**Concept Note**As of March 2015

**UNECE/FAO Joint Enquiry on Game Meat**

**Background**

Forest resources provide a broad variety of wood and non-wood products. With increasing uptake of sustainable forest management for multiple uses, there has been a growing interest in assessing socioeconomic and food security impact of non-wood forest products (NWFPs) and exploring potential ways to improve their production and commercialization. Despite their importance, the values of NWFPs have long been underestimated.

One of the most evident reasons for the underestimation is the poor availability and quality of national or regional statistics on NWFPs. FAO’s Forest Resource Assessment (FRA) program collects information on NWFPs as a minor part of the comprehensive questionnaire on global forest resources once every five years. The UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section also collects the information periodically for pan-European countries as an indicator (productive function) of sustainable forest management. With the growing interests in assessing full economic value of forests in the UNECE region, improving availability and quality of data on NWFPs has become a priority for us.

At the 36th Session Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management in 2014, FAO proposed collaboration to improve data on NWFPs in the region and received interest from the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section and a group of member states (Italy, Spain, Switzerland and Turkey) .

Game meat is selected due to its relative importance in general in the UNECE region. According to FAOSTAT, the region produced around 400,000 tonnes of game meat in 2013, valued at around $ 850 million (at 2004-2006 constant prices). The export value of game meat in the region has almost doubled in the past decade from US$190 million in 2001 to US$ 365 million in 2011. Despite its importance, there are some issues with the availability and quality of the data collected by FAO on production and trade of game meat (see Annex Table 1 attached). The data on game meat from FRA/SoEF surveys are available through table 4b (NWFP) in FRA and table 3.3 in State of Europe’s Forest (See Annex Table 2 attached). In SoEF 2011 15 countries in the pan-European region provided data on quantity and value of game meat production. The FRA/SoEF does not differentiate among species, putting all “wild meat” together.

Currently, FAOSTAT’s data on game meat are collected through an annual comprehensive questionnaire on agricultural production sent to national statistics bureau of a country. However, data on game meat are normally collected and compiled by the forestry or wildlife agency of a country in the region. This mismatch in subject and correspondents may contribute to the low availability and poor quality of data on game meat in FAOSTAT. By making the questionnaire specific and addressing to the right authority, availability and quality of data on game meat production could be improved.

**Objectives**

The enquiry aims at improving knowledge and understanding of game meat production and trade in the UNECE region and tries to shed light on the potential and future perspective of game meat production, utilization and commercialization in the region.

**Methodology**

A periodic (once every two years) questionnaire survey is proposed sending to national correspondent, asking information on national game meat production and trade. National statistical officers specialized in forest products are targeted as the initial correspondents. Most likely this would start with current JFSQ correspondents in the hope of leading to a recommendation for a more suitable expert (specialized in game meat).

Another option could be “harvesting” of already published data from national sources and associations (e.g. European hunting/game association, International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation).

**Uses**

The data will be used to compile a database on game meat production and trade in the UNECE region and entered into FAOSTAT-Agriculture Production and UNECE’s database. It can also be used for assessing economic contribution of forests from game animals as well as status and trend of game meat production/commercialization in the region.

**Scope**

Game meat in the survey is defined as meat of animals gathered in the wild, whose habitat is forest-related or -dependent. Meat from farmed game is excluded. Wild animals will be classified into mammal (large and small) and poultry. The major species (top 5) for each category in the region will be specified and listed separately. Other species in the category will be grouped together as “other”.

The following items will be included:

1. Quantity of production/harvest;
2. Quantity and value of marketed production;
3. Data source and quality assessment;
4. International trade of game meat of the country.

Additionally, expert estimates on the scale of farmed game in the country will be appreciated.

We can extract trade data on game meat from Comtrade. However, the current HS doesn’t separate game meat between wild game and farmed game. Countries are encouraged to provide estimates on trade in game meat (wild game) if the data are available. Based on the experience of UNECE, only part of meat is marketed while a significant amount of the game meat production (from hunting) is under-recorded. It will be estimated by the correspondent. This would be a major challenge for this exercise.

