



## Item 7

# Overview on forest related work by the Economic Commission for Europe and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and list of Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work activities for 2020



FORESTS



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

**22-24 March 2021, Geneva**





- Environment and Multi-domain Statistics Section (UNECE statistics Div.)
- Group of Experts on Renewable Energy (GERE)
- Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP)
- United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) and United Nations Resource Management System (UNRMS)



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

# Forest-related activities of the ECE Environment and Multi-domain Statistics Section

## Contact

Michael Nagy, Senior Statistician, UNECE Statistical Division,  
[michael.nagy@un.org](mailto:michael.nagy@un.org)



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# Main workstreams related to forest and timber

All activities are carried out in collaboration with UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section



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### Implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting

- Capacity development in EECCA countries, including on Ecosystem Accounting and Forest Accounting (several activities organised in previous years, no concrete plans for 2021; UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section usually contributes with training sessions on forest accounts)
- Organisation of annual “Joint OECD/UNECE Seminars on SEEA Implementation” which include discussions on implementation and use of forest- and timber-related accounts ([last meeting](#) was held online 9-11 March 2021)

### Task Force on Measuring Circular Economy

- Established in March 2021
- UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section provides expertise on wood waste

### Review of the [UNECE Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators](#)

- The set of indicators is recommended to be implemented by all UNECE member states as it addresses most relevant environment-related issues in the region and informs most MEAs.
- A revision process has been initiated to better address the new policy environment (SDGs, Sendai Framework, Paris Agreement, etc.), including a review of the forest-related indicators

### Set of core climate change-related indicators

- This set of indicators is recommended to be implemented by all NSOs of countries of the Conference of European Statisticians (all UNECE countries, all OECD countries plus some others)
- It includes a few forest-related indicators which have been chosen in collaboration with forestry experts, including experts of the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section
- In 2021+ NSOs are supported in their efforts to implement the set of indicators



# Forest-related activities of the ECE Group of Experts on Renewable Energy

## Contact

Gianluca Sambucini, Secretary of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy, UNECE Sustainable Energy Division, [gianluca.sambucini@un.org](mailto:gianluca.sambucini@un.org)



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### FORESTS



## **The GERE started in 2014 as a subsidiary body to the Committee on Sustainable Energy and aims to:**

- Determine the status of RE development and tracking its progress in the UNECE region
- Facilitate policy dialogue, exchange of best practices and data
- Consider the role of renewable energy within the context of future energy systems
- Promote instruments for assessing renewable energy resources and support possible synergies between renewable energy and fossil fuels in the energy production
- Identify needs, key bottlenecks and opportunities for potential investment

# Key activities and outputs

GERE

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- REN21 UNECE Renewable Energy Status Report (2015 & 2017 & 2021)
- Investment Matchmaking events the International Fora on Energy for Sustainable Development.
- Hard Talks events: Georgia (2016), Ukraine (2016), Azerbaijan (2017), Kazakhstan (2018), Bosnia and Herzegovina (2018), Serbia (2019).
- Annual sessions of GERE: 8th session on 5-6 October 2021



## Status of Bioenergy in the 17 considered countries

- These countries added 42 MW of solid biomass and 18 MW of biogas power generation capacity
- Total installed bioenergy electricity production capacity of 1.56 GW for solid biomass and 64 MW for biogas
- Untapped potential: South East Europe, Eastern Europe and the Russian Federation have large biomass resources that are only partially exploited
- Need for multi-stakeholder dialogue in UNECE countries to boost investments





## Hard Talks: An Innovative Policy Dialogue Tool For Unblocking Renewable Energy Barriers to Investment

- A uniquely formatted **multi-stakeholder** dialogue:
  - Involved Ministries – Energy, Economy, Finance, etc.
  - Other key players – RES Agencies, