooded land protected to conserve biodiversity, landscapes and specific natural elements, according to the MCPFE Assessment Guidelines. In this regard, protected areas are seen as an integral part of SFM.

Conservation of forest biological diversity was again addressed in Vienna by the adoption of Resolution V4: *Conserving and Enhancing Forest Biological Diversity in Europe*, which includes Annex 1: *Framework for Cooperation between the MCPFE and the Environment for Europe/Pan European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (EjE/PEBLDS)*, and Annex 2: *MCPFE Assessment Guidelines for Protected and Protective Forest and Other Wooded land in Europe*.

4. 2. Conceptual linkages between SFM as defined by MCPFE and the EA

EA Principle	MCPFE References	Comments
<p>Principle 1: The objectives of management of land, water and living resources are a matter of societal choice.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Participation (Resolution V1: Strengthen synergies for sustainable forest management in Europe through cross-sectoral co-operation and National Forest Programmes; Annex to V1: MCPFE Approach to National Forest Programmes in Europe.) ▪ Partnership for implementation (Resolution L1: People, Forests and Forestry – Enhancement of Socio-Economic Aspects of Sustainable Forest Management; Annex to V1) ▪ Good governance (Vienna Living Forest Summit Declaration: European Forests – Common Benefits, Shared Responsibilities, para 20) ▪ Partnership and co-operation (Resolution V4: Conserving and Enhancing Forest Biological Diversity in Europe; Annex 1 to V4: Framework for Co-operation Between MCPFE and Environment for Europe/PEBLDS) 	<p>Two of the key aspects of National Forest Programmes (NFPs) in Europe are: participation and partnership for implementation.</p>
<p>Principle 2: Management should be decentralized to the lowest appropriate level.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Decentralization (Resolution H1: General Guidelines for Sustainable Management of Forests in Europe, para D; V1; Annex to V1) ▪ Good governance and forest law enforcement (Vienna Declaration, para 20) ▪ Institutional and policy reform (V1) 	<p>Decentralization as well as development of human and institutional capacity constitutes important aspects that are closely linked to participation, which is stressed in Annex to V1. Decentralization is linked with participation, and it is also related</p>

		<p>to decision-making power and implementation.</p> <p>The participants emphasised national contexts, for example different political systems and ownership structures, which vary considerably among European countries should be taken into account.</p> <p>Participants also stressed that in some countries local authorities play an important role in forest management.</p>
<p>Principle 3: Ecosystem managers should consider the effects (actual or potential) of their activities on adjacent and other ecosystems.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Impacts on other ecosystems (duty of care) (Resolution H1, para D: “The concern about the effects on other ecosystems was taken into account in the definition of SFM in the European context”; Resolution V1) ▪ Holistic and inter-sectoral approach (Resolution V1) ▪ Integration with national sustainable development strategies (Resolution V1) ▪ Recommendations for site selection for afforestation (Resolution V4; Annex to Framework of Co-operation: Priority Themes for Co-operation Between MCPFE and EfE/PEBLDS for the period 2003-2005.) ▪ Precautionary principle (Resolution H2: General Guidelines for the Conservation of the Biodiversity of European Forests) 	<p>It is also reflected in Resolution V1 under the theme of cross-sectoral issues in Principles of NFPs: holistic and intersectoral approach, integration with national sustainable development strategies.</p>
<p>Principle 4: Recognizing potential gains from management, there is usually a need to understand and manage the ecosystem in an economic context. Any such ecosystem-management programme should:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ economic function is one of the pillars of SFM (Resolution H1; Resolution L1; Resolution V2: Enhancing Economic Viability of Sustainable Forest Management in Europe, Annex to Resolution L2: Pan European Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management) ▪ identifying and removing unintended impediments (Resolution V 2, para 9) ▪ removing distortions and failures of 	<p>The balance between the economic, ecological and social functions is the objective of SFM. The economic context in SFM was the main theme of the L1 and V2 Resolutions, covering the three aspects of the Principle 4 of the EA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The economic viability of forests is a key pillar of SFM and of crucial importance for maintaining forests and their

