

The role of FOREST EUROPE in forest protection

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FOREST EUROPE - Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe

- Initial focus on threats to Europe's forests, like
 - Atmospheric pollution
 - Forest fires
 - Global warming
 - Major climatic events
 - Erosion
 - Damage by insects and pests



Response by the European Countries

- Developed the concept of Sustainable Forest Management
- FOREST EUROPE develops common strategies for its 46 member countries and the European Union on how to sustainably manage forests



Sustainable Forest Management

- European countries and the EU have agreed on common definition
- Means and instruments - facilitate implementation of sustainable forest management
 - Guidelines
 - Criteria and indicators
 - National forest programmes – with principles
- Framework for monitoring, assessment and reporting



Sustainable Forest Management

- Comprehensive and holistic
- Balancing and bridging the diverse needs and interests related to the ecological, economic and social functions of Europe's forests
- Evolving – FOREST EUROPE continuously updates Sustainable Forest Management (emerging issues)
- Careful with major revisions



Overall priorities

- Strengthen and visualise the contributions of forests and the forest sector in Europe to sustainable development – at global, regional and national levels
- Ensure the long term provision of multiple goods and services from forests in Europe



The Challenges

- Environmental, economic and social benefits from forests are threatened by climate change
- Prepare for extreme events: storms, fires, drought, pests and diseases
- Increased demands from society, e.g. due to policies for renewable energy



Towards Oslo Ministerial Conference 2011

- Secure multifunctional forests and ensure long term provision of goods and services – with expected changing climate
 - Forests and forest sector – a vital part of the solution
 - Adapt forests and forest management to climate change
 - Need for adequate information
- Enhance implementation of sustainable forest management
 - Pan-European Vision, Goals, Targets
 - Supportive measures by countries
- Strengthen European framework for cooperation
 - Framework for future work modalities
 - Ministerial decision on a possible legally binding agreement on forests in Europe



Final Remarks

- **FOREST EUROPE:**
 - 46 signatory countries, including all 27 EU members, and European Union
 - Covers 1 billion ha forests (EU 155 million ha)
- **Green Paper – similar challenges and priorities as for FOREST EUROPE**
- **Synergies**

