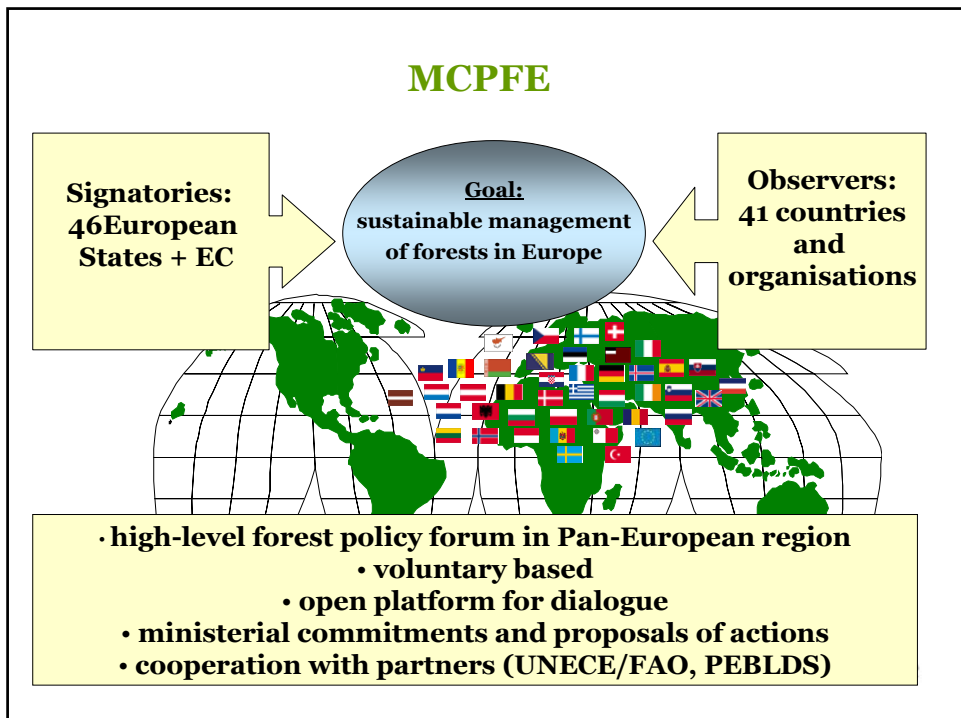


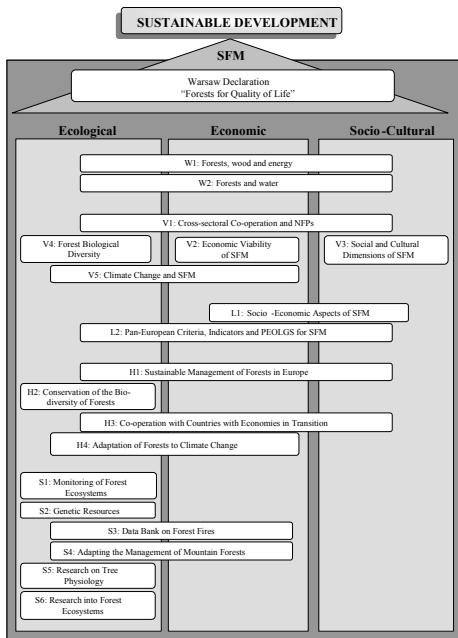


## **MCPFE achievements, challenges and plans for implementation in Europe in relation to the UNFF8 themes**

Malgorzata Buszko Briggs, Arne Ivar Sletnes  
Liaison Unit Oslo, Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe

Workshop „Forest in the changing environment”  
3-5 September, 2008 Koli, Finland

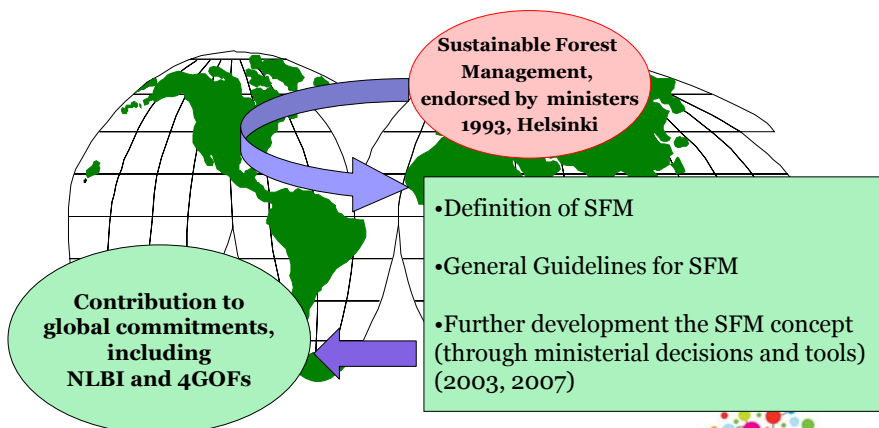




## Ministerial commitments on forests in the Pan-European region 1990 – 2007



## Sustainable forest management (SFM) in Europe



## Sustainable forest management

### **regional consensus on definition:**

*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*

*(MCPFE, Helsinki Resolution 1, 1993)*

### **concept includes:**

- **Forest biodiversity protection** (H1, Guideline 6)
- **Reforestation and afforestation** (H1, Guideline 8, Action 14)
- **Degradation** (H1, Guideline 1)
- **Restoration** (L2, PEOLG)