<p>(a) reduce those market distortions that adversely affect biological diversity; (b) align incentives to promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable use; (c) internalise costs and benefits in the given ecosystem to the extent feasible.</p>	<p>policies resulting in loss of forest biodiversity (Resolution V4, para 6)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ promote the incorporation of the results of assessment and valuation of wood and non-wood goods and services into national economic and natural resources accounting systems (Resolution L1, para 10) 	<p>multiple benefits for society, contributing to sustainable development and human livelihood, especially in rural areas (Resolution V2);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Removing distortions and failures of policies resulting in loss of forest biodiversity (Resolution V4, para 6); ▪ Social and economic valuation of forest ecosystems goods and services is a commitment of Resolution L1, para 10.
<p>Principle 5: Conservation of ecosystem structure and functioning, in order to maintain ecosystem services, should be a priority target of the EA.</p> <p>Principle 6: Ecosystem must be managed within the limits of their functioning.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conserving functional forest ecosystems (Resolution H1 para 3) ▪ The precautionary principle (Resolution H2) ▪ Health and vitality and biodiversity (Resolution H2 and Resolution V4 especially para 15) ▪ Protective forests (Annex 2 to Resolution V4: MCPFE Assessment Guidelines for Protected and Protective Forest and Other Wooded Land in Europe). ▪ Coherent approach to obtain sufficient knowledge about the ecosystem function and services (Resolution H2) 	<p>General Guidelines for SFM in Europe of Resolution H1 promote conservation and maintenance of functioning of forest ecosystems (para 1, 3, 6, 7, 8). Resolution H2 and Resolution V4 give special attention to these issues, and the development of Criteria & Indicators was the outcome of the commitment to obtain sufficient knowledge on ecosystem functioning. Forest management should be based on the stable and long-term land use policies and regulations, which are aimed at conserving functional forest ecosystems (Resolution H1, para 3). The European countries are committed to develop a coherent approach to obtain sufficient knowledge about the ecosystem function and services derived from the European forests (Resolution H2, para 9.1).</p>
<p>Principle 7: The EA should be undertaken at the appropriate spatial and temporal scales.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Appropriate scale (Resolution H1 para 4) ▪ Permanent sample plots for monitoring forest ecosystems conditions (Resolution S1: European Network of Permanent Sample Plots for Monitoring of Forest Ecosystems); ▪ Network for Research into Forest 	<p>Forest management should be based on periodically updated plans or programmes at local, regional or national levels, as well as for ownership units, when appropriate, and on forest surveys, assessments of ecological impact and on scientific knowledge and practical experience (Resolution H1, para 4).</p>

	<p>Ecosystems (Resolution S6: European Network for Research into Forest Ecosystems)</p>	
<p>Principle 8: Recognizing the varying temporal scales and lag-effects that characterize ecosystem processes, objectives for ecosystem management should be set for the long term.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Future generations (Resolution H1); ▪ Long-term commitments in NFPs (Resolution V1); ▪ Long-term commitment for protected and protective forest areas (Annex 2 of Resolution V4) 	<p>‘Forest management should be based on periodically updated plans or programmes at local, regional or national levels, as well as for ownership units, when appropriate and on forest surveys, assessments of ecological impact and on scientific knowledge and practical experience’ (Resolution H1, para 4).</p>
<p>Principle 9: Management must recognize the change is inevitable.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Periodically updated forest management plans (Resolution H1, para 4) ▪ Iterative process of NFPs (Resolution V1); ▪ Adaptive management (e.g. to climate change) (Resolution S4: Adapting the Management of Mountain Forests to new Environmental Conditions; Resolution H4 para 9; Resolution V5: Climate Change and Sustainable Forest Management in Europe, para 7,8, 9,10); ▪ Forest management and landscape planning (Resolution V4, para 15) 	<p>Forest management should be periodically updated based on forest surveys, assessment of ecological impact and on scientific knowledge and practical experience (Resolution H1, para 4).</p> <p>Iterative process of NFPs where the forest management should be monitored and adapted if required (Resolution V1).</p> <p>The existing and new forests should be capable of tolerating climatic and other stresses; genetic selection should encourage adaptive traits of tree species (Resolution H1, para 8).</p> <p>‘Forest management should be based on periodically updated plans or programmes at local, regional or national levels, as well as for ownership units, when appropriate and on forest surveys, assessments of ecological impact and on scientific knowledge and practical experience’ (Resolution H1 para 4).</p>
<p>Principle 10: The EA should seek the appropriate balance between, and integration of, conservation and use of biological diversity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Balance between the use and conservation (Resolution H2) ▪ Forest biodiversity (Resolution V4) ▪ Economic viability (Resolution L1, Resolution V2) 	<p>The basic objective of SFM is to reach a balance between the use and conservation, as described in Resolution H1 and Resolution H2. It is emphasised in General Declaration of Lisbon, Resolution L1 and Resolution V4 (forest biodiversity conservation) and Resolution V2 (economic</p>

