



Workshop on pan-European recommendations for afforestation and reforestation in the context of UNFCCC

Implementation of Vienna Resolution V5 (Climate change and sustainable forest management in Europe)

Dates: October 24-26, 2006

Place and venue: Vilnius, Lithuania, Reval Hotel Lietuva

Workshop basis: The need for reduction of carbon dioxide emissions was highlighted in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC, 1992). The Kyoto Protocol and Marrakech Accord to the UNFCCC list carbon sequestration through afforestation and reforestation activities among the possible ways for offsetting CO₂ emissions. In its Vienna Resolution 5, the MCPFE aims to enhance the contribution of forests to reducing net greenhouse-gas emissions and to encourage SFM practices in carbon sequestration measures. One of the actions planned in line with implementation of the Vienna Resolution 5 is elaboration of pan-European recommendations for afforestation and reforestation in the context of UNFCCC. The MCPFE Expert Level Meeting on 5-6 September, 2005, endorsed the IUCN publication on "Afforestation and reforestation for climate change mitigation: potentials for pan-European action" (Warsaw, July 2004) as a building block for preparing these recommendations. The workshop is also organized in the context of implementation of the Framework for Cooperation between MCPFE and Environment for Europe/PEBLDS process.

Aims of the workshop:

- a) to provide the latest knowledge on ecological, social, and economic aspects of and policy settings for afforestation and reforestation in Europe, including climate change and biodiversity issues;
- b) to review and discuss a proposal for pan-European Recommendations for afforestation and reforestation in the context of UNFCCC

Working modalities: plenary sessions and working group discussions (24-25.10),
excursion focusing on afforestation areas and related topics (26.10).

Organisers: MCPFE Liaison Unit Warsaw; PEBLDS Joint Secretariat, Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania

Target group: experts designated by the MCPFE and PEBLDS member countries as well as observer countries and organizations.

Participants: 49 participants representing 15 countries and 11 observer organizations.

Web page: <http://www.mcpfe.org/documents/minutes/06/unf/>

Workshop Agenda

Workshop on pan-European recommendations for afforestation and reforestation
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24 October, 2006 (Tuesday)

9:00 – 9:30 Registration

Session I Chair: Mr. Piotr Borkowski (MCPFE LUW), Ms. Ivonne Higuero (PEBLDS)

9:30 – 9:40 Welcome by the Government of Lithuania
Dr. Aidas Pivoriūnas (Ministry of Environment, Lithuania)

9:40 – 9:50 Opening remarks
Mr. Piotr Borkowski (MCPFE LUW), Ms. Ivonne Higuero (PEBLDS)

9:50 – 10:10 Presentation of the workshop programme, adoption of the agenda
Chair

10:10 – 10:30 Ms. Jenny Wong (UNFCCC)
Afforestation and reforestation in the context of UNFCCC

10:30 – 10:50 Ms. Ivonne Higuero (on behalf of CBD)
Biodiversity aspects and afforestation practices

10:50 – 11:10 Ms. Elysabeth David (UNCCD)
Re-/Afforestation in the context of UNCCD to combat land degradation and desertification

11:10 – 11:40 Coffee break

11:40 – 12:00 Mr. Joost Van de Velde EU (DG Environment)
Afforestation and reforestation within EU policy

12:00 – 12:20 Dr. Roman Michalak (MCPFE LUW)
MCPFE resolutions on afforestation and reforestation

Expert view

12:20 – 12:40 Ecological aspects
Dr. Jarkko Koskela (IPGRI)
Afforestation and reforestation with regards to forest genetic resources

12:40 – 13:00 Ms. Giuliana Zanchi (EFI)
Quantitative overview and analysis of afforestation in Europe

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch break

14:30 – 16:20 Session I (cont.)

