

24 February 2020

Economic Commission for Europe Food and Agriculture Organization

Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry European Forestry Commission

**Joint UNECE/FAO Working Party on
Forest Statistics, Economics and Management
Forty-second session**
Geneva, 24-25 March 2020

Compilation of all key questions for guidance and discussion

Note by the secretariat

Summary

This document is a compilation of all key questions for guidance and discussion. The document is provided in order to facilitate preparation and review of issues at the working party. The secretariat prepared the document in response to the self-assessments of the Working Party in 2013 and 2015 (ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2013/2; ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2015/2).

Please note that the original documents should still be reviewed and that this compilation does not replace the full text in the background documents prepared by the secretariat. All reports for the meeting can be found on the website: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=51934>

Agenda item 4: REVISION OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE JOINT WORKING PARTY

Documentation: ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2019/2, ECE/TIM/2018/2 and E/ECE/778/Rev.5

- The Working Party is invited to decide on whether to apply the new set of Rules of Procedure of ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI) or to keep applying ECE Rules of Procedure¹.

Agenda item 5 (a): GUIDANCE ON WORK AREA 1: DATA, MONITORING, REPORTING AND ASSESSMENT

Documentation: ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2020/3

I. Forest Resources

Key questions on forest resources for guidance and discussion

The Working Party is invited to:

- a. Take note of the data collection processes for the global and regional reporting, and make recommendations on the finalization of the 2020 cycle;*
- b. Take note of the results of thematic and regional outputs and provide advice on the possible follow up and dissemination process;*
- c. Review the work of the Team of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management and make recommendations for its work.*

ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management

Issues for the attention of the Working Party:

- The completion of the study on forest ownership in the ECE region marked a milestone in the work on this topic. The Team, recognising the results achieved, noted still insufficient availability of forest ownership related data and recommended continuing work that would support countries in this field;
- Results of the questionnaire on national forest damage assessment provided rich and valuable material on national work on this topic; in addition, they indicated the opportunity for extension of this work that would deepen analysis of forest damage in the ECE region. The Team supported the idea of establishment of a project on the development of the study on this topic (based on existing information);
- The launch of the periodic global and regional forest information is scheduled for 2020, which will renew the data of 2015. The Team noted that the launch provides an excellent opportunity for the sector to highlight the visibility of this information, and the sector in general, possibly through concerted actions among all stakeholders of this process, both countries and organizations, also from beyond the traditional extent of the sector. The potential of currently built/developed repositories, websites and data platforms (at all levels) should be used to maximum extent in this regard;
- The Team noted the excellent overall rate of national responses to the international 2020 forest reporting, regardless of this, the recent reporting revealed even deepening differences among capacities of countries in collecting and analysing forest information. Improving of this situation requires thorough

¹ This reference was not included in the annotated agenda and was added here by the secretariat in order to provide complete information for delegates. The secretariat will highlight the main points (election of officers and duration of the bureau) contained in each of the documents in a short overview presentation to the Joint Working Party. E/ECE/778/Rev.5 (https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/oes/mandate/Commission_Rev5_English.pdf)

work starting from the root level and efforts to even reporting capacities across the ECE region and worldwide are still of highest priority and highly recognised by the Team (e.g. in the Caucasus and Central Asia regions).

II. Forest Products' production, trade and consumption

Key questions on data collection for guidance and discussion

The Working Party is invited to:

- a. Advise on future work of the Team of Specialists on Forest Products Statistics.*

Key questions on data assessment for guidance and discussion

The Working Party is invited to:

- a. Encourage replies to the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire 2019 (JFSQ) in time for the use of data in the Forest Products Annual Market Review (FPAMR);*
- b. Discuss future funding, format and content of the FPAMR;*
- c. Advise on future work of the Team of Specialists on Sustainable Forest Products, including the extension of its mandate.*

ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Products Statistics

Issues for the attention of the Working Party:

- Supporting the participation in the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Forest Sector Statistics and attendance at other international meetings;
- Supporting to the Harmonized System 2022 revision, review of international classifications;
- Providing assistance to the initiatives for capacity building of statistical correspondents and improving the statistical system for forest products in countries in south eastern Europe. A 2020 capacity-building workshop could involve experts and non-experts with separate programmes. Serbia was identified as host country.

ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Sustainable Forest Products

Issues for the attention of the Working Party:

- Securing adequate multi-annual funding for the production of the FPAMR.

III. Wood Energy

Key questions on wood energy data assessment for guidance and discussion

The Working Party is invited to:

- a. Discuss the key issues related to wood energy in member States;*
- b. Provide feedback on the work on the Joint Wood Energy Enquiry (JWEE) and discuss how to further improve the response rate to the JWEE;*
- c. Consider giving a formal mandate to the Joint Section and the ToS on Wood Energy to contribute to the future task force on indicator 10 of the Global Core Set of Indicators (“Wood-based energy share of total final energy consumption”);*
- d. Advise on future work of the Team of Specialists on Wood Energy.*

ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Wood Energy

Issues for the attention of the Working Party:

- Foreseeing opportunities for cooperation with other UN-bodies (ECE Air Convention, UN Environment Programme, World Health Organization) in the context of the ECE Air Convention.

Agenda item 5 (b): GUIDANCE ON WORK AREA 2: POLICY DIALOGUE AND ADVICE

Documentation: ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2020/4

I. Forest Policy

Key questions on forest policy for guidance and discussion

The Working Party is invited to:

- a. Provide guidance and advice on how the Joint Section could support the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda and accelerated action and delivery within the scope of Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work (WIPoW) and contribute to the implementation of the United Nations Forum on Forests Strategic Plan.*

II. Forest Sector Outlook

Key questions on forest sector outlook for guidance and discussion

The Working Party is invited to:

- d. Inform the Joint Section about current or planned activities in member States regarding outlook studies;*
- e. Provide feedback on the progress made for the current Forest Sector Outlook Study (FSOS);*
- f. Consider supporting the dissemination of the FSOS as well as follow-up capacity building through in-kind and financial contributions;*
- g. Inform the Joint Section about capacity building needs.*

ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Sector Outlook

Issues for the attention of the Working Party:

- Request country reviews of the 2020 Forest Sector Outlook Study to be completed by 31 May 2020;
- Request possible venues for presentations of the 2020 FSOS;
- Request guidance on specific issues and activities in the coming term for the newly merged FSOS-FP ToS;
- New leadership team needed for the newly merged FSOS-Forest Policy ToS: Leader, Deputy Leaders (2).

Agenda item 5 (c): GUIDANCE ON WORK AREA 3: COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH

Documentation: ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2020/5

Key questions on communications and outreach for guidance and discussion

The Working Party is invited to:

- a. Comment on activities related to communication, and share views and ideas on how to improve the work in the future (social media presence, including Facebook, Flickr and Twitter; the Forest Information Billboard; news or press releases; presence at major international events, campaigns, etc.);*
- b. Provide guidance to the Joint Section on how to improve the website for the needs of delegates and national correspondents;*
- c. Provide guidance to the Joint Section on which meetings should be attended and with which organizations the communication should be improved.*

ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Communicators' Network (FCN)

Issues for the attention of the Working Party:

- Next FCN Meeting in Slovenia September 2020.

Agenda item 5 (d): GUIDANCE ON WORK AREA 4: CAPACITY BUILDING

Documentation: ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2020/6

Key questions on communications and outreach for guidance and discussion

The Working Party is invited to:

- a. Comment on the work and make proposals for future capacity-building work on the reporting on forests and forest management;*
- b. Suggest topics for possible future capacity-building workshops;*
- c. Comment on the ECE/FAO capacity-building projects focusing on eastern and south-eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia on the topics of forest landscape restoration and Sustainable Forest Monitoring (SFM).*

ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Green Jobs in the Forest Sector

Issues for the attention of the Working Party:

- Any advice on the future thematic focus after 2021 for the ToS on Green Jobs in the Forest Sector?
- Any advice on the collaboration with other key partners on the topic, including International Labour Organization (ILO) and Forest Europe?
- Which ongoing international programmes should be taken into consideration for the future work of the ToS?