## Regional tools for implementing SFM

- **General guidelines** for SFM agreed by ministers (1993)
- **6 Criteria and 35 indicators** for sustainable forest management (1998, indicators improved in 2003)
- **Assessment and reporting** on SFM periodically
- **Pan-European Operational Level Guidelines** for sustainable forest management (1998)
- **Pan-European approach to national forest programmes** (2003) and cross-sectorial cooperation
- In Europe **SFM consistent with ecosystem approach** (CBD) to forests (2005/2006)



## **Achievements – on the ground**

- Europe's forest area continues to increase
- 98% of all European forests are covered by forest management plans
- 70% of European forests are semi-natural
- Less than 1% of Europe's forests are dominated by introduced tree species
- The area of protected forests has expanded by about 12 million ha (during last 5 years)
- Total growing stock of forests in Europe 112 billion m<sup>3</sup> and its increasing
- 53 gigatonnes of carbon stored in forest biomass, which is increase of 2 billion tonnes since 1990

*Source: State of Europe's Forests 2007*



***What are the challenges, latest commitments and plans for action in Europe ?***



## UNFF8 – achieving 4GOFs and implementing NLBI

„Forests in a changing environment“:

- *Forests and climate change*
- *Reversing the loss of forest cover, preventing forest degradation and combating desertification, including low forest cover countries*
- *Forest and biodiversity conservation, including PAs*

Source: UNFF MYPOW 2007-2015, ECOSOC Resolution 2007/40



## Preventing forest degradation and combating desertification

- Driving force for the establishment of the MCPFE – first ministerial conference, Strasbourg, 1990
- Focus on pollution, forest fires, global warming, climatic events, insects and pests
- Resulted in systematic monitoring schemes, scientific and technical networks, database on forest fires
- Europe's forest area increases (13 mill ha the past 15 years) and wood volume at record heights



## Preventing forest degradation and combating desertification – challenges remain...

- Trees are still under stress (air pollution)
- Storm damages occur frequently
- Forest fires continue to be a major challenge

### Warsaw Ministerial Conference, 2007:

- Addressing underlying factors of deforestation and forest degradation: strengthen governance, forest sector reform, promote public procurement policies, support to FLEG (Warsaw Declaration, 2007)
- Ministerial Statement on forest fires
- Strengthen cooperation with UNCCD
- **MCPFE Work programme:** workshop on strategies for forest fire prevention



## Forest biodiversity

- Essential and integral element of SFM
- Helsinki Resolution 2: General Guidelines for the Conservation of Biodiversity
- Criteria and Indicators and Operational Level Guidelines for SFM
- Work programme (1997-2000) and Framework of Cooperation (2003-), MCPFE and Efe/PEBLDS
- Vienna Resolution 4 on forest biological diversity
- Assessment Guidelines for Protected and Protective Forests



## Forest biodiversity – challenges remain...

- EfE Ministerial Conference (Kyiv 2003): pan-European biodiversity target – **halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010**
  - Progress in the conservation of forest biodiversity partly due to changes in forest management
  - Protected forests has expanded
  - In some countries, biodiversity is threatened by fragmentation and illegal logging

*Source: EfE assessment and State of Europe's Forests (2007)*



## Forest biodiversity – planned actions

### MCPFE Work Programme:

- Contribute to the achievement of the 2010 targets
- Contribute to CBD programmes of work (forest, PAs)
- Guidelines for afforestation and reforestation
- Securing multiple forest services
- Working group on sustainability criteria for forest biomass production, including bio-energy



## Forests and climate change

- Strasbourg Resolution 4 on management of mountain forests to new environmental conditions
- Helsinki Resolution 4 on strategies for adaptation of forests to climate change
- Criteria and Indicators for SFM (forest resources - global carbon cycle)
- Vienna Resolution 5 on climate change and SFM



## Forests and climate change

Warsaw Declaration and Resolution 1:

- Integrated response from the forest sector to climate change
- Holistic approach as contribution to mitigating climate change and cross-sectorial cooperation (UNFCCC and Kyoto processes)
- Contribute to other policy processes related to climate change and energy
- Forest adaptation is still a challenge and needs to be included in policy instruments
- Enhancing the role of the forest sector in energy production



## MCPFE Work Programme: sustainable forest management and climate change

- Working group on sustainability criteria for biomass production
- Optimising the contribution by the forest sector to climate change mitigation, harvested wood products, forest fire
- Guidelines for afforestation and reforestation
- Analysis of challenges in forest adaptation to climate change
- Activities to increase production and mobilisation of wood
- Securing ecosystem services (workshop)
- Input to „Forest Days” at UNFCCC COP 14 and 15



Thank you for your attention!

[www.mcpfe.org](http://www.mcpfe.org)