



UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR EUROPE



Food and Agriculture
Organization
of the United Nations

The Green Life of Wood - LCA Workshop

Results of the Working Groups and Conclusions

Geneva, Switzerland
16 October 2012



GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- Complete accurate, objective national Life Cycle Inventory Data Bases on internationally recognized standards (eg. ISO 14040).
- Create national wood LCA boards/councils.
- Consider economic and social aspects in addition to environmental aspects provided by LCA.
- Promote global rules to EPDs (Environmental Product Declarations) e.g. by national LCA boards.
- Recognize and promote LCAs that are fully transparent in terms of processes for data collection, which data sets are used and how these data are presented.



RECOMMENDATIONS TO MEMBER STATES

- Make the best use of existing data and studies to develop tailored and rational arguments to back policies in favour of wood and wood products.
- Put “pro-wood “policies and/or low carbon/low energy policies into action through implementation of economic incentives and regulations.
- Support those policies by enhancing communication towards the general public and professionals, who also need to be convinced and educated.
- Assist in creating conditions for mobilization of wood to meet the induced demand, incl. exploring opportunities for woodland creation and specific effort in small forest holdings.



RECOMMENDATIONS TO FOREST INDUSTRIES

- Support the development of strong marketing and communication skills.
- Improve cooperation within and beyond the sector at all levels of the value chain.
- Improve the investment in innovation and R & D and seek improved public and private.
- Communicate more effectively with actors in plain language outside the sector to include policy makers, architects, designers and civil engineers.



RECOMMENDATIONS TO TIMBER COMMITTEE (I)

- Prepare a communication strategy on the importance of forest and forest industry for sustainability.
- Use the Timber Committee infrastructure/position to promote the credentials of wood and the wood industry as green competitive material.
- Make full use of the ECE-FAO Forest Communicators Network and the FAO Advisory Group on paper and wood to enhance communication on the sustainability and suitability of wood.
- Produce summary papers for policy makers on targeted topics (incl. a policy paper on the LCA based on the 'green life of wood workshop')



RECOMMENDATIONS TO TIMBER COMMITTEE (II)

- Use the existing publications (e.g. the FPMR, EFSOS etc.) to produce more focused, synthesized outputs (e.g. policy briefs, fact sheets) and tailored to wider audiences.
- Share information and promote the sustainable use of wood within other communities, within and outside UNECE, and other sectors.
- Make sure that the messages to be delivered in the context of the European Forest Week in 2013 include reference to the sustainability of wood.
- Integrate relevant recommendations above in the ECE-FAO Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy.





Conclusions

- Life cycle assessment (LCA) is a comprehensive environmental accounting tool to evaluate overall environmental impact of a material or product throughout its life from *cradle-to-grave*, as well as from *cradle-to-cradle*.
- LCA procedures and methods are governed by established rules and standards e.g. developed by ISO. However, further methodological development and information sharing is required.
- There is currently sufficient evidence through LCA and other tools (e.g. forest data, certification, etc.) proving the environmental performance of wood and other forest-based products.
- LCA provides a basis for making informed decisions along the whole value chain (from policy to production and consumption), thus improving resource efficiency.
- The forest sector has not yet made full use of LCA in its work, including communication.

