



# Forest and The Circular Economy

*“Geneva vision for the circular economy in the forest sector” and a possible direction of work*



**Forêt2019 – Joint Session of the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the FAO European Forestry Commission**

**4-7 November 2019, Geneva, Switzerland**



# Circular Economy in the Forest Sector

- The circular economy – broad concept, many activities possible
- Successful implementation
  - Breaking the silos
    - From sectors to value chains (construction, textiles, plastics, energy)
    - Link with other policy priorities (SDGs, climate action, UN Strategic Forest Plan)
  - Building on
    - Existing activities and expertise in the Forestry and Timber Section
    - Existing mandates

# Background

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- **40<sup>th</sup> Session of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management (JWPFSEM)**
  - Stressed “the need for further discussion on the future of the Rovaniemi Action Plan and the need to link the Joint Section’s work more with the SDGs”.
  
- **The mid term review of the Rovaniemi Action Plan**
  - Concluded that there is “a need for a guiding tool for the sector “such as the RAP” after 2020.
  - Suggested that the new tool should:
    - “Include more actions on the promotion, communication and collaboration with other sectors
    - Have a stronger link to the international political context (e.g. SDGs).
    - Be updated to reflect and focus on the latest economic, social and political trends (e.g. employment trends, gender).
    - Define clearer reporting procedures”.

## Geneva Vision

- Proposes to agree on a joint vision for the forest sector
- Makes reference to relevant SDGs
- Builds on the previous FTS work on green economy
- Suggests direction of work

**The text will be presented for consideration of member States during this session**

# Possible way forward

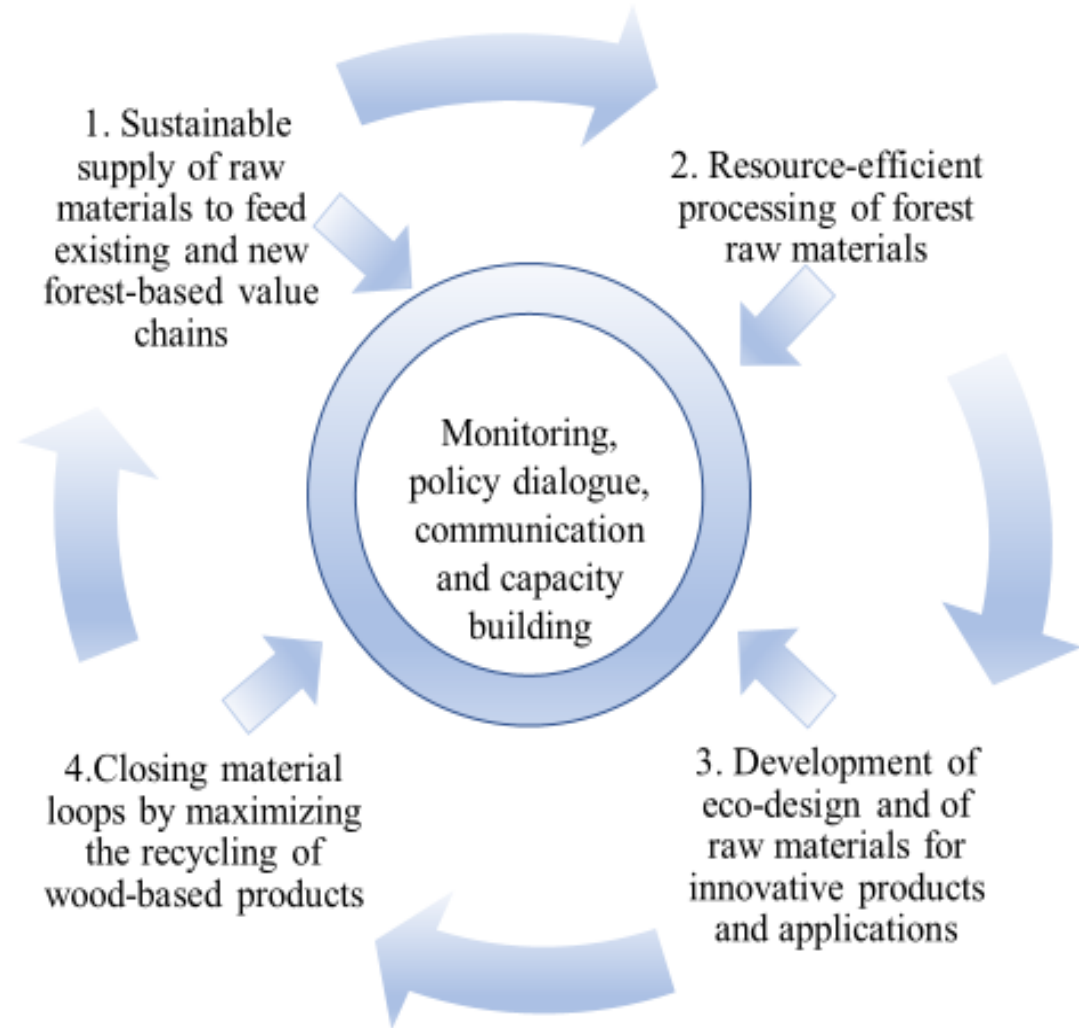
- **ANALYTICAL WORK (2020)**
- How to define the circular economy in the forest sector
- How to conserve and enhance forest resources stocks and balance forest resources flows through sustainable forest management;
- How to optimize the components and materials yields by circulating products, at the highest utility at all times in both technical and biological cycles;
- How to foster the circular system effectiveness by incorporating negative externalities into decision processes (e.g. carbon footprint and the impact on the forest ecosystem services).





