



Item 6 (b) **Strategic Review of the Integrated Programme of Work**

Guidance on possible structure and scope of Teams of Specialists in support of the future Integrated Programme of Work



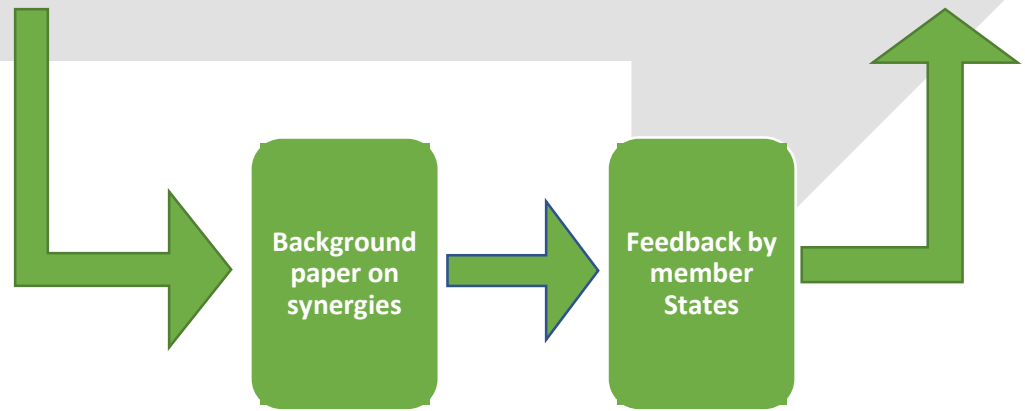
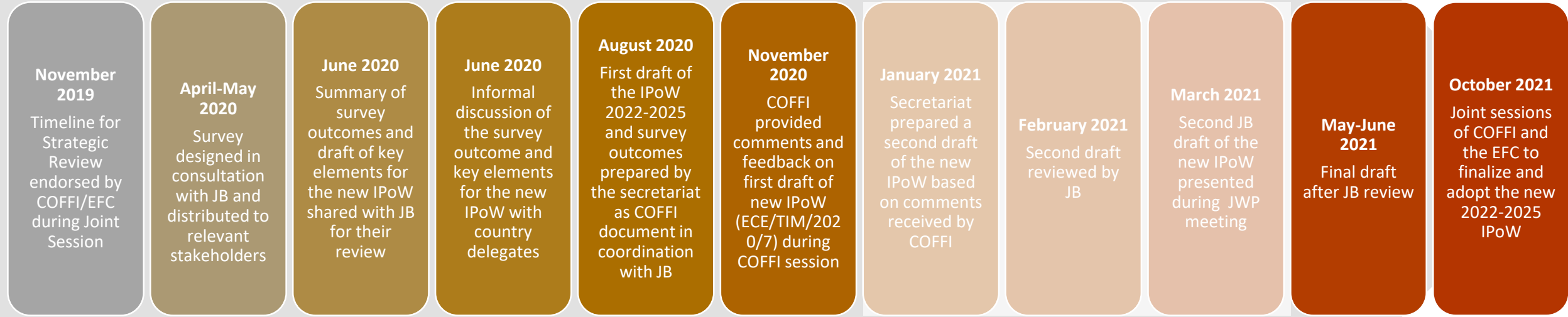
**42nd Joint UNECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics,
Economics and Management**

22-24 March 2021, Geneva



The Strategic Review Process

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Possible structure and scope of Teams of Specialists in support of the future Integrated Programme of Work

The request from COFFI 2020

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During its 78th session, COFFI requested the secretariat to investigate several issues related to the future composition of the Team of Specialists. The Committee requested the secretariat to:

- (a) Consult with the Joint Working Party on the merging of the ToS on Wood Energy and ToS on Forest Products Statistics;
- (b) Prepare a background document on how to enhance synergies between the ToS' and present it at the next session of the JWP; and
- (c) Consider an alternative format to continue the work on green jobs should the work of the ToS on Green Jobs be discontinued.

