



Roundtable discussion - 37th Session, Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party on
Forest Statistics, Economics and Management

20 March 2015, 10:00, Room V



“Approaches to the valuation of forest ecosystem services in the ECE region”

Forest products contribution to GDP

Contribution of the Forestry Sector to National Economies

Mr. Arvydas LEBEDYS

Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB)

TEEB application in the forest sector

Ivonne Higuero

UNECE/FAO
Forestry and Timber Section

Criteria and Indicators

Valuing forest goods and services in the Pan European reporting
process - use of existing C&I for reporting forest related values

Mr. Roman MICHALAK

UNECE/FAO
Forestry and Timber Section

Valuing forest goods and services in the Montreal Process – an
example from the United States of America.

Mr. Guy ROBERTSON

United States Department of
Agriculture-Forest Service

Country example

United Kingdom -

Ms. Sheila WARD

United Kingdom Forestry
Commission

Background:

“Measuring and communicating the contribution of the Forest Sector to a Green Economy” was discussed in during the 72nd session of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry. The Chair of the session concluded that there is *“clear interest among delegates to explore this further, in the form of a meeting or workshop”* and that *“this work should also be taken up by the Teams of Specialists and the joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management”* (para 57, ECE/TIM/2014/2). The Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management recommended that the Rovaniemi Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy be the subject of a discussion in 2015.

In order to address the request from both bodies, the roundtable discussion will focus on pillar D of the Rovaniemi Action plan: *“Long term provision of forest ecosystem services” with the goal that “forest functions are identified and valued and payments for ecosystem services (PES) are established, encouraging sustainable production and consumption patterns”*.

Objective(s):

“Develop and communicate ambitious and realistic strategies for the valuation of and payment for forest ecosystem services” and to *“review and develop approaches to the valuation of and payment for different forest ecosystem services, in the UNECE region and involve both research and policy bodies in this work”*. The roundtable seeks to complement the study on *“Payment for Ecosystem Services in a Green Economy”* (ECE/TIM/SP/34), which the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section conducted in 2014 with support provided by Finland, the Netherlands and Switzerland.

The way ahead:

The outcomes of the roundtable may provide input to the preparation leading up to Silva2015 to be held in Engelberg, Switzerland from 02 to 06 November 2015. The proposed theme of Silva2015, hosted by Switzerland, will be *“The Value of Forests”*. The Working Party may consider the option of proposing a more in depth workshop prior to Silva2015.

Questions to panellists:

What information on ecosystem, services and payments would be the most useful to collect?

1. Do the currently collected data provide sufficient information, what are the major gaps or redundancies?
2. Is the data required already available and of good quality?
3. If the most desirable data is not available or is not of good quality, how could good quality data be obtained or generated?
4. What are the known and the potential drawbacks of collecting and reporting such information?

Questions to delegates:

Who are the lead data providers in this area? How is the cooperation between forestry data providers, statistical offices and national accounting institutions?

What information does your country currently collect and report on with regards to ecosystem service quantities and/or values and/or payments for ecosystem services?

What information does your country not report but could report on with regards to ecosystem services with low or no additional costs?

If you were to design a system for gathering such data that could be applied universally across countries (in the ECE region, say), how might you design it so that the information provided:

- Was as comparable as possible across countries?
 - Required minimal or reasonable expense to gather and report?
- Produced information that would be useful for policy makers, researchers, and sector analysts in in your own country as well as other countries?