



## Informal discussion

Overview of Strategic Review Process and Survey Results - Item 2



FORESTS



**Virtual**

**18 June 2020**



# Agenda of the meeting

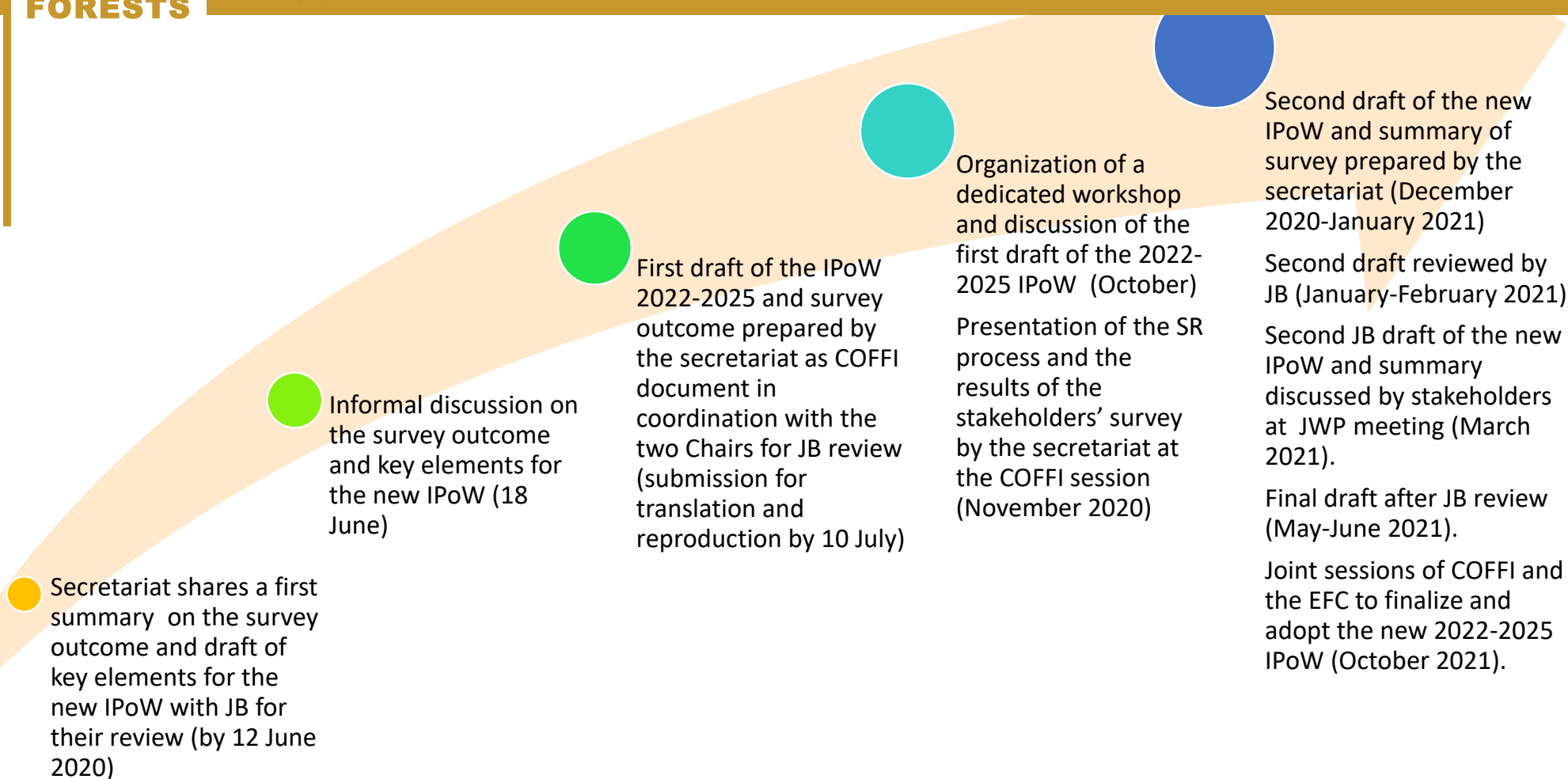
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5 min.	Item 1.	Opening and adoption of the agenda
20 min.	Item 2.	Overview of Strategic Review Process and Presentation of Survey Results
80 min.	Item 3.	Analysis of survey results and comments about possible components of a new IPoW 3a. Work Areas; 3b. Teams of Specialist
15 min.	Item 4.	Wrap-up by the co-moderators