Possible structure and scope of Teams of Specialists in support of the future Integrated Programme of Work

The background paper - ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2021/Inf.1

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- Brief description of the role and function of the Teams of Specialists;
- Outline of resources available in the secretariat;
- Summary of recent discussions on the topic;
- Synergies among Team of Specialists;
- Secretariat proposal for a possible structure and scope of Teams of Specialists in support of the future Integrated Programme of Work;

Possible structure and scope of Teams of Specialists in support of the future Integrated Programme of Work

Role and function of the Teams of Specialists

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- Key document [ECE/EX/2/Rev.1](#)
- The primary role of the ToS is to **support the implementation of the Integrated Programme of Work (IPoW)**;
- Teams are to be established for **advisory purposes or to carry out a specific task**. “Teams are to have a **term of two-years** and exceptionally can be renewed”¹.
- The **resources** required for implementing the work plan have also **to be identified**.

Possible structure and scope of Teams of Specialists in support of the future Integrated Programme of Work

Teams of specialists under the current IPoW

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Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)

Forest Products Statistics (FPS)

Sustainable Forest Products (SFP)

Wood Energy (WE)

Boreal Forests

Forest Sector Outlook (FSO)

Forest Communication (FCN)*

Green Jobs (GJ)

Possible structure and scope of Teams of Specialists in support of the future Integrated Programme of Work

Summary of recent discussions on the topic

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“ToS on Green Jobs and the ToS on Forest Communication were considered no longer as relevant by some also echoing some of the responses to previous questions regarding the alignment of ToS to the relevance of themes and objectives in the IPoW.”

Possible structure and scope of Teams of Specialists in support of the future Integrated Programme of Work

Outline of resources available in the secretariat for servicing the Team of Specialists;



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- The secretariat acknowledges the contribution of all Teams and believes that the focus of each Team is a worthwhile topic.
- However, the work of Teams vary in relevance at various times, as a result of the shifting priorities within the IPoW and the forest sector itself.
- The secretariat needs to ensure sufficient staff and resources to service the Teams that are of high priority.
- It considers therefore important to discontinue those Teams that have either fulfilled their tasks or are addressing a topic of lower priority within the IPoW.
- Given the current staff XB resources available, the Joint Section can effectively support up to four ToS.

Possible structure and scope of Teams of Specialists in support of the future Integrated Programme of Work

Synergies

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1. Synergies in membership:

- 20% of experts in ToS are member in more than one team
- The ToS on Wood Energy and Forest Products Statistics have the highest shares of overlap in members with one or more other ToS;

Top three overlap memberships of the ToS on FPS [percent]:

46%	of the ToS on FPS are member of the ToS on SFP
22%	of the ToS on FPS are member of the ToS on WE
20%	of the ToS on FPS are member of the ToS on FSO

Top three overlap memberships of the ToS on WE [percent]:

31%	of the ToS on WE are member of the ToS on FPS
31%	of the ToS on WE are member of the ToS on SFP
10%	of the ToS on WE are member of the ToS FSO

Possible structure and scope of Teams of Specialists in support of the future Integrated Programme of Work

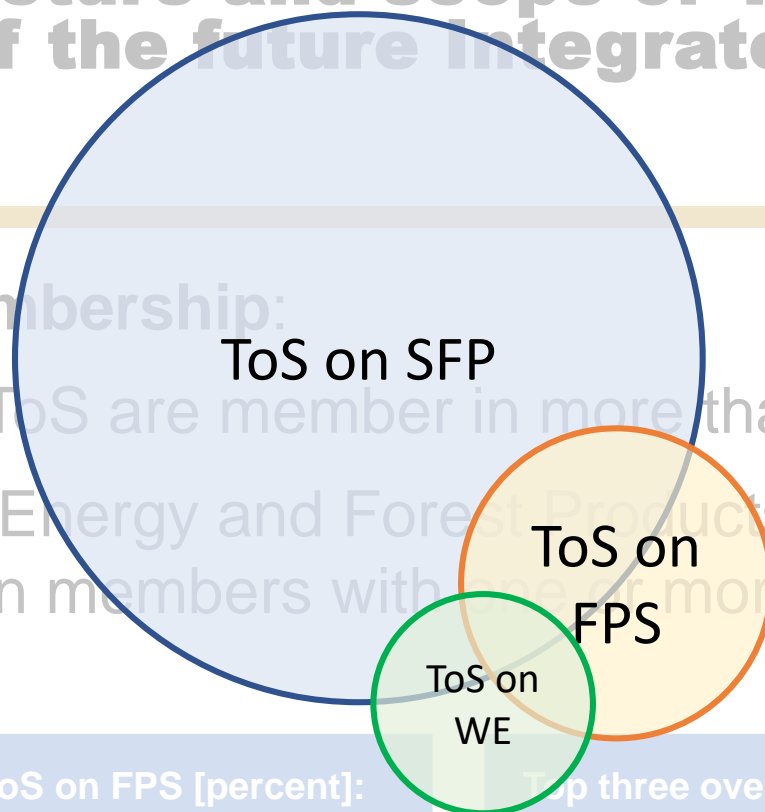
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Possible structure and scope of Teams of Specialists in support of the future Integrated Programme of Work

