



Programme (as of 26 March 2009)

UNECE/FAO Timber Section

Workshop on Estimating Potential Sustainable Wood Supply

30 March 2009, Salle XII, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Starting time: 10:00 am

Ending time: 6:00 pm

Objectives:

- Exchange and share national experiences between countries that have already conducted potential wood supply studies and others that can learn about the difficulties and challenges
- Discuss the methodology and findings of the UNECE/FAO draft study on "Potential Sustainable Wood Supply in Europe"
- Bring together national correspondents and resource specialists in order to discuss the methodologies, definitions and results of wood potential studies in general, and consider whether good practice guidelines in this field should be drawn up
- Finally, contribute to building a comprehensive and reliable picture of potential wood supply as input to energy and forest policies making

Expected results:

- Review regional and national potential wood supply as regards methods and results
- Revised version of the UNECE/FAO study on "Potential Sustainable Wood Supply in Europe"
- A good practice guide on wood supply studies (scope, terminology, appropriate methods) (if considered appropriate by the workshop)

Follow up:

The results of the workshop shall be used to prepare an integrated study that can be used as a starting point for the workshop on "Wood Mobilization" hosted by the French government in June 2009.

Tentative schedule:

MORNING	5 min	Welcome	Chairman
	15 min	Wood potential assessments – overview on different regional studies (scope, methodology, database, assumptions, results)	A. Asikainen, Metla
	15 min	Discussion	
	15 min	UNECE/FAO study on Potential Sustainable Wood Supply in Europe	UNECE/FAO
	30 min	Discussion about data, methodology, definition, scope etc.	
	15 min	Assessment of the Country Statements on Potential Wood Supply (from 30th Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics, 2008)	UNECE/FAO
	15 min	Discussion	
	15 min	Concept for a comparison between inventory data and wood consumption statistic	U. Mantau, Univ. Hamburg
	15 min	Discussion	
	15 min	Data on wood potential: Forest Resource Assessment, State of Europe's Forests and Forest Sector Outlook	UNECE/FAO
	15 min	Discussion	
	120mn	Lunch break	
AFTERNOON	15 min	Presentation of wood potential estimation example – Finland	J. Hämäläinen, Metsäteho
	15 min	Presentation of wood potential estimation example – Slovak Republic	R. Svitok, Forest Research Institute
	15 min	Presentation of wood potential estimation example – Switzerland	P. Camin, BAFU
	20 min	Discussion	
	25 min	Sustainability discussion: Countries' statements and statements from stakeholders and market actors	
	15 min	Break	
	60 min	Panel discussion “Best practices of wood potential assessments” (scope, terminology, appropriate methods)	
	10 min	Conclusions and round-up	UNECE/FAO
	5 min	Information on wood mobilization workshop – Grenoble/France 16-17 June 2009	

Timing:

195 min Discussions
 135 min Presentation
 135 min Breaks
 20 min Chair

Background:

“How much wood is available on a sustainable basis for energy and raw material in Europe?” This question has become urgent in the light of the ambitious targets for biomass energy being adopted at national and European level, and the necessity to look at all sources of wood – not only the forest, but also industry and logging residues, recovered wood and trees outside the forest, as well as forest extension onto agricultural land.

Scientists and officials have been working intensely at this issue for some years, and preliminary results are available for many regions and types of wood. UNECE/FAO, with its partners, has made several significant contributions. However the overall picture is still not clear. Among the major issues to be clarified are the potential of tree biomass, recovered wood and trees outside the forest, and the economic, social and ecological conditions which will determine the wood availability. This workshop aims to bring together recent work and to propose an overall assessment of potential sustainable wood supply, based on all available information, for review by national and international experts. This assessment would then be valuable input to policy makers, in the forest sector and the energy sector.

Given the fact that many countries have acquired new expertise in recent years, and that there are many problems in aggregating results of studies undertaken with different methodologies, there may be a need for a good practice guidelines in the field of estimating potential wood supply to help new entrants and enhance comparability of results.

Target Audience:

Participants may come from Governments and EU institutions, research institutions, international governmental and non-governmental organisations, in particular:

- Those responsible for estimating wood supply at the national or international level
- Those responsible for studies of the outlook for the forest sector (national and international)
- Those responsible for estimating biomass availability for energy policy
- Forest sector and energy sector policy makers or their advisers
- Experts on different sources of wood supply (forest resources), wood use (forest products), and/or wood energy
- Experts interested in wood balances, wood flow models
- Correspondents from countries (ministries for forests and energy) and forest services interested in empirical research
- Interested stakeholders including forest owners, forest management, forest-based industry and bioenergy