UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section
An international institution in forest data collection and assessment
A first introduction and overview of our work

Online presentation to SLU students
09 September 2020, Geneva, Switzerland
1. Economic Commission for Europe
2. Governance
3. Data and statistics on forest products
4. Forest Products Annual Market Review
5. Improving data quality and availability
6. Discussion
1. Economic Commission for Europe
Joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section

... is the successor of the Comité du Bois which existed since the 1930’s

... was established in 1947

... is one of five UN regional commissions

... facilitates greater economic integration and cooperation among its 56 member States

... promotes sustainable development and economic prosperity
Forestry and Timber

Introduction

The United Nations vision is of a world in which all types of forests and trees outside forests are sustainably managed, contribute to sustainable development and provide economic, social, environmental and cultural benefits for present and future generations (UNFF, Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030).

The Joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section supports developing evidence-based policies for sustainable forest management and communicates about the many products and ecosystem services provided to society while assisting countries of the region to monitor and manage forests.

Key areas of work

- Forest Products
- Forest Monitoring
- Forest Statistics
- Communication
- Capacity Building
- Wood Energy
- Green Jobs
- Forest Sector Outlook
- Ecosystem Services
- Policy Dialogue
- Forest for Fashion
- Circularity
The forest in the UNECE region covers:

• 41% of the global total
The forest in the UNECE region covers:

- 41% of the global total
The forest in the UNECE region covers:

- 41% of the global total
- 85% global certified area
The two major schemes, the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC), reported a combined total of 525 million ha of certified forest, as of mid-2019.

After accounting for double-certification (i.e. forest areas certified by both certification bodies), however, this dropped to 434.5 million ha.
The forest in the UNECE region covers:

- 41% of the global total
- 85% global certified area
- ... global industrial roundwood production
The forest in the UNECE region covers:

• 41% of the global total
• 85% global certified area
• ... global industrial roundwood production
The forest in the UNECE region covers:

• 41% of the global total
• 85% global certified area
• 60% of global industrial roundwood “production”
2. Governance
The Joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section

Governance structure for the Integrated Programme of Work [current cycle 2018-2021]
UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section

Work Areas:
1. Data, monitoring and assessment
2. Policy dialogue and advice
3. Communication and outreach
4. Capacity building
SDGs and the Integrated Program of Work
Historically strong focus on wood based industries and products
SDG 15: Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss

15.1: By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements

15.2: By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally

15.4: By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development

Other relevant SDGs

SDG 6: Water  SDG 9: Sustainable Industrialization
SDG 7: Sustainable Energy  SDG 12: Sustainable consumption and production

UN Strategic Plan for Forests (2017-2030)

Mission: To promote sustainable forest management and the contribution of forests and trees outside forests to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including by strengthening cooperation, coordination, coherence, synergies and political commitment and actions at all levels.
Joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section

Work Areas:
1. Data, monitoring and assessment;
2. Policy dialogue and advice
3. Communication and outreach
4. Capacity building
Examples of recent achievements

- WA1: Data, monitoring and assessment
  - Studies: *Forest Products Annual Market Review 2019-2020* (in print); *Wood Energy in the ECE region: Data, trends and outlook in Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States and North America*
  - Interactive database on *Forest Ownership in the UNECE Region*
  - Global and regional reporting incl. training for national correspondents from Europe and CCA
  - Unique set of data for forests in the region to support policymaking
  - About 2,000 experts mobilized in the region
Major activities planned for the future

- WA1: Data, monitoring and assessment
  - State of Europe’s Forests
  - Pan-European Reporting on Forests
  - Study on Forest Ownership in the UNECE Region
  - Joint Wood Energy Enquiry and wood energy study

**IMPACT/OPTPUT**

Open-source, transparent, reliable forest sector data for the ECE region

- Improve knowledge about the relevance of wood energy in the region
- Provide member States with the best-available sources of information on the role that wood energy can play in various sectors to support environmental, energy, and socio-economic strategies towards a greener economy
Examples of recent achievements

**WA2: Policy advice and dialogue**

- **Ministerial Roundtable** on Forest Landscape Restoration and the Bonn Challenge in the Caucasus and Central Asia
- **Mid-term Review** of Rovaniemi Action Plan → priority actions developed
- **National Forest Policy Dialogues** in Azerbaijan, Ukraine and Kazakhstan
- **Studies**: *Forests and Water – Valuation and payments for ecosystem services* – including the most comprehensive database of case studies on water-related payments for forest ecosystem services schemes in the UNECE region; *Green Jobs in the Forest Sector*

**Outputs**

- **3 million ha of landscape** committed for restoration in the Caucasus and Central Asia
- Astana Resolution: committing the region to go beyond 2.5 million ha and strengthen partnerships and regional cooperation
- Countries are using guidance on key policy issues

