

*Enriching Forest Biodiversity
FOREST EUROPE is implementing
Convention on Biological Diversity provisions*

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FOREST EUROPE

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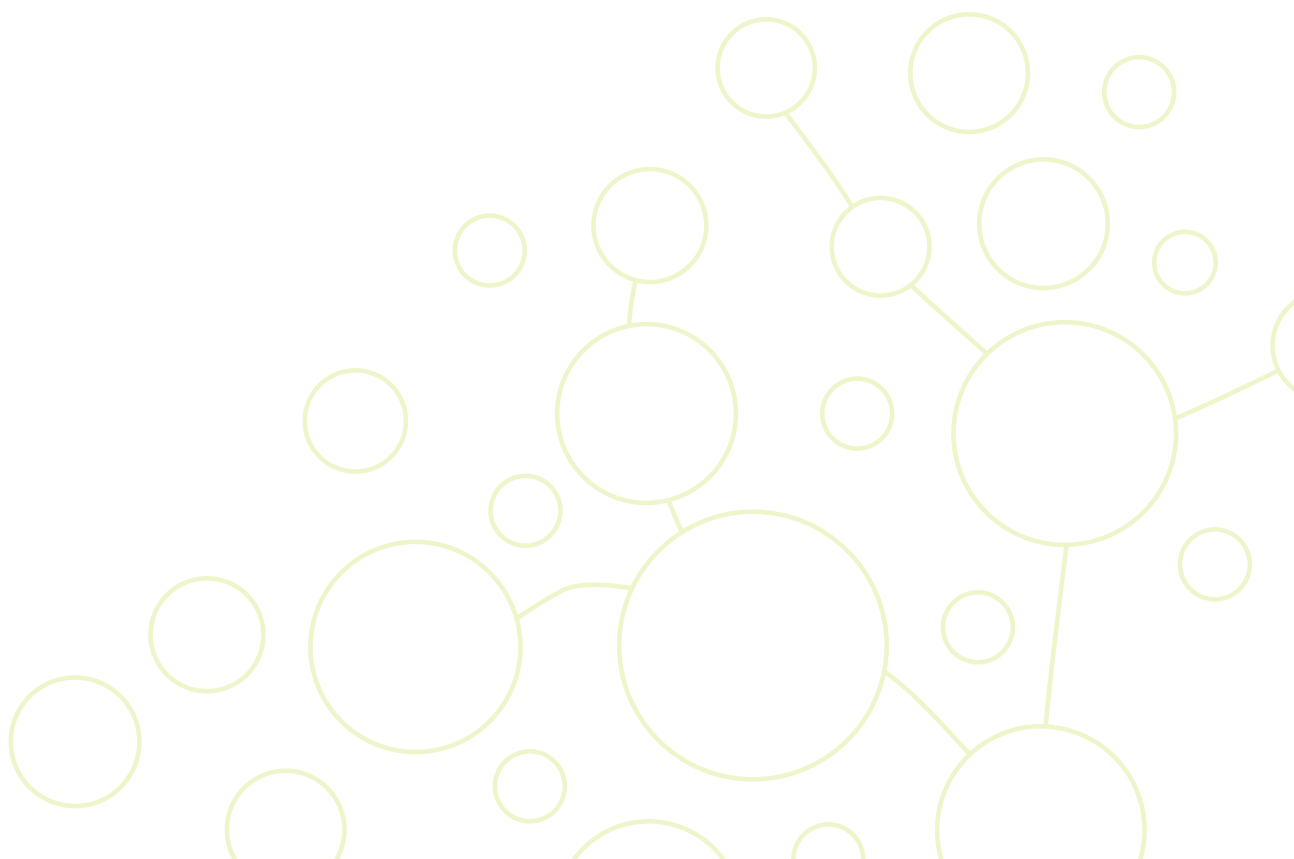


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About **FOREST EUROPE**

FOREST EUROPE (The Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe), launched in 1990, is the European policy process for the sustainable management of the continent's forests. FOREST EUROPE develops common strategies for 46 member countries and the European Union on how to protect and sustainably manage forests. The continuous co-operation under FOREST EUROPE has led to a European definition of sustainable forest management, followed by guidelines and criteria and indicators for reporting on goal achievement. The collaboration of the ministers responsible for forests in Europe has been of great environmental, social and economic importance at national and international levels.

High-priority topics of FOREST EUROPE are to strengthen the role of forests in mitigating climate change, enhance and preserve forest biodiversity, secure the supply of good-quality fresh water and provide forest products and services. FOREST EUROPE is linked to global and other regional processes and initiatives dealing with issues of highest political and social relevance related to forests.

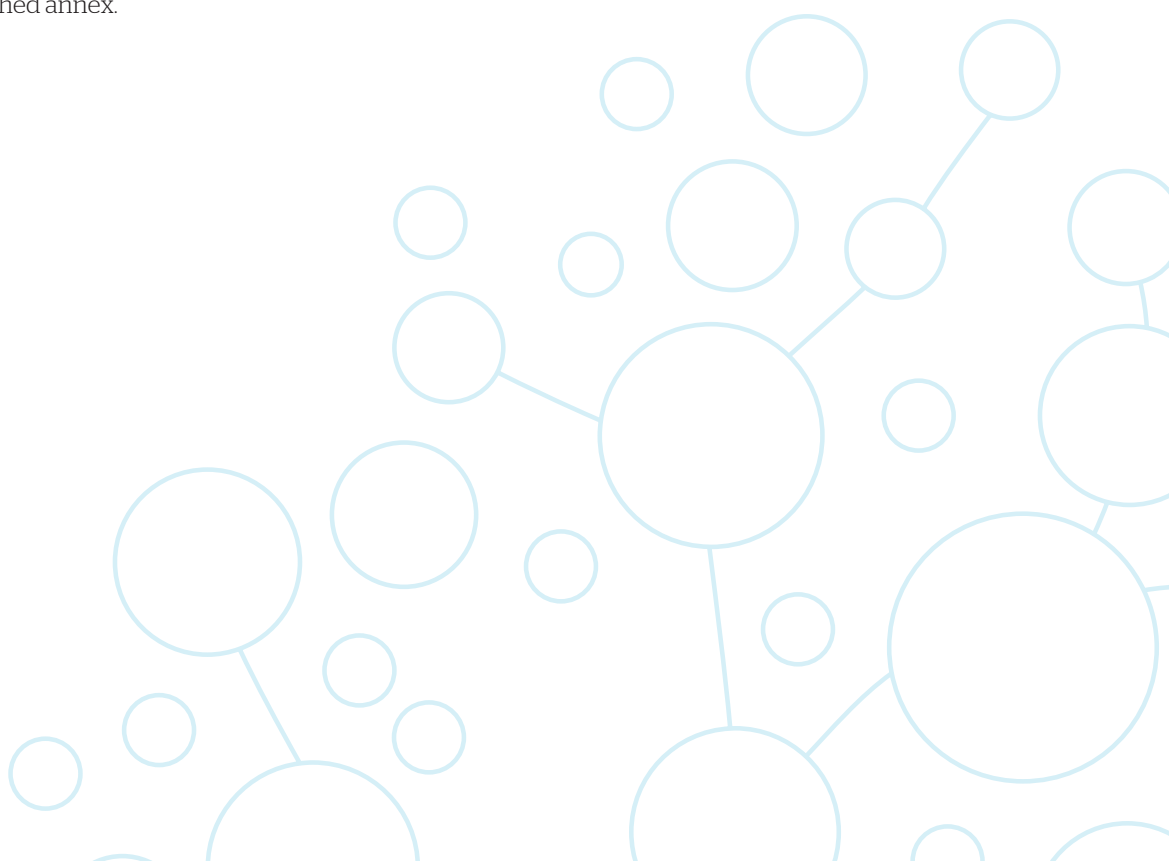


Summary

Through political commitments and follow-up work by FOREST EUROPE countries and observer organisations, the ministerial co-operation contributes to the international forest policy dialogue and the implementation of global commitments at regional level. FOREST EUROPE has carried out an assessment of the contributions by FOREST EUROPE to the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) provisions. This document presents the results of the assessment.

The analysis shows that FOREST EUROPE has addressed the objectives of the CBD's Extended Programme of Work on Forest Biological Diversity (PoW) as well as subsequent forest-related CBD decisions to a large extent. FOREST EUROPE has implemented regional activities related to international focus areas identified in the CBD decision VI/22, notably the ecosystem approach, cross-sectoral integration, protected areas, forest law enforcement and related trade, and sustainable use and benefit sharing.

FOREST EUROPE has succeeded in translating many of the global level provisions to the regional level as well as in facilitating the co-ordination of their implementation in Europe. A detailed description of FOREST EUROPE contributions can be found in the attached annex.



Contributions by **FOREST EUROPE**

FOREST EUROPE has stressed that the conservation of biological diversity is an essential operational component of sustainable forest management. Guidelines covering sustainable use and conservation of forest biodiversity were adopted at the 2nd FOREST EUROPE Ministerial Conference in Helsinki in 1993 (*General Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Forests in Europe* and *General Guidelines for the Conservation of the Biodiversity of European Forests*).

For the European region, the concept of sustainable forest management is defined by FOREST EUROPE as: *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* (Helsinki, 1993).

The FOREST EUROPE process has adopted Pan-European Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management, including Criterion 4 on *Maintenance, Conservation and Appropriate Enhancement of Biological Diversity in Forest Ecosystems*, and related indicators. The respective *Pan-European Operational Level Guidelines* (1998), including *Guidelines for Forest Management Planning and Practices* under Criterion 4, set standards for forest management for the purpose of biodiversity protection. In 2002 FOREST EUROPE reviewed the indicators and adopted *Improved Pan-European Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management*, including nine biodiversity indicators:

- Tree species composition
- Regeneration
- Naturalness
- Introduced tree species
- Deadwood
- Genetic resources
- Landscape pattern
- Threatened forest species
- Protected forests

In response to the CBD PoW, the FOREST EUROPE member countries adopted Vienna Resolution 4 (2003) and committed to implement the PoW at all levels. The Vienna Resolution aims, *inter alia*, to facilitate the implementation of the PoW in the European region, and sets out respective measures.

FOREST EUROPE contributes to the 2010 target

There is a positive trend for several of the FOREST EUROPE indicators associated with forest biodiversity. Forest management practices in Europe increasingly promote biodiversity, notably through increased use of natural regeneration and mixed-species stands. Measures are also being taken to encourage deadwood accumulation. The area of protected forests in Europe has expanded.¹

FOREST EUROPE promotes sustainable forest management and the ecosystem approach

It is understood by FOREST EUROPE and the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS) that sustainable forest management, as defined by FOREST EUROPE, is consistent with the application of the Ecosystem Approach to forest ecosystems in the pan-European region. In order to clarify the relationship between the concepts of ecosystem approach and sustainable forest management, FOREST EUROPE, together with PEBLDS, developed a *Pan-European Understanding of the Linkage Between the Ecosystem Approach and Sustainable Forest Management* (2006).

FOREST EUROPE promotes sustainable forest management as an essential tool to reach global goals on forest biological diversity

FOREST EUROPE member countries aim to co-ordinate the implementation of global commitments in Europe, including the Non-legally Binding Instrument on all Types of Forests (NLBI) and the CBD decisions. The purpose is to strengthen the political commitment and actions at all levels to effectively implement sustainable management of forests and to achieve shared global objectives on forests and forest biodiversity.

1. State of Europe's Forests, 2007

FOREST EUROPE promotes sustainable forest management as the over-arching approach to climate change

FOREST EUROPE has addressed climate change and climate change response measures through several specific commitments and measures. The forest policy process promotes sustainable forest management as the over-arching approach to any policies and measures related to forests and climate change. It is a guiding principle for FOREST EUROPE that climate change response measures should not run counter to the objectives of the CBD and the PoW.

FOREST EUROPE, together with PEBLDS, has developed the *Pan-European Guidelines for Afforestation and Reforestation with a special focus on the provisions of the UNFCCC*. In FOREST EUROPE Vienna Resolution 5 (2003), the European countries committed to contribute to the implementation of the UNFCCC, inter alia, by enhancing carbon sequestration of forests and at the same time providing guidance for mitigating potential negative effects of large-scale afforestation projects. The afforestation and reforestation guidelines were jointly adopted by FOREST EUROPE and PEBLDS in 2008.

The *FOREST EUROPE open-ended ad-hoc working group on "sustainability criteria" for biomass production, including bio-energy* (2009), provided recommendations on refinements and developments of FOREST EUROPE's tools for sustainable forest management in order to better respond to new needs for information, including information about sustainable biomass production. The recommendations are considered in the continuous development of FOREST EUROPE policies and tools in response to new demands.

FOREST EUROPE promotes the conservation and use of forest genetic resources as part of sustainable forest management

EUFORGEN, the European co-operation platform on genetic diversity established by FOREST EUROPE, has carried out work to promote conservation and the use of forest genetic resources as part of sustainable forest management. EUFORGEN has developed technical guidelines for genetic conservation and use of tree species in Europe. A FOREST EUROPE workshop in 2006 developed recommendations on climate change and forest genetic diversity and its implications for sustainable forest management.

FOREST EUROPE contributes to the prevention of forest fires

Forest fire is one of the devastating factors predicted to increase as a result of climate change. Frequency and severity of forest fires, as well as areas affected by fires, are expected to grow. In this context, better information and more knowledge about future risks of forest fires and fire prevention is needed. Following a ministerial statement on forest fires from the 5th FOREST EUROPE Ministerial Conference in Warsaw, Poland (2007), a workshop on *The assessment of forest fire risks and innovative strategies for fire prevention* was convened in 2010.

The aims of the workshop were to review current national prevention systems in European countries, to identify innovative strategies, best available practices and possible policy instruments, and to develop policy conclusions and recommendations for forest fire prevention in Europe. One of the recommendations from the workshop is that forest fire prevention should be promoted as an integral part of sustainable forest management.

FOREST EUROPE promotes good governance and contributes to combating illegal harvesting

FOREST EUROPE has contributed to improving forest governance in the whole European region through developing the concept of sustainable forest management and implementation tools for Europe.

With the aim of strengthening forest law enforcement, FOREST EUROPE has facilitated a scientific analysis of information about illegal harvesting and related trade, and convened a workshop on combating illegal harvesting and related trade in 2005.

FOREST EUROPE has taken part in regional forest law enforcement processes, notably the Europe and North Asia Forest Law Enforcement and Governance Process.

CBD Extended Programme of Work of Forest Biological Diversity

The Extended Programme of Work on Forest Biological Diversity (PoW) was adopted in decision VI/22 (2002) of the Conference of the Parties (COP 6) to the CBD. It covered 12 goals, 27 objectives and 130 activities in three programme elements. The PoW constitutes the main tool for implementing the CBD commitments on forests. The COP recognises the important role of regional processes in the implementation of the work programme, and explicitly invites their participation.

The assessment of the FOREST EUROPE contributions shows that all 27 objectives of the PoW are relevant to FOREST EUROPE. Although 22 of the objectives are considered fully relevant, five objectives are only partly relevant, because they refer mainly to regions outside Europe or to the national level only.

A detailed description of contributions by FOREST EUROPE to the PoW objectives can be found in the table in the Annex to this paper. More than 50 commitments and related activities of FOREST EUROPE contribute to 24 objectives of the PoW. Three objectives have not been addressed yet, whereas two of them are considered only partly relevant because they refer mainly to regions outside Europe.

Fourteen of the 15 objectives in Programme Element 1 of the PoW "Conservation, sustainable use and benefit sharing", have been dealt with by FOREST EUROPE. The objective 1.4.2 to prevent unsustainable harvesting of timber and non-timber resources has not been addressed yet. However, the activities related to this objective refer mainly to bushmeat, which is an important issue mainly outside the European region. All six objectives have been addressed in Programme Element 2, "Institutional and socio-economic enabling environment". FOREST EUROPE has carried out activities contributing to four of six objectives in Programme Element 3 "Knowledge, assessment and monitoring". The objective 3.1.4 to enhance the forest monitoring capacity at national level, which targets developing countries, has not been covered. Furthermore, FOREST EUROPE has so far not worked on objective 3.1.3, to develop ecosystem surveys in priority areas for forest biodiversity.

The degree of contributions to the 24 objectives tackled varies. Nearly all of them have been addressed in Ministerial commitments.

Based on the Pan-European criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management, FOREST EUROPE collects and analyses forest-related data and trends towards sustainable forest management for each Ministerial Conference, published in the State of Europe's Forests reports.

Annex

Table of objectives in the CBD PoW and corresponding FOREST EUROPE contributions and commitments²