		<p>viability). Furthermore, in the Vienna Living Forest Summit Declaration, 'policy makers are responsible for achieving, in the forest sector and pro-actively with other sectors, a balance between the economic, ecological, social and cultural roles of forests in the context of sustainable development' (para 2).</p>
<p>Principle 11: The EA should consider all forms of relevant information, including scientific and indigenous and local knowledge, innovations and practices.</p> <p>Principle 12: The EA should involve all relevant sectors of society and scientific disciplines.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cultural and social dimensions of SFM, traditional knowledge (Resolution V3: Preserving and Enhancing the Social and Cultural Dimensions of Sustainable Forest Managements in Europe) ▪ Innovations (Resolution H1, para12; Vienna Declaration, para 17; Resolution V2, para 11) ▪ Science, research (Resolution S1; Resolution S2: Conservation of Forest Genetic Resources; Resolution S3: Decentralized European Data Bank on Forest Fires, Resolution S4; Resolution S5: Expansion of the EUROSILVA Network of Research on Tree Physiology; Resolution S6; Vienna Declaration, para 17; Resolution V3, Resolution V4, Resolution V5) ▪ Raising awareness (principles of NFPs, Annex to Resolution V1) ▪ Strengthening the link between the forest sector and society by increasing dialogue and mutual understanding (Lisbon Declaration) ▪ Promote partnerships, public awareness, public relations and transparency in forestry (Resolution L1, para1) ▪ Promote training, education, capacity building (Resolution L1; Resolution V1) ▪ Research, training (Resolution H1, para 12) 	<p>On these issues see also the references and comments to Principle 1 and 2 (participation and societal choice).</p> <p>Strasbourg Conference (1990) provided an impetus on cooperation at pan-European level on scientific challenges of SFM.</p>

4.3. Existing MCPFE tools and processes for implementing SFM and the EA

The MCPFE approach to the relation and the linkages between SFM and the EA is the concrete effort for bringing the EA to the implementation level.

The participants agreed that at the implementation level continued efforts need to be made to achieve the common goals of SFM and the EA.

There are several SFM tools developed at the Pan-European level, but there are also other tools in other sectors that can contribute to and complement implementation of SFM.

At the practical level implementation varies among countries. In many cases a combination of various tools is used to achieve various objectives.

Tools as developed and adopted by the MCPFE:

- **MCPFE Work Programme**

The MCPFE Work Program is structured according to the three pillars of SFM and aims at contributing to the sustainable development of society at large. The Work Programme guides the MCPFE process between the Ministerial Conferences by specifying actions, which aid in implementing the MCPFE resolutions and declarations. The current MCPFE Work Programme comprises thirty Pan-European actions. Implementation of the Work Programme involves relevant organisations, institutions and processes. The programme is a dynamic concept, which allows incorporating emerging initiatives and activities addressing relevant issues. At each Ministerial Conference a report indicates the status of implementation.

- **Framework for Co-operation between MCPFE and Environment for Europe/PEBLDS**

The joint 'Work programme on the Conservation and Enhancement of Biological and Landscape Diversity in Forest Ecosystems 1997-2000' was endorsed in recognition that the conservation and enhancement of the forest biological diversity is a common goal of the MCPFE and the Environment for Europe/PEBLDS. This work programme has proved to be a useful tool for the collaboration on forest biodiversity issues between the Pan-European forest and environment processes. Based on these experiences, the decision making bodies of the MCPFE and 'Environment for Europe'/PEBLDS underlined the benefits of a continued co-operation. At the 4th Ministerial Conference the Framework for Co-operation between the MCPFE and the Environment for Europe/PEBLDS was endorsed. The priority themes for co-operation for the period 2003-2005 are: ecosystem approach, protected forest areas, forest law enforcement with regards to biodiversity conservation, and recommendations for site selection for afforestation.

