

**ECE/FAO Teams of Specialists report to the
thirty-ninth session of the
Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on
Forest Statistics, Economics and Management**

Items for regular reporting to the JWPFSEM

1. Name :

Team of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management
Team website www.unece.org/forests/fr/methodsandprocesses/monitoringsustainable.html

2. Period covered:

April 2016– March 2017

3. Leader/Deputies and Secretary:

Leader: Stein M. TOMTER
Deputies: Annemarie BASTRUP-BIRK, Adrian LANZ, Kari T. KORHONEN
Secretary: Roman MICHALAK

4. Members: (Number only)

84 members

5. Countries: (List separated by comma)

31 countries: Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uzbekistan.

6. Meetings held:

Fourth meeting of the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management (14 - 16 September 2016), Zagreb, Croatia (www.unece.org/index.php?id=42845#/)

7. Outputs and impacts achieved during last year:

The main topics handled by the ToS last year were:

- a) **The study on forest ownership in the UNECE region.** The achievements of the project were presented and discussed, and the plans for the continuation of the projects were highlighted and commented on by the participants.
- b) **The process and results of the regional reporting (FOREST EUROPE).** The plans for the 2020 regional reporting and the results of the review of the most recent issue of State of Europe's Forests (2015) were discussed, together with suggestions on how to further improve the publication in the future. Furthermore, the need for pilot studies for new and significantly altered indicators was also commented by the members of the Team.
- c) **Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) – review of the past and plans for the current reporting cycle.** The main planned FRA activities until 2020, including expert consultations and country reporting process, were discussed in the light of an evaluation of the FRA 2015 assessment. The participants appreciated the support provided by FAO for compiling the data and the data collection tool and suggested a number of further improvements for future FRA.

A number of other issues related to the Team's work were presented and briefly discussed:

- Update on the reporting of increment in European Forest Resources Assessments
- DIABOLO – Distributed, Integrated and Harmonised Forest Information for Bioeconomy Outlooks.
- COST Action FP1207 ORCHESTRA – Orchestrating forest-related policy analysis in Europe.
- UNECE Strategic Review of the Integrated Programme of Work (IPoW) – the ToR and activities of the Team.
- Developments on the study on the System for the Evaluation of the Management of Forests (SEMAFOR).

8. Outputs and impacts expected for coming year:

It is expected that the work on the main topics from the previous year will continue:

- Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) – organisation of the process and content of the 2020 reporting cycle, including regional contribution to the FRA global expert consultation (June 2017).
- Organisation of the process and the content of the regional reporting (FOREST EUROPE), including modalities for the joint reporting with the global process
- Study on forest ownership in the UNECE region – review of the subsequent draft of the study.
- Strategic Review of the IPoW – the ToR and activities of the Team in the IPoW 2018-2021.

9. Issues for the attention of the Working Party: (if significant issues, how do we stimulate WP discussion

How to efficiently organise the regular data collection (FRA, pan-European reporting) in way that it addresses the emerging international needs (2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, IAF Strategic Plan, 2020 European Goals and Targets for Forests etc.)?

10. Activities proposed for the IPoW 2017-2021 (to be presented and discussed under Item 7)

1. Contribute to the global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) and the Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire 2020; support the data collection process; analysis of the status and trends, and the drafting and reviewing of the final report;
2. Contribute to the work on criteria and indicators (C&I) for SFM by FOREST EUROPE and the Montréal Process;
3. Assist the preparatory process of the State of Europe's Forests 2020: contribute to the reporting on quantitative indicators, analysis of information, coordination of inputs, authors' contributions and dissemination of results;
4. Contribute to further work on the assessment of the sustainability of forest management;
5. Contribute to the work on the development of global and regional forest indicators to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and the United Nations Strategic Plan on Forests;
6. Contribute to the development of the concept and modalities for a statistical data management system on forest resources, functions and services and SFM;
7. Provide input to other work areas on issues relevant to data, monitoring and assessment, including related capacity building, in particular to the UNDA project on "Accountability Systems for Sustainable Forest Management in the Caucasus and Central Asia";
8. Support international work and cooperation on monitoring of forest resources and SFM), including the European Union; (i.e. Eurostat, EEA, JRC) and other organizations (i.e. EFI, IUFRO, ICP) in this area.

11. Other comments: (collaboration with other ToS)

none

Date: 14/03/2017