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**Food and Agriculture  
Organization****Economic Commission for Europe****Food and Agriculture Organization****Timber Committee****European Forestry Commission****Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party on Forest Statistics,  
Economics and Management****Thirty-fifth session**

Geneva, 23-25 April 2013

Item 1 of the Provisional Agenda

**Adoption of the Agenda****Annotated provisional agenda for the thirty-fifth session<sup>1</sup>**

Session to be held at the Palais des Nations (Room VIII), Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on Tuesday 23 April 2013. The session will be preceded by the one day seminar on "Innovation in the Forest Sector", held in cooperation with Innovawood. It will be followed by a short field trip.

**I. Provisional agenda**

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Report of the seminar on "Innovation in the Forest Sector"
3. Forests and Economic Development in the UNECE Region
4. Guidance of work areas and review of Teams of Specialists (ToS):
  - (a) Markets and Statistics (Work Area 1) including ToS Sustainable Forest Products
  - (b) Forest Resources Assessment (Work Area 2) including ToS Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management
  - (c) Forest Sector Outlook Studies (Work Area 3) including ToS Outlook Studies
  - (d) Social and Cultural (Work Area 4) including Joint Expert Network to Implement Sustainable Forest Management

<sup>1</sup> Documents and more information, including the registration form, at [www.unece.org/forests/wpfssem2013](http://www.unece.org/forests/wpfssem2013)

(e) Policy and Cross-Sectoral (Work Area 5) including ToS on Forest Fires, ToS on Forest Policy in EECCA, and the Forest Communicators Network

5. Self-Assessment of the Working Party
6. Terms of Reference for existing and proposed Teams of Specialists
7. Any other business
8. Election of officers
9. Adoption of the report

## II. Background information

1. The Working Party is a subsidiary body of the UNECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission and contributes to the implementation of the integrated programme of work of those two bodies. It meets annually to provide guidance on the implementation of all five areas of the programme of work. The Working Party also facilitates the exchange of information on the work of the Teams of Specialists, identifies priorities for action and relevant emerging issues; and transmits suggested priorities to the Committee and the Commission for consideration.

2. The mandate of the Working Party, as modified on a trial basis (through 2013) by the UNECE Timber Committee and FAO European Forestry Commission (see ECE/TIM/2011/20 –FO:EFC/2011/20), is to:

(a) Review, on an ongoing basis, the needs at the international level for statistics and other information relating to forestry, wood-processing and forest products, including wood energy, and develop programmes to meet these needs. Particular attention shall be paid to improving quality, concepts, definitions and methodologies to increase the international comparability of statistics and other information;

(b) Develop, upon request from the parent bodies, methodologies for use in economic analysis of the sector, as well as techniques for collecting, validating, analysing and disseminating information and statistics;

(c) Undertake, upon request from the parent bodies, ad hoc projects in economics and statistics relating to forestry, forest products and forest policies and institutions;

3. And, within the framework of the integrated programme:

(a) Contribute and provide technical advice to the Committee and the Commission on issues under consideration by those bodies, including on the preparations of studies such as the Outlook and the Forest Products Annual Market Review:

(i) Receive and discuss the reports from the Teams of Specialists to enhance the understanding of their respective mandates and work; identify possible synergies; and facilitate the exchange of experiences between Teams of Specialists and delegations from member States. When needed, the Working Party would be requested to review and update mandates;

(ii) Increase the visibility and impact of the work of Teams of Specialists among member States and within the relevant bodies in the United Nations.

(b) Reach out to other sectors to discuss related to forest information and management matters of common interest, including best practices in sustainable forestry management and their impact on the overall sustainability of forests, natural resources management, and other issues such as biodiversity and climate change;

- (c) Identify themes and issues for in-depth discussion and review as part of the annual workshop held back-to-back with the Working Party session;
  - (d) Work together with other international bodies, including Forest Europe, Eurostat, the International Tropical Timber Organization and the Conference of European Statisticians, with a view to coordinating of activities and avoiding any duplication of effort.
- 4. The thirty-fifth session will be preceded by a one-day seminar on Innovation in the Forest Sector, held jointly with Innovawood (see related programme).
  - 5. This provisional agenda has been drawn up to allow the Working Party to fulfil its guidance function and discuss major topics. The Working Party's mandate includes guidance of all work areas and review of the Teams of Specialists. The aim is also to foster exchanges and cooperation amongst Teams of Specialists and offer an opportunity to review respective areas of work in one session and by one body. For more information please see ECE/TIM/2011/20 –FO:EFC/2011/20.
  - 6. Documents will be available for downloading from the Timber website (<http://www.unece.org/forests/wpfsem2013>). Members of the Working Party will be alerted when documents become available. These documents will be issued in English only. This follows a decision of 32<sup>nd</sup> session of the Working Party to avoid delays related to official documents procedures and have information in the documents as up-to-date as possible.
  - 7. Kindly note that delegates are requested to be prepared to speak on the substantive issues. Views of all delegates will be sought by the Chair.

### **III. Annotations to the Provisional Agenda**

#### **Adoption of the agenda (Item 1)**

- 8. In accordance with the Economic Commission for Europe's rules of procedure and established practice, the first item on the agenda is the adoption of the agenda.

#### **Report of the Innovawood Joint Seminar (Item 2)**

- 9. The Secretariat will present the results of the seminar held the previous day.

#### **Forests and Economic Development in the UNECE Region (Item 3)**

- 10. There will be a presentation on the paper reviewed at last year's Working Party and presented at the UN Forum on Forests in Istanbul Turkey in April.

#### **Guidance of work areas and review of Teams of Specialists (Item 4)**

- 11. Delegates are requested to review the activities in 2012 and plans for 2013 and indicate their support or where changes are needed, as well as comment on the work and direction of Teams of Specialists during the year. Reports on the activities of Teams of Specialists will be made available before the meeting. Each ToS, as noted in section II, paragraph 5 above, is covered by different work areas.
- 12. In addition to reviewing the activities and plans for the work area, we will discuss:
  - (a) Markets and Statistics

- Plans for Forest Products Annual Market Review and Timber Committee Market Discussions will be presented;
  - Activities in forest products statistics – data collection, results, dissemination including web site statistics, and international cooperation including HS2017;
  - Specific statistical issues on definition of wood residues, item 3+4 (chips and particles) on forecast questionnaire, estimation procedures and wood balance calculations;
  - Joint Wood Energy Enquiry – evaluation of 2011 results and procedures.
- (b) Forest Resources Assessment
- ECE/FAO contribution to the global, collaborative reporting on forests,
  - organisation and work on regional (pan-European) reporting;
  - reporting by forest types;
  - current work on sustainability assessment;
  - new edition of the report on private forests / forest ownership.
- (c) Outlook Studies - Delegates will be informed on a possible future outlook study and possible next steps for its preparation.
- (d) Social and Cultural - Delegates will be briefed about a new edition of the publication Professions, Skills and Training in Forestry and the Seminar on the Impact of Climate Change on Forestry Work to be held during Metsä2013.
- (e) Policy and Cross-Sectoral
- Delegates will be briefed about recent developments of the Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy;
  - Results and Plans of National Forest Policy Dialogues;
  - Forest Policy in Eastern Europe and Central Asia in relation with United Nations Development Account project;
  - Forest Fires;
  - Information on proposed Regional Advisory Group on Paper and Wood Products;
  - Plans for European Forest Week.

### **Self-Assessment of the Working Party (Item 5)**

13. The current mandate of the Joint Working Party was accepted with the understanding that the new arrangements would be valid for a trial period of two years, until the 2013 Strategic Review of the Integrated Programme of Work on forestry and timber was completed, after which the work of the Working Party would be reviewed again. The Working Party will be asked to evaluate the functioning of the body according to the current modified mandate. Results of the self-assessment, which will take into account the role of the Working Party in the proposed new Programme of Work, will be submitted to the Special Session of the Timber Committee of the ECE (in Geneva, 17-18 June 2013) for its consideration. Results from the special session will be submitted to the Joint ECE Timber Committee/FAO European Forestry Commission (Metsä2013) session which will take place in December 2013 in Rovaniemi (Finland). The Working Party, at its 34<sup>th</sup> session, suggested the self-assessment be done during the 35<sup>th</sup> meeting directly (rather

than prior to the meeting). The Secretariat will propose a procedure for making this self-assessment, likely in working groups followed by a general discussion.

### **Terms of Reference for existing and proposed Teams of Specialists (Item 6)**

14. As part of the normal procedures of the ECE, the mandates and terms of reference of Teams of Specialists must be reviewed every two years by the Working Party which then recommends to the ECE Timber Committee / FAO European Forestry Commission their extension or discontinuation. The current ones are due for review in 2013. Updated terms of reference for the Teams of Specialists that are proposed to be extended will be presented and discussed<sup>2</sup>.

15. In the course of preliminary consultations on the next Programme of Work, the Joint Bureaux and the ECE Timber Committee proposed that establishing new teams of specialists be considered. The areas where assistance from the team of specialists would be needed are:

- Forest Products Statistics;
- Wood Energy;
- Wildlife Management.<sup>3</sup>

The proposals of mandates for the new teams will be presented by the Secretariat to facilitate discussion on Joint Working Party recommendations in this regard.

16. Following the recommendation of the ECE/FAO joint Bureaux made in 2012 in the framework of the ECE/FAO Strategic Review, draft guidelines for the establishment and functioning of the Teams of Specialists will be presented and discussed.

### **Other business (Item 7)**

17. At the time of this document's submission, the Secretariat has no matters for discussion under this item. Delegates should feel free to raise issues that are of concern to them prior to the meeting to facilitate discussion.

### **Election of officers (Item 8)**

18. The Working Party is expected to elect a Chair and two Vice-Chairs. At its thirty-fourth session, the Working Party elected Ms. E. Maki-Simola (Finland) as Chair and Mr. A. Mariano (Italy) and Mr. J. Hangler (Austria) as Vice-Chairs to hold office until the end of the thirty-fifth session. The procedure in recent years has been to request the bureau to serve two consecutive terms.

### **Adoption of the report (Item 9)**

19. The Working Party will be invited to adopt the report of its session on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat.

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<sup>2</sup> See ECE/TIM/2012/11, paragraph 28.

<sup>3</sup> See ECE/TIM/2012/9, paragraph 20.

## IV. Tentative timetable

19. The secretariat proposes the following tentative timetable:

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*Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management, Thirty-fifth session*

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**Monday, 22 April 2013**

10:00 – 18:00 Joint seminar with Innovawood – Innovation in the Forest Sector

**Tuesday, 23 April 2013**

10:00 – 13:00 Items 1-3 and 4a

15:00 – 18:00 Item 4a (continued) and 4b

**Wednesday, 24 April 2013**

10:00 – 13:00 Item 5

15:00 – 18:00 Items 4c-4e and 6

**Thursday, 25 April 2013**

10:00 – 13:00 Item 6 (continued) and 7-9. There will not be an afternoon session.

There will be a field trip to the forest of the Canton of Geneva in the afternoon, starting at 2 p.m.

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20. As part of the continuing efforts to reach out to the private sector, the ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section is organizing a joint seminar with Innovawood on innovation in the forest sector. The seminar will take place on Monday, April 22 and will be followed by the Working Party session from Tuesday morning, April 23 to Thursday morning, April 25. Innovawood will hold its General Assembly on Tuesday and Wednesday. For further details on the seminar please consult <http://www.unece.org/forests/wood-innovation2013.html>.

21. The Forest Service of the Canton of Geneva has kindly offered to host a short field trip to view the urban forest in the local area after the Working Party. We will depart from the Palais at 2 p.m on Thursday, April 25. and return to the Palais (or airport) by 6 p.m. All are welcome to join.

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**Economic Commission for Europe**

**Timber Committee**

**Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party on  
Forest Statistics, Economics and Management**

**Food and Agriculture Organization**

**European Forestry Commission**

**Thirty-fifth session**

Geneva, 23-25 April 2013

Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda

## **GUIDANCE OF WORK AREA 1: MARKETS AND STATISTICS**

### **AGENDA ITEM 4 (a)**

#### **Note by the Secretariat**

#### *Summary*

According to its mandate, the Working Party is expected to provide guidance to work area 1: Markets and Statistics. This document provides information about activities in this work area since the Working Party's last session and plans for the future, drawing the Working Party's attention to any specific issues where guidance is needed.

The programme of work for WA1 is comprised of the following activities\*:

- 1.1 Statistics on production, trade, consumption and prices of forest products
- 1.2 Analysis of markets for forest products, notably topical and policy relevant aspects
- 1.3 Capacity building for forest products marketing in countries in transition
- 1.4 Monitoring and analysis of markets for certified wood products
- 1.6 Team of Specialists on Forest Products Marketing (now the Team of Specialists on Sustainable Forest Products)

\* 1.5 *Statistics on forest fires was discontinued*

## I. Marketing

### A. Market Analyses

1. The UNECE/FAO *Forest Products Annual Market Review, 2011-2012* (FPAMR) was produced as a basis for the Joint Seventieth Session of the Timber Committee, which was held in Geneva in October of 2012. The theme of the FPAMR was “sustainable forest products”.
2. The English version of the FPAMR was on the Forestry and Timber Section website on 3 August 2012, and it was available in print and distributed to TC delegates 2 to 3 weeks ahead of the discussions. The Russian and French versions are still in the translation process.
3. The UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Sustainable Forest Products (formerly the Team of Specialists on Forest Products Marketing) provided many authors and reviewers. Some of the authors were also speakers at the TC Market Discussions.
4. The 2012 FPAMR was possible thanks in part to a contribution of funds from Switzerland, and significant in-kind contributions from many authors and several student interns. Led by a production team within the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section, the FPAMR had many people working directly on the publication, as well as over 100 statistical correspondents and contributors. The FPAMR had 13 chapters this past year, which included a special chapter on innovative wood products. The Tropical chapter was discontinued in 2012, as it duplicated information in the ITTO Report and had many elements that were outside the regional scope of the publication. The online version of the FPAMR includes electronic links that allows for quick access of the detailed background data tables and a hyperlinked table of contents directly from the PDF publication.
5. The 2013 FPAMR will have 11 chapters analyzing policy and market developments. We discussed options for the 2013 FPAMR at the ToS on Sustainable Forest Products in October of 2012, with several key decisions taken. The Certified and Carbon chapters will be incorporated into the Policy chapter in a synthesised form. The former Economics and Housing chapter will cover only housing, with economics covered in the Overview and individual product chapters, where relevant. The Innovative Wood-based Products chapter will be continued again in 2013. Finally, there will be information in the relevant product chapters regarding influence from outside the ECE region, which is impacting ECE region markets. These changes are intended to improve the readability and conciseness of the FPAMR by eliminating overlap and concentrating on topics with significant impact on forest product markets in the ECE Region. For technical reasons, the schedule for this year’s review is unchanged from past years, despite the later date of the Timber Committee meeting.
6. ***The Working Party is requested to invite national statistical correspondents to submit their country’s JFSQ by 15 May 2012 and provide feedback on the changes planned for the Review.***

### B. Timber Committee Market Discussions

7. The discussions were attended by more than 113 delegates. The segment opened with a presentation summarizing the state of forest products markets in the UNECE region, highlighting the sluggish recovery and some of the challenges and opportunities facing the forest sector. It also pointed towards innovations that, if commercially successful, could create important new opportunities for the industry and pointed towards the success of cross-laminated timber (CLT) and the possibilities of sustainably produced wood products for large structures. There was also a presentation and discussion on the EU Timber Regulation.
8. Mr. Dieter Lechner (Austrian Woodworking Industry Association) demonstrated the importance of the construction industry in driving innovation and the use of wood in Europe.
9. Ms. Svetlana Atanasova (European Commission) provided an overview of the EU Timber Regulation and its due diligence requirements. Although a number of issues remain to be clarified, the intent of the Regulation was to



ensure that timber was legally harvested and not to require more information than would otherwise be needed in normal commerce.