CBD PoW Objectives		Relevance ³	Corresponding FOREST EUROPE Contributions and commitments
Programme Element 1 “Conservation, sustainable use and benefit sharing”			
1.1.1	Develop practical methods, guidelines, indicators and strategies to apply the ecosystem approach to regional differences to forests, both inside and outside protected forest areas as well as both in managed and unmanaged forests	X	<p>“Develop a regional understanding of the linkages between the ecosystem approach and sustainable forest management as defined by FOREST EUROPE; share this understanding with the relevant bodies in the assessment of the relation between the ecosystem approach and sustainable forest management at the global level”. Resolution Vienna 4, p. 8</p> <p>Ad-hoc Working Group on pan-European understanding of the linkage between the Ecosystem Approach and Sustainable Forest Management. 2004</p> <p>Publication “Sustainable Forest Management and the Ecosystem Approach”. 2004</p> <p>Adoption of the “Joint position of the MPCFE and PEBLDS/EfE on the pan-European understanding of the linkage between the Ecosystem Approach and Sustainable Forest Management. Decision ELM, September 2005</p> <p>Publication “The Pan-European Understanding of the Linkage Between the Ecosystem Approach and Sustainable Forest Management. 2005</p>
1.2.1	Prevent the introduction of invasive alien species that threaten ecosystems, and mitigate their negative impacts on forest biological diversity in accordance with international law.	X	“Contribute to the development of a pan-European strategy which prevents and mitigates the impacts of invasive alien species that threaten ecosystems, in accordance with the decisions of the CBD”. Resolution Vienna 4, p. 14
1.2.2	Mitigate the impact of pollution, such as acidification and eutrophication, on forest biodiversity.	X	European network of permanent sample plots for monitoring of forest ecosystems established through Resolution S1 in 1990. Continued monitoring of air pollution
1.2.3	Mitigate the negative impacts of climate change on forest biodiversity.	X	<p>“Contribute to the implementation of the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol by maintaining the carbon stock and enhancing carbon sequestration of forests in Europe through national forest programmes or plans that provide appropriate guidance so that afforestation and reforestation takes due regard of environmental, in particular biodiversity, economic and social values, with a view to mitigating potential negative effects of large-scale afforestation”. Resolution Vienna 5, para 6b</p> <p>“Continue to contribute to mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, and in this regard to further develop Pan-European guidance for afforestation and reforestation.” Warsaw Declaration, p.19</p> <p>Elaboration and publication of Pan-European Guidelines for Afforestation and Reforestation with a special focus on the provisions of the UNFCCC in cross-sectoral co-operation with PEBLDS. Adopted by ELM, Nov. 2008</p> <p>Workshop “Climate change and forest genetic diversity: implications to sustainable forest management in Europe”, publication of recommendation. 2006</p> <p>“Assess environmental impacts of wood production for energy, including impacts on soil, water, biodiversity and nutrient cycles.” Warsaw Resolution 1, p.14</p> <p>Open-ended ad-hoc working group on sustainability criteria for forest biomass production, including bio-energy. 2008-2009</p>
1.2.4	To prevent and mitigate the adverse effects of forest fires and fire suppression.	X	<p>Establishment of “Decentralized European Data Bank on Forest Fires” through Strasbourg Resolution 3 in 1990. Continued collection of data and information about forest fires.</p> <p>Workshop on the assessment of forest fire risk and innovative strategies for fire prevention. May 2010</p>

2. All FOREST EUROPE contributions and commitments can be found at the FOREST EUROPE web page: www.forest-europe.org

3. X = relevant, (X) = only partly relevant, because the objectives refer mainly to regions outside Europe or to the national level only.

