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Timber Committee

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION
European Forestry Commission

Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party On Forest
Economics And Statistics

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DISSEMINATION OF OUTPUTS

Note by the Secretariat

This document reviews the current outputs and dissemination methods used by Secretariat, focusing on changes. Delegations are requested to suggest other methods, in particular how to improve contact in their own member states.

Introduction

1. One function of the Working Party is to advise on the “dissemination” of the outputs of the UNECE/FAO Integrated Programme of Work. The dissemination methods used may be classified as publications, websites and databases. Meetings and workshops are also major means of communicating, but are not included in this document. A list of all of the outputs can be found in the annex attached to this document.
2. Delegations are invited to review this document while bearing the following two questions in mind:
 - a. *Are we taking the right steps in our dissemination work?*
 - b. *Are we reaching the forestry and timber people and institutions in your country? How could we improve our communication with these contacts?*

Publications

3. In 2005 the *European Forest Sector Outlook Study, 1960-2000-2020, Main Report* (ECE/TIM/SP/20) was issued in hard copy. The *Forest Products Annual Market Review 2004-2005* (ECE/TIM/BULL/2005/3) was also issued, along with two numbers of *International Forest Fire News* (ECE/TIM/IFFN/2005/1 and 2) and four Discussion Papers. Statistical outputs continued to be published in electronic format only.

4. Following the cancellation of the other issues of the Timber Bulletin, the forthcoming editions of the *Annual Market Review* will be issued as part of the Study Paper series. The executive summaries will continue to be translated and made available for the Timber Committee meeting.

5. The Timber Branch is providing tailored information for the region from the Global Forest Resource Assessment. Follow-up discussion papers (including the EFISCEN forest resources model) are being prepared for the European Forest Sector Outlook (EFSOS) programme. Further country profiles on Uzbekistan and Tajikistan are also planned. A new edition of the international forest institutions in Europe is in the final stages of publication.

Databases

6. Statistical databases include the price database, the forest products statistics database and the H3 and TBFRA database. In addition a significant number of ancillary tables have been produced for the *European Forest Sector Outlook Study Main Report*. All of these are on the website of the Timber Committee and European Forestry Commission and are freely available.

Websites

7. Information on the ECE website includes virtually all of our meeting documents and publications since 1997. A series of improvements to the structure and presentation of the web site has taken place over the last year to simplify finding the mass of information. This process will continue.

8. It is of interest to note that in 2005 the *Forest Products Annual Market Review* (2004 and 2005 version combined) was downloaded more than 50,000 times with a peak of 13,000 downloads the month of August when the 2005 version was released. Two other items of interest are the *European Forest Sector Outlook Study Main Report* which had over 28,000 downloads from the time of its release in mid-December 2004 until the end of 2005. The *Temperate and Boreal Forest Resources Assessment 2000* continues to average over 800 downloads per month, totalling 9,800 in 2005. A more detailed presentation of downloads on the website will be made to the Working Party.

10. An analysis of queries to the forest products database at FAO for the period January - October 2005 showed an average monthly number of 15,000 queries with more than 2,000,000 records being downloaded. A full report on this analysis will be made to the Working Party. The analysis will include the countries and products being requested as well as the origin of the query.

Communication Strategy

11. In 2005 the primary focus of the Secretariat was on distributing information on EFSOS using as many channels as possible. A special flyer was prepared in three languages and presentations were organised to provide information on *European Forest Sector Outlook Study*. In addition reference was made to EFSOS work where relevant in other outputs.

12. In 2006 the Secretariat plans to continue reaching out to other sectors to both raise the profile of the forest sector and to inform other sectors of aspects of their work that could impinge on the forest sector.

13. The continued publication of the newsletter has proven to be a valuable tool in updating our "family" with information about current outputs and upcoming events. This is normally circulated via e-mail to over 1000 contacts along with a limited number of hard copies which are handed out at meetings and other fora. Distribution of the newsletter and delivering the right information to the right target is closely tied to the proper development of our contact database, in use since 2002 and recently improved.

Other information platforms

14. The Working Party will be informed of work being done on two other information platforms of interest to ECE member countries.

15. The Global Forest Information Service (GFIS) catalogues key information resources, such as news, events, publications and job vacancies provided by GFIS partners. Searching among these resources provides direct access to the original information. The new GFIS search service was launched at www.gfis.net at the XXII IUFRO World Congress in Brisbane, Australia, 8 – 13 August 2005. All information available through GFIS is provided by partner organizations around the world concerned with forests and forestry. The implementation of the Global Forest Information Service (GFIS) is led by IUFRO, together with the CPF members FAO, CIFOR, and the UNFF Secretariat along with CAB International and NBII.

16. The European Union is implementing the European Forest Information and Communication Platform (EFICP) in a project managed by the Joint Research Center (JRC) at Ispra, Italy. This project was launched in January 2006 for a period of two years.

Timber Section publications produced in 2005

Title of Publication	Publication Number/URL	Copies Printed
Forest Products Annual Market Review	ECE/TIM/BULL/2005/3	2040 E French and Russian in preparation
European Forest Sector Outlook Study - Main Report	ECE/TIM/SP/20	2700 E 250 R French in preparation
International Forest Fire News, No.30	ECE/TIM/IFFN/2005/1	930 E
International Forest Fire News, No.31 (reissued for technical reasons)	ECE/TIM/IFFN/2005/2	930 E
Forest and Forest Products Country Profile: Republic of Bulgaria	ECE/TIM/DP/38	400 E
Forest Certification Update for the UNECE Region	ECE/TIM/DP/39	1250 E
Forest and Forest Products Country Profile: Serbia and Montenegro	ECE/TIM/DP/40	530 E
Forests, Wood and Energy: Policy Interactions	ECE/TIM/DP/42	660 E
Forest Products Markets: Prospects for 2006	http://www.unece.org/trade/timber/mis/tb-6/tb-58-6.pdf	Electronically published
Forest Products Trade Flow	http://www.unece.org/trade/timber/mis/tb-5/58-5.pdf	Electronically published
Forest Products Statistics (provisional)	http://www.unece.org/trade/timber/database/fps00_04_provisional.xls	Electronically published