10. Mr. Bernard De Galember (Confederation of the European Paper Industry - CEPI) outlined the goal of reducing carbon emissions by 80% compared with 1990 levels. He pledged that the industry would do its utmost to reach this goal through innovation and research.
11. Future use of wood energy was the topic of the presentation given by Mr. Francisco Aguilar (University of Missouri, United States), which brought out the significant potential for this product although price competition and policy changes could heavily affect demand. Interest was expressed in improving information on the costs and impacts on forests of wood-energy subsidies and policy support. Evaluating transportation and environmental costs of wood energy was an area of interest and discussion and it was mentioned that life-cycle analysis is a suitable method for measuring such costs. The cascaded use of wood and a sufficiently high price for timber were considered important in ensuring a stable supply of wood for energy purposes.
12. Mr. Ivan Eastin (University of Washington, United States) highlighted the internal drivers of demand for forest products in China and the potential impact on the ECE region. In response to questions about China's impact on the ECE region, the increasing role of domestic consumption in China was seen as a factor impacting the continued improvements in productivity and technology. However, plantation-supplied timber from within China was not expected to meet the growth in demand.
13. As follow-up to their chapter in the Review, Mr. Douglas Clark and Mr. Olin Bartlomé (Lignum, Zurich) discussed innovation in the forest-products industry and recent developments in cross-laminated timber. Delegations strongly supported the new chapter on innovation in the Review. The need to widen the scope of discussion on innovation was raised using the example of wood-fibre insulation. Other issues included the possibility of using hardwood in cross-laminated timber, the importance of providing comprehensive solutions from building construction, and the possible lowering of costs to support innovative products, along with the proven environmental benefits.
14. The Chair moderated a technical session to review and revise the draft *Statement on Forest Products Markets in 2012 and 2013*. Some changes were incorporated, and then reviewed by the delegates during the regular TC session. This process repeated the procedures used at the 2011 Joint TC/EFC Meeting in Antalya. At TC sessions in 2010 and before, the Market Statements were revised jointly outside of the regular TC sessions by the drafting committee and not reviewed again during the regular TC sessions. The Statement can be viewed on the website at: <http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/timber/meetings/20121015/TC2012-market-statement-final-approved.pdf>.
15. ***The Working Party is invited to give advice on the process of reviewing and revising the draft market statement. Additionally, the Secretariat invites the Working party to comment on the structure and content of the Market Statement.***

#### **C. UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Sustainable Forest Products**

16. Achievements in 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 goals were discussed. The lack of funds and secretariat staff was cited as a factor during the last year, which limited activities to providing advice and drafting expertise for the FPAMR. Funding and willing volunteers were pointed to as enabling elements that will be needed in order to move forward with the 2012-2013 goals of organizing a capacity building workshop in eastern Europe, a tentative workshop on wooden construction in Brussels, a forest products market side-event at Metsä2013 and in providing guidance with the FPAMR.
17. A motion was made to disband the subgroups as they currently exist and reform groups on an as-needed basis going forward. The motion was carried. The acting chair suggested that in light of earlier discussions regarding focussing work towards a meaningful capacity building workshop in 2013 that the activity of the ToS be focussed on such a task.

18. There was significant discussion surrounding the role of the Team in producing the FPAMR. It was noted and recognized that many of the Team members currently contribute directly to the production of the FPAMR as authors. It was also mentioned that the reader's survey which was done by Chris Gaston last year was extremely helpful and that the FPAMR production team implemented the vast majority of the suggested changes. The Team made a number of suggestions for next year's Review, including the following:
  - a) Form a "Core Group" within the ToS for steering the Forest Products Market Review (Isabelle Brose, Sylvain Labbé, Douglas Clark, Peter Moonen, Branko Glavonjic, Jeremy Wall and Eoin O'Driscoll).
  - b) Utilize a standardized template for the authors.
  - c) Shorten the length of the Review, with the aim to make it still descriptive and informative, but to focus on the most important events and trends.
  - d) Include more tabular data in the chapters and less description of trends that can be seen in the tables.
  - e) Consider integrating the Policy, Carbon and Innovation chapters into the Overview and remaining chapters.
  - f) Have a subtitle for the Review.
  - g) Include a special chapter on the "Forest Sector in the Green Economy".
19. The Team leadership had not changed since 2004. Nominations were taken for team leader and voted on, with Eoin O'Driscoll elected as the new Team Leader. Jeremy Wall was also nominated and elected as Deputy Team Leader. The Team meeting report from the 17 October meeting is available at: <http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/timber/mis/tos/2012/Report24102012.pdf>
20. *The Working Party is requested to review and comment on the activities of the ToS on Sustainable Forest Products.*

#### **D. Capacity building in forest products marketing**

21. The Forest Products Marketing work area did not participate in any capacity building workshops in 2012. This was a result of the vacant Marketing Officer position (which is now filled) and a lack of available funds. It is hoped that the outlook for 2013 will be better with full staffing of the Forest Products Marketing work area allowing for more time to dedicate to capacity building and opportunities to find partners and funding.
22. *The Working Party is invited to comment on the marketing capacity building activities, in particular regarding needs and possible partners for organizing and funding this work.*

#### **E. Certification**

23. Certified forest products markets have reached a "mature" status in the ECE region and will be covered in the Policy chapter of the FPAMR. If developments dictate, we will increase focus on this topic.
24. *The Working Party is invited to provide guidance on any aspects of certified forest products that they feel should be included in this area of work.*

#### **II. Resources**

25. The Forest Products Marketing Specialist position is now filled and another staff member will be added to the Marketing work area later in the year, bringing the Marketing related staff members back up to four. Sweden and Switzerland have generously provided some extra budgetary funding for 2013, which has improved the outlook for funding outputs and activities, and should allow for better opportunities to network and disseminate Market work area outputs. Overall, staffing levels have improved and funding is also in a better condition.

11 April 2013

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION  
FOR EUROPE**

Timber Committee

**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
ORGANIZATION**

European Forestry Commission

**Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party  
on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management**

Thirty-fifth session

Geneva, 23-25 April 2013

Agenda item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda

Guidance on Work Area 1: Markets and Statistics

**AGENDA ITEM 4 (a) – REVIEW AND PLANS - STATISTICS**

Note by the secretariat

*Summary*

According to its mandate, the Working Party is expected to provide guidance to Work Area 1: Markets and Statistics. This document discusses the activities in forest products statistics during the last year. The Working Party is invited to note and comment on any developments in the work area and also respond to the specific questions posed within this note.

## I. Outputs

### A. Forecasts

1. In 2012 the secretariat produced the Timber Committee Forecasts for the years 2012-2013. Presentations made at the annual Timber Committee Market Discussions were based on the forecasts supplied by countries prior to the meeting as well as the preliminary JFSQ data.
2. The secretariat received forecasts from 30 countries in 2012, the same number as in 2011.

### B. Forest Products Markets

3. Data tables in support of the *Forest Products Annual Market Review, 2011-2012* (FPAMR) based on the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire (JFSQ)<sup>1</sup> as well as *Forest Products Statistics 2007-2011*. All forest products data were uploaded to the FAOSTAT interactive database, the primary distribution site for forest products data, in July and November. FAO also provided the preliminary 2011 data in August. Final 2011 data are available on the UNECE Timber Committee (TC) and FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC) website as well as at FAOSTAT.
4. There were 36 replies to the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire for the region. This compares with 41 in 2011.
5. The price database has been updated and complemented with import (as well as export) unit value data for the period 1964-2011. There were 250 downloads of the export unit price file in 2012.
6. *We would again ask countries that are not currently supplying price statistics and that would be in a position to supply them to please consult with the secretariat on the feasibility, usefulness and modalities of providing current and representative price information of forest products.*

### C. Online Data (including prices)

7. All data are provided in electronic-only form on the TC/EFC website (<http://www.unece.org/forests/fpm/onlinedata>). This year that includes
  - The chapter and annex tables (apparent consumption) of the FPAMR;
  - A set of product tables by country for the FPAMR; for the first time these items were linked directly from the publication;
  - The complete set of statistics (production, imports, exports by volume and value) on primary forest products for 2007-2011;
  - The graphs and associated information presented to the Timber Committee;
  - The forecast tables for 2012-2013 for products and subregions;
  - On-going price statistics as these data are updated;
  - Unit price table containing all export and import unit values from 1964-2011.
8. As an indicator of the amount of data being provided for the UNECE region, for the year 2011 there were 24,600 data points (representing a specific country/flow/product/unit) for the historical forest products data and 2,430 for the forecasts. This is an increase of about 25% since the year 2000.
9. It should be noted that the 2011 secondary products and species trade data are not yet available through the usual product-page HTML and Excel file on the TC/EFC website due to time constraints.

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<sup>1</sup> The JFSQ consists of questionnaires on wood removals and forest products production (JQ1), trade of primary products (JQ2), trade of secondary products (JQ3) and species trade (EU/ECE). Additional questionnaires are supplied for other organizations, i.e. ITTO1-3 and EU1-3.

10. The secretariat would welcome views on the coverage, usefulness and timeliness of the forest products statistics. If interested, we could prepare a short questionnaire on this, either to be circulated to users or available through the website.

#### **D. Data Availability**

11. The secretariat received fewer replies to the JFSQ and the same number for the TCQ as last year. The amount of data provided stayed approximately the same. The quality (extent of data provided) varied but on average improved slightly. For a detailed listing of data availability please see the annex.

12. In terms of the "indicators of achievement" used by the UN to evaluate performance, the table in the annex shows the results for the last 20 years. The "% satisfactory" is the number of countries with official data for more than 80% of the 209 possible responses to JQ1 and JQ2, divided by the total number of countries in the UNECE region. The fall for 2009 noted last year has been partially recovered, rising from 58% to 66%. The target approved by the UN General Assembly for 2011-2012 is 68% which we are failing to reach. A list of data status by country will be provided at the meeting.

## **II. Data Analysis Issues**

13. The data for chips, particles and residues are not always reliable and are not treated equally in the JFSQ and Timber Committee forecast questionnaire (TCQ). In the JFSQ chips and particles are one item and the residues are another. In the TCQ these items are combined and use the term "domestic supply". The object in both questionnaires is to see the total amount of byproducts available. A table will be provided at the meeting showing data from these two sources and the share of sawnwood production that these represent.

14. A number of estimation procedures are used to produce data when officially supplied figures are not available. In order of desirability these are:

- a) Use non-official sources, for example industry publications, associations and experts. The latter are often authors of the FPAMR.
- b) When no figures are directly available, alternative data are used. For production, apparent consumption, based on comparable figures from earlier years or similar countries, can be used to derive estimates. For trade, unit value, again either from earlier years or similar countries, can be used to estimate a missing component (volume or value). These can be compared to known information such as species availability or production trends.
- c) When alternative data are not available, a calculation based upon an "automatic" procedure is made. For example, if a total is provided, the subitems can be estimated based on the share in the total of those subitems in previous years.
- d) The simplest and most common procedure is to repeat data from the previous year. This implies that there has been no change.
- e) All data are flagged at the lowest level of aggregation. Estimates are classified as "analyst", "technical" or "repeated" in the ECE TIMBER database. They are published as a secretariat estimate (E) or repeated (R). In FAOSTAT the "analyst" and "technical" estimates are indicated as unofficial (\*) and the "repeated" estimates are shown as FAO estimates (F).

15. Wood balances are one way of evaluating data and gaining a better understanding of wood flows. Currently a simple check is carried out as part of the JFSQ data validation process. This and an alternate are outlined below:

- a) Current – Industrial roundwood available (removals plus imports minus exports) minus sawnwood, veneer, plywood and pulp production. Each product is multiplied by roundwood equivalent. The net balance indicates a surplus or shortage of wood.
- b) Alternate – Industrial roundwood available (as above but minus direct use such as poles) minus sawnwood, veneer, plywood, particleboard, fibreboard and pulp production (multiplied by solid-wood equivalent). From this would be added net trade in wood fibre (chips and particles) minus industrial wood used for energy or other products not captured above (based on a fraction of the solid-wood equivalent).

16. These wood balances use “standard” factors. Should we give scope to trying to apply country-specific factors which, given the level of product aggregation, may also be very general?

17. *The Working Party is asked to provide guidance on whether these items are in need of improvement and possible procedures for doing so.*

### III. International Issues

18. Cooperation between the four organizations (International Tropical Timber Organization, Eurostat, FAO and UNECE) collecting data through the JFSQ continues through the Inter-secretariat Working Group on Forest Sector Statistics (IWG). The IWG met in February 2013 in Rome. Information on IWG meetings can be found at <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=23657>. The main issues were a review of activities in 2012, with an emphasis on clarifying problems in data exchange, and preparations for the JFSQ 2012.

19. The JFSQ was revised to adapt to the Harmonised System 2012 and to include pellets. After debating a number of options the structure of the questionnaire was modified. The main reason was to preserve series continuity and maintain the current numbering structure while providing an opportunity for future changes.

<b>3</b>	<b>WOOD CHIPS, PARTICLES AND RESIDUES</b>	1000 m <sup>3</sup>
<b>3.1</b>	<b>WOOD CHIPS AND PARTICLES</b>	1000 m <sup>3</sup>
<b>3.2</b>	<b>WOOD RESIDUES (INCLUDING WOOD FOR AGGLOMERATES)</b>	1000 m <sup>3</sup>
<b>4</b>	<b>WOOD PELLETS AND OTHER AGGLOMERATES</b>	1000 mt
<b>4.1</b>	<b>WOOD PELLETS</b>	1000 mt
<b>4.2</b>	<b>OTHER AGGLOMERATES</b>	1000 mt

20. The FAO is leading an IWG effort to implement revisions to the HS2017. Information has now been provided to the HS Review Sub-committee in May and November 2012. The Sub-committee has adopted most of the proposed changes. A few were rejected and two are still under discussion: expanding the coverage of species defined as tropical wood and creating a code for prefabricated wooden houses. These will be discussed at the next meeting in May 2013. Suggestions made by countries for last year’s Working Party, in particular encouraging the split between sawlogs and pulpwood (based on diameter), were approved. The proposal was aided through the efforts of some delegations to the Working Party who conveyed their support for the proposal to representatives to the Sub-committee.

21. The HS Review Committee, which must approve these recommendations, met in March 2013 and decided to postpone discussion until the Sub-committee had provided a complete list of recommended changes to forest products. The Committee will meet in September and ECE and FAO will again be approaching Working Party delegations to contact representatives to the Committee.

### IV. Dissemination of Data

22. The data collected are disseminated through three channels, FAOSTAT, the FPAMR and the TC/EFC online database. The FAOSTAT website (<http://faostat.fao.org/DesktopDefault.aspx?PageID=626&lang=en#ancor>) has widespread name recognition and interactive data selection mechanism but does not show all data collected by UNECE/FAO. The FPAMR gets widespread distribution including a significant number of newspaper and trade journal articles each year. The website of the TC/EFC runs about 8,000 page views per month and the page “data and statistics” is the second most visited page on the site (after the homepage). The FPAMR is the most downloaded file. Please see the annex for summary statistics on our website.
23. FAO continues to publish trade flow data (2010 posted in July 2012). FAO has also scanned all Yearbooks and other statistical publications. These are available online at <http://www.fao.org/forestry/statistics/80570/en/>. FAO will provide a briefing on improvements to FAOSTAT and the number of visitors to its webpages.
24. The Secretariat is working with the ECE Statistical Division to use their website for dissemination. This would increase the tools available for accessing data.

## **V. Cooperation with Countries**

25. FAO and ITTO are carrying out a workshop for China on forest products statistics in April 2013. FAO will brief delegates on the outcome. Other national workshops are being discussed. A possible forest products statistics workshop aimed at users of the statistics with the objective of reviewing the outputs we produce and aligning them better with user demand.
26. *The Working Party is invited to review the activities carried out this year and planned for the coming year.*

## Annex

### Replies to the Questionnaires

Questionnaire		Year Questionnaire Sent			
		2009	2010	2011	2012
JFSQ	JQ1 (production) - replies	41	40	41	37
	% of cells filled (of 66)	67.4	70.6	69.2	73.8
	JQ2 (trade) - replies	39	41	43	39
	% of cells filled (of 216)	92.9	83.4	90.0	87.9
	JQ3 (sec. prod. trade) - replies	9+25	11+25	13+28	10+28
	% of cells filled (of 48)	90.3	77.5	81.3	83.5
	EU/ECE (species trade) - replies	9+24	10+24	11+24	10+21
	% of cells filled (of 88)	67.1	76.2	64.9	84.9
TCQ	TC1 (roundwood forecast) - replies	30	29	30	30
	% of cells filled (of 21)	89.8	87.3	86.0	85.6
	TC2 (product forecast) - replies	29	28	30	29
	% of cells filled (of 45)	94.3	88.2	89.5	92.0

“% of cells filled” applies only to non-EU/EFTA replies. There are a total of 56 member countries. Please note the basis for the calculation of the indicators of achievement is different from the process used for evaluating the questionnaire replies.