**Annex Table 1. Most recent FAOSTAT data on game meat production and trade in the UNECE region**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **2013 Production (Tonnes)** | **2011 Export Quantity (Tonnes)** | **2011 Export Value ($1000)** |
| Austria | 7000 | 2535 | 33012 |
| Belgium | .. | 4223 | 45648 |
| Bulgaria | .. | 0 | 0 |
| Canada | .. | 0 | 0 |
| Cyprus | 520 | 6 | 33 |
| Czech Republic | 1200 | 747 | 7633 |
| Denmark | 3692 | 95 | 1652 |
| Estonia | .. | 188 | 2058 |
| Finland | .. | 27 | 243 |
| France | .. | 3125 | 29145 |
| Germany | 70000 | 5605 | 59880 |
| Greece | .. | 13 | 57 |
| Hungary | .. | 1759 | 14938 |
| Italy | .. | 1024 | 6715 |
| Latvia | .. | 38 | 314 |
| Lithuania | 100 | 83 | 704 |
| Luxembourg | 60 | 42 | 695 |
| Malta | .. | 1 | 3 |
| Netherlands | 1500 | 5672 | 62133 |
| Norway | 3400 | 13 | 243 |
| Poland | 10000 | 6395 | 46291 |
| Portugal | 4500 | 36 | 172 |
| Romania | 4100 | 20 | 165 |
| Russian Federation | .. | 0 | 0 |
| Serbia | .. | 0 | 0 |
| Slovakia | 80 | 32 | 134 |
| Slovenia | .. | 848 | 11268 |
| Spain | 7200 | 3161 | 23650 |
| Sweden | 20000 | 461 | 5733 |
| Switzerland | 2301 | 59 | 857 |
| United Kingdom | 4800 | 1540 | 9913 |
| United States of America | 248400 | 350 | 1257 |

Source: FAOSTAT (2015)

Note: “..” denotes the data are not available in FAOSTAT.