- **National Forest Programmes**

The MCPFE has worked on National Forest Programmes in Europe since its 3rd Ministerial Conference (Lisbon, 1998), building on the outcomes of the IPF, IFF and UNFF. Consequently, the MCPFE tackled this issue in order to develop a common understanding on NFPs in the Pan-European context which was then adopted at the 4th Ministerial Conference (Vienna, 2003) by the Resolution V1: Strengthen synergies for sustainable forest management in Europe through cross-sectoral co-operation and National Forest Programmes. The Annex of Resolution V1 describes the MCPFE Common Approach to the NFPs.

National Forest Programmes constitute participatory, holistic, inter-sectoral and iterative process of policy planning, implementation monitoring and evaluation at the national and/or sub-national levels. Principles of NFPs in Europe:

- Participation
- Holistic and inter-sectoral approach
- Iterative process with long-term commitment
- Capacity building
- Consistency with national legislation and policies
- Integration with national sustainable development strategies
- Consistency with international commitments recognizing synergies between international forest-related initiatives and conventions
- Institutional and policy reform

NFP is the framework for all forest policy development at the national level. Its principles are linked with the principles of the EA. It has to take into account the international commitments.

NFP aim at strengthening the consistency with the synergies between relevant initiatives and conventions in each country (including CBD, UNCCD, UNFCCC).

- **Criteria & Indicators**

Criteria and Indicators are policy instruments for evaluating and reporting progress towards implementing SFM. Criteria define and characterise the essential elements as well as a set of conditions or processes, by which SFM may be assessed. Periodically measured indicators show a direction of change within each criterion. The MCPFE countries report periodically on this basis. The TBFRA programme (Forest Resources Assessment) is committed to structure the information according to Criteria and Indicators.

- **Pan-European Operational Level Guidelines**

Pan-European Operational Level Guidelines identify complementary actions at the operational level, which will further contribute to SFM. They are designed according to the six Criteria of SFM and intend to translate the international commitments to the level of forest management planning and practices.

- **Assessment Guidelines for Protected and Protective Forest and other Wooded Land in Europe**

The Assessment Guidelines for Protected and Protective Forest and other Wooded Land in Europe, as adopted at the 4th Ministerial Conference (Vienna, 2003) aim at giving a comprehensive picture of protected and protective forest and other wooded land in Europe by providing data based on comparable terms and definitions.

The Assessment Guidelines for Protected and Protective Forest and other Wooded Land in Europe are relevant to Criterion 4 on Biodiversity and Criterion 5 on Protective functions.

- **Assessment and Reporting**

The political commitments made by the European ministers responsible for forests and the European Community over the last 13 years have influenced forest management in many countries.

The assessment of the progress of implementation of these commitments is based on national reports submitted at every Ministerial conference.

Furthermore, a report on the state of sustainable forest management in Europe is written based on national data related to the criteria and indicators.

4. 4. Other tools relevant to SFM and the EA

In addition to the tools developed at the Pan-European level by the MCPFE, the participants mentioned the existence of other initiatives at the sub-national, national level or regional level. Examples of some of these tools used for implementing SFM include:

- Forest Management Plans
- Monitoring Systems
- Forest Certification
- Model and Demonstration Forests
- Assessment and Reporting
- Forest Communicators Network
- Forest Focus
- Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) initiatives
- Regional conventions such as the Carpathian Convention and the Alpine Convention
- European Forest Genetic Resources Programme (EUFORGEN)
- Ecological Networks, such as Natura 2000 or EMERALD
- Forest landscape restoration initiatives

The participants recognized the importance of coordination and synergies with other relevant tools for the implementation of both SFM and EA:

- Rural development planning
- Watershed management
- Land use planning
- National Biodiversity, Climate Change and Sustainable Development Strategies and Action Plans
- Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment.

5. Possible areas for future efforts (among others)

Some participants recommended compiling existing case studies on application of the EA through SFM in Europe as a contribution to the discussion in CBD on the EA.

Some participants also mentioned the following areas of concern where further elaboration may be considered:

- Connectivity between forest areas;
- Trans-boundary cooperation;
- Clarification/Harmonization of terms (e.g. landscape restoration, decentralization) and methods;
- Guidelines for adaptive forest management;
- Data collection.