14:30 – 14:45 Country experience – Lithuania, Ms. Laura Kasnauskaite

14:45 – 15:00 Country experience – Norway, Mr. Petter Nilsen

15:00 – 15:20 Mr. Christoph Wildburger (Consultant)
Presentation of the background paper, review of proposal for pan-European recommendations for afforestation and reforestation in the context of UNFCCC

15:20 – 15:35 Introduction to Working Groups (Mr. Christoph Wildburger)

15:35 – 16:10 Coffee break
(Big meeting room divided into 2 parts during coffee time)

Session II Working Groups

16:10 – 18:10 Working Group discussions

20:00 Reception by Lithuanian Government

25 October, 2006 (Wednesday)

Session II Working Groups (cont.)

9:00 – 11:00 Working Group discussions (continued)

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee break

11:30 – 13:00 Working Group wrap-up, preparation of outcome

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch

Session III Plenary Discussion

Chair: Ms. Ivonne Higuero (PEBLDS), Mr. Piotr Borkowski (MCPFE LUW)

14:30 – 15:00 Presentation of the outcome of the working groups

15:00 – 16:30 Conclusions and recommendations

16:30 – 17:00 Closure of the meeting – MCPFE, PEBLDS, Government of Lithuania

18:30 Excursion to the Old part of Vilnius

26 October, 2006 (Thursday)

8:00 – Departure for the excursion to the Dubrava experimental and training forest enterprise (Kaunas reg.) from the main entrance of the Hotel

11.00 – 11.40 – presentation of the Dubrava experimental and training forest enterprise, coffee break

11.40 – 13.00 – excursion to experimental plantations and stands

13.00 – 14.00 – Lunch

14.00 – 19.00 – excursion to the conservation area, Trakai castle

19.00 – Departure back to Vilnius; Dinner by the road

21.00 – Arrival to Hotel

Terms of Reference for Working Groups

Workshop on pan-European recommendations for afforestation and reforestation
in the context of UNFCCC

Tasks of Working Groups:

- To review the recommendations and background paper and to propose improvements where appropriate

Questions:

- Are there any issues which are not covered?
- Are there any specific aspects missing in guidelines?
- Are there guidelines or parts of guidelines, which are not relevant and should be excluded?

Working Group Topics and Moderators

Working Group 1 – General Guidelines (WG 1) – Dr. Sallie Bailey (UK)

Working Group 2 – Ecological Guidelines (WG 2) – Dr. Jarkko Koskela (IPGRI)

Working Group 3 – Socio-Economic Guidelines (WG 3) – Ms. Natalie Hufnagl (CEPF)

Working Group Participants

WG 1 – General Guidelines

1. Jovica Ristovski
2. Dragan Serafimovski
3. Sallie Bailey
4. Arto Koistinen
5. Ciprian Pahontu
6. Csaba Mozes
7. Lasma Abolina
8. Thomas Schneider
9. Elysabeth David
10. Anna Zornaczuk
11. Petter Nilsen
12. Bjorn Merckell
13. Zbignev Glazko
14. Piotr Borkowski
15. Ivonne Higuero

14. Olivier Bouyer

15. Malgorzara Buszko-Briggs

WG 3 – Socio-Economic Guidelines

1. Natalie Hufnagl
2. Jenny Wong
3. Olga Zyrina
4. Roman Michalak
5. Ghazal Badiozamani
6. Maksimilijan Mohoric
7. Donatas Vaikasas
8. Kestutis Cesnavicius
9. Evaldas Survila
10. Laura Kasnauskaite
11. Sigitas Girdiusas

WG 2 – Ecological Guidelines

1. Dolores Belorechka
2. Neli Mihaylova
3. Robert Jandl
4. Jarkko Koskela
5. Jaap Paasman
6. Manfred Klein
7. Remigijus Zalkauskas
8. Giuliana Zanchi
9. Włodzimierz Adamczyk
10. Petras Kurlavicius
11. Oscar Barreiro
12. Almir Karacic
13. Joost Van de Velde

Draft Recommendations on Pan-European Guidelines for Afforestation and Reforestation in the Context of Climate Change Mitigation

Introduction

Afforestation and reforestation¹ activities in the framework of climate mitigation processes require an enabling framework at the national, regional² and international levels, i.e. effective institutions, policies and legislation.

