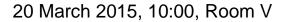


Roundtable discussion - 37th Session, Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party on

Forest Statistics, Economics and Management





"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?