CBD PoW Objectives		Relevance	Corresponding FOREST EUROPE Contributions and commitments
1.2.5	To mitigate effects of the loss of natural disturbances necessary to maintain biodiversity in regions where these no longer occur.	X	"Promote forest management planning and practices and landscape planning that is specifically suited to maintain, conserve, restore and enhance forest biological diversity, making use of the natural processes of forests" Vienna Resolution 4, p.15
1.2.6	To prevent and mitigate losses due to fragmentation and conversion to other land uses.	X	"Prevent and mitigate losses of forest biological diversity due to fragmentation and conversion to other land uses, and maintain and establish ecological connectivity, where appropriate." Vienna Resolution 4, p.11
1.3.1	Restore forest biological diversity in degraded secondary forests and in forests established on former forest lands and other landscapes, including in plantations.	X	<p>"Promote the restoration of degraded forests, particularly in floodplains and upper watershed areas for the benefit of the water environment, flood reduction, conservation of biodiversity and soil protection." Warsaw Resolution 2, p.15</p> <p>"Promote, as appropriate, the restoration of forest biological diversity in degraded forests and forests established on former forestlands or other landscapes, including plantations..." Vienna Resolution 4, p.12</p>
1.3.2	Promote forest management practices that further the conservation of endemic and threatened species.	X	<p>"...recognise the conservation and appropriate enhancement of biodiversity as an essential element of sustainable forest management...taking account of the protection of threatened forest species and ecosystems, as listed nationally or locally, in the formulation of national forest policies". Helsinki Resolution 2, p.5</p> <p>Pan-European Operational Level Guidelines for Sustainable Forest Management, 4.1 Guidelines for Forest Management Planning and 4.2 Guidelines for Forest Management Practices under Criterion 4 Maintenance, conservation and appropriate enhancement of biological diversity in forest ecosystems. Annex 2 of Resolution Lisbon 2</p> <p>"...enhance incentives to promote natural regeneration and regeneration with native tree species and provenances". Vienna Resolution 4, p.12</p>
1.3.3	Ensure adequate and effective protected forest area networks.	X	<p>"Analyse and further develop protected forest networks, taking into account existing networks, in terms of their comprehensiveness, representativeness and adequacy relative to forest types and the effectiveness of their management with regard to the conservation goal." Vienna Resolution 4, p.10</p> <p>"Apply the FOREST EUROPE Assessment Guidelines for Protected and Protective Forest and Other Wooded Land in Europe (Annex 2), and further develop them when appropriate." Vienna Resolution 4, p.9, p.20 and Annex 2</p> <p>Scientific analysis of the protected forest areas in Europe in the framework of pan-European research collaboration COST (COST Action E27: "Protected forest areas - analysis and harmonization")</p>
1.4.1	Promote sustainable use of forest resources to enhance the conservation of forest biological diversity.	X	<p>Resolution Helsinki 1: Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Forests in Europe. 1993</p> <p>Resolution Lisbon 2: Pan-European Criteria, Indicators and Operational Level Guidelines for Sustainable Forest Management. 1998. Adoption of Improved Indicators 2002</p> <p>Publication "Sustainable Forest Management Certification - Frame Conditions, System Designs and Impact Assessment", and discussion paper "The Role of Governments in Certification". 2000</p>
1.4.2	Prevent losses caused by unsustainable harvesting of timber and non-timber forest resources.	(X)	

CBD PoW Objectives		Relevance	Corresponding FOREST EUROPE Contributions and commitments
1.4.3	Enable indigenous and local communities to develop and implement adaptive community management systems to conserve and sustainably use forest biological diversity.	(X)	<p>"Secure the property rights and land tenure arrangements of forest owners, local and indigenous communities taking into account their economic interests as well as their various social and cultural values, making sure that their land use is in line with sustainable forest management in accordance with relevant national legislation." Vienna Resolution 3, p.7</p> <p>Principle of participation in the "FOREST EUROPE Approach to National Forest Programmes". Annex to Vienna Resolution 1</p>
1.4.4	Develop effective and equitable information systems and strategies, and promote implementation of those strategies for in situ and ex situ conservation and sustainable use of forest genetic diversity, and support countries in their implementation and monitoring.	X	<p>Establishment of an instrument for co-operation on conservation of genetic diversity of European Forests through Resolution Strasbourg 2, the European Forest Genetic Resources Programme (EUFORGEN). Continued scientific and technical collaboration in this framework</p> <p>"The conservation of genetic resources of forest taxa, both those currently exploited for economic purposes and those considered secondary or rare, as detailed in Resolution 2 of the Strasbourg Conference." Helsinki Resolution 2, p.51</p> <p>"Promote the conservation of forest genetic resources as an integral part of sustainable forest management, and continue the pan-European collaboration in this area." Vienna Resolution 4, p.16</p> <p>Technical guidelines for genetic conservation and use of tree species in Europe developed by EUFORGEN. 2006</p>
1.5.1	Promote the fair and equitable sharing of benefits resulting from the utilization of forest genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge.	(X)	Cultural Heritage and Sustainable Forest Management: The Role of Traditional Knowledge. Workshop and publication, 2006
Programme Element 2 "Institutional and socio-economic enabling environment"			
2.1.1	Improve the understanding of the various causes of forest biological diversity losses.	X	<p>Encourage and support inter-disciplinary research in order to take knowledge-based decisions on sustainable forest management aiming at maintenance, conservation, restoration and enhancement of forest biological diversity. V4, para 17</p> <p>Establishment of European Network for Research into Forest Ecosystems (EFERN) through Resolution S6. 1990. Ongoing research collaboration.</p>
2.1.2	Parties, governments, and organisations to integrate biological diversity conservation and sustainable use into the forestry and other sectors' policies and programmes.	X	<p>"Address the maintenance, conservation, restoration and appropriate enhancement of forest biological diversity in national forest programmes and other relevant policies and programmes, and to set measures to achieve the coherence and mutual supportiveness of these policies." V4, p.5</p> <p>Vienna Resolution 1: "Strengthen Synergies for Sustainable Forest Management in Europe through Cross-Sectoral Co-operation and National Forest Programmes. 2003</p> <p>Workshop on forest-relevant, cross-sectoral issues at the pan-European level and improved inter-sectoral policy co-ordination. 2003</p>
2.1.3	Parties and Governments to develop good governance practices. Review, and revise and implement forest and forest-related laws, tenure and planning systems, to provide a sound basis for conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity.	X	"Assess the impact of relevant policies and programmes on forest biological diversity, collaborate in removing distortions and failures of policies resulting in loss of forest biological diversity, and in promoting the compatibility of trade regulations with forest biodiversity related goals" Vienna Resolution 4, p.6
2.1.4	Promote forest law enforcement and address related trade.	X	<p>"Provide and analyse information about the impact and underlying causes of illegal harvesting of forest products and related trade on forest biological diversity; take effective measures to combat illegal harvesting of forest products and related trade; and build capacity to ensure effective forest law enforcement." Vienna Resolution 4, p.7</p> <p>Scientific analysis of information about illegal harvesting of forest products and related trade at Pan-European level. 2005</p> <p>Publication and workshop on combating illegal harvesting of forest products and related trade in Europe. 2005</p>