# Strategic Review status

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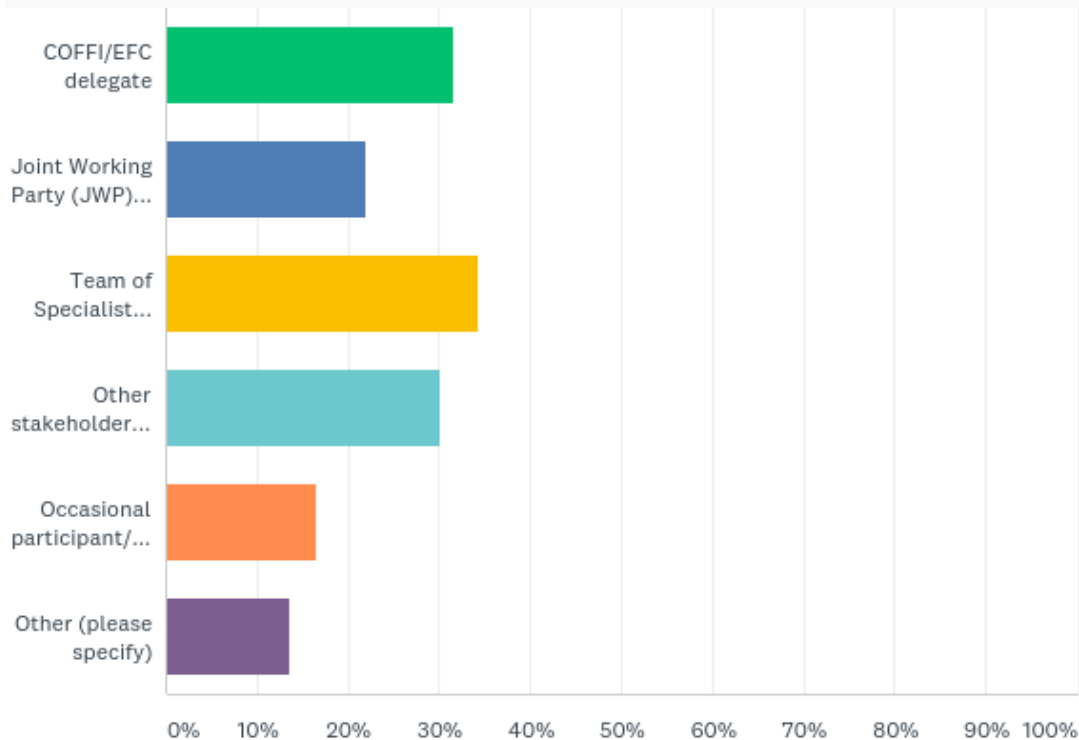
# Survey overview

## Participants

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- 73 responses total
- 14 from member State representatives
- 28 countries