**Annex Table 2. Non-Wood Goods - Animal Goods (Indicator 3.3) by Country in 2005**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Game meat, marketed (tonnes)** | **Market value of Game meat (1000 EUR)** |
| [Albania](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/publications/timber/Albania_Final-Draft-SoEF-20110110-DS_clean.xls) | .. | .. |
| [Andorra](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/publications/timber/Andorra_Final-Draft-SoEF-20110110-DS_clean.xls) | .. | .. |
| [Austria](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/publications/timber/Austria_Final_draft_SoEF_20110120_clean.xls) | 7080 | 15666 |
| [Belarus](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/publications/timber/Belarus_Final_draft_SoEF_20110120_clean.xls) | .. | .. |
| [Belgium](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/publications/timber/Belgium_Final_draft_SoEF_20110120_clean.xls) | 1357 | 3315 |
| [Bosnia and Herzegovina](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/publications/timber/Bosnia_Herzegovina_Final-Draft-SoEF-20110110-DS_clean.xls) | .. | .. |
| [Bulgaria](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/publications/timber/Bulgaria_Final_draft_SoEF_20110120_clean.xls) | 1208 | 1240 |
| [Croatia](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/publications/timber/Croatia_Final_draft_SoEF_20110120_clean.xls) | 150 | 360.5 |
| [Cyprus](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/publications/timber/Cyprus_final_draft_SoEF_20110215_clean.xls) | .. | .. |
| [Czech Republic](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/publications/timber/Czech_R_Final_draft_SoEF_20110120_clean.xls) | .. | .. |
| [Denmark](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/publications/timber/Denmark_Final_draft_SoEF_20110120_clean.xls) | .. | .. |
| [Estonia](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/publications/timber/Estonia_Final_draft_SoEF_20110215_clean.xls) | .. | 3014 |
| [Finland](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/publications/timber/Finland_Final-Draft-SoEF-20110110_clean.xls) | .. | .. |
| [France](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/publications/timber/France_Final_draft_SoEF_20110120_clean.xls) | .. | .. |
| [Georgia](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/publications/timber/Georgia_Final-Draft-SoEF-20110110_clean.xls) | .. | .. |
| [Germany](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/publications/timber/Germany_Final_draft_SoEF_20110120_clean.xls) | .. | 180300 |
| [Greece](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/publications/timber/Greece_Final-Draft-SoEF-20110110-DS_clean.xls) | .. | .. |
| [Holy See](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/publications/timber/Holy_See_Final-Draft-SoEF-20110110-DS_clean.xls) | .. | .. |
| [Hungary](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/publications/timber/Hungary-Final_draft_SoEF_20110110_clean.xls) | 6770 | .. |
| [Iceland](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/publications/timber/Iceland_Final_draft_SoEF_20110120_clean.xls) | .. | .. |
| [Ireland](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/publications/timber/Ireland_Final-Draft-SoEF-20110110_clean.xls) | .. | .. |
| [Italy](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/publications/timber/Italy_Final_draft_SoEF_20110110_clean.xls) | .. | .. |
| [Latvia](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/publications/timber/Latvia_Final_draft_SoEF_20110120_clean.xls) | .. | .. |
| [Liechtenstein](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/publications/timber/Liechtenstein_Final-Draft-SoEF-20110110-DS_clean.xls) | .. | .. |
| [Lithuania](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/timber/meetings/20111010/Lithuania_Final_draft_SoEF_20110120_clean.xls) | 1632 | 2052 |
| [Luxembourg](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/publications/timber/Luxembourg_final_draft_SoEF_20110110-DS_clean.xls) | .. | .. |
| [Malta](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/publications/timber/Malta_Final-Draft-SoEF-20110110-DS_clean.xls) | .. | .. |
| [Moldova, Republic of](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/publications/timber/Republic_of_Moldova_Final-Draft-SoEF-20110110-DS_clean.xls) | .. | .. |
| [Monaco](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/publications/timber/Monaco_Final-Draft-SoEF-20110110-DS_clean.xls) | .. | .. |
| [Montenegro](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/publications/timber/Montenegro_Final-Draft-SoEF-20110215_clean.xls) | 101 | 288 |
| [Netherlands](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/publications/timber/Netherlands_final_draft_20110110_clean.xls) | 456 | 1824 |
| [Norway](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/publications/timber/Norway_Final_draft_SoEF_20110120_clean.xls) | 370 | 3625 |
| [Poland](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/publications/timber/Poland_final_draft_SoEF_20110120_clean.xls) | .. | 13322 |
| [Portugal](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/publications/timber/Portugal_Final_draft_SoEF_20110215_clean.xls) | 2634 | 36835 |
| [Romania](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/publications/timber/Romania_Final_draft_SoEF_20110120_clean.xls) | 263 | 421.8 |
| [Russian Federation](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/publications/timber/Russian_F_Final_draft_SoEF_20110215_clean.xls) | 16945 | 2240 |
| [Serbia](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/publications/timber/Serbia_Final-Draft-SoEF-20110110-DS_clean.xls) | .. | .. |
| [Slovakia](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/publications/timber/Slovakia_Final_draft_SoEF_2011215_clean.xls) | 1050 | 1373 |
| [Slovenia](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/publications/timber/Slovenia_Final-Draft-SoEF-20110110_clean.xls) | .. | 2377 |
| [Spain](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/publications/timber/Spain_Final-Draft-SoEF-20110110_clean.xls) | .. | 112702 |
| [Sweden](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/publications/timber/Sweden_Final_draft_SoEF_20110120_clean.xls) | .. | .. |
| [Switzerland](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/publications/timber/Switzerland_Final_draft_SoEF_20110120_clean.xls) | 1700 | 11300 |
| [The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/publications/timber/Macedonia_final_draft_SoEF_20110110_clean.xls) | .. | .. |
| [Turkey](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/publications/timber/Turkey_final_draft_SoEF_20110110_clean.xls) | .. | .. |
| [Ukraine](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/publications/timber/Ukraine_Final-Draft-SoEF-20110110_clean.xls) | .. | .. |
| [United Kingdom](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/publications/timber/UK_Final_draft_SoEF_20110120_clean.xls) | 3500 | 5100 |

Source: FRA/SoEF (2005)

Note: “..” denotes the data are not available in FRA/SoEF (2005).