**Impact**
Major activities planned for the future

- **WA2: Policy advice and dialogue**
  - Forest Sector Outlook study
    - Provide capacity building to member States to adapt and use the results for their respective national needs
  - Guidelines on Green Jobs in the Forest Sector
  - Monitoring of implementation of the Rovaniemi Action Plan
    - Postponed due to COVID-19
    - Expected to result in substantial reforestation commitments by countries in the region
  - Ministerial Roundtable on Forest Landscape Restoration and the Bonn Challenge in Eastern Europe and the Balkans

**IMPACT/OUTPUT**
- Open-source forest sector outlook models
- New green jobs in the forest sector identified
  - Country commitments to forest landscape restoration under the Bonn Challenge
- National Forest Strategies developed
Examples of recent achievements

- **WA3: Communication and outreach**
  - International Day of Forests 2019
  - *Made in Forests* movie production - more than 4,000 views and presented to world leaders by UNDP Goodwill Ambassador Michelle Yeoh
  - *Forests for Fashion Initiative* – exhibition at the High-Level Political Forum and UNEA-4 in Nairobi
  - Cartoon *The Three Little Pigs and Climate Change* presented at COP24
  - *Vancouver Invitation on Forest Products for a Better Future*

- **Outputs**
  - Increased visibility outside the forest sector
  - Strengthened public support for value of wood-based products (through exhibitions, movie, celebrity endorsement, Vancouver Invitation)
Major activities planned for the future

- **WA3: Communication and outreach**
  - **Forests and Biodiversity**
    - International Day of Forests 2020 with a focus on biodiversity
  - **5th European Forest Week**
    - Set to take place during joint session of COFFI and EFC 2019 with special focus on the circular economy
  - **Forests for Fashion initiative and activities with the UN Alliance for Sustainable Fashion**
  - Promotion of Videos *Made in Forests* and of *The Three Little Pigs and Climate Change*

**IMPACT/OUTPUT**
- Positive communication on the forest sector reaches people
- Improved public image of forest products
Examples of recent achievements

- **WA4: Capacity-building**
  - Implementation of UNDA project: *Accountability systems for SFM in the Caucasus and Central Asia (2016-2019)* through national workshops and guidelines for the development of national criteria and indicator sets for SFM
  - Regional Summit 28-31 May 2019 in Issyk Kul, Kyrgyzstan
  - Wood balances workshop to harmonize data
  - National criteria and indicator sets in 5 Central Asian and Caucasian countries
  - Streamlined forest reporting

Outputs

Impact
Major activities planned for the future

- WA4: Capacity-building
  - UNDA project on “Accountability Systems for Sustainable Forest Management in the Caucasus and Central Asia” (2016-2019)
    - Finalization of the project
  - Technical Cooperation activities
    - Increase commitment towards forest landscape restoration
    - Improve forest-data quality and accessibility across the region
    - Provide a platform for forest policy dialogues

IMPACT/OUTPUT
- National criteria and indicator sets in 5 Central Asian and Caucasian countries
- Streamlined forest reporting
3. Data and statistics on forest products
Joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section

Work Areas:
1. Data, monitoring and assessment;
2. Policy dialogue and advice
3. Communication and outreach
4. Capacity building
Joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section

The Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire
Production and trade of roundwood and forest products
The Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire
Production and trade of roundwood and forest products
JFSQ @UNECE (56 member States)
Data collection and processing

Cumulative Receipts and Processing of JFSQ 2018 (initial replies)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Received</th>
<th>Processed</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14/06/2020</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14/06/2019</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14/06/2018</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>14/06/2017</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Questionnaire</td>
<td>Year Questionnaire Sent</td>
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<td>-------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total replies</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JQ1 (production) - replies</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>45</td>
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<tr>
<td>% of cells filled (of 70/68)*</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>68</td>
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<tr>
<td>JQ2 (trade) - replies</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>39</td>
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<td>% of cells filled (of 248/236)*</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>94</td>
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<td>JQ3 (sec. prod. trade) – replies</td>
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<td>38</td>
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<td>% of cells filled (of 40/36)*</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>94</td>
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<tr>
<td>EU/ECE (species trade) – replies</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>32</td>
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<td>% of cells filled (of 84)</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>85</td>
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</table>

**JFSQ @ UNECE (56 member States)**

Data collection and processing
FORESTS

- FAOSTAT release
  updated August 18

- ECE Data and Statistics page
  https://www.unep.org/forests/fpm/onlinedata
to be updated

- FPAMR Statistical Annex
  http://www.unep.org/forests/fpamr2020-annex
  release with FPAMR

- Comments from participants
Joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section

The Timber Forecast Questionnaire
Production, trade and consumption data for the current year and the next year
Published in November during the Committee meeting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TC1 (roundwood forecast) - replies</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>31</td>
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<td>% of cells filled (of 21)</td>
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<td>81</td>
<td>80</td>
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<tr>
<td>TC2 (product forecast) - replies</td>
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<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of cells filled (of 48)</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>82</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- Cooperation with EOS
- Including for first time in Forest Products Annual Market Review – tighter deadline
The Joint Wood Energy Enquiry

Detailed information about wood energy sources and user – conducted every second year.