## Most relevant themes identified

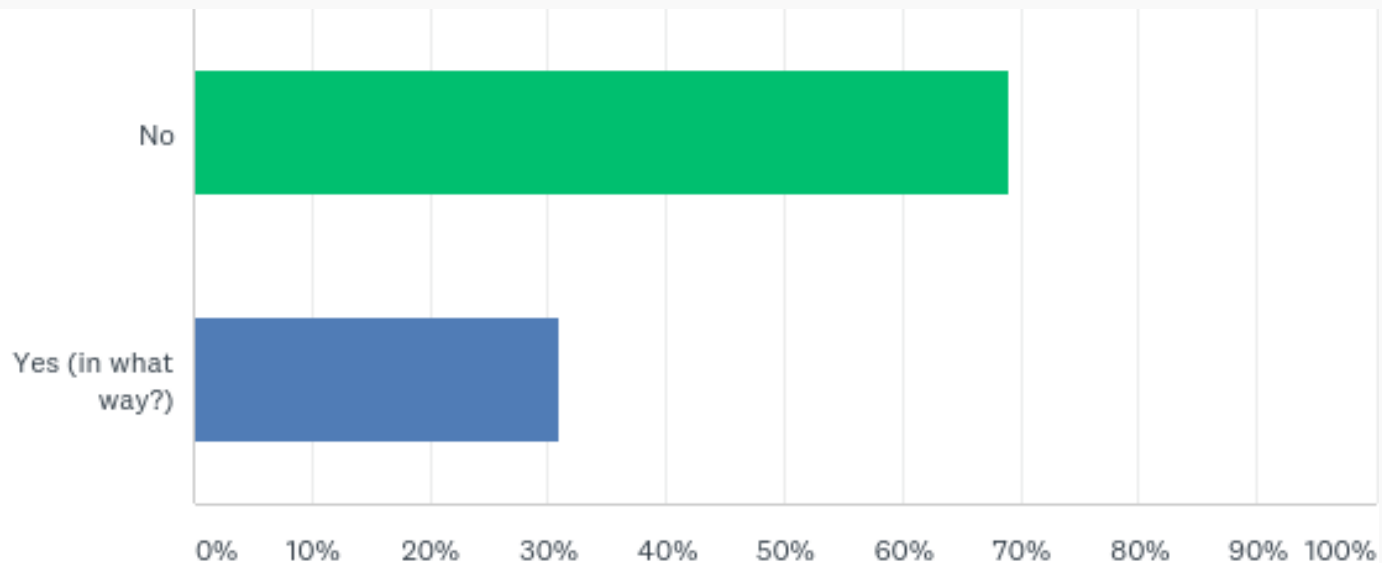
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- Forest resources (77%)
- Forest products and markets (72%)
- The role of the forest sector in a circular bio-economy (56%)
- Wood Energy (51%)

# Should the goals and objective of the new IPoW 2022-2025 be modified?

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# In what way it should goals and objectives be modified:

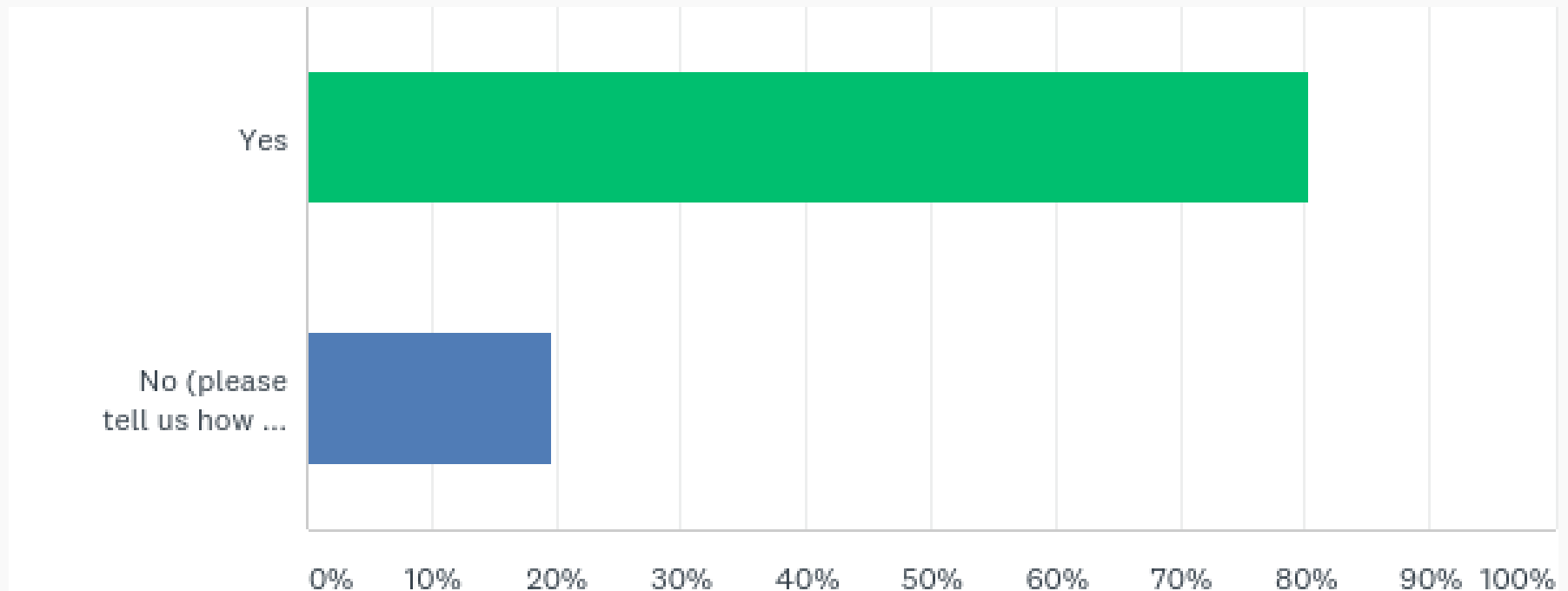
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- Assessing the role of forests in climate change mitigation and trade-offs between sequestration in forests vs. wood products;
- More emphasis on forest disturbances (incl. fire), biodiversity, change of species composition of forests;
- Focus on the role/contribution of forests and wood in the circular bio-economy.

# Did the scope of the WIPoW 2018-2021 address challenges of the region in a meaningful way?

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# How could the next IPoW 2022-2025 be improved?

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- Spell out linkages between SFM and the green economy;
- More attention to discussions on circular bioeconomy, definitions and sharing good practices
- More attention and analysis in relation to impact of COVID-19 crisis on forest sector and lessons learned for the future;
- Strengthen scientific and innovation dimensions;
- More attention should be given to issues of protecting forests against forest fires, pests and diseases, including invasive species;
- Integrate decisions related to forest and forestry under the UNFCCC, Paris Agreement, National Determined Contribution and UNCCD and UNCBD
- Make IPoW and its outputs more visible to relevant actors in the region;
- Avoid duplication of efforts with existing work at national, regional and global levels.

# Main achievements of the Joint Working Party

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- Collect data tailored to the forest sector (e.g. wood energy and JWEE);
- Share developments in forest statistics, including standard definitions;
- Enhance dialogue between technical experts;
- Provide opportunity for exchange of experiences between Teams of Specialists

# Main shortfalls of Joint Working Party and ways of addressing them

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- Main shortfalls:
  - Lack of financial commitment for activities and to support participants;
  - Lacking visibility;
  - Unbalanced participation of countries and stakeholders in the forest sector.
- Ways of addressing them:
  - Have systematic information on the representativeness of the people participating in ToS, in order to judge the relevance of their contribution;
  - Allow some time during the JWP meetings to carry out in-depth discussion on issues and challenges important for the forest sector;
  - Provide opportunity to answer some important questions raised by ToS before the meeting via questionnaire and thereby gain opinions from countries which cannot participate on the JWP and it could facilitate discussion during the meeting;
  - In order to allow for proper exchange and networking opportunities, the JWP should be at least three days long.

