

# **Example of a Pan-European contribution to the climate change debate**

## **Outcome of the Koli Workshop "Forests in the Changing Environment"**

**MCPFE Side event at Forest Day 2  
6 December 2008, Poznan**

**Taina Veltheim**

**Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland**



# Content

- Background
- Objectives of the Koli Workshop
- Koli Workshop results



# Background

- UNFF8 will address forests in a changing environment:
  - *inter alia* forests and climate change; reversing the loss of forest cover and preventing forest degradation
- UNFF7 invited regional entities to provide inputs to UNFF
- Warsaw Ministerial Conference (MCPFE) in November 2007:
  - committed to develop consistent inputs to the work of UNFF
  - Finland offered to host a pan-European workshop "Forests in the changing environment" in 2008
- Workshop part of the MCPFE Work Programme for 2008 - 2011



# Objectives of the Koli Workshop: European perspective to global issues

- Explore what are the priority issues related to the role of forests and sustainable forest management in the changing environment: climate change, loss of forest cover, forest degradation, desertification, biodiversity, protected areas;
- Share views on how to address these priority issues;
- Discuss how to ensure coherent actions at the national, regional and global levels; and
- Provide a basis for a regional contribution to the work of UNFF.



# Keynote presentations

- **Dr. Markku Kanninen/CIFOR**: Direct and indirect causes of deforestation, forest degradation and desertification
- **Dr. Gert-Jan Nabuurs/Alterra**: Role of forests and climate change: impacts, adaptation and mitigation
- **Dr. Elena Kulikova/WWF Russia**: Role of forests and biological diversity



# Koli Workshop results

- Forests are a vital element in sustainable development and contribute to addressing global, regional and national concerns.
- Topics of the workshop are strongly interlinked.



# Mainstreaming of SFM

- Sustainable forest management (SFM): multiple functions of forests.
- Need to mainstream SFM into other sectors.
- Possible actions include e.g.
  - awareness raising: concept of SFM
  - inter-sectoral collaboration
  - cross-sectoral integration
  - the role of National Forest Programmes
  - regional and international cooperation



# Strengthening coordination and collaboration

- Many sectors and international multilateral environmental processes and agreements (e.g. UNFF, UNFCCC, CBD, UNCCD) broadly aim at similar objectives.
  - Fragmentation of decision making.
  - Need for strengthened collaboration, coordination and coherence.
- => a number of substantive suggestions!



# Improving forest governance

- Good governance is a prerequisite for SFM.
- Credible REDD mechanism requires good governance.
- Well-functioning REDD mechanism have a portential to improve forest governance.

=> a number of substantive suggestions!



# Promoting wise use of forest products and bioenergy

- Forests contribute to climate change mitigation in several ways.
  - Many parallel processes under-way, e.g. sustainability criteria for various purposes.
  - Socially and environmentally responsible production and consumption patterns require special attention.
- => a number of substantive suggestions!



# Addressing climate change impacts, risks and adaptation

- Implications of climate change.
- Need to reduce risks.
- Possible actions include e.g.
  - vulnerability assessment in forest sectors
  - developing policies and strategies for adaptation of forests
  - integrating climate change concerns into NFPs
  - research, including on forest genetic resources
  - risk assessment procedures and monitoring systems
  - rapid response mechanisms



# Improving monitoring and terminology

- Informed decision making.
- Special monitoring needs for the REDD mechanism.
- Obvious need to improve, strengthen and streamline the monitoring systems at various levels.
- Possible actions include e.g.
  - strengthening national forest inventories and assessments
  - better coordination to ensure coherent and cost-effective monitoring and assessment
  - consistent use of terms and definitions



# Further information

- <http://www.mmm.fi/en/index/frontpage/forests/koli2008.html>
  - background documents
  - keynote presentations
  - workshop report
- contacts;  
Mr. Heikki Granholm ([heikki.granholm@mmm.fi](mailto:heikki.granholm@mmm.fi))  
Ms. Taina Veltheim ([taina.veltheim@mmm.fi](mailto:taina.veltheim@mmm.fi))

**Thank you!**

