

Draft outline for the workshop:

National wood resource balances - Empirical data gathering on current sources of wood supply and use, focusing on wood energy

24 Jan 2008

Time 31st March – 1st April 2008 (back-to-back with the Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics, 2nd-3rd April 2008)

Venue Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

Background

Wood is currently the major source for renewable energy in Europe. With increasing global prices for fossil fuels, concerns over security of energy supply and new commitments to reduce CO₂ emissions, wood energy continues to increase in importance. Facing these challenges, and also the wood-processing industries' increasing need for woody raw material, has led to an acute need for up-to-date, reliable statistical information on wood sources and uses, which is either not available, or weak in many countries.

The recently conducted Joint UNECE/FAO/IEA/EC Wood Energy Enquiry has started a process to collect improved information on sources and uses for wood energy on a comparable Europe-wide basis. This has permitted the creation of national and European-level wood balances (study on "wood resources availability and demands"). However, the analytical work following on from the study on wood availability and demands has also identified significant and persistent data gaps and inconsistencies which still need to be resolved.

Empirical research, such as household and industry surveys, is the main tool to gather basic data on wood sources, needed to close these gaps and improve data and statistics. Knowing the current sources (from forests and other sources) and uses of wood is the main basis for assessing the future potential for wood, which is crucial for planning and decision-making related not only to the forest-based sector as a whole but also for the renewable energy sector.

Objectives

The workshop will:

- Review the verified results of the background paper to the UNECE/FAO Policy Forum (10 Oct 2007) on "Wood resources availability and demands", and discuss its conclusions and findings on data gaps and weaknesses
- Outline a framework (priorities, best practices, resources) for empirical research in countries in the UNECE region to share and improve data on wood sources and uses, including on wood energy.
- Discuss and coordinate efforts to fund research activities

Content

- Present and discuss up-dated figures of the study "wood resources availability and demands - implications of renewable energy policies": The report assesses current (2005) figures for wood sources and uses, and analyses renewable energy policies and their significance in terms of demand for wood.
- Identify gaps and inconsistencies in the results of the study on a priority basis, indicating whether and, if so, how these might be filled
- Introduce and discuss existing methodologies for empirical research on wood sources and uses, including on wood energy. Different countries will introduce their respective approaches and share their experiences
- Introduce and discuss the "wood resource balance", a tool to compare wood supply and use, and thereby highlight possible data gaps.
- Explain and discuss the importance of conversion factors (product input/output, equivalent wood in the rough), in particular in connection with the wood balance. Ways to explore these conversion factors will be explored.

Outputs

- Define a definitive version of the study on “wood availability resources availability and demands”
- Develop a rolling work programme on the topic of “wood availability and demand” including empirical research, based on these discussions
- Identify potential resources and partners for the work programme

The workshop will be immediately followed by the 30th session of the **Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics** (2-3 April), where a summary of the workshop and its results will be presented. In connection to the workshop, the Working Party will hold an in-session seminar on potential wood supply.

Target audience

- Experts in research 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 from forest owners, forest management, industry and bioenergy interested in empirical research and improvement of data and statistics

Registration information and documents will be posted on the website:
www.unece.org/trade/timber/workshops/2008/wood-balance/

DRAFT AGENDA

Wood Balance Workshop

31 March		Background & research on wood use
Wood availability study	Morning session 9:00 - 12:30	Welcome note
		Introduction and background to the work on wood resource availability and supply
		Presentation of the study on "wood resource availability and supply" , new data, lessons learned and identification of data gaps and weaknesses
		Discussion
empirical research on wood use experiences in countries		Importance of empirical research on wood supply and use – an introduction to national wood balances
		Discussion
		Coffee break
		Empirical research on wood use for energy : experience in Southeast Europe
	Empirical research on wood use for energy : experience in Central Europe	
	Discussion	
	12:40 - 14:10	Lunch break
conversion factors	Afternoon session 14:10 - 17:30	Empirical research on wood use for energy : experience in Southern Europe
		Improving data on wood used by the industry
		Discussion
		Methodological approaches for empirical research
		Discussion
		Coffee break
		Conversion factors (product input/output, equivalent wood in the rough) – key information to analyse wood balances and wood flows
		Discussion
		Closing and summary of the first day
		17:30

Wood Balance Workshop

1 April		Research on wood supply & future activities
empirical research on wood use experiences in countries	Morning session 9:00 - 12:45	Introduction to research on wood supply
		Measurements of removals from the forests – overview over the UNECE region
		Empirical research on post consumer recovered wood
		Discussion
		National wood supply – focussing on woody biomass outside the forest
		Discussion
		Coffee break
		National wood supply – focussing on harvesting residues and biomass in the forest
		Wood supply of industry co-products and residues
		Discussion
wood flow models / wood balance	12:45 - 14:15	Drawing the bigger picture - Wood flow model in Austria
		Discussion
		lunch break
coordination of research and next steps	Afternoon session 14:15 - 17:30	Development of a European wood flow model / wood balance
		Discussion
		Coordination / structure of empirical research on wood supply and demand in the UNECE region
		further discussion if needed
		Overview on international activities related to improving data quality on wood availability and demand
		Coffee break
		Workshop conclusions
Closing of the workshop		