# Scope and effectiveness of Joint Working Party

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- 46% said the scope and effectiveness of the JWP is adequate to achieve its purposes
- Those that did not raised the following issues:
  - Scope of JWP is now too broad to be effectively covered by the majority of participants. Suggest narrowing focus of the JWP, e.g. dealing with “management” issues by other means?
  - The scope of JWP needs to go to lower levels if we want that the programme results. Even if it is only at monitoring the implementation of the programme.
  - Reduce the risk of duplicating the activities of the two entities, COFFI and EFC. Refocus the activities of COFFI on analysing wood markets, their development, opportunities and risks. The private sector has almost deserted the joint sessions because they no longer meet their needs and have become largely politicized.

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- Page visits to Forests Website constitute a small percentage of overall visits to ECE pages (only 1.3%)
- Communication campaigns including the Forests for Fashion initiative and Trees in Cities Challenge attract considerable attention, especially on social media
- Top 5 downloads in 2019: 1. Price Output Table, 2. FPAMR 2018, 3. Unit Price 1967-2017 4. UN partnership on sustainable fashion programme 5. Unit price 1967-2018 with 604 downloads.
- Forest Information Billboard marks a steady increase in the number of readers, with 5155 total views in 2019, compared to 4757 in 2018, and 3636 in 2017
- Most viewed videos include: More Heat with Less Wood from 2016 (134 898 views, the highest in the ECE by 40,000), Made in Forests from 2018 (4950 views), Trees in Cities Challenge from 2019 (2571 views)



- Most in need of improvement:
  - Databases (26%)
  - Website (23%)
  - Social media (17%)
- Comments:
  - More user friendly online databases, considering the following distinction: relevant indicators for policy makers (e.g. Global core set of forest-related indicators); flat file for research
  - Strengthened cooperation with professional media representatives in order to improve forestry related communication and main messages
  - Digitalization of databases still lacking behind
  - Increase visibility, modern visualization
  - Develop a database for conversion factors; develop database for new products; no central database on forest resources and their development
  - Encourage more young people to attend European Forest Week



- Most useful:
  - Forest Products Annual Market Review (71%)
  - COFFI Market Forecast (27%)
  - Wood Energy in the ECE region (27%)
  - Guidelines for the Development of a Criteria and Indicator Set (27%)
  - Forest Ownership in the ECE region (27%).
- Ways to improve:
  - Better visibility, more effective (digital) dissemination
  - Ensuring translation into French, Spanish and Russian
  - Make publications shorter, more focused
  - Reconsider effort to produce publication vs other means of making information available

# Capacity-building

## Survey analysis

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- Particularly useful capacity-building activities:
  - UNECE-FAO UNDA project - Workshops (e.g. on criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management)
  - Forest Landscape Restoration - technical workshops and ministerial meetings
- Ideas on how to improve:
  - Capacity-building activities could be transferred to common learning, where experts from different MS and organizations share their knowledge between each other.
  - Increase visibility and share results and best practices in regional workshops and JWP meetings
  - Support capacity building with case studies and demo activities in SFM
  - Capacity building workshops are very useful tool to enhance response rates and data quality



# Innovative partnerships that could better address needs of the region

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- Make use of existing partnerships before creating new ones;
- More private sector involvement;
- EU Commission on wood energy reporting for RED II;
- Indigenous people's representatives (Boreal);
- Academia and research institutions could be involved in scientific studies;
- Smart cooperation with Forest Europe;
- Involve UN Environment Geneva in developing innovative partnerships with private sector (e.g. blended finance, new finance instruments)



# Ways the Joint Section could improve its work

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- Good and result-oriented cooperation between ECE and FAO (with each other instead of against each other)
- Achievements about the work areas could be share periodically with the members in order to get feedback and advice.
- ECE/FAO have to talk at lower levels and make them participate as a fundamental part of the programme. Go below the top-hierarchy levels in Eastern European and Central Asian countries to make real progress, not just on the paper.
- Perhaps we could make the deliverables more clear and work towards joint (scientific) articles with our ToS.
- More interaction with private sector, certifying bodies, NGOs.
- Define more specific targets in policy dialogue and workshop events.





Food and Agriculture Organization  
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# Thank you!



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**UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section**

18 June 2020, Geneva, Switzerland