The specific pan-European policy recommendations set out below aim to provide guidelines for implementing economically viable, environmentally sound and socially equitable afforestation and reforestation activities and projects and strengthen **synergies** in implementing the UNFF, UNFCCC, CBD, UNCCD and other relevant forest-related **international commitments**. Furthermore, they address **specific pan-European issues** in balancing afforestation needs and the conservation of sites of high ecological and cultural value and offer respective guidance to policymakers.

This set of pan-European guidelines on afforestation and reforestation are also a contribution to further **deliberations** in the **UNFCCC** in reviewing modalities and procedures for afforestation and reforestation activities under the CDM. The efforts made so far based on the work of A/R working group and the Executive Board of the CDM of the Kyoto Protocol should be acknowledged. There is a need to clearly ensure that the project design document (PDD)³ reflects the procedures and modalities for CDM A/R project activities in particular those related to environmental and socio-economic aspects.

The cooperation of pan-European countries with other countries on carbon sequestration under the CDM entails the need to consider socio-economic and environmental impacts of afforestation and reforestation. In this context, the pan European guidelines could be used, if appropriate, when **assessing CDM-projects**⁴.

¹ Afforestation and reforestation are defined by the UNFCCC as direct human-induced conversion of non-forested land to forested land through planting, seeding and/or the human-induced promotion of natural seed sources. *Afforestation* can take place on land that has not been covered by forest for at least 50 years. *Reforestation* can occur on land that was historically forested, but was subject to another land use. (For the first commitment period, reforestation activities will be limited to reforestation occurring on those lands that did not contain forest on 31 December 1989). (Source: FCCC/CP/2001/13/Add.1, decision 11/CP.7).

² Regional in this case means more than one country, for example, pan-European.

³ Appendix B to the annex to decision 5/CMP.1 and Appendix A to the annex to decision 6/CMP.1 of the Kyoto Protocol (FCCC/KP/CMP/2005/8/Add.1).

⁴ CDM projects need approval of all involved parties through their designated national authorities.

General Guidelines

1. Ensure that all afforestation and reforestation measures for increasing carbon sequestration and biomass/energy production are in line with SFM⁵ and take into account environmental, social and economic aspects in a balanced way.
2. Use the Pan-European Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management as an overall framework for establishing and managing afforestation and reforestation as well as the Pan-European Operational Level Guidelines for SFM as a framework to promote the sustainable management of afforestation and reforestation at the management unit level.
3. Ensure that an afforested landscape possesses the necessary goods and services to fulfill biodiversity and sustainable livelihood objectives to increase the permanence of the project's emission reductions.
4. Promote the consideration of these afforestation and reforestation guidelines in national policies, legislation and programmes related to forestry (e.g. National Forest Programmes), biodiversity (e.g. National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans), land use and management, integrated water management and agriculture.
5. Afforestation and reforestation can be used as a cross-cutting platform on carbon sinks at the national level to promote synergies amongst relevant national and regional programmes related to international commitments under UNFF, UNCCD, UNFCCC, and CBD.
6. Recommend establishing or improving the lines of communication and information sharing between relevant authorities involved in afforestation and reforestation activities to ensure a better cooperation amongst them.
7. Recommend the assessment of environmental and socio-economic impacts of afforestation and reforestation activities.
8. Encourage research on afforestation and reforestation in the context of climate change mitigation.

Ecological Guidelines

9. While developing policies and planning procedures for afforestation and reforestation activities take measures to avoid negative impacts to areas of high ecological values, high soil carbon stock, or traditional land use, emphasising good practices and methods for site selection.
10. Increase carbon sequestration through other alternative measures in SFM in those cases where afforestation and reforestation may negatively impact on the environment.
11. Promote afforestation and reforestation with native tree species or provenances of species that are well adapted to site conditions now and in the future.
12. To develop the research on and promote the use of well-adapted species and provenances on regard to climate change.
13. Only those non-native species⁶, provenances or varieties should be used⁶ whose impacts on the ecosystem and on the genetic integrity of native species and local provenances have been evaluated, and if negative impacts can be avoided or minimised⁷. Take measures to avoid invasive alien species⁸.

