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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE  
Timber Committee

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION  
European Forestry Commission

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION



**JOINT FAO/ECE/ILO COMMITTEE ON FOREST TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT AND TRAINING**

twenty-fifth session  
Groningen, the Netherlands, 9 to 12 September 2004

**Review of the activities in wood harvesting and transport (subject area 2) and programme for 2004-2007**

**Item 7 of the provisional agenda**

Note by the secretariat\*

This document presents the activities in subject area 2 since the Joint Committee's twenty-fourth-session and draws the Committee's attention to a number of points for decision (in bold, italic type).

The Joint Committee is invited to:

- Review its past activities in this subject area and agree on activities for the future;
- Agree on the specific points drawn to its attention.

\*This document has been submitted late due to the need for extensive external consultations.

## **Review of activities and programme in subject area 2**

### **Technology, wood harvesting and transport**

(e.g. forest engineering, ecologically and economically sound operations in silviculture, wood harvesting and transport)

#### **2.1 Environmentally sound forest roads and wood transport**

##### *Review of activities:*

Due to a strong request by experts and institutions, a reprint was made of the FAO/ECE/ILO proceedings of the seminar on “Environmentally sound forest roads and wood transport”, held in Sinaia, Romania. The reprinted version of the report is being distributed. An electronic version is also available and can be downloaded at: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/X0622E/X0622E00.htm>

##### *Point for decision: For information only*

##### *Programme 2004 to 2007:*

FAO has been requested to draft an outline for a seminar or workshop proposed to be held in Hungary in the year 2004. FAO was also requested to keep under review developments in this field. The work on the draft outline for the proposed seminar on forest roads and wood transport has been initiated and will be presented at the Joint Steering Committee session. The Hungarian authorities have delegated the preparation of the workshop to the University of West-Hungary-Sopron. However, the Hungarian Government has requested to postpone the workshop to 2005 or 2006.

##### *Point for decision:*

- *The Committee is invited to discuss the draft outline and provide guidance on the content of the programme for the proposed seminar or workshop.*

#### **2.2 New trends in wood harvesting with cable systems**

##### *Review of activities:*

The workshop on “New trends in wood harvesting with cable systems for sustainable forest management in the mountains” was held in Ossiach, Austria, from 18 to 24 June 2001. The workshop proceedings were published and distributed; an electronic version on the FAO Forest Harvesting homepage is available.

##### *Point for decision: For information only*

### **2.3 Optimizing the utilisation of thinnings**

At the sixteenth session of the Steering Committee in 2003 it was proposed that a seminar be organised on *Optimising the Utilisation of Thinnings*. This meeting could possibly be hosted by Ireland in 2006.

*Nothing to report.*

### **2.4 Multi-functional forestry in protected and vulnerable areas**

*Review of activities:*

A tentative programme was presented at the twenty-third session of the Joint Committee. Due to shortage of human resources, secretariat services could unfortunately not be provided for this activity. In addition, the meeting has been rescheduled by the Research Institute of Mountain Forestry and Forest Ecology. The organisers have proposed to hold the seminar in 2005 or 2006 in Sochi, Russia.

*Point for decision:*

- *The Committee may wish to include the workshop in the 2004 – 2007 workplan.*

### **2.5 Forest operation improvements in farm forests**

*Review of activities:*

The international workshop on “Forest operation improvements in farm forests” was held at the invitation and with the support of the Slovenian Government and the cooperation of IUFRO on 9 to 14 September 2003 in Logarska dolina, Slovenia.

The workshop was attended by 48 participants from 19 different countries. The workshop had 10 sessions, one half-day and one full-day excursion; 33 papers and 8 posters were presented. The proceedings of the workshop are printed and will be distributed. An electronic version is also available at the FAO Harvesting homepage.

*Point for decision: For information only.*

### **2.6 Mechanization of forest operations in the mountains**

*Review of activities:*

In the last three years a rapid development has taken place in the mechanization of wood harvesting operations in steep terrain in support of sustainable forest management. The Steering Committee suggested that there might be a need for establishing a team of specialists on this topic in the near future to review the progress in this area and exchange experience and information. It was felt, however, that due to shortage of human resources and secretariat services this team of specialists could not be established.

***Point for decision:***

- *The Committee is invited to decide on the need to establish a team of specialists.*

**2.7 Harvesting of non wood forest products**

No activities were carried out during the reporting period. No activities are planned in the work programme 2004 – 2007.

**2.8 The role of forests in torrent control and watershed management**

To commemorate the 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Torrent Control Service of the Czech Republic and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of forestry, hydrological research and to underline the importance of forests in connection to the follow up of the International Year of the Mountain and Fresh Water, on 11 – 15 October 2004 a FAO/ECE/ILO workshop on the role of forests in torrent control and watershed management will be held at Zidlochovice, South Moravia, Czech Republic.

***Point for decision: For information only.***

**2.9 Role of contractors in forestry**

*Review of activities:*

A team of specialists on Best Practices in Forest Contracting was established and held its first workshop on 3 May 2004 in Rome. Twelve team members were nominated. The team leader is Mr. Edgar Kastenholz and FAO (Joachim Lorbach) will provide secretarial services. The objective of the team is to develop guidelines on Best Practice in Contract Labour in Forestry. The mandate will end on 31 December 2005.

***Point for decision: For information only.***

**2.10 Other topics**

Nothing to report.