

ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Products Statistics

Reference to the Integrated Programme of Work: Work Area 1, “Data, monitoring, reporting and assessment” and Work Area 4, “Capacity-building”

A. Objectives

38. To advise and support work on forest products statistics, including data coverage and collection, validation and classifications used in the region.
39. To suggest and support proposals for increasing the reliability and visibility of forest products statistics.
40. To advise on implementation of activities in Work Area 1 relating to forest products statistics.

B. Activities and functions

41. Review materials such as the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire and the Timber Forecast Questionnaire and associated procedures, reviewing items in forest products statistics.
42. Develop methods to expand the scope to include production and trade of secondary wood products (Engineered Wood Products, furniture, joinery) and develop methodology for data collection on these products.
43. Investigate required changes in the Harmonized System classification; prepare for the implementation of 2022 Harmonized System and future potential changes to Harmonized System.
44. Follow up on the conversion factor questionnaire and study; develop conversion factors for secondary forest products (Engineered Wood Products, joinery).
45. Assist in the development of a forest food products section in collaboration with the Collaborative Forest Reporting Questionnaire and consider framework and specifications for non-wood forest products.
46. Support publication of the roundwood balance study and continue to develop methodology.
47. Strengthen capacities in statistics through a capacity-building workshop.
48. Disseminate information on forest products statistics further through the Team of Specialists’ network.
49. Advise on issues to coordinate with other members of the Eurostat/FAO/International Tropical Timber Organization/ECE Intersecretariat Working Group on Forest Sector Statistics.
50. Consider improving product definitions and collect metadata (including accuracy).
51. Consider development of price portal.
52. Recommend improvements to data systems, including data capture.
53. Review ways to promote data and make it more accessible.
54. Recommend methods for improving data reliability.

C. Expected major outputs and contributions

55. Recommendations for revisions to the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire and the Timber Forecast Questionnaire.
56. Submission of potential input for 2022 revision of Harmonized System and further revisions in later years.
57. A paper on the extent of potential double counting problem (including issue of forest/non-forest sources) and how to avoid it. Contact national data users for input.
58. Proposal for improvements for national and international practices in data validation and, if required, a working paper describing best practices.
59. A recommended procedure for estimating wood balance, including the desirable level of detail to include and conversion factors to use.
60. Contributions to studies on conversion factors, roundwood balance and double counting issue, in collaboration with other Teams.
61. Support to capacity-building workshop on statistics.

D. Background

- Established/
Approved by:** Joint session of the Committee and the Commission, Warsaw, Poland, 2017.
- Duration:** From January 2018 to December 2019. Renewable to 2021.
- Methods of work:** Annual meeting. Further methods to be determined by the Team.
- Reporting:** Annually, to the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management.
- Team leader:** To be elected at the first Team meeting.
- Communication:** The Team leader and secretariat should ensure close cooperation with the Team of Specialists on Sustainable Forest Products, the Team of Specialists on Wood Energy and the Team of Specialists on Sustainable Forest Management. The Team should also seek to communicate and collaborate with other fora working in this area, and to collaborate with others (e.g. Forest Europe on criteria and indicators and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on harvested wood products).
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