Synergies

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2. Synergies between organizations:

- Seeking synergies and avoiding overlaps in work undertaken by other actors and organizations is an imperative principle for the ECE (see agenda Item 7). Applying this principle becomes even more important in times of severely constrained resources.
- In the context of streamlining its resources in servicing ToS and maximising synergies with other organizations, the secretariat would like to discuss how to best use synergies with FAO and Forest Europe.

Possible structure and scope of Teams of Specialists in support of the future Integrated Programme of Work

Synergies

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ToS on Forest Communication

- FAO already provided the secretary for the ToS on forest communication in the past two years. This cooperation and support has contributed to reducing the workload at the Joint Section and the secretariat would like to express its gratitude to Ms. Maria de Cristofaro, FAO Forestry Officer, for her support and service as secretary of the team.
- Given FAO's leadership on the topic of communication, the fact that the secretary to the ToS is a staff member of FAO Forestry Department in Rome and that FAO has an existing infrastructure of communication Teams, the secretariat proposes that the Team be integrated into FAO's responsibility.

Possible structure and scope of Teams of Specialists in support of the future Integrated Programme of Work

Synergies

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2. Synergies between organizations:

ToS on Green Jobs

- No consensus was yet reached, there seems to be strong evidence from the survey and the Informal discussion on Strategic Review of the Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work (WIPoW) 2018-2021, that the ToS on Green Jobs has completed its mandate and is no longer a high priority and thus should not be renewed.
- The issue of green jobs remains an element of the IPoW but does not need a dedicated ToS supporting such work. Moreover, Forest Europe is also addressing green jobs in their work; sharing many of the same experts with the ECE/FAO ToS on Green Jobs. Member States may consider a joint group of experts on ToS on Green Jobs that would to be led by Forest Europe. Thus, avoiding overlaps.

Possible structure and scope of Teams of Specialists in support of the future Integrated Programme of Work

Proposal by the secretariat

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- Confirm the mandate of the Team of Specialists on Boreal Forest and include specific tasks and outcomes for the period of its mandate;
- Renew the Team of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management;
- Renew the Team of Specialists on Sustainable Forest Products;
- Merge the Team of Specialists on Forest Products Statistics with the Team of Specialists on Wood Energy into one new team called Team of Specialists on Forest Products- and Wood Energy- Statistics;
- Nonrenewal of the Team of Specialists on Forest Sector Outlook for the duration of the Integrated Programme of Work;
- Nonrenewal of the Team of Specialists on Green Jobs and the Team of Specialists on Forest Communication.

Possible structure and scope of Teams of Specialists in support of the future Integrated Programme of Work

ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2020/1/Rev.1

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- The objective of the discussion during the JWP is to recommend how to modify the composition of the ToS's, support in order to enhance synergies between different teams and suggest alternative formats.
- The Joint Working Party is invited to consider the information provided by the secretariat and provide feedback to the proposed structure and scope of Teams of Specialists in support of the future Integrated Programme of Work.



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Thank you!



Florian STEIERER
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UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section
22-24 March 2021, Geneva