### Indicators of Achievement

Data for Year	% Satisfactory
1992	62.2
1993	60.8
1994	61.5
1995	59.6
1996	55.8
1997	55.8
1998	51.9
1999	59.6
2000	63.5
2001	69.2
2002	71.2
2003	65.4
2004	69.2
2005	69.2
2006	73.6
2007	79.2
2008	71.7
2009	66.0
2010	67.9
2011	58.5

Note that results for 2011 are preliminary and will likely be revised upward. See paragraph 12 for explanation of calculation.



## Summary Web Statistics (2011 –2013)

	1 March 2012 – 28 February 2013	
Visits*	29,546	
Unique visitors	23,005	
Page views	105,307	
Share of ECE page views	1.2%	
Average time on site (min)	03:45	Top 5 files downloaded (% of total 31,823 PDF/DOC/XLS)
Top 5 pages viewed (% of total page views)	Homepage (20.2%) Data and Statistics (7.6%) Timber Committee 2012 (5.6%) Meetings (3.7%) Publications (3.5%)	FPAMR 2012 (5.5%) FPAMR 2011 (4.6%) EFSOS II (3.2%) Forest Products Statistics (2.0%) Price Data (1.6%)
Top 5 countries visiting (% of total visits)	United States (9.8%) Russian Federation (6.4%) UK (6.3%) Germany (5.7%) France (4.6%)	

	1 March 2011 – 29 February 2012	
	3/11-6/11	6/11-2/12
Visits	18,566	25,888
Unique visitors	10,574	11,381
Page views	53,929	127,286
Share of ECE page views	N/A	2.3%
Average time on site (min)	03:09	05:04
Top 5 pages viewed (% of total page views)	Homepage (14.1%) Data and Statistics (7.9%) PES Workshop (4.9%) Illegal Logging Workshop (3.6%) Meetings (3.1%)	Homepage (13.8%) Data and Statistics (4.6%) Meetings (3.0%) FPAMR 2010-2011(2.8%) Publications (2.8%)
Top 5 countries visiting (% of total visits)	United States (8.0%) UK (6.8%) France (5.2%) Germany (5.1%) Finland (5.1%)	United States (8.5%) UK (7.7%) Germany (6.0%) France (5.9%) Finland (4.6%)

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\* Note that visits from the United Nations Office at Geneva are included.

16 April 2013

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION  
FOR EUROPE**

Timber Committee

**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
ORGANIZATION**

European Forestry Commission

**Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party  
on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management**

Thirty-fifth session

Geneva, 23-25 April 2013

Agenda item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda

Guidance on Work Area 1: Markets and Statistics

**AGENDA ITEM 4 (a) – UNECE/FAO FORESTRY AND TIMBER SECTION  
ACTIVITIES ON WOOD ENERGY**

Note by the secretariat

*Summary*

This document aims to inform participants to the thirty-fifth session of the Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management about work achieved in the field of wood energy since the last session in March 2012, notably through the fourth round of the Joint Wood Energy Enquiry (JWEE).

## I. Joint Wood Energy Enquiry 2011

### A. Responses

1. The JWEE 2011 was sent to 53 UNECE member states in September 2012. The overall response has improved compared to previous rounds. At the time of writing, 24 member states responded to the data request providing replies of sufficient quality. 8 member states have provided JWEE data for the first time ever. A number of member states have informed the secretariat that work on the enquiry is under way, but no data has been received so far. Correspondents from four countries stated that they did not have sufficient means for submitting any data due to lack of resources and/or perceived role of wood energy at a national level.
2. Reminders have been sent out periodically, and the deadline for responses was regularly extended. Each reminder has generated a few more replies and/or clarified doubts.
3. *The secretariat invites member states that have not yet done so to provide data.*

### B. Processing

#### *Pre-filling*

4. The JWEE 2011 workbook maintained the same overall structure as previous rounds. It was prefilled with data from the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire (JFSQ) to the extent possible. A few changes and additions were made as a result of discussions at the Paris workshop.
5. Since roundwood volume for UNECE/FAO purposes and many national roundwood measurement standards is reported underbark, estimates for bark volume were prefilled assuming that bark represents 3% of roundwood consumption. This estimate is unlikely to reflect real volumes. In fact, in the UNECE region, the bark of conifers and non-coniferous species ranges from as little as 4% of the total over bark volume (and weight) to as much as 30%. It is important to note, however, that bark volume typically decreases during handling from forest to mill, so the potential volume as reflected in over bark to under bark volumes are seldom available and highly volatile depending on log handling practices and season. Hence, the rather conservative estimate of 3%.
6. As in previous rounds, an estimate for black liquor (without crude tall oil) was prefilled, based on JFSQ information on chemical pulp production. For this round, the amount was listed in metric tonnes<sup>1</sup>.

#### *Estimates using International Energy Agency data*

7. National energy balances for primary solid biofuels<sup>2</sup> as reported to the International Energy Agency (IEA) were used as benchmarks for data comparison purposes. At the time of writing, however, only 2010 data was available<sup>3</sup>. In a number of cases, IEA data was shared with correspondents for guidance purposes and in the case of Canada, Italy and Romania, the Secretariat estimated wood energy consumption figures in agreement with the respective correspondents.

#### *Challenges*

<sup>1</sup> Production of 1 m.t. of air-dried chemical pulp (10% moisture content) yields 2.14 m.t. of concentrated black liquor (20% moisture content). 65% of black liquor solids are organic and combustible.

<sup>2</sup> Defined by the IEA as any plant matter used directly as fuel or converted into other forms before combustion. This covers a multitude of woody materials generated by industrial process or provided directly by forestry and agriculture (firewood, wood chips, bark, sawdust, shavings, chips, sulphite lyes also known as black liquor, animal materials/wastes and other solid biofuels). Estimates were calculated by taking energy consumption figures (in ktoe) and applying a generic heating value for fuelwood of 20.21 GJ/t d.m. Values were corrected to a conservative 90% to account for any solid biofuels of agricultural or other origin.

<sup>3</sup> 2011 IEA figures will be added as soon as they become available.

8. Over the years, correspondents have been able to provide data with increasing levels of detail. Most of the UNECE member states seem to be improving wood energy information. However, challenges remain in a number of areas:

- a) Many countries seem to have difficulty reconciling fuelwood consumption figures (especially in the residential sector) with official figures for fuelwood supply. The latter are often incomplete due to unrecorded removals and trade.
- b) Only a handful of countries were able to provide data on transformation inputs into processed wood-based fuels (Table III).
- c) In some cases, correspondents had figures about total amounts being consumed by a specific sector but no further detail on the specific category of wood fibre being consumed. Common issues include incomplete data on post-consumer wood and difficulty separating chips and particles from industrial residues.
- d) The treatment of autoproducer undertakings<sup>4</sup> poses challenges to a number of correspondents. Data on autoproduced electricity, heat and combined heat and power should be included with figures for the final consumption of wood energy in the appropriate sector. The intention is to have a complete picture of wood energy use within a sector such as the pulp and paper industry by complementing information on the energy used by establishments in support of their primary activity with data on the energy delivered to external users (as a secondary activity). However it seems that correspondents may not always have access to such a detailed breakdown of autoproduced quantities by primary activity.

#### *Presentation of data*

9. A number of indicators introduced in 2009 have been/were modified as follows:

- a) References to “*roundwood and fuelwood*” have been replaced with “*roundwood*” to ensure consistency with the JFSQ definition for roundwood, which includes fuelwood.
- b) “*Total domestic woody biomass supply (including cascaded use)*”, has been recalculated for all years to comprehensively include JFSQ data on non-energy wood products and is now called “*Total calculated domestic supply of woody biomass*”<sup>5</sup>.
- c) “*Total wood energy generation (1000 m<sup>3</sup>)*” has been renamed “*Total wood energy supply, volume basis (1000 m<sup>3</sup>)*” to specify that it represents the total solid wood equivalent volume of the respective wood energy products consumed.
- d) “*Total wood energy generation (ktoe)*” has been renamed “*Total wood energy supply, energy basis (ktoe)*”. It is now calculated based on the energy contents of the respective wood energy products consumed.

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<sup>4</sup> In several industrial establishments electricity and heat are produced as “secondary products” on a significant scale. Much of the own produced energy is used within the establishment where it is produced, but some is also sold to users outside the producing unit. Undertakings that generate electricity and/or heat, wholly or partly for their own use as an activity which supports their primary activity are thus defined as “autoproducers”. Examples include the use of waste materials and residues in the pulp and paper and wood-processing industries to produce a combination of heat and electricity which in part is delivered to users outside the establishment that produces it. On the other hand, “main activity producer” undertakings generate electricity and/or heat for sale to third parties, as their *primary activity*.

<sup>5</sup> This indicator adds the supply (consumption) of wood in primary non-energy products in m<sup>3</sup> solid wood equivalent (swe) from JFSQ to the wood energy supply (calculated on a volume basis) from JWEE. Roundwood equivalent was avoided on the basis that it may lead to double-counting of wood used in energy products, such as chips from sawmilling.

- e) “*Direct mobilisation of woody biomass for energy production from forests available for wood supply*” was changed to “*Share of net annual increment<sup>6</sup> directly used for energy*”. It is hoped that this allows for a better indication of the sustainability of fuelwood extraction<sup>7</sup>.
- f) The indicator “*Total woody biomass used for energy per ha of Forest available for wood supply*” was dropped as it may have misrepresented countries that rely heavily on wood imports due to limited domestic resources.
- g) The indicators “*Share of wood energy in TPES*”, “*Share of wood energy in RES*” and “*Share of black liquor in wood energy*” are now calculated using the total wood energy supply, energy basis (ktoe)”<sup>8</sup>.

10. The datasheets now also provide the data provided by countries on wood energy supply by product (corresponding to JWEE Tables I and II) and wood energy uses by product and economic sector (JWEE Table IV).

#### *Further steps*

11. In the coming weeks, results and estimates will be shared with correspondents for their review and validation before publishing. The Secretariat will also follow up with countries that have promised data and proposes producing estimates for countries that have not provided JWEE data.

12. During its 34th session, the Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management highlighted a potential convergence between the UNECE/FAO and Eurostat reporting process and proposed to explore means for the Joint Wood Energy Enquiry (JWEE) data for EU countries to feed into the template for NREAP progress reports. Following this proposal, “EU-27 NREAP progress report – Table 4” has been developed and included in the JWEE 2011. The table is compatible with Table 4 of the EU “Template for Member States progress reports under Directive 2009/28/EC” 5 and aims at easing the task of JWEE correspondents from the EU-27. The JWEE 2011 therefore offered a table that automatically compiled submitted data to pre-fill table 4 of the NREAP progress report template. The Secretariat would be pleased to know if the respondents to the enquiry found this useful.

#### 13. *Delegates are invited to:*

- *Express their opinion on the JWEE process so far (structure, communication, timeline)*
- *Review data for their respective member state over the next months;*
- *Provide guidance on the usefulness of the indicators presented;*
- *Reflect on the possibility of completing the dataset using estimates from other sources.*

### **C. Overview of preliminary results**

14. 2011 data has been integrated with data from previous rounds into one database. However, only a partial comparison of results is possible, due to slight changes in structure, in the processing methodology, in national data collection processes, as well as in the conversion factors among rounds.

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<sup>6</sup> Most recent net annual increment figures were used from State of Europe’s Forests reports and other sources. Figures were adjusted to their underbark value using a 0.88 factor (adapted from UNECE/FAO Discussion Paper 49 “Forest Product Conversion Factors for the UNECE Region”, 2010).

<sup>7</sup> Net annual increment is calculated based on national definitions of growing stock/standing volume which cover a specified forest area and may not include parts of the tree below specified dimensions.

<sup>8</sup> The latest available figures (reference year 2010) on total primary energy supply, TPES and renewable energy supply, RES were retrieved from the IEA. Indicators will be updated using 2011 figures as soon as these become available.

15. Overall wood energy accounts for 3.4% of the total primary energy supply (TPES) and 38.9% of the renewable energy supply (RES) in the responding countries in 2011, confirming its role as the leading source of renewable energy. Around 40% of all mobilised woody biomass supply is used for energy purposes.

16. Results of the Joint Wood Energy Enquiry 2011 indicate that solid and liquid co-products and residues from forest-based industries, including processed wood fuels with improved energy content such as wood pellets, briquettes and charcoal, contribute 57% of the wood energy supply. A 34.1% share originates from woody biomass from forests and other wooded land such as logging residues, thinnings and clearings, while recovered waste wood (mainly waste from construction, but also packaging and old furniture) accounts for 3.7% % of the wood energy supply.

17. Wood energy is consumed 48.4% by forest-based industries, while households account for 34.4%. However, wood energy use by private households is often higher than official records indicate. The power and heat sector represents 15% of wood energy use.

18. It was possible to identify trends in the use of wood energy and to provide a comparison based on a subset of countries that have responded to previous rounds of the enquiry. Between 2009 and 2011, the amount of wood used for energy purposes grew annually by 4.8%. The role of wood in total primary energy supply increased slightly from 4.3% to 5.4%. The share of wood energy among renewable energy sources increased from 46.1% to 48.7%.

## **II. Capacity building and outreach activities**

### **A. Wood Energy Policy Debate, Geneva, May 2012**

19. A distinguished group of speakers discussed the pros and cons of the rising use of wood energy during the “UNECE/FAO Policy Debate on Wood Energy”, held on 8 May 2012 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. The discussions, led by Tom Miles, Chief Correspondent for Thomson Reuters News, touched upon the economic, environmental and social aspects of the increasing demand of wood for energy purposes.

20. The Policy Debate provided an open and comprehensive dialogue among a wide and varied group of stakeholders. Discussions mainly revolved around the sustainability of the increasing use of wood for energy purposes and the resulting competition with material uses of wood, namely for wood products.

21. The benefits of using wood as a source of energy were highlighted by speakers representing the wood industry, utility companies and forest owners and entrepreneurs. Besides contributing to energy security by diversifying energy resources and reducing dependence on fuel imports, wood energy stimulates social and economic development by increasing the profitability of forestry and creating investment and job opportunities, especially in rural areas. However, these actors are all well aware that economic and ecological responsibilities should not be neglected; the use of wood for energy purposes should not harm the demand and supply for industrial use or damage the vitality of forests. They all agreed that the production and consumption of woody biomass for energy purposes must be accompanied by the development of certification schemes and criteria to meet sustainability requirements while achieving renewable energy and biological diversity targets.

22. Negative environmental and social aspects of wood mobilisation were on the other hand emphasised by representatives of environmental NGOs. Besides contributing to particulate matter emissions, wood burning and biomass extraction could lead to drastic ecological impacts on forest health and biodiversity. Energy efficiency should have a high-level priority, including the clean and efficient consumption of wood energy, which could mean focusing on local use of industrial leftovers rather than relying directly on forests for energy. Thus, they called for continued investment in research and development of all non-wood renewable energies such as

wind and solar power. A policy brief summarizing the views and recommendations of the various stakeholders that participated in the debate was published in September 2012.

#### **B. JWEE capacity building workshop, Paris, June 2012**

23. The UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section supplemented its policy work with capacity-building activities. Thanks to the generous support of the French Ministry of Agriculture, the French Ministry of Sustainable Development and the FAO Forestry Department, over 60 participants from 23 countries and 8 international organizations met in Paris on the premises of the Ministry of Agriculture from 11 to 13 June 2012 at a UNECE/FAO workshop on “Improving Wood Energy Data for Better Policy Making”. Participants discussed the reliability of current wood energy data and identified weaknesses and constraints. Countries shared experiences, tools and solutions for improving data. A growing network of correspondents and experts is being established as improving data requires constant communication between all stakeholders at both the national and international level.

#### **C. 6th InterEnerStat meeting, Paris, December 2012**

24. The UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section was invited to participate in the sixth meeting of the International Energy Statistics which brings together international organisations, either collecting or using energy statistics. Representatives of organizations such as Eurostat, the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and others met under the auspices of the IEA to discuss how best to use harmonised definitions in their own work. Organizations also exchanged experiences and shared best practices on training activities. Back-to-back with the InterEnerStat meeting, the organisations held a brainstorming session on the quality of solid biofuels data, which includes firewood and charcoal. Organisations estimate solid biofuels’ share in global energy consumption at around 9% to 10%. But with proper data, this share might prove much larger. Participants agreed that solid biofuels data needs to be more accurate, given concerns about the impacts that underestimated data could have on energy, social and environment policies. The issue will be discussed further at a World Solid Biofuels Workshop later in 2013.