# Possible way forward

**A GUIDING TOOL (2021)**





- **Forests and the circular economy**

- (a) Sustainable supply of forest resources for forest-based value chains;
- (b) Resource-efficient processing of forest raw materials
- (c) Eco-design and of new materials for innovative products and applications (e.g. textiles, bioplastics);
- (d) Recycling of wood-based products (linked to sustainable consumption models and recovery of post-consumer waste);
- (e) Monitoring, policy dialogue, communication and capacity building.

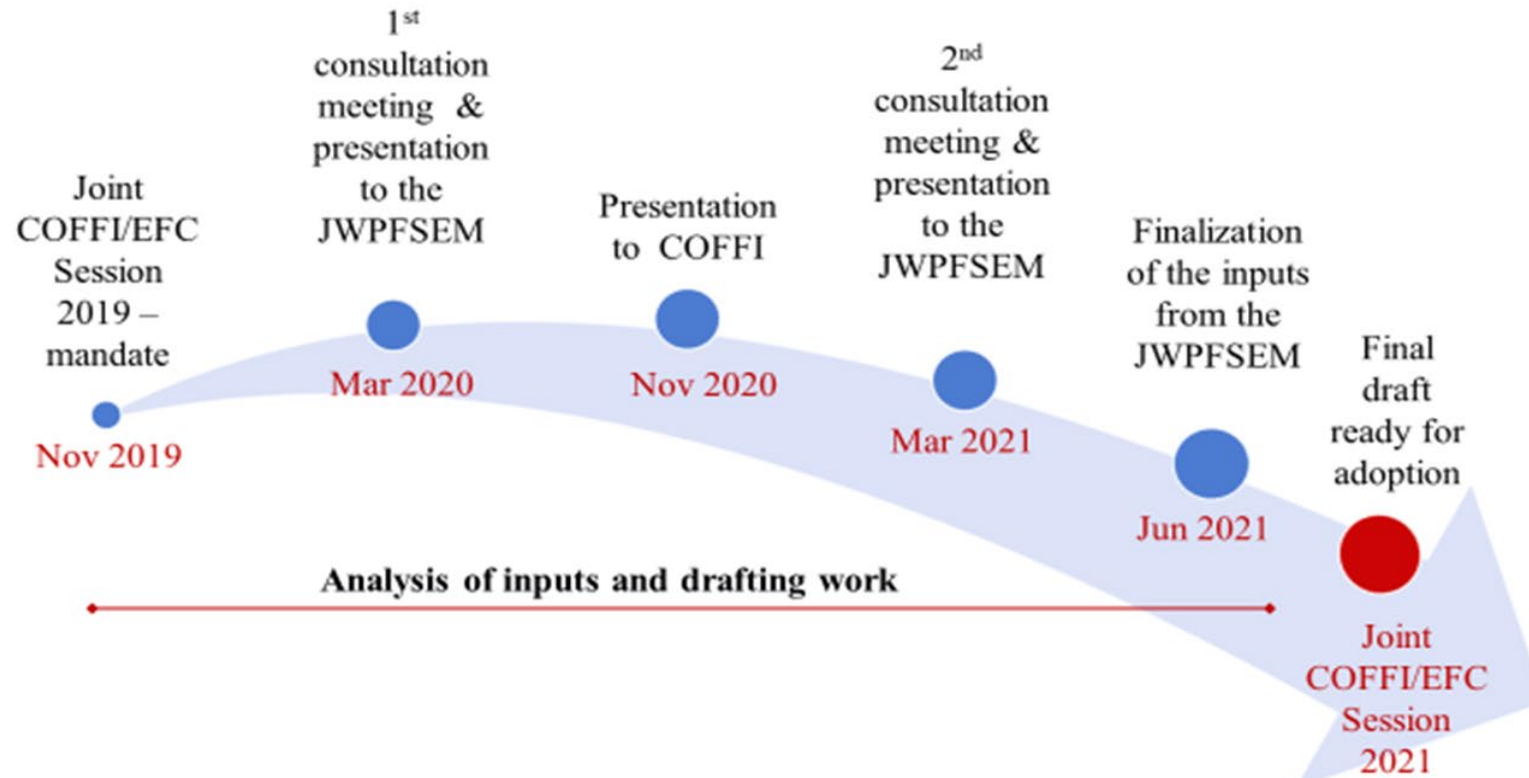
- **Forestry and Timber Section work resulting from WIPoW**

- (a) Forest resources monitoring and sustainable forest management;
- (b) Data collection and analysis
- (c) Forest products and markets, wood construction, wood energy;
- (d) UN Alliance for Sustainable Fashion;
- (e) Monitoring, policy dialogue, communication and capacity building.

**Link to existing FTS activities**



# Possible timeline





# Points for consideration

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- **The delegates of the Joint Session are invited to:**
  - (a) Discuss the concept of the circular economy, associated concepts and how they relate to the forest sector;
  - (b) Provide comments to the background document, which will serve as blueprint for a publication on the topic;
  - (c) Discuss and approve the ‘Geneva vision for the circular economy in the forest sector’;
  - (d) Advise on the future work of the Joint ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section.



# Thank you!



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