⁵ It is understood by the MCPFE and the PEBLDS processes that SFM, as defined and further developed by the MCPFE, is consistent with the application of the Ecosystem Approach to forest ecosystems in the pan-European region (Source: MCPFE/PEBLDS 2006, Joint position of the MCPFE and the E/E/PEBLDS on the Pan-European understanding of the linkage between the ecosystem approach and sustainable forest management).

⁶ FRA 2005 uses the following definition of native species: A native species is one which naturally exists at a given location or in a particular ecosystem, i.e. it has not been moved there by humans (CBD, 2002, p.154). The term native species is synonymous with indigenous species.

⁷ H1 Resolution under General guidelines for the sustainable management of forests in Europe states (point 9) that "Native species and local provenances should be preferred where appropriate". The Pan-European operational level guidelines for sustainable forest management under criterion 4 (point 4.2b) include the following: "For reforestation and afforestation, origins of native species and local provenances that are well adapted to site conditions should be preferred, where appropriate."

⁸ Genetically modified trees were not referenced because they are not in use in the Pan-European region and the guidance from CBD is forthcoming. So far, the CBD recommends Parties to take a precautionary approach to genetically modified trees in decision VIII/19.

14. Promote species compositions and structural diversity in line with the natural diversity of the specific habitats in afforestation and reforestation and promote the development of natural dynamics of forest ecosystems, as long as it does not cause considerable damage to forest ecosystems (i.e. forest fires).
15. Promote afforestation and reforestation activities that contribute to the improvement and restoration of ecological connectivity and ecological corridors, as appropriate⁹.
16. Limit the use of fertilizers and pesticides/herbicides to those areas and conditions in which it is necessary to ensure the establishment and maintenance of forests.
17. Ensure the maintenance and protection of all ground and surface water resources in terms of quantity and quality in all afforestation and reforestation activities.
18. Raise public awareness on environmental issues related to afforestation and reforestation in particular in the context of climate change mitigation.

Socio-economic Guidelines

19. Ensure appropriate legislation, so that afforestation and reforestation for carbon sequestration do not overwhelm existing safeguards for SFM and respect priorities for income generation, rural livelihood and poverty alleviation
20. Secure land tenure rights and clarify access rights as well as responsibility for management of resources in assessing afforestation and reforestation projects.
21. Develop and enhance incentives for afforestation and reforestation for the private sector and ensure that they are in line with SFM
22. Encourage incentives for afforestation and reforestation to be in line with other policies, *inter alia* rural development, energy, environmental, climate change policies.
23. Promote the establishment of criteria for environmentally sound, economically viable and socially equitable afforestation and reforestation projects to be used by project developers and implementers in their project design and by investment funds to evaluate these projects.
24. Ensure decisions regarding land use and implementation of afforestation and reforestation projects are taken in consultation with local communities, including the use of prior, informed consent.
25. Take into account all landscape values, including maintenance of cultural landscape, cultural heritage sites and sacred cultural sites, in the elaboration of policies and planning procedures for afforestation and reforestation activities.
26. Assess and take into account present and future risk factors, including storms, pests, diseases, fires and animal browsing, affecting the economic viability and permanence of carbon stocks of afforestation and reforestation projects.
27. Contribute to wood and biomass/energy markets through afforestation and reforestation activities with a view to increasing social and economic benefits to rural communities.
28. Increase public awareness of the potential social and economic benefits of afforestation and reforestation activities.
29. Promote inter-disciplinary research on social and economic aspects in order to enhance future decision-making on afforestation and reforestation activities.
30. Build capacity and expertise at all levels in order to support and promote afforestation and reforestation activities.

⁹ IUCN defines connectivity as a term describing the existence of functional continuity although there is no structural continuity. 'Stepping stones' exemplifying the term. One of the definitions for ecological corridor is "a linear feature of vegetation that differs from the surrounding areas and connects at least two patches that were connected in historical time (Hobbs 1992).