Data collection for 2019 data to be launched in autumn 2020.

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2018</th>
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<tr>
<td>Total replies</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>31</td>
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<tr>
<td>Table 3 (wood fuel) - replies</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average number of cells filled</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Table 4 (uses) - replies</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average number of cells filled</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Sources and User of wood for energy

U1 Power & Heat

U3 Residential & U4 Other

U2 Industrial
Joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section

Ad hoc questionnaires: Engineered Wood Products

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total replies including non-usable</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Production data replies</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of cells filled (of 4)</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade data replies</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of cells filled (of 16)</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>88</td>
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</table>

- HS2022 will include EWP items
4. Forest Products Annual Market Review
Joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section

Work Areas:
1. Data, monitoring and assessment;
2. Policy dialogue and advice
3. Communication and outreach
4. Capacity building
Forest Products
Annual Market Review

- Annual comprehensive analysis of markets in the UNECE region
- Analysis of market influences from outside UNECE
- Covers the whole range of products from the forests to the end-user, so all the way from roundwood, sawnwood, pulp, paper, wood energy, housing, to value-added wood-products.
- Official launch at Committee
Forest Products Annual Market Review:

- First annual assessment of official data
- Jointly published with FAO
- Freely available to the public
- Separate chapters on main forest products by sub-region
- Assessment of policies with impacts on forest products markets
- Important background information for COFFI Market discussions

FORESTS

Forest Products Markets
5. Improving data quality and availability
What do we do to improve data quality and availability? ... a lot...

Classification:
- Improve classification – better coverage of (innovative) products – namely trade data

Capacity building:
- Increase number of countries who provide data
- Increase data completeness
- Improve communication with other sectors/organizations

Communication:
- Raise awareness about available data (press releases, analytical studies, etc.)
- Improve access to data (e.g. for mobile devices, aggregate data, downloading, etc.)
- Improved presentation of data (e.g. indicators, visualization, etc.)

Conversion factors
- Improve data consistency
Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding Systems (HS)

Introduced in 1988 and has been adopted by most of the countries worldwide.


The Harmonized System is an international nomenclature for the classification of products. It allows participating countries to classify traded goods on a common basis for customs purposes. At the international level, the Harmonized System (HS) for classifying goods is a six-digit code system.

The HS comprises approximately 5,300 article/product descriptions that appear as headings and subheadings, arranged in 99 chapters, grouped in 21 sections. The six digits can be broken down into three parts. The first two digits (HS-2) identify the chapter the goods are classified in, e.g. 44 = “WOOD AND ARTICLES OF WOOD; WOOD CHARCOAL”. The next two digits (HS-4) identify groupings within that chapter, e.g. 44.07 = “Wood sawn or chipped lengthwise, sliced or peeled, whether or not planed, sanded or end-jointed, of a thickness exceeding 6 mm”. The next two digits (HS-6) are even more specific, e.g. 44.03.10 Coniferous... Up to the HS-6 digit level, all countries classify products in the same way (a few exceptions exist where some countries apply old versions of the HS).
THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE HARMONIZED COMMODITY DESCRIPTION AND CODING SYSTEM 2022 edition

WCO Council

Harmonized System Committee

HS Review Sub-Committee

January 2020

June 2019

March 2019 (insect code discussed)
September 2018 (provisionally approved)

FAO and UNECE attended:
June 2018
December 2017
June 2017
## Summary: IWG’s proposal for HS 2022 (as of 26/3/2019)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Provisionally approved codes by WCO HS Committee</th>
<th>Wood, paper products, furniture</th>
<th>NWFPs (and related)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>38</strong> (Briquettes, sawdust, charcoal, teak, LVL, EWPs, tropical, wooden furniture &amp; parts)</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>12</strong> (edible insects, mushrooms, pine nuts, bark of <em>Prunus africana</em>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improved scope of codes (“Other”)</td>
<td><strong>7</strong></td>
<td><strong>3</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rejected by WCO</td>
<td><strong>13</strong></td>
<td><strong>0</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(recovered post-consumer wood; fibreboard; sanitary towels/tampons/napkins of pulp/paper/cellulose)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What do we do to improve data quality and availability?

Communication
What do we do to improve data quality and availability?

Conversion factors
What do we do to improve data quality and availability?

Conversion factors
6. Discussion
Thank you!
Contact: florian.steierer@un.org