CBD PoW Objectives		Relevance	Corresponding FOREST EUROPE Contributions and commitments
2.2.1	Mitigate the economic failures and distortions that lead to decisions that result in loss of forest biological diversity.	X	"...collaborate in removing distortions and failures of policies resulting in loss of forest biological diversity, and in promoting the compatibility of trade regulations with forest biodiversity-related goals". Vienna Resolution 4, p.6
2.3.1	Increase public support and understanding of the value of forest biological diversity and its goods and services at all levels.	X	"Work towards common approaches to the practical application of the valuation of the full range of goods and services provided by forests and contribute to existing information systems, in co-operation with relevant organisations; incorporate the outcome of these valuations in relevant policies and programmes." Vienna Resolution 2, p.10
			International Seminar on Valuation of Forest Goods and Services. Nov, 2000.
Programme Element 3 "Knowledge, assessment and monitoring"			
3.1.1	Review and adopt a harmonized global to regional forest classification system, based on harmonized and accepted forest definitions and addressing key forest biological diversity elements.	X	"Improve the assessment and monitoring of forest biological diversity in Europe, taking into account existing monitoring systems and contribute to harmonised international classification systems through developing a pan-European understanding on forest classification systems, including forest types, naturalness and introduced forest species, in line with the Pan-European Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management." Vienna Resolution 4, p.13
			Workshop on a pan-European understanding of forest classification to discuss a proposal for the classification of forest types in Europe. 2005
3.1.2	Develop national forest classification systems and maps (using agreed international standards and protocols to enable regional and global synthesis).	(X)	"...contribute to harmonised international classification systems through developing a pan-European understanding on forest classification systems, including forest types, naturalness and introduced forest species, in line with the Pan-European Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management. Vienna Resolution 4, p.13
3.1.3	To develop, where appropriate, specific forest ecosystem surveys in priority areas for conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity.	X	
3.2.1	Advance the development and implementation of international, regional and national criteria and indicators based on key regional, sub-regional and national measures within the framework of sustainable forest management.	X	Adoption of Pan-European Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management, including Criterion 4: Maintenance, Conservation and Appropriate Enhancement of Biological Diversity in Forest Ecosystems and related indicators (Annex 1 to Resolution Lisbon 2, 1998)
			Adoption of Improved Pan-European Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management. 2002
3.3.1	Conduct research programmes on the role of forest biodiversity and ecosystem functioning.	X	"Encourage and support inter-disciplinary research in order to take knowledge-based decisions on sustainable forest management aiming at maintenance, conservation, restoration and enhancement of forest biological diversity." Vienna Resolution 4, p.17
			Establishment of European Network for Research into Forest Ecosystems (EFERN) through Resolution S6. 1990. Ongoing research collaboration.
3.4.1	Enhance and improve the technical capacity at the national level to monitor forest biological diversity, benefiting from the opportunities offered through the clearing-house mechanism, and to develop associated databases as required on a global scale.	(X)	



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