### **III. Wood Energy in the Programme of Work**

25. Wood energy is currently a sub-theme under Work Area 1 of the current UNECE/FAO Integrated Programme of Work on Timber and Forestry. So far, wood energy activities have focused on data collection and analysis and capacity building through workshop events. There are plans to establish a Team of Specialists on Wood Energy to be active in the next programme of work 2014-17 with the main task of providing guidance on the JWEE.

## JWEE Responses

Country	2005	2007	2009	2011
Albania	-	-	-	A
Armenia	NC	NC	-	B
Austria	A	A	A	A
Azerbaijan	NC	-	-	-
Belarus	-	-	I	-
Belgium	-	-	A	EXP
Bosnia and Herzegovina	-	-	I	A
Bulgaria	-	-	-	NC
Canada	A	B	I	S
Croatia	-	-	-	-
Cyprus	NC	A	A	A
Czech Republic	A	-	A	A
Denmark	-	-	-	A
Estonia	-	-	A	A
Finland	A	A	A	A
France	A	A	A	A
Georgia	-	-	-	-
Germany	A	A	B	A
Greece	-	-	-	-
Hungary	-	-	-	-
Iceland	-	-	NC	A
Ireland	-	A	A	A
Israel	-	-	NC	NC
Italy	NC	-	B	S
Kazakhstan	NC	NC	-	-
Kyrgyzstan	NC	-	-	-
Latvia	-	B	-	-
Liechtenstein	-	B	A	NC
Lithuania	A	A	A	-
Luxembourg	-	-	-	A
Malta	-	-	-	-
Montenegro	-	-	-	EXP
Netherlands	A	A	-	A
Norway	A	NC	A	A
Poland	-	NC	-	A
Portugal	-	-	-	-
Republic of Moldova	-	-	-	-
Romania	-	-	-	S
Russian Federation	-	B	A	-
Serbia	-	A	A	A
Slovak Republic	-	A	A	-
Slovenia	A	A	A	A
Spain	-	-	-	EXP
Sweden	A	A	A	A
Switzerland	A	A	A	A
Tajikistan	-	-	-	-
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	NC	-	-	-
Turkey	-	NC	I	I
Turkmenistan	-	-	-	-
Ukraine	NC	-	-	A
United Kingdom	A	A	A	A
United States	A	A	A	A
Uzbekistan	-	-	-	-

### Legend:

**A:** good dataset. Table IV filled in.

**B:** partial dataset. Table IV was not filled in. Only aggregated data on sources and uses of wood energy (sheet: Table S->U) was provided.

**S:** Secretariat estimates based on IEA 2010 data

**I:** insufficient data.

**-** : no response.

**NC:** no capacity

**EXP:** expected reply

### Note:

Andorra, Monaco and San Marino are not included in the JWEE process.



# **UNECE/FAO Teams of Specialists Reporting 2012 – TEAM OF SPECIALISTS ON SUSTAINABLE FOREST PRODUCTS**

<b>Items for regular reporting to the JWPFSEM</b>	
<b>1. Name :</b>	Eoin O'Driscoll
<b>2. Period covered:</b>	March 2012-February 2013
<b>3. Leader/Deputies and Secretary:</b>	Leader: Eoin O'Driscoll Deputies: Jeremy Wall, Branko GLAVONJIC and Eduard L. AKIM Secretary: Matt Fonseca
<b>4. Members:</b>	<a href="http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/timber/other/Official_ToS_as_of_1_March_2011.pdf">http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/timber/other/Official_ToS_as_of_1_March_2011.pdf</a>
<b>5. Meetings held:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In October 2012, a ToS meeting was held during the Timber Committee Meeting. A number of points concerning plans for the Annual Market Review were discussed. Apart from this, the activity of the team has been limited. The lack of funds and secretariat staff was also cited as a limiting factor during the last year.</li> </ul>
<b>6. Outputs during period by mandate item and impact achieved:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The team's mandate was discussed at our October meeting. Eoin suggested a simple mandate: "to enhance the use of wood and assist in guiding the FPAMR". Sylvain Labbé said that we should specifically "position wood as a sustainable forest product". Paola mentioned that the mandate and terms of reference will need to be linked with the Forestry and Timber Section Programme of Work. Eoin agreed to lead this work.</li> </ul>
<b>7. Expected outputs over next period by mandate item:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- At our October 2012 meeting, there was significant discussion surrounding the role of the Team in producing the FPAMR. The ToS are currently working with the Secretariat to improve the FPAMR.</li> <li>- The ToS are currently working on a workshop on the use of wood in construction to be held in Brussels on October 23 2013 and a side event to be held at Metsä 2013. Both events have been discussed with the UNECE Secretariat. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o The Brussels workshop will target a non timber audience</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>8. Issues for the attention of the Secretariat and the Working Party:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The ToS are working with the Secretariat to provide multi-annual funding for the FPAMR and an annual capacity building workshop in SE Europe.</li> </ul>
<b>9. Comments, lessons learned:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Multi-annual funding is required for both the FPAMR and for capacity building workshops in SE Europe</li> </ul>

Eoin O'Driscoll  
ToS Leader  
4/4/2013

**Economic Commission for Europe**

**Timber Committee**

**Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party on  
Forest Statistics, Economics and Management**

**Food and Agriculture Organization**

**European Forestry Commission**

**Thirty-fifth session**

Geneva, 23-25 April 2013

Item 4 (b) of the provisional agenda

## **GUIDANCE OF WORK AREA 2: FOREST RESOURCES ASSESSMENT**

AGENDA ITEM 4 (b)

Note by the Secretariat

### *Summary*

According to its mandate, the Working Party is expected to provide guidance to work area 2: Forest Resources Assessment. This document provides information about activities in this work area since the Working Party's last session and plans for the future, drawing the Working Party's attention to any specific issues where guidance is needed. The main topics and issues to be addressed by Working Party are as follows:

- (a) Update on the progress of work on the global process of the reporting on forests resources;
- (b) Update on the progress of work on the reporting on pan-European indicators on Sustainable Forest Management; preparations for quantitative data collection and development of the method for reporting on the sustainability of forest management;
- (c) Information about plans for the organisation of work on SFM reporting and assessment as well as cooperation with countries and organisations in the region.

## I. Introduction

1. Activities in work area 2 for the reporting period (April 2012 – March 2013) focused on the preparations and organisation of the next cycle of the regional and the global reporting on forest resources. Series of meetings with participation of experts from countries and international organisations led by the FAO, resulted in the Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire (CFRQ) – a joint tool for data collection as requested by different stakeholders. Data collection process will be carried out throughout the year 2013; the ECE/FAO will coordinate the reporting process from countries in Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia.
2. The pan-European reporting on quantitative indicators will be carried out in a complementary way to the global data collection. The Forest Europe/ECE/FAO Questionnaire on Quantitative Indicators, which is at the final stage of development, will be sent to countries in June 2013. It is envisaged that data collection for the regional processes will be carried out in a coordinated way with the global one, and facilitated by the ECE/FAO working closely with the FAO Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) Team in Rome.
3. The preparatory process for the collaborative reporting stimulated the cooperation among organisations, processes and countries in the field of forest reporting. The ECE/FAO contributed to the extent possible to projects, workshops, consultations with partners and other related activities in the region. In addition, the “Forest information billboard”, a communication tool for experts dealing with forest reporting, was developed to ensure better exchange of information and to provide more frequent updates of relevant activities.

## II. Global reporting on forest resources

4. The global reporting on forests resources 2015 consists of two major components. Similarly to the previous cycles, for the first component national correspondents from all countries and territories will be asked to report on their forests through national enquiries. The first component will be complemented by a second one, the remote sensing survey, which will provide information about forest cover changes in the 1990-2010, period.
5. The data collection process for the national reporting on forests has begun. The data collection system for the 2015 reporting cycle was developed through a collaborative, preparatory process, which included consultations with stakeholders and countries. Advices were received among others through meetings of the FAO Advisory Group on FRA and consultations of a “consortium of willing” – the group of organisations involved in CFRQ. Furthermore, the process and documents were reviewed by national and international experts at the “Technical Consultation: Preparations for the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015”, held in March 2012 in Ispra, Italy and “Inter-C&I process collaboration workshop”, held in August 2012 in Jacksonville, United States. The main input from the pan-European region was provided through the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists (ToS) on Monitoring SFM, held in May 2012 in Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation.
5. National reporting for the global reporting consists of two parts. The first one is the CFRQ, which is a joint questionnaire developed by FAO, ITTO, Observatoire des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale of COMIFAC, ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section, Forest Europe and the Montréal Process. Information collected through this part is supposed to feed the reporting systems of FAO and other participating organisations and processes. The second part of the global reporting is the supplementary questionnaire, which includes information requested by FAO.
6. The global reporting is organised around 20 major questions. Their content was adjusted to better respond to users' needs, identified through reviews and debates with stakeholders. While the overall extent of the reporting was reduced compared to the previous edition of FRA, the new questionnaire is more focused on several issues, where more precise information is sought. This includes information about the extent of forest resources, values and trends of their changes. For the first time countries are asked to report on gross deforestation and degradation of their forests. Other improvements include the introduction of an important change on the growing stock definition: the common diameter threshold was established at 10cm. Compared to the previous cycles, more information for assessing the progress towards SFM will be requested from countries.
7. Among other innovations, FAO developed the Forest Resources Information Management System (FRIMS) to facilitate reporting for the CFRQ and FRA 2015. The FRIMS includes online data entry system (optional), which is an alternative to completing the Word document. This system serves also as a tool for quality check and data review as it

has some automatic consistency checks and an interface for communication between national correspondents and reviewers.

8. The global questionnaires were already sent to countries and the deadline for the final reports is 31 December 2013. The preparatory process for national correspondents includes the “Global Meeting in Preparation for the Global FRA 2015 and the CFRQ”, which will be organized in Chiang Mai, Thailand, on 6-10 May 2013. ECE/FAO will be coordinating and assisting the reporting process from 54 countries of Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia. This support will be provided through the sub-regional reviewers who will assist countries in preparation of their national reports. Further guidance and discussion of the draft national reports will be done at a regional workshop, which will be held in Geneva, Switzerland on 16-17 October 2013.

9. Data collection will be followed by the preparation of the final reports from the global reporting. It is envisaged that the main work on data analysis and drafting of the reports will be completed in 2014. Key findings from the FRA 2015 will be released in spring 2015, while the main report will be presented at the session of COFO in October that year.

### **III. Pan-European reporting on forests and forest management**

10. As a follow up to the decisions of Forest Europe and ECE/FAO, data on pan-European indicators on SFM will be collected together with the global reporting. This means that, for the first time, the regional data will be collected in a coordinated way with the global one. It is expected that the joint data collection process should lead to a significant reduction of burden and reduce cost of the national reporting. At the same time, consistency between regional and global data should improve, thus increasing the visibility and relevance of the collected information.

11. National reporting from the pan-European region will cover 28 of 35 Forest Europe indicators through a national questionnaire built on the basis of the version produced for the 2011 report. The questionnaire will address the overlapping areas with the global reporting, ensuring consistency of classifications and definitions wherever possible. At the time of writing this document, the work on the new questionnaire was on-going; the completed draft will be presented to the Working Party at its meeting.

12. The major updates in the new version of the Forest Europe/UNECE/FAO questionnaire were done for areas, already identified in the review process. These were:

- a) reporting on forest growth and drain, in particular on availability of wood supply;
- b) reporting on socio-economic indicators;
- c) reporting on sustainability of forest management.

The development work was done mainly through the ToS’ thematic sub-groups. Results of their work were presented to and discussed by the Team at its 4<sup>th</sup> meeting, held in May 2012 in Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation, and the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, held in February 2013 in Geneva, Switzerland.

13. With the increasing interest in information on wood supply potential, the importance of reporting on availability of wood is raising. A thematic sub-group working on that issue analysed, through a special enquiry, how countries report on this matter. The results revealed a high variety of approaches, and difficulties in reporting on areas that are not accessible because of economic constraints. Further improvement in this area is expected from the COST Action FP1001 “USEWOOD”, which works on this issue; however the results from this action will not be available before the deadline for the pan-European national reporting. Therefore it was proposed that, as an interim solution for the current reporting cycle, reporting on forest not available for wood supply will include only areas where harvesting is prevented (or significantly limited) because of legal constraints.

14. Reporting on socio-economic indicators was identified as an area to be significantly improved. The improvement process started with the critical review of existing arrangements at the thematic workshop organised in December 2012 in Helsinki, organised with support of Finland. The development work was continued by the thematic experts, whose work is supported by the Netherlands. Various modifications related to criterion 6 were introduced to the questionnaire. Changes included the use of national currencies for reporting on values and other modifications aiming to make the reported values more meaningful, scope of variables more specific and applied classifications better adjusted to the national reporting capacities.

15. Work on the method of the reporting on sustainability of forest management was continued by the ToS thematic group dedicated to this issue. The method was developed through two meetings of the group, and was discussed by the Advisory Group on the preparation of the next State of Europe's Forests (SoEF), held in November 2012 in Geneva. The most recent version of the method, presented separately in Annex I, is the result of the review and development of the method at the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ToS on Monitoring SFM (Geneva, February 2013). Advice of external experts was also sought.

16. Several developments were introduced as a result of this participatory process. The method is now seen as an interactive tool for reporting and communicating with countries, significantly extending the role and responsibilities of national correspondents. Furthermore, parameters have been put into three categories (assessment, context and background) to make the assessment more meaningful and to address the dynamic aspects of sustainable forest management. This makes it possible to concentrate on those aspects which can be affected by policy and practice, and not the historical and ecological context which cannot really be changed significantly. More information about principles and details of the method, as well as on the proposed way of its application, is available in Annex I and the related background document (available at: <http://www.unece.org/forests/tos-sfm-2013.html>).

17. The method was developed with the use of the pan-European indicators for SFM; however, the concept can be applied to any other system of the Criteria and Indicators (C&I), either at international, national or sub-national level. At this stage, it is intended to apply the method in the current cycle of pan-European reporting, which is jointly coordinated by ECE/FAO and Forest Europe. For that reason the concept of the method was presented to the Forest Europe Expert Level Meeting, held on 7-8 March 2013, in Madrid, Spain, which welcomed the method as a promising tool and encouraged continuation of this work.

18. The Forest Europe Expert Level Meeting also debated on the next steps for the application of the new classification on European Forest Types in the pan-European reporting. Due to the reported problems related to the application of classification as well as because of some concerns related to the meaningfulness of this reporting, added value and intended use of information, the ELM recommended not to report according to the new classification in the on-going reporting cycle. It is proposed that, for the time being, reporting according to the old classification will be continued, until a decision on the future shape of reporting by forest types is taken.

19. The ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section is responsible for the preparation and management of the data collection process according to the pan-European indicators as well as for the organisation of the relevant data collection for the global reporting. Using this opportunity the following arrangements are proposed, that would allow for the optimal use of resources and facilitate national reporting:

- a) the overlapping areas of the two questionnaires will be clearly identified, to ensure consistent reporting on common variables;
- b) ECE/FAO will designate one reviewer to assist each country with the preparation of national reports according to both global and pan-European questionnaires;
- c) one FRA National Correspondent will be responsible for the preparation of national reports according to both global and pan-European questionnaires.

20. The basic versions of the global questionnaires were already sent to national correspondents, while work on the pan-European questionnaire is in progress. In order to ensure coordination of work on the reporting process on both questionnaires, the following stages of reporting are proposed:

- a) compilation of the first draft of the pan-European questionnaire – by 15 April 2013;
- b) provision of guidance for the global reporting and review of the draft pan-European questionnaire at the global meeting for national correspondents in Chiang Mai, Thailand – 5-10 May 2013;
- c) release of the final draft of the pan-European questionnaire and designation of reviewers – June 2013;
- d) regional workshop for national correspondents from Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia – 16-17 October 2013;
- e) completion of the global and the regional reporting – end of 2013.

21. Data collection for the pan-European indicators that are not covered by national reporting will be organised separately. This reporting will cover 7 indicators, for which information will be collected through international organisations and research networks specialised in the relevant areas. It is proposed that the next meeting of the ToS on Monitoring SFM, which is planned for 18 October 2013, will be entirely dedicated to this reporting with participation of

experts from the relevant organisations/networks. Gathering, processing and verification of data for this group of indicators are scheduled for the first half of 2014.

