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Self-evaluation of ToS Outlook

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Overview

- This presentation
 - Involvement of team members
 - Dissemination and feedback
 - Resources (support) available for Outlook team participation.
 - Methods used in the outlook studies
 - Regional coverage
 - Points for improvement



Background

- Outlook Studies have evolved from a compilation of national outlooks by national correspondents towards an international study carried out by specialists
- However, the organisational structure has hardly changed, i.e. a team of national correspondents (but core team members added), depending a lot on country contributions (no clear budget set aside beforehand)



Involvement of Team Members

- Few participants have formal channels to prepare meetings
- Few participants have formal channels to disseminate or seek feedback on meeting results
- It is very much up to the country or the individual to decide how actively they are involved and how they prepare and disseminate meetings
- The Outlook work is not firmly anchored in all countries

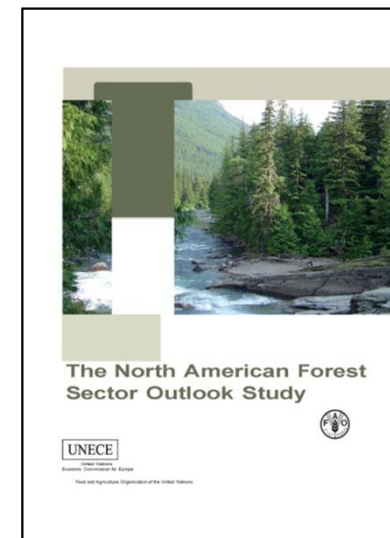
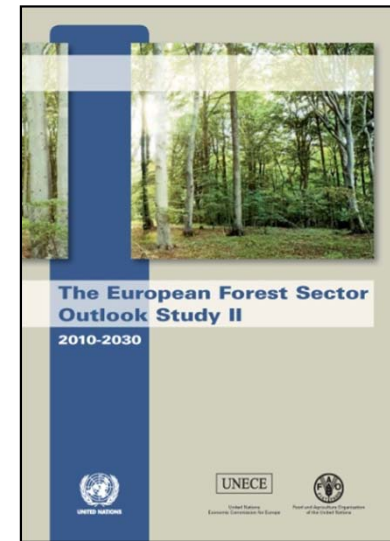


Dissemination/Feedback

- EFSOS II released September 2011
 - Active (international) dissemination by Secretariat
 - Many individual national initiatives (articles, inclusion in lectures, invitations for presentations/seminars)
 - Direct feedback is rare, generally short and positive
- NAFSOS released March 22, 2012

<http://www.unece.org/forests/outlook/outputs/mop1.html>

- Secretariat is actively involved
- US agencies involved in its dissemination
- Some presentations in the US may occur



Availability of Resources

- Country correspondents
 - Generally OK
 - Probably depends on the emphasis the respective country gives to attending the meetings
- Most core team members report insufficient resources, depending on their level of involvement and support received by their bosses/institutes/countries.
- Not all specialists involved are backed up by governments, and are in many cases even totally dependent on project funding



Methods

- Positive evaluation of scenario approach and implementation in models
- We had to rely on existing models and approaches, perceived as a “patchwork” of models that were not designed to work together.
 - A more cohesive approach would be very desirable, but requires investment (by whom?)



Regional coverage

- Russian Federation was not included in the analysis
 - But a Russian Outlook Study is making headway.
- Mediterranean and Balkan countries were a bit underrepresented.
 - Probably linked to importance of the forest sector and emphasis given by the countries
- Some indicate (too) large influence of the EU
 - Probably related to us greatly relying on existing (FP7) projects due to limited resources
- Some asked for more emphasis on global aspects



Improvements - organisation

- Feedback from Core Team to Country correspondents
 - Too little
 - Procedures should be discussed
 - Limited by time pressure and few resources
- How to keep the national correspondents better involved? Is the current structure sufficient?
- A more coherent model approach is needed, but need significant investment (and clear guidance on the requirements, type of questions to be answered)



Improvements - contents

- Mandate was generally seen as sufficient
- More emphasis on globalisation, influence of upcoming economies
- More emphasis on climate change impacts and ecology
- More consistency between regional outlooks
- Now that we have experience with the regional outlooks: Outlook study for the UNECE region as a whole? Or even larger?



Suggestions

- Better visibility of authors/institutes as a reward for their time
- Reserve some funds for meeting participation of core team members
- More pressure from the secretariat on ministries/governments to secure contributions, and to raise awareness on the importance of the Outlook work
- Industrial sponsors?

