



Recent activities and developments on Boreal Forests

Item 5



**42nd Joint UNECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics,
Economics and Management**

22-24 March 2021, Geneva



Implemented activities and outputs in 2020

FORESTS



- First meeting of the Team of Specialists (ToS) on Boreal Forests initially scheduled for March 2020 but postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic
- The first meeting of the ToS took place on 21 October 2020 (online), with simultaneous interpretation in Russian and English
- Consensus on the role of the ToS and the scope of work

Implemented activities and outputs in 2020

FORESTS



- Fact sheets for 7 boreal countries collected to provide information on:

Main challenges related to boreal forests

Policy responses to these challenges

Boreal Forest Area

Forest jurisdiction/ownership/levels of authority, legislative/regulatory framework for forest management

Main commodities/forest products

Key export markets

Species at Risk

Phytosanitary issues (movement of goods and restrictions associated with pests)

Forest-related disturbances with highest impact

Development resulting from other natural resource sectors (Cumulative impacts)

Market Access issues (misinformation, market-based campaigns)

Bioeconomy/circular economy – national strategies in place

Certification standards used in your country

What is the primary source of science/data for informing decision-making? (academia, government science, conservation organizations, peer-review literature)

Primary forests – definitional challenges

Country fact sheets

Canada

Main challenges related to boreal forests	Climate change (natural disturbance changes and its effects on everything else) Health of the sector Understanding the role and ecology of the boreal Market acceptance Species at Risk
Policy responses to these challenges	Provincial laws and regulations regarding forest management Federal, Provincial and territorial SAR and environmental protections laws and regulations Federal programs for forest sector innovation & transformation, and market development Evidenced-based decision-making and policy development
Boreal Forest Area	In Canada, there is 307 M ha forest and other wood land. About 72% of the forest land is in the boreal zone and about 91% of the other wooded land and other land with tree cover is in the boreal zone. The remainder of Canada's forest and other wooded land lies in the temperate zone, principally in southern and western British Columbia and from Ontario east to the Atlantic Ocean. The temperate continental interior is covered principally by grasslands.
Forest jurisdiction/ownership/levels of authority, legislative/regulatory framework for forest management	Ownership of Canadian forests is as follows: Provincial 89.5% Private 6.2% Aboriginal 2.0% Federal 1.6% Municipal 0.3%

<https://unece.org/forests/events/first-meeting-ecefao-team-specialists-boreal-forests>

Implemented activities and outputs in 2021

FORESTS



- Awareness-raising event held during Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in the UNECE Region “*Snapshot on Boreal Forests’ Contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals*” on 15 March 2021
 - Around 90 attendees, held online with Russian-English interpretation

REGIONAL FORUM
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE UNECE REGION
Geneva & online | 17-18 March 2021

Peer Learning Round Tables

8 LOCAL INDUSTRY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT | 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION | 13 CLIMATE ACTION

  **Cluster 3: Planet**

Pathways to a sustainable COVID-19 recovery for climate and the environment

Session 3-4

Snapshot on Boreal forests’ contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals

Monday, 15 March 2021, 15:00-17:00

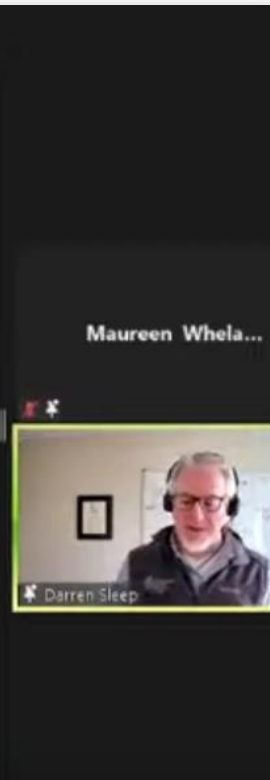
Snapshot on Boreal Forests' Contribution to the SDGs

FORESTS



KEY POTENTIAL FOR GLOBAL BOREAL FORESTS

SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS



- Boreal forests and their sustainable management contribute to a number of SDGs and targets

Snapshot on Boreal Forests' Contribution to the SDGs

FORESTS



The screenshot shows a presentation slide with the following content:

- 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION** (SDG 12 icon)
- Intensive forest management / Интенсивное лесоуправление**
- Climate-regulating forest functions / Климаторегулирующие функции леса**
- Biodiversity aspect should be addressed / Необходимо учитывать вопросы биоразнообразия**
- More valuable wood on fixed area. Больше экономически ценной древесины на меньшей площади.**
- Smaller risk of certain types of nature disasters. Меньше риск ряда природных катаклизмов.**
- Methods of intensive forest management are applied as pilot projects in regions of Russia. Методы интенсивного л/х применяются в пилотном режиме в ряде регионов России.**

The slide features a central illustration of a forest with various management activities (logging, planting, etc.) and a circular arrow indicating a cycle. A small video window in the bottom right corner shows a speaker.

- Key policy questions addressed:
 - How can we better understand and communicate the value of the boreal forest for global sustainability?
 - How do you manage boreal forests to preserve their economic and environmental services?
 - How could the resilience of the boreal forest biome to climate change be increased and vulnerability reduced?

Snapshot on Boreal Forests' Contribution to the SDGs

FORESTS



- Key messages featured in the main plenary and report of the Regional Forum:
 - Promote cooperation and exchange of knowledge on the boreal forest (ToS is a good start)
 - Through country-tailored strategies, increase mitigation and adaptive capacity of the boreal forest to capitalize on their contribution to the SDGs



Planned outputs and activities in 2021

FORESTS



OUTPUT / ACTIVITIES	TIMELINE (tentative and under discussion)
Awareness-raising event during IBFRA conference (August 2021) and Joint COFFI/EFC session (October 2021)	Q3/2021
Peer review function of the first IBFRA Insight Process and accompanying policy brief	Peer review Q2/2021; policy brief Q4/2021
Science-policy dialogue with international science/policy organizations (e.g. IUFRO)	Q4/2021
Four communications notes on different topics	Start collecting inputs in Q3/2021
Science-policy dialogue on topics to be covered by next IBFRA Insight Process	Start organizing in Q1/2022



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Thank you!



Darren Sleep
Chair of the ToS on Boreal Forests
UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section
22-24 March 2021, Geneva