### III. Cooperation and communication.

22. The intensive international communication and collaboration of the C&I processes and organisations involved in data collection, analysis and dissemination was continued. Undertaken activities were organised in conjunction with the process of the global collaborative reporting on forests. In addition to the technical meetings of individual processes, two global conferences, dedicated to the monitoring and reporting were organised:

- a) "Streamlining forest based reporting - a collaboration workshop", held in Jacksonville, the United States, 19 - 23 August 2012
- b) "Week of International Workshop and Seminar on Forest-based Reporting", held in Tokyo, Japan, 3 - 7 December 2012.

The conferences, while contributing and supporting the global, collaborative data collection process, restored the process of cooperation among the C&I initiatives (the previous meeting was organised in 2008). In addition to the meetings, regular communication among the participants of the process was maintained through teleconferences, initiated and assisted by the Montréal Process (MP).

23. The year 2012 was also important for communication between ECE/FAO and the Montréal Process. For the first time the meeting of the ToS on Monitoring SFM (May 2012, Saint Petersburg, Russia) was attended by the representative of the MP Liaison Office. Likewise, the ECE/FAO expert participated in the work of the two meetings of the MP Technical Advisory Committee (July 2012, Moscow, Russia and December 2012, Tokyo, Japan). This helped to better learn about the goals and work of these two groups, and to identify methods of cooperation for the future.

24. ECE/FAO continued its cooperation with partner organisations and processes in Europe. This included review of programmes and documents, provision of support as well as participation in the parent and advisory meetings. Since the last session of the Working Party, the representative of the Section took part in the following meetings:

- a) Second Joint Working Group Meeting and 3<sup>rd</sup> MC Meeting of the COST Action FP1001 – USEWOOD, Copenhagen, Denmark, 11-13 June 2012
- b) Second meeting of the Advisory Group on the project on Implementing C&I for SFM, Geneva, Switzerland, 5 November 2012
- c) Inaugural meeting of the Forest Europe/ECE/FAO Advisory Group on preparation of the next SoEF, Geneva, Switzerland, 7 November 2012
- d) European Forest Data Center (EFDAC) Workshop, organised by the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission Ispra (JRC), Ispra, JRC, Italy, 13-14 December, 2012
- e) Forest Europe Expert Level Meeting, Madrid, Spain, 7-8 March 2013.

25. At the 34<sup>th</sup> session of the ECE/FAO Working Party the need for a more frequent and regular communication on forest information relevant developments in the UNECE region was highlighted. The request was discussed further at the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ToS on Monitoring SFM in Saint Petersburg, which recommended developing a regular, joint Forest Information Billboard to share information about forest related reporting initiatives among organizations and countries. In response to this request, the Section developed a concept and a process for its preparation and dissemination. The first issue of the Billboard, which will be prepared on quarterly basis, was released on 21 March 2013. More information about the Billboard is available on: <http://www.unece.org/forests-welcome/about-us/forest-information-billboard>.

26. *The Working Party is invited to:*

- a) *comment on the current process and plans for the development of the global collaborative reporting on forests and its coordination with the pan-European reporting;*
- b) *provide comments and suggestions on the contents (questionnaire) and collection process on quantitative information for the next SoEF;*
- c) *review the proposed method for reporting on sustainability of forest management, provide advice on the next steps and application of the method;*
- d) *comment and advise on activities for supporting international cooperation and direction of this cooperation.*

*UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Monitoring of Sustainable Forest Management*

**Proposed system for interactive reporting on the sustainability of forest management**

On the basis of the experience with SoEF 2011, the decisions of parent bodies and the discussion of the Team of Specialists in St Petersburg, as well as the fact that the next assessment period is already starting, we are submitting for preliminary discussion a method to report in an interactive way on sustainability of forest management at the pan-European level. We recognise that the whole project is very ambitious, and that many aspects will be changed over the course of the preparatory discussions, but hope that putting a (near-complete) suggestion on the table will accelerate and focus discussion on achieving a realistic solution. In our view, the discussions on the topic have shown that a credible international system of reporting and assessment is needed as an input for policy formulation, research and communication, and that the improved data are by now adequate to deliver a credible result. The pan-European assessment should take as its starting point the officially approved criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management, and use the data collected in the on-going State of Europe's Forests reporting process. This paper does not discuss under what auspices and with what mandate the system should be put into practice, as this requires guidance from policy level bodies, once the method has been developed. This paper proposes, for review:

1. Principles and methods for the reporting
2. A process to analyse the data and arrive at an assessment, in cooperation with national correspondents
3. Proposals as to how the results might be presented
4. Definitions of a few key terms
5. A list of parameters which might be used in the system

More information about all the pan-European indicators, and comments on how and whether they can be used for the reporting on sustainability of forest management, is available in the related background document ([http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/timber/docs/sfm/ToS\\_SFM\\_2013/Reporting-system.docx](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/timber/docs/sfm/ToS_SFM_2013/Reporting-system.docx)).

**1. Principles and methods of the proposed system**

- The system aims to report on the sustainability of forest management at the national or subnational<sup>1</sup> level. It aims to answer two questions:
  - What are the areas of concern with regard to sustainability (in a given country)?
  - How are the areas of concern (in a given country) being addressed now?
- The system is not designed to assess sustainability at the forest administration/forest management unit level.
- The reporting system also aims to communicate strong and weak aspects of a given country's situation with regard to sustainable forest management, on an objective basis, helping national policy makers to compare their situation with that of other countries.
- It aims to cover all aspects of SFM, as described by the pan-European criteria. All criteria are considered equally important.
- The aim is to develop a reporting structure which is balanced, credible, objective and useful to policy makers: the latter requirement implies that a clear "story" emerges, and that areas of concern with regard to SFM are not concealed. In fact, we consider that the most important function of the system is to identify actual or potential areas of concern, so that necessary corrective action, inside or outside the forest sector, can be taken.
- National and local circumstances vary widely, and there is no single ideal sustainable outcome, to which countries would be expected to aspire. It does not make sense to say that forest management in a country is "very sustainable" or "more sustainable" (than elsewhere). The system therefore focuses on indicating whether or not the situation is sustainable, by identifying "areas of concern", and the instruments being used to address them, rather than on identifying areas of exceptionally good performance. If no existing or

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<sup>1</sup> For instance provinces or autonomous regions which have responsibility for forest policy. It is not applicable at the level of counties or communes.

emerging areas of concern with regard to sustainability are identified, the situation is considered sustainable.

- Not all indicators are used for the assessment itself: there are many indicators, but some of them still have low data quality or are hard to use for a meaningful assessment. Furthermore, many indicators are descriptive of the basic context, arising from geography, ecology and history, rather than indicators of possible areas of concern<sup>2</sup>. All indicators were reviewed (see annex 1) and a decision taken for each as to whether it should be used for “assessment”, “context” or “background”. Only the “assessment” parameters are used to identify areas of concern. The reduced number of “assessment” parameters also makes the story clearer.
- For each indicator, one or more size-neutral<sup>3</sup> parameters have been identified, making it possible to compare countries fairly. For the assessment parameters, “warning levels” are identified, which can indicate whether, for that topic, there might be concern about sustainability. However, the indicator will not be firmly identified as an area of concern until there has been an in depth review, with country participation, putting the area of concern in context and identifying any special circumstances<sup>4</sup>. This process is described in the next section. The quantified “warning level” is thus the first filter of a process, not a rigid final judgement.
- The warning levels for areas of concern about sustainability are the same for all countries, despite major differences between countries in their basic situations. It would be confusing and severely reduce the credibility of the whole exercise if countries were each to set their own warning levels. It would also make any reporting on sustainability of forest management at the regional level difficult and subjective.
- Policies and institutions, and governance in general, are a key part of SFM: indeed policy instruments are the main means of achieving sustainability and addressing threats. In the *State of Europe's Forests* reports, information is collected about policies and institutions under the qualitative indicators, but the information collected has so far been rather descriptive than analytical and has not addressed the question of whether the policy instruments in place are appropriate or sufficient for the need. Part B of the qualitative indicators attempts to link the instruments to specific policy areas, but in practice the responses to SoEF 2011 were quite non-specific (most just referred to the forest law) and were not directly linked to the outcomes as monitored by the quantitative indicators. This will be addressed during the process of dialogue with national correspondents who will be asked to describe how the country is addressing any areas of concern which have been identified.
- The results should therefore identify, by indicator and country, “areas of concern” about sustainability and how countries are addressing them. The stress on policy action to address areas of concern makes the exercise positive and provides good opportunities for communication with stakeholders.
- Data quality when identifying parameters: when deciding which parameters could be used, we took into account the availability and quality of data. However, we have ignored the situation in those countries which have really inadequate data overall, and/or very small forest resources; to base the approach on countries with the weakest data quality would reduce the whole system to a lowest common denominator approach, missing an important opportunity.
- Treatment of missing data: To implement evidence-based policy making, adequate information is necessary. Thus, truly sustainable forest management is impossible without adequate information for all the relevant parameters. However, when assessing the sustainability of forest management, “No data” is not the same as “Area of concern”: the situation for that indicator could be satisfactory, even excellent, but simply not measured. SoEF 2011 assigned the lowest assessment to “No data”, but some considered this

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<sup>2</sup> For instance, should forestry in a country with 70% forest cover be considered “better” or “more sustainable” than forestry in a country with 20% forest cover? Significant reduction of forest area in either country would be a matter of concern, but the basic situation results from history and ecology and represents a starting point in the assessment of SFM, not an element of it.

<sup>3</sup> For instance percentages and ratios (m<sup>3</sup>/ha etc.)

<sup>4</sup> One example would be when fellings in one year were much higher than increment, because of the need to remove wood after a storm, not because of systematic over-cutting.



too harsh<sup>5</sup>, or misleading. We propose that in the forthcoming reporting, “No data” be given a separate identity (i.e. not used to identify warning levels), but absence of data should be made clear in the reporting process.

- Time reference: wherever possible, the warnings should refer to a recent period, typically the most recent five or ten years (depending on type of parameter), so that changes can be identified, and meaningful reassessments carried out regularly. When areas of concern are identified they should be put in context: continuation of long term trend, new development, special circumstances etc. For most forest linked parameters, there are few primary data for trends over shorter periods than five years.

## 2. Process of analysis and assessment

The following stages are proposed:

- **Data collection** for the assessment will be part of the work for SoEF 2015, which covers all the parameters identified for context or assessment. Data for the assessment exercise will be checked and reviewed along with the other SoEF data. There will be no separate data collection for the assessment exercise.
- **Analysis of data:** calculation of size neutral indicators, for context and assessment parameters, identification by authors of indicators where warning levels have been exceeded.
- **Response by national correspondents**, who will be asked to respond to the warning levels, and answer the following questions:
  - **Accuracy of information:** Are the data correct? Has the latest analysis uncovered data related problems which were not previously apparent?
  - **Background and context:** Are there specific circumstances which indicate that there is no need to be concerned even though the standard warning levels have been exceeded? If so, what is the background and explanation?
  - **Policy response:** If concern about an indicator is justified, what measures are being taken or planned to address the issue?
- The authors prepare a **regional synthesis**; presenting and analysing the national situations, including countries’ responses to the warning levels, in an objective and transparent way, for the attention of policy makers (see next section on presentation of results). Data will be put in the regional and national context, and explained as necessary. There will be no policy recommendations in this study, which should be the start, not the end, of an evidence-based reflection on policies for sustainable forest management in Europe. This study will be brought to the attention of appropriate international bodies, and comments invited from experts and policy makers.

## 3. Presentation of results

The analysis would be based on two types of table:

- Tables showing the values<sup>6</sup> for the context and assessment parameters for all countries, similar to tables 87-92 of SoEF 2011. These might be supplemented or replaced by tables organising the same data by country in a standardised country profile
- For each country, a list of potential areas of concern and how they are being addressed, along the lines set out below. These tables would only cover those assessment parameters where the warning level had been surpassed, and would also note when data were insufficient to identify areas of concern. Such a table might be set out as follows:

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<sup>5</sup> There is also a risk that correspondents faced with potentially embarrassing results might prefer not to report them, rather than expose an area of concern. Such a reaction would be very damaging to the whole assessment process.

<sup>6</sup> Or “No data” when that is the case.

Potential area of concern			Response
	Parameter	Value	
1.1	Change in forest area	-x.x%	The causes of this are ... In response we have put in place the following measures: ..... OR This is not of concern because ...
2.2	Soil condition	C/N ratio 0.y	The causes of this are ... In response we have put in place the following measures: ..... OR This is not of concern because ...
3.2	Value of marketed roundwood	No data	There are no data because ... To improve the data situation, the following measures are being taken: ...
..	..	..	..

The accompanying text would take the following form, after a very brief overview of the basic circumstances: “Country X has areas of concern about sustainability with regard to indicators x.y, a.b, c.d, and is responding in the following ways: ...”. The assessments at the level of criteria should not be aggregated to generate a single sustainability assessment for the country, which would inevitably be the headline result and attract much attention, but might be misleading and conceal contradictory trends for different criteria.

This analysis by country would be followed by a regional synthesis by criteria identifying those criteria or indicators where there are several countries which have areas of concern, along these lines: “For criterion X, there are many areas of concern for indicator X.y (aa countries, mostly in southern/eastern/northern/western Europe), but very few for indicator X.z”. This overview could serve to guide international efforts, helping them to focus on those areas which have been shown to be of widespread concern through an evidence-based process.

#### 4. Definitions of a few key terms

The following definitions of the three types of parameters and of the warning levels used in the assessment system are proposed:

**Context parameter:** describes the situation of a country with respect to a given pan-European indicator, but cannot be used to assess the sustainability of forest management. No warning level is identified for context parameters.

**Assessment parameter:** provides information useful to assess the sustainability of forest management in a country for a given pan-European indicator. For each assessment parameter a warning level is identified.

**Background parameter:** Cannot be used to provide reliable description or assessment of the situation with regard to sustainable forest management. Causes might be problems with data quality or methodology of data analysis, preventing meaningful use of the information available. No warning level is identified for background parameters.

**Warning level:** the first filter in the process of identifying an area of concern. When an assessment parameter is over the identified warning level, the analysts contact the national correspondent to check the accuracy of the information and to collect information on the background and circumstances. If after this dialogue, an area of concern is confirmed, the analysts then ask the correspondent what action is being or will be taken by the country to address this area of concern.

## 5. Parameters proposed to be used in the assessment of sustainable forest management

### *Criterion 1: Forest Resources and Carbon*

	Indicator	Proposed parameter	Proposed Category
1.1	Forest area	Area of forest as % of total land area (forest cover)	Context
1.1	Forest area	Forest/population ratio (ha of forest/head of population)	Context
1.1	Forest area	Annual average percent change <sup>7</sup> in forest area in most recent ten-year period	Assessment Warning level: any negative change
1.1	Forest area	Annual average percent change in area of forest available for wood supply in most recent ten-year period	Assessment Warning level: any negative change
1.2	Growing stock	Growing stock per ha of FAWS	Context
1.2	Growing stock	Annual average percent change in growing stock on FAWS in most recent ten-year period	Assessment Warning level: any negative change
1.3	Age structure and/or diameter distribution	Imbalance in age structure	Background
1.4	Carbon stock	Annual average percent change in total forest carbon stock, last ten-year period,	Background

### *Criterion 2: Forest Health and Vitality*

	Indicator	Proposed parameter	Proposed Category
2.1	Deposition of air pollutants	Percentage of natural ecosystem area at risk of eutrophication for an emission scenario based on current legislation	Assessment Warning level: >80%
2.2	Soil condition	C/N index, median value for country	Assessment Warning level: <1
2.3	Defoliation	Percent of sample trees in defoliation classes 2+3+4	Background
2.4	Forest damage	Percent of forest area with damage <sup>8</sup> by biotic, abiotic and human-induced causes (ten-year average) – except fire damage	Assessment Warning level: >5% <sup>9</sup>
2.4	Forest damage	Percent of forest area damaged by fire annually (ten-year average)	Assessment Warning level: >2%

<sup>7</sup> Calculated as percentage change over the whole period, divided by the number of years (i.e. no calculation of compound interest rates). Applies also to indicators 1.2 and 1.4

<sup>8</sup> Area with damage avoids double counting of damage from different causes. It describes a state in a given year, not the area damaged in a specific year.

<sup>9</sup> This warning level should only be used if there is a significant improvement on data quality compared to SoEF 2011.

**Criterion 3: Productive Functions of Forests**

	Indicator	Proposed parameter	Proposed Category
3.1	Increment and fellingings	Ratio fellingings of living trees/NAI on FAWS, most recent ten-year period, in %	Assessment Warning level: >100%
3.2	Roundwood	Value of marketed roundwood, per hectare, 2012, €/ha of FAWS	Assessment Warning level: <€10/ha adjusted for PPP <sup>10</sup>
3.3	Non-wood goods	Value of marketed non-wood goods, per hectare of FOWL, €/ha of forest	Context
3.4	Services	Value of marketed services, per hectare of FOWL, €/ha of forest	Context
3.5	Forests under management plans	Percentage of FOWL under officially registered/ approved/formal <sup>11</sup> management plan or equivalent	Assessment Warning level: <50%

**Criterion 4: Biological Diversity in Forest Ecosystems**

	Indicator	Proposed parameter	Proposed Category
4.1	Tree species composition	Share of multi species stands in FOWL, most recent period, %	Assessment Warning level: any negative change
4.2	Regeneration	Share of natural regeneration in total regeneration, change over most recent 10 year period, %	Assessment Warning level: any decrease
4.3	Naturalness	Share of forest undisturbed by man in FOWL, %	Context
4.3	Naturalness	Share of plantations in FOWL, %	Context
4.4	Introduced tree species	Share of introduced (including invasive) tree species in FOWL, %	Context
4.4	Introduced tree species	Change in share of invasive species, most recent 10 year period, %	Assessment Warning level: any increase
4.5	Deadwood	Change in volume of deadwood per m3 of growing stock on FAWS between two most recent reports, m3/ha	Assessment Warning level: any decrease
4.6	Genetic resources	Share of forest land managed for conservation of genetic resources, %	Background
4.7	Landscape pattern	Landscape pattern index: normalised connectivity per landscape unit and average proportion of “core natural” forest.	Background
4.8	Threatened forest species	Number of threatened forest tree species as % of total forest tree species	Assessment Warning level: lack of information on parameter
4.9	Protected forests	Area of forest/FOWL strictly protected <sup>12</sup> for conservation of biodiversity as % of total forest	Assessment Warning level: <3%

<sup>10</sup> To take account of differences in prosperity and income between countries, the warning levels in € (indicators 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 6.3) should be adjusted as a function of GDP/head, using Purchasing Power Parity.

<sup>11</sup> Terminology and warning level to be adapted according to decisions as regards data collection for indicator 3.5

<sup>12</sup> MCPFE classes 1.1 and 1.2 only

***Criterion 5: Protective Functions of Forests***

	Indicator	Proposed parameter	Proposed Category
5.1	Protective forests – soil, water and other ecosystem functions	Change in area of forest designated as having protective functions (5.1+5.2)	Assessment Warning level: decrease
5.2	Protective forests – infrastructure and other managed natural resources		

***Criterion 3: Socio-economic Functions of Forests***

	Indicator	Proposed parameter	Proposed Category
6.1	Forest holdings	Share of publicly owned forest, most recent period, %	Context
6.1	Forest holdings	Percentage of private forest area in size class of holdings under 10ha	Context
6.2	Contribution of forest sector to GDP	Share of GDP taken by forest sector, most recent period, %	Context
6.3	Net revenue	Net entrepreneurial revenue per ha, most recent period, in €/ha	Assessment Warning level: < €5/ha, adjusted for PPP
6.4	Expenditures for services	Net government expenditure per ha forest, average of most recent two periods, in €/ha	Context
6.5	Forest sector workforce	Forest sector labour force as % of total workforce	Context
6.6	Occupational safety and health	Total fatal and non-fatal accidents per 1000 workers, change over two most recent reports (centred on 2005 and 2010)	Assessment Warning level: increase in accident rate and/or lack of information on accident rates.
6.7	Wood consumption	Consumption of wood products per head, 2010-2012, m3 roundwood equivalent, most recent 3-year average	Context
6.8	Trade in wood	Net imports of roundwood and forest products as % of apparent consumption(both in m3 roundwood equivalent), most recent 3-year average	Context
6.9	Energy from wood resources	Share of energy from wood in national energy production	Context
6.9	Energy from wood resources	Share of direct woody biomass removals for energy purposes from forests and outside forests, %	Context
6.10	Accessibility for recreation	Area accessible for recreation as % of area of FOWL, most recent year	Assessment Warning level: <85%
6.11	Cultural and spiritual values	No meaningful parameter found	NA

***Pan-European Qualitative Indicators for SFM – Part A: Overall policies, institutions and instruments for SFM***

	Indicator	Proposed parameter	Proposed Category
A.1	National forest programmes or similar	Date and status <sup>13</sup> of NFP or similar	Context
A.2	Institutional frameworks	Number of staff who formulate and administer <sup>14</sup> forest policy and law, per hectare of forest	Context
A.3	Legal/regulatory framework	Date of forest law and of most recent formal statement of forest policy	Context
A.4	Financial instruments/ economic policy	Total official transfer payments/subsidies, in €/ha of private forest <sup>15</sup>	Context
A.4	Financial instruments/ economic policy	Payment from public budget to SFO <sup>16</sup> , and contribution by SFO to public budget, net transfer, in €/ha of public forest	Context
A.4	Financial instruments/ economic policy	Public expenditure on research, education and training per ha of forest, €/ha	Context
A.5	Informational means	Is there a formal communication and outreach strategy?	Context

<sup>13</sup> No NFP, NFP in development, NFP in implementation, NFP in review. (includes “similar”)

<sup>14</sup> Excludes staff employed to manage public forests. If state forest organisation is also responsible for policy and administration, include only those staff, not those directly employed for forest management. Also excludes staff for research education and training, which are covered below. But should include (if possible) staff from other branches who administer forest policy, broadly defined: work safety inspectors, staff in environmental ministries (conservation of biodiversity) etc.

<sup>15</sup> Needs detailed work. Ideally would include fiscal measures as well as transfer payments. Need to decide, among many other things, how to treat state forest organisations which act as private companies and receive certain state payments as if they were private owners. Coordinate with new approach for indicator 6.4

<sup>16</sup> This will be difficult in those countries where state forests are managed by a government department, with costs from the state budget and income from wood sales partly retained and partly transferred to the central budget.

**UNECE/FAO Teams of Specialists Reporting 2012**  
**Team of Specialists on Monitoring on SFM**

<b>Items for regular reporting to the JWPFSEM (length max two pages)</b>	
<b>1. Name :</b>	Team of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management
<b>2. Period covered:</b>	March 2012-March 2013
<b>3. Leader/Deputies and Secretary:</b>	<p>Leader: Kari T. Korhonen (Finland)</p> <p>Deputies: Johannes Hangler (Austria), Andrius Kuliesis (Lithuania), Brad Smith (USA)</p> <p>Secretary: Roman Michalak</p>
<b>4. Members:</b>	The Team includes around 60 officially nominated members from over 30 countries and more than 30 experts from various international organizations
<b>5. Meetings held:</b>	<p>Two full ToS Meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, 22-24.05.2012</li> <li>- Geneva, Switzerland, 21-22.02.2013</li> </ul> <p>ToS sub-groups meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Assessment sub-group: 21.-22.02.2012 Geneva, 6.11.2012 Geneva, 20.02.2012 Geneva</li> <li>- Socio-Economic Indicators sub-group 3.-4.12.2012 Helsinki</li> </ul>

## **6. Outputs during period by mandate item:**

Delivered major outputs

1. Regional contribution to Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) 2010 and 2015; GFRA 2015 plans and arrangements were discussed and processed in St. Petersburg's ToS meeting. Recommendations from the region for FRA questionnaire's tables and definitions were given.

2. Assistance in the preparation and review of the next report on the State of Europe's Forests (SoEF), for the Sixth and Seventh Ministerial Conferences: including advice on enquiries, definitions etc., covering quantitative indicators;

The Team contributed to the review of the production process, outputs and dissemination activities related to the SoEF 2011. The pan-European SFM reporting tables for the next SoEF report were further developed in 3 sub-groups, formed on thematic basis: a) Forest resources, carbon and forest health b) Increment and drain, c) Socio-economic indicators. Concrete proposals for developing the enquiry tables have been especially for tables related to increment and socio-economic indicators. Work continues in 2013, the whole questionnaire was subject to review of the Team at its Geneva's meeting. Further improvements in the enquiry tables are expected, from the thematic sub-groups.

To support the preparation of the next SoEF report, one sub-group worked on the assessment method. An outline of the assessment method was presented to the Expert Level Meeting in Madrid in February 2013; the method will be discussed by the ECE/FAO Working Party.

3. Improved reporting capacity of countries weak in reporting on criteria and indicators for the State of Europe's Forests Reports;

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4. Guidance on the implementation of the forest type classification.

Forest Europe Expert Level Meeting decided in March 2013 that the reporting with the use of the new forest type classification in 2015 cycle will be discontinued.

## **and impact achieved:**

Review of the pan-European questionnaire by the ToS ensured the soundness of developments and their relevance to the work done in countries and organisations. The ToS members believe that data quality will be improved due to improvement of enquiry tables and definitions.

The impact of the work done to develop enquiry tables and definitions can be assessed when the country reports of the next pan-European reporting of SFM are reviewed and when the next SoEF Report are written.

In addition to providing advice on the global and regional reporting, the ToS served as the forum for discussion and cooperation on forest related-reporting issues among the countries and organisation. The ToS provides an umbrella for the Forest Information Billboard - a thematic bulletin for exchange of information in this area. –

## **7. Expected outputs over next period by mandate item:**

1. ToS members' contribution to the global meeting of national correspondents in Thailand, May 2013;



2. Final enquiry tables and definitions for the next SoEF reporting produced by the ECE/FAO secretariat with the support of ToS. Recommendations for reporting through International Data Providers, from the ToS meeting scheduled for October 2013.
3. Some ToS members will assist countries in preparation of their national reports for global and regional reporting.
4. Advice on alternative measures to reporting by the EFT that will be applied in 2015 reporting.

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**8. Issues for the attention of the Secretariat and the Working Party:**

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**9. Comments, lessons learned:**

Cooperation between the ToS and UNECE secretariat has been most successful. ECE/FAO secretariat has succeeded in motivating the work of ToS by acknowledging the expertise of both the Team as a whole, and individual members in most balanced way.

16 April 2013

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION  
FOR EUROPE**

Timber Committee

**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
ORGANIZATION**

European Forestry Commission

**Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party  
on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management**

Thirty-fifth session

Geneva, 23-25 April 2013

Agenda item 4 (c) of the provisional agenda

**GUIDANCE ON WORK AREA 3: FOREST SECTOR OUTLOOK**

Note by the secretariat

*Summary*

This document presents an overview of the activities in Work Area 3, Forest Sector Outlook, and highlights the topics and issues to be addressed by the Working Party. The Working Party is invited to provide guidance on current and future activities in Work Area 3.

## **I. Activities**

### **A. Friends of the Outlook**

1. Outlook studies are now available covering the whole UNECE region with the European Forest Sector Outlook Study (EFSOS) main report having been completed in September 2011, the North American one (NAFSOS) in March 2012 and Russian one (RFSOS) in September 2012. The Secretariat convened a “Friends of the Outlook” meeting on 16 October 2012 in the margins of the Timber Committee session.

2. The objective of the meeting was to discuss strategic outlook issues bringing major players together in an informal setting. The main focus was the mapping of outlook resources (actors, models, data, financing) in the UNECE region with the aim of agreeing on a way forward for the next round of the outlook including providing guidance for the next meeting of the Team of Specialists on Forest Sector Outlook. Partners expressed their interest in cooperating further and made the following suggestions for the way forward:

- a) Publication of the next study by 2016 appeared to be unrealistic unless the study only aimed to update the projections of EFSOS II, which would not be a very useful contribution.
- b) In particular, the next EFSOS should make a new list of policy questions to be addressed, after consultation with “real” policy makers (as opposed to academics and modellers).
- c) Methods and models used should also be rethought in the light of EFSOS II experience and ongoing developments, in particular those with which the “friends of the outlook” are involved.
- d) There could be scope for alignment with the US Resource Planning Act (RPA) Assessment process in the US: the next round of the RPA Assessment is scheduled for 2020.
- e) The Global Trade Model developed by Joseph Buongiorno and used by the RPA Assessment could be examined as regards suitability for use in European conditions.
- f) National correspondents should be more involved in the process as providers and checkers of data. In addition, a much more intense and detailed dialogue about the projections should be engaged with national experts/correspondents. The national experts should be asked their views on the plausibility of projections and the links between existing policy objectives and instruments and the projections, as well as what the projections might mean for policy in their country.
- g) The Team of Specialists (ToS) on forest sector outlook should be the forum for this dialogue between the core team of modellers and analysts and expertise at the national level. This changed role should be taken into account when inviting nominations to the team, which would ideally bring together inventory/wood supply specialists, modelers and those responsible for national forest programmes or equivalent. In this way the outlook studies would be more useful at the national level. Through the Strategic Review process, the type of expertise being sought can be specified.
- h) A meeting of the ToS on Forest Sector Outlook should be held in 2013. Among other issues, the ToS is invited to discuss data requirements and linkages between available models.
- i) The “Friends of the Outlook” group could meet in 2013 with policymakers to discuss and decide on the needs of policy makers to be addressed in the next round of outlook studies. If possible, the ToS should also be involved in this important first step for the new study.

- j) A manual bringing together national and international experience on modelling and outlook study techniques would be a useful tool in capacity building at the national level, and thereby improving the quality of both national and international outlook studies. The friends of the outlook and the ToS should be involved in and support the preparation of such a manual.

### **B. Maximizing the impact of outlook studies**

3. Experience with other outlook studies, in Europe and other regions, indicates that, despite the acknowledged quality of the analysis, and its usefulness to analysts and researchers, their direct impact on policy formulation has been limited.

4. The secretariat and the authors of the study have therefore attached high priority to communicating the EFSOS II analysis, and stimulating a policy debate based on its conclusions. Further efforts to disseminate findings at national or international professional meetings were made. EFSOS II was presented at:

- a) Laboratoire d'Economie Forestière Biennial workshop, Nancy, 31 May - 1 June 2012.
- b) Eighth International Conference on Renewable Resources and Biorefineries, Toulouse, 4-6 June 2012.
- c) Final Conference of the EU Project MANFRED "The Future Potential of European Forest Mountain Forests: challenges and solutions between Green Economy and Climate Change", Rome, 28 June 2012.
- d) Federal Office for the Environment Waldökonomisches Seminar, Bern, 1-2 October 2012.
- e) Annual Conference of the APA Engineered Wood Association, Amelia Island, Florida, 10-12 November 2012.
- f) National Forest Policy Dialogues held in Switzerland, 6 November 2012, and Poland 22 November 2012.

## **II. The future of forest sector outlook studies**

5. Both FAO and ECE conduct and/or facilitate forest sector outlook studies. The future of those studies in the ECE region was therefore discussed at the first meeting of the steering committee for the partnership agreements between ECE and FAO to implement their integrated programme of work on forest related matters, held on 15 January 2013. It was proposed to undertake a feasibility assessment for the next round of outlook studies in the region.

6. This assessment would be based on interviews with the main actors in the ECE region and include:

- a) Needs in terms of analysis and modelling.
- b) Scenario construction and consultation with policy makers on topics to be addressed.
- c) Data improvement and consultation with national correspondents and other data providers.
- d) Preparation process for conclusions and communication with stakeholders.
- e) Development of common approaches for the whole ECE region (Europe, North America, Russian Federation).
- f) Feasibility of finalizing a study by the end of the next ECE/FAO integrated programme of work.

- g) Capacity, willingness of the relevant partners for, and expected benefit from their contribution to an outlook study partnership.
7. The results of this assessment would be discussed at the next meeting of the ToS on forest sector outlook to be held at ‘Metsä2013’ in Rovaniemi Finland, from 9 to 13 December 2013, where the ECE Committee on Forest and Forest Industry and the FAO European Forestry Commission will jointly meet and are expected to adopt the next ECE/FAO integrated programme of work 2014-2017.
8. **Delegates are invited to take note of the past activities and discuss the proposal regarding the future of outlook studies in the region. In particular, they are expected to:**
- a) **Inform the Working Party of any other initiatives taken or planned to promote discussion of the issues raised by EFSOS II.**
  - b) **Suggest further opportunities for reaching out to other sectors and working with actors in those areas, including by providing advice on funding of outreach and communication activities.**
  - c) **Discuss the relevance of having a new round of outlook studies by the end of 2017 and provide guidance to the secretariat on the proposed feasibility assessment.**
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## UNECE/FAO Teams of Specialists Reporting 2012 – Forest Sector Outlook Studies

Items for regular reporting to the JWPFSEM	
<b>1. Name :</b>	Forest Sector Outlook Studies
<b>2. Period covered:</b>	March 2012-February 2013
<b>3. Leader/Deputies and Secretary:</b>	Leader: M.J. Schelhaas (NL) Deputies: J. Prestemon (USA), T. Yakusheva (Russian Federation) Secretary: D. Ellul
<b>4. Members:</b>	P. Schwarzbauer (Austria), U. Mantau (Germany), U. Saal (Germany), A. Baudin (Sweden), R. Jonsson (Sweden), G. Egnell (Sweden), J. San-Miguel-Ayanz (JRC), C. Prins, F. Steierer (FAO), P.J. Verkerk (EFI), A. Moiseyev (EFI), H. Weimar (Germany) UNECE staff: A. McCusker, M. Fonseca, D. Ellul, R. Michalak
<b>5. Meetings held:</b>	March 2012, Team Meeting, Geneva October 2012, “Friends of the Outlook” meeting, Geneva
<b>6. Outputs during period by mandate item and impact achieved:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presentations by M.J. Schelhaas about EFSOS at LEF Biennial workshop, Nancy, May 31/June 1 2012; Waldökonomisches Seminar, Bern, 1-2 October 2012; Annual Conference of the APA Engineered Wood Association Amelia Island, Florida, US, 10-12 November 2012, and various project meetings.</li> <li>- Presentations by the Secretariat at Policy Debate on Wood Energy, held in Geneva, 8 May 2012; Eighth International Conference on Renewable Resources and Biorefineries, held in Toulouse, 4-6 June 2012; Final Conference of the EU Project MANFRED “The Future Potential of European Forest Mountain Forests: challenges and solutions between Green Economy and Climate Change”, held in Rome, 28 June 2012.</li> <li>- Involvement of team members in the USEWOOD Cost Action.</li> <li>- National dissemination by various team members</li> <li>- One peer-reviewed article submitted</li> </ul>
<b>7. Expected outputs over next period by mandate item:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Training school on EFISCEN in cooperation with USEWOOD Cost Action and the Trees4Future Project.</li> <li>- Continued dissemination of outlook studies results</li> <li>- Use of EFSOS results in more peer-reviewed publications</li> <li>- More contact with national correspondents and comparison with national studies</li> </ul>
<b>8. Issues for the attention of the Secretariat and the Working Party:</b>	-
<b>9. Comments, lessons learned:</b>	Activities are mainly focussed on dissemination of results.

2 April 2013

**Economic Commission for Europe**

**Timber Committee**

**Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party on  
Forest Statistics, Economics and Management**

**Food and Agriculture Organization**

**European Forestry Commission**

**Thirty-fifth session**

Geneva, 23-25 April 2013

Item 4 (d) of the provisional agenda

## **GUIDANCE OF WORK AREA 4: SOCIAL AND CULTURAL**

AGENDA ITEM 4 (d)

Note by the Secretariat

### *Summary*

According to its mandate, the Working Party is expected to provide guidance to Work Area 4 (WA 4), **Social and Cultural** Issues. This document provides information about activities in this work area since the Working Party's last session and plans for the future, in particular on the activities of the relevant Team of Specialists ('Joint UNECE/FAO/ILO Expert Network to implement Sustainable Forest Management') and drawing the Working Party's attention to any specific issues where guidance is needed.

The programme of work for WA4 comprises the following activities:

- 4.1 Implementing sustainable forest management through promoting occupational safety and health
- 4.2 Implementing sustainable forest management through promoting best practices in forest education and training

## **I. Activities of the Joint UNECE/FAO/ILO Expert Network on Implementing Sustainable Forest Management**

1. The outputs in WA4 depend largely on the activities of the Joint Expert Network (JEN). These activities can be classified in three categories:

- Supporting certification schemes such as ConCert (certification of competences for forest entrepreneurs) and ECC (European Chainsaw users' Certification) to enhance quality of forestry work at a pan European level (with the European Forestry and Environmental Skills Council, EFESC);
- Facilitating exchanges and synergies by organizing conferences, seminars and other activities in order to share knowledge and enhance understanding of forests and forestry work matters (see below);
- Fostering cooperation between training centers through trainers' and trainees' mobility.

2. Since the last Working Party in 2012 and due to a lack of funding, the JEN had little activity. However, the Steering Committee met twice in 2012 and once 2013 to discuss future work and in particular the organization of a Seminar on the impacts of climate change on forestry work with a focus on solutions for practical problems experienced in the field. Taking advantage of the joint session of the ECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission (Metsä2013), this Seminar will be organized during the European Forest Week (9 to 13 December 2013) in Rovaniemi, Finland.

3. At its last meeting, the Steering Committee agreed that the Seminar will consist of a one day meeting (11 December tbc) and a field trip (12 December tbc), which could be organized by the Finnish private sector (harvesting operation for example). The first day would be divided into four sessions (two in the morning and two in the afternoon) chaired by the JEN Chair and Vice-Chairs as follows:

- a) Climate Change and Forest Work;
- b) Climate Change, Pests, Diseases and Forest Protection;
- c) Climate Change and Occupational Health and Safety;
- d) Challenges and Opportunities.

## **II. Discussion**

4. *The Working Party is invited to discuss the format and the content of the proposed seminar on the impact of climate change on forestry work.*

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**Economic Commission for Europe**

**Timber Committee**

**Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party on  
Forest Statistics, Economics and Management**

**Thirty-fifth session**

Geneva, 23-25 April 2013

Item 4 (e) of the provisional agenda

**Food and Agriculture Organization**

**European Forestry Commission**

## **GUIDANCE OF WORK AREA 5: POLICIES AND CROSS-SECTORAL ISSUES**

### **AGENDA ITEM 4 (e)**

#### Note by the secretariat

##### *Summary*

This document provides information on the main activities in Work Area 5 (WA 5), **Policy and Cross-Sectoral Issues**. It highlights the topics and issues to be addressed by the Working Party, in the different activities under WA 5. The Working Party is invited to offer guidance on how current and future activities in WA5 might be developed.

The programme of work for WA5 comprises the following activities:

- a) Contribution to the global dialogue on forests
- b) Monitoring recent developments in forest sector policies, legislation and institutions, including national forest programmes
- c) Analysing developments in forest sector policies, legislation and institutions, including interactions with other sectors
- d) Implementing sustainable forest management through capacity building for forest policies and institutions
- e) Organizing policy forums on major topical issues
- f) Exchanging information on improving management of wildland fires
- g) Improving sectoral and cross-sectoral exchange and communication

## **I. Contribution to the global dialogue on forests**

1. At the pan-European level, the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section is an important partner to the Forest Europe process. The main contribution to the process consists in the coordination of the preparation of the State of Europe's Forests report, which was issued in June 2011 on the occasion of the Ministerial Conference in Oslo.
2. Synergies with Forest Europe are critical to maintain coherence of the policy direction and activities at the pan-European level. Recently, UNECE/FAO has been following the development of Forest Europe Programme of Work at its Expert Level Meeting held on 6 and 7 March 2013 in Madrid.
3. Through its contribution to the ThinkForest process, UNECE/FAO is also working to reinforce its cooperation with the European Forest Institute (EFI), in order to join forces on scientific and technical work at the pan-European level and establish stronger synergies with all other relevant partners.
4. At the global level, UNECE/FAO further strengthened its ties with the United Nations Forum on Forest (UNFF). UNECE/FAO prepared a report on the contribution of forests to economic development in the UNECE region. It also organized, together with the UNFF Secretariat and Forest Europe, a Country Led Initiative in Ukraine with the support of Switzerland: the Lviv Forum on Forests in a Green Economy (10-14 September 2012, Lviv, Ukraine). More information on the meeting and the publication that was prepared with the results of the meeting are available at: <http://www.unece.org/lviv-forum-2012.html>.
5. In order to address the challenge of the green economy UNECE/FAO developed a draft Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy, which was also used as a basis for the Lviv Forum. The Action Plan is the result of a thorough consultation with main stakeholders in the sector, including members States, the private sector and NGOs. The Plan was presented at a side event to the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in June 2012 and a side event to the twentieth session of the FAO Committee on Forestry. It was discussed at the last two sessions of the Timber Committee and will be further improved at the Special Session of the Timber Committee scheduled on 17 and 18 June 2013, with a view to submit it for adoption, together with the new UNECE/FAO Integrated Programme of Work (2014-2017) at Metsä2013, the joint session of the UNECE Timber Committee and FAO Forestry Commission. More information on the UNECE/FAO work on green economy is available at: <http://www.unece.org/forests/greeneconomy.html>.

## **II. Monitoring and analysing recent developments in forest sector policies, legislation and institutions**

6. Following the national dialogue held in Paris in December 2011, UNECE/FAO organized together with host governments three National Forest Policy Dialogues, in Switzerland (6 November 2012, Bern), Poland (22 November 2012, Warsaw) and the Russian Federation (13-14 December 2012, Arkhangelsk). The aim is a two way exchange to reach out to a large number of national experts (policy makers, forest managers, forest based industry representatives, researchers, etc.) and share with them the outputs of the Section (State of Forests, Forest Product Markets, Joint Wood Energy Enquiry, Forest Sector Outlook Studies), while stakeholders provide the Section with national experience relevant to the international work.
7. Monitoring and analysis of developments in the forest sector's policies, legislation and institutions are part of the State of Europe's Forests process, which is a joint effort with Forest Europe. The second part of the report usually focuses on qualitative indicators for sustainable forest management. The collection of qualitative data includes two groups of indicators: "Overall policies, institutions & instruments" and "Policies, institutions & instruments per policy area". The next round of qualitative data collection for the next pan-European reporting is expected to take place in 2014.

## **III. Implementing sustainable forest management through capacity building for forest policies and institutions**

8. This activity remains limited due to financial constraints and lack of earmarked budgetary resources. A project proposal for capacity building in Central Asia and the Caucasus to reinforce and enhance forest policy in the context of

green economy was approved by the United Nations Development Account (UNDA). The funds provided by UNDA are expected to be matched by other key donors.

9. Thanks to the generous support of the French Ministry of Agriculture, the French Ministry of Sustainable Development and the FAO Forestry Department, over 60 participants from 23 countries and 8 international organizations met in Paris on the premises of the Ministry of Agriculture from 11 to 13 June 2012 at a capacity building workshop on “Improving Wood Energy Data for Better Policy Making”. Participants discussed the reliability of current wood energy data and identified weaknesses and constraints. Countries shared experiences, tools and solutions for improving data. To that end, a growing network of correspondents and experts is being established enabling communication between all stakeholders at both national and international levels.

#### **IV. Organizing policy forums on major topical issues**

10. UNECE/FAO organized a “Policy Debate on Wood Energy”, held on 8 May 2012 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. Discussions touched upon the economic, environmental and social aspects of the increasing demand of wood for energy purposes. The Policy Debate provided an open and comprehensive dialogue among a wide and varied group of stakeholders. Discussions mainly revolved around the sustainability of the increasing use of wood for energy purposes and the resulting competition with other material uses of wood. A policy brief summarizing the views and recommendations of the various stakeholders that participated in the debate is available here: [http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/timber/wood\\_energy/wood-energy-policy-brief-2012.pdf](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/timber/wood_energy/wood-energy-policy-brief-2012.pdf).

11. Organized on 15 October 2012 in Geneva, a workshop, entitled “the Green Life of Wood - Assessing its Environmental Impacts from Cradle to Cradle”, provided an opportunity to listen and interact with experts in the field of wood products, their life cycle analysis, carbon footprint, and environmental impact. Through a participatory exercise, the workshop also allowed participants to share their points of view and ideas, as well as to discuss solutions and develop recommendations for actions and follow-up on how to further implement LCA to promote environmentally sustainable production, influence building material choices, and guide consumer choices in favour of the environment.

#### **V. Exchanging information on improving management of wildland fires**

12. Activities of the Team of Specialists (ToS) on Forest Fires enabled an intense exchange of information amongst its members as well as member States. The ToS, in particular through its Chair, has been providing advice to countries experiencing forest fires challenges. Efforts are also under way to coordinate within the UN system the work on forest fires to provide better action and policy response.

13. One major achievement has been the preparation of the project “Safeguarding Sustainable Forest Management in the UNECE Region through International Cooperation in Fire Management” for which funding has been secured and generously provided by the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection of Germany. The project will result in the production of a “White Paper on the State of Wildfires and Fire Management in Forests and other Vegetation Resources in the UNECE Region”, draft Standard Operational Procedures (SOPs) or guidelines for international cooperation in fire management (ground, aerial), a UNECE/FAO Regional Forum on Cross-boundary Fire Management and a resolution of the UNECE/FAO on a proposal for a voluntary or legal protocol on cross-boundary cooperation in fire management. The Forum is scheduled to take place on 27-29 November 2013.

#### **VI. Improving sectoral and cross-sectoral exchange and communication**

14. 2012 marked the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All which enabled the Forestry and Timber Section to promote the important contribution wood makes to renewable energy supply. In recognition of the importance of access to energy for sustainable economic development and in support of the Millennium Development Goals, the Forestry and Timber subprogramme has placed stronger emphasis on its wood energy agenda.

15. The findings of the latest round of the UNECE/FAO Joint Wood Energy Enquiry (JWEE) were published online early 2012 providing a comprehensive online database, including a full set of indicators and country profiles. In 2009, wood energy accounted for 3% of the total primary energy supply (TPES) and 47% of the renewable energy supply

(RES) in the UNECE region, confirming its role as the leading source of renewable energy. The complete datasheets can be downloaded at [www.unece.org/jwee2009.html](http://www.unece.org/jwee2009.html). The next UNECE/FAO Joint Wood Energy Enquiry was issued in autumn 2012, and results will be available in April 2013.

16. Major publications were released in 2012, including the Forest Products Annual Market Review, the North American Forest Sector Outlook Study and the Econometric Modelling and Projections of Wood Products Demand, Supply and Trade in Europe. These publications are key outputs toward strengthening the forest sector and its contribution to sustainable development throughout the UNECE region. Two publications have already been released in 2013, the Study Paper 31 on Forests and Economic Development: a Driver for the Green Economy in the UNECE Region and the Study Paper 32 on Forests in a Green Economy for Countries in Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia: Lviv Forum. All publications are available on our website at: <http://www.unece.org/forests-welcome/publications>.

17. Following the success of the first ever European Forest Week (EFW) which took place on 20-24 October 2008 in Rome, Brussels and all over Europe, the UNECE Timber Committee endorsed the organization of a second European Forest Week in parallel with 'Metsä2013'<sup>1</sup>.

18. To support this second European Forest Week, the Joint Bureaux requested the UNECE/FAO Forest Communicators Network to develop and lead the implementation of a communication and outreach strategy to raise awareness and understanding about the EFW at local, regional and European levels. A Task Force on preparing the EFW was subsequently established and met in Rovaniemi, Finland on 3-4 December 2012 to share ideas, contribute suggestions and plan events and celebrations for the European Forest Week. They also discussed key messages to highlight the healthy state of Europe's forests and to attract public attention to how forests, forest products and services contribute to a green economy and to maintaining a healthy society. These messages will soon be available on the UNECE website at: <http://www.unece.org/forests/efw2013.html>. FAO will provide a platform similar to the one developed for the EFW 2008, which will allow people across Europe to register their event online. The platform will also include the EFW logo in different languages. This platform will be available from the FAO website as of April 2013.

19. *The Working Party is requested to take note of the activities above and provide advice on the following:*

- *Priority policy issues to be addressed in 2013, e.g. in the framework of national forest policy dialogues, policy fora, workshops and seminars.*
- *Funding and development of activities, including capacity building, to measure and reinforce the forest sector's contribution to a transition towards a green economy.*
- *Opportunities for reaching out to other sectors and improving cross-sectoral linkages and interactions, such as the European Forest Week 2013.*

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<sup>1</sup> At its last session on 15-19 October 2012, the UNECE Timber Committee endorsed the organization of a second European Forest Week in parallel with 'Metsä2013' (9 to 13 December 2013). This was done at the suggestion of the joint ECE/FAO Bureaux of the Committee and the Commission to build upon the successes of the 2008 European Forest Week and the International Year of Forests 2011. The UNECE/FAO Forest Communicators Network will take the lead in developing and implementing an advocacy communication plan to increase the visibility of the EFW and the contribution of the forest sector to a green economy.

## Appendix

### UNECE/FAO Teams of Specialists Reporting 2012 – Forest Policy in Eastern Europe and Central Asia

Items for regular reporting to the JWPFSEM (length max two pages)	
1.Name :	<b>Team of Specialists Forest Policy in Eastern Europe and Central Asia</b>
2. Period covered:	March 2012-February 2013
3. Leader/Deputies and Secretary:	Leader: <b>Professor Anatoly Petrov, Russia</b> Deputies: <b>Jana Jovanovska, Macedonia</b> Secretary: <b>Alisher Shukurov, Uzbekistan</b>
4. Members: 15	
5. Meetings held: No	
6. Outputs during period by mandate item:	
and impact achieved:	<b>No</b>
-	
7. Expected outputs over next period by mandate item:	
Terms of reference are to be revised	
-	
8. Issues for the attention of the Secretariat and the Working Party:	
To revise the mandate	
-	
9. Comments, lessons learned:	
Mandate does not correspond to the countries activities	

**UNECE/FAO Teams of Specialists Reporting 2012 – FOREST COMMUNICATORS NETWORK**

<b>Items for regular reporting to the WPFES (length max two pages)</b>	
<b>1. Name:</b>	<b>FOREST COMMUNICATORS NETWORK (FCN)</b>
<b>2. Period covered</b>	February 2012 to March 2013
<b>3. Leader/Deputies and Secretary</b>	<p>Leader: Mr. Ingwald Gschwandtl (Austria)</p> <p>Deputy Leaders: Mr. Colin Morton (United Kingdom), Mr. Kai Lintunen (Finland), Mr. Tomass Kotovics (Latvia); Ms. Pille Roivas (Estonia)</p> <p>Secretary: Ms. Eve Charles</p>
<b>4. Members</b>	<p>General membership policy: <i>‘Participation is open to all sharing the FCN objectives and willing to contribute to fulfilling its tasks. Therefore Members may be nominated by TC/EFC member countries or participate on invitation by the FCN Leaders.’</i></p> <p>Therefore the FCN is partly comprised of members officially nominated by countries (at present 21% of the total membership of 131) and of experts from various organisations and institutions, who showed interest in working with the FCN and do so on invitation by the FCN Leaders.</p> <p>The membership list is published at <a href="http://www.unece.org/forests/information/fcn.html">http://www.unece.org/forests/information/fcn.html</a></p>
<b>5. Meetings held</b>	<p>Annual meetings: May 2008 – Bilbao/Spain; July 2008 Rambouillet/France; October 2008 – Rome/Italy; September 2009 – Lyss/Switzerland; May 2010 – Hjortviken/Sweden; April 2011 – Budapest/Hungary; <b>June 2012 – Antalya/Turkey. Up-coming: 21 – 23 May 2013, Tallin/Estonia.</b></p> <p>The FCN Task Force for the European Forest Week 2013 held a meeting in Rovaniemi/Finland from 3 to 4 December 2012.</p> <p>The FCN ad-hoc Team on Communication Advice for the INC-Forests Bureau held meetings on 4 December 2012 in Rovaniemi/Finland and on 25 January 2013 in Antalya/Turkey.</p> <p>The FCN Sub-Group on Forest Pedagogics held several meetings.</p>
<b>6. Outputs during period by mandate item and impact achieved</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>European forest communication strategy</b></li> </ul> <p>The <i>Strategic Framework for Forest Communication in Europe</i> was finalised in September 2011 and launched at the Joint TC/EFC Session ‘Orman 2011’ in October 2011 in Antalya/Turkey.</p> <p>The Framework is a milestone output of FCN work. It aims to help achieving better informed decision making on matters relevant to forests and forestry by closing the gap between perception and facts on forests and forestry in the wider European region.</p> <p>The framework offers communication objectives, common key messages and approaches, designed to be used by governments, public and private sector institutions and organisations and stakeholders at all levels, when formulating individual forest communication programs and strategies. Geographically the framework addresses the EFC region or the European part of the UNECE region respectively.</p>

In terms of its implementation several achievements can be recognised:

- ✓ The Strategic Framework for Forest Communication in Europe provided the background for formulating the communication objectives and key messages of the European Forest Week 2013.
- ✓ The European Forest Week 2013 as such is actually a follow up to the recommendation given by the Framework to '*consider establishing a regular collaborative communication campaign throughout Europe with time wise and message wise concerted actions at all levels*'.
- ✓ The framework also recommends to '*capitalise on existing international days related to forests and support efforts to formally recognise a UN International Day of Forests*'. The FCN had its share in the process that made the General Assembly of the United Nations declare the 31<sup>st</sup> of March to the *International Day of Forests*.
- **Gap analyses of existing opinion research and proposal for improving monitoring and regular analyses on public perception concerning forests, their management and related products**

The FCN helped preparing and conducting the survey '*Shaping forest communication in the European Union: public perceptions of forests and forestry*', commissioned by the European Commission and published in September 2009. Together with more recent public perception surveys carried out e. g. in Austria, Switzerland and Finland this provides highly relevant background for identifying main components of strategic communication on forests and forest based products. So far further work by the FCN on updating this knowledge base has not been possible due to lack of personal and financial resources.

- **European Forest Pedagogics Concept based on best practice examples, common principles and quality standards for forest related environmental education**

The FCN Sub-Group on Forest Pedagogics led by Mr. Thomas Baschny from Austria carried out a survey and conducted several meetings in order to improve the common understanding of the concept. Further information is to be gained at [www.forestpedagogics.eu](http://www.forestpedagogics.eu)

- **Follow up to the European Forest Week 2008 (follow up media work; evaluation of achievements and lessons learned; improved concept for future activities)**

Building on experiences made and lessons learned with the EFW 2008 the FCN evaluated the communication potential of a second EFW in 2013. Upon request by the TC and EFC Bureaus the FCN provides communication advice to the organisers of the EFW2013. The FCN established a Task Force for the European Forest Week 2013 to this end, which helped to identify communication objectives and to formulate key messages for the EFW2013, and also generated ideas for related events and other activities.

- **Preparations for the International Year of Forests 2011 (raising awareness in the region; developing a strategic outline for concerted activities of local, regional and global relevance)**

Noting the useful contribution national, regional and international actions made during the International Year of Forests 2011 to raising awareness about the importance of sustainable forest management, in December 2012 the General Assembly of the United Nations decided to proclaim 21 March of each year the International Day of Forests. All Member States are encouraged to organize activities, in order to celebrate and raise awareness of the importance of forests and of

trees outside forests. The Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests is requested, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to facilitate the implementation of the International Day, in collaboration with Governments, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and international, regional and subregional organizations and processes as well as relevant major groups.

The FCN had promoted this idea over years, finally with success, and sees in it an excellent hook for concerted communication efforts in the region and beyond.

- **Contributions to the EU Forest Action Plan, in particular on forest related environmental education and on a European forest communication strategy**

The FCN provided inputs to the EU Standing Forestry Committee's ad-hoc Working Group on the future EU Forest Strategy.

- **PR advice to TC/EFC bureaux and joint secretariat and to other UNECE/FAO Teams of Specialists, including the Team of Specialists on Forest Products Markets and Marketing**

The Strategic Framework for Forest Communication in Europe serves as a source book for all seeking support in forest related communication.

The FCN provides specific communication advice for the EFW2013.

FCN experts advised FAO on how to set up networks for promoting forest communication in other world regions. Workshops were held to this end in Peru for Latin America, in Tanzania for South and East Africa, and in Costa Rica for Central America.

The FCN also provides communication advice to the Bureau of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe (INC-Forests).

Since requests for communication advice have been increasing in the last years, coming in from different relevant organisations, the FCN at its meeting in June 2012 in Antalya took the decision, to *'provide communication expertise and advice upon request by relevant organisations and institutions, also beyond the ECE region, as far as expert time allows and necessary resources are available.'*

- **PR advice to the Forest Europe Liaison Unit Oslo upon request**

The FOREST EUROPE Liaison Unit as FCN member actively participates in sharing experiences and relevant information.

- **Building PR capacity in TC/EFC member countries through conducting workshops, sharing examples of best practice and holding topical meetings**

The annual FCN meeting 2012 was set up for broad participation and vivid information exchange. A collection on Best Practices in Forest Communication is posted on the FCN web site.

## **7. Expected outputs over next period by mandate item**

- **European forest communication strategy**

The FCN will continue to raise awareness about the useful content of the Strategic Framework for Forest Communication in Europe and will encourage its further implementation.



- **Gap analyses of existing opinion research and proposal for improving monitoring and regular analyses on public perception concerning forests, their management and related products**

At present the FCN as such lacks the resources for carrying out substantive work in this regard. However, the survey '*Shaping forest communication in the European Union: public perceptions of forests and forestry*' stimulated by the FCN and commissioned by the European Commission provides an excellent baseline on public perception as of 2009, at least for the EU region. It would be extremely useful, to update this rich source of information. Upon recommendation by the FCN the *EU Forest Communication Strategy* suggests undertaking a regular analyses of perceptions on forests, their management and related products, e. g. by integrating a set of respective questions into regular polls, such as the 'Eurobarometer'. FCN members will continue to recommend the respective follow up.

- **European Forest Pedagogics Concept based on best practice examples, common principles and quality standards for forest related environmental education**

The Sub-Group on Forest Pedagogics will present an up-date report on its activities and achievements at the next FCN meeting in Antalya, including a *European Strategy on Forest Pedagogics*.

- **Follow up to the European Forest Week 2008 (follow up media work; evaluation of achievements and lessons learned; improved concept for future activities)**

The next FCN meeting in May 2013 in Tallin will elaborate further on the EFW2013. The FCN will promote the initiative in the countries and encourage respective activities.

- **Preparations for the International Year of Forests 2011 (raising awareness in the region; developing a strategic outline for concerted activities of local, regional and global relevance)**

The next FCN meeting in May 2013 in Tallin will discuss on how to best capitalise on the International Days of Forests, to come regularly now each 21<sup>st</sup> March.

- **Contributions to the EU Forest Action Plan, in particular on forest related environmental education and on a European forest communication strategy**

In the context of the revision of the EU Forestry Strategy the FCN members will continue to promote the issue of forest communication as far as requested and appropriate.

- **PR advice to TC/EFC bureaux and joint secretariat and to other UNECE/FAO Teams of Specialists, including the Team of Specialists on Forest Products Markets and Marketing**

The FCN stays ready to further assist the joint secretariat and other ToS in this regard, within resources available.

The FCN intends to continue working with FAO in building up forest communicators networks in other world regions. A next workshop is envisaged for 2013 in Asia. A joint workshop with other regional FCNs is considered for 2013, possibly back to back with the Tallin meeting.

- **PR advice to the Forest Europe Liaison Unit Oslo upon request**

Work with the FOREST EUROPE Liaison Unit will continue.

- **Building PR capacity in TC/EFC member countries through conducting workshops, sharing examples of best practice and holding topical meetings**

The FCN meetings will continue to be designed for broad participation and vivid information exchange. Topical workshops should provide additional opportunities for deepening understanding on crucial issues and for sharing experiences and examples of best practice. All activities depend on the possibilities for holding meetings as well as on the possibility of experts to participate.

#### **8. Issues for the attention of the Secretariat and the Working Party**

The FCN has a different nature than other ToSs.  
 The FCN should actually have a permanent status. Otherwise the duration of a possible future FCN mandate should be 4 years as a minimum.  
 FCN membership policy must be kept open.

#### **9. Comments, lessons learned**

The FCN was established by the TC and the EFC already in 1994, as a ToS in public relations and for a two years period only. Very soon it became clear, that the communication group has a different nature to all the other expert groups under the TC/EFC. Effective communication was soon understood as a long term requirement and not something to be fixed for once with some report from a group that had worked for two years.

The duration of only two years for the mandate proved completely inadequate and was extended very soon to four year mandates, in synchronicity with the duration of the JPsoW. In reality, the FCN has been operating on a quasi permanent mode of work, however, in the absence of another formula it remained formally a ToS. The question is, if this should/could be adapted now to some permanent status, and if not, shortening the duration of the mandate to 2 years will certainly not be an option, many experts would wish to follow.

Limiting the membership to experts nominated by countries only, as done for other ToSs, proved inadequate for the task of improving forest related communication, in particular for broad involvement of stakeholders and for outreach to relevant sectors. Since long the communicators group has evolved from a group of experts with short term task setting to an interactive network dealing with long term activities, and a membership open to all sharing the objectives and willing to contribute to the tasks set out in the mandate.

At present out of the 131 persons listed as members of the FCN only 28 were nominated by countries. The rest are experts who showed interest in the work of FCN at some point, joined in and were put on the list 'on invitation by the FCN leaders' (to have some formality behind). Many of them stayed with the group and out of the ca. 40 most active members, 35 joined the group on basis of the open membership policy, only 5 had been 'nominated by countries'. In fact, without open membership policy the FCN would be dead.

And finally, what makes the FCN attractive and successful are the benefits it generates in terms of information and knowledge gain for experts from various institutions and organisations throughout the region. And this is at the end what helps to improve forest communication in the region.

In the absence of a regular budget the existence and activities of the network depend entirely on the willingness of organisations to allow the participation of their experts, and on their interest to host meetings and to provide resources for supporting publishing of results or other activities. If the FCN was only meant to support the UN bodies and their programs, it would be difficult to get

people on board. The bosses of the people working with the FCN have to see added value for their respective entities. But if done smart, at the end all benefit, including the UN institutions and their programmes.

And finally, there are certainly not many sectors having communication advice practically for free.

19 April 2013

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION  
FOR EUROPE**

**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
ORGANIZATION**

Timber Committee

European Forestry Commission

**Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party  
on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management**

Thirty-fifth session

Geneva, 23-25 April 2013

Agenda item 5 of the provisional agenda

**Self-Assessment of the Working Party**

Note by the secretariat

*Summary*

This document explains the background of the self-assessment, the objectives and the intended procedure planned to carry it out.

## **I. Background**

1. The Working Party mandate has been changed twice in the last few years. Following the 2001 Strategic Review “it was agreed that the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics should provide guidance for work areas 1 [markets and statistics], 2 [forest resources] and 3 [outlook] of the integrated programme, and act as an interface between the technical and the intergovernmental levels” (TIM/EFC/WP.2/2003/1).

2. Following the 2008 Strategic Review “it was agreed that the Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics should provide guidance for work areas 1, 2, 3 and elements of monitoring and analysis of policies and institutions of the integrated programme, and act as an interface between the technical and the intergovernmental levels” (ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2009/1). The main reason behind this was to leverage the Working Party’s experience to improve work in other areas that relied upon data and analysis.

3. In 2011 “The Committee and the Commission examined a proposal by the TC and EFC Bureaux to extend the mandate of the Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics to include the work of teams of specialists and harmonize their reporting lines. The proposal of the Bureaux was accepted with the understanding that the new arrangements would be valid for a trial period of two years, until the 2013 Strategic Review of the Integrated Programme of Work on forestry and timber was completed and the work of the Working Party reviewed again” (paragraph 48, ECE/TIM/2011/20–FO:EFC/2011/20). The reasons for this were that the Teams of Specialists were not all reporting in the same way and it was felt the Teams would benefit from improved visibility and possibilities for cooperation.

4. At the 2012 session the Working Party agreed to undertake a self-evaluation at the next session as part of its contribution to the 2013 Strategic Review. The current mandate of the Working Party is available in the agenda document (ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2013/1).

## **II. Objective and Expected Outcome**

5. The purpose of the self-evaluation is to determine whether the Working Party considers it is carrying out its mandate satisfactorily and has the appropriate capacity to do so. The participants should indicate their level of satisfaction with the current arrangements and make recommendations on the scope and methods of work of the Working Party to the parent bodies (ECE Committee on Forest and Forest Industry [formerly Timber Committee] and FAO European Forestry Commission).

## **III. Proposed Procedure**

6. The Secretariat (after consulting with the Chair and Vice-Chairs) suggests that the Working Party split into a number of smaller groups (of a maximum of 10 persons). Each group will be asked to review the following question “How well is the Working Party accomplishing its mandate?” This question will be explored using the technique of an “H-form” which is designed to elicit the maximum number of comments and bring them together in a constructive manner. There will be a short introduction to explain the form and procedure, followed by work in smaller groups and then a return to the plenary session to consolidate the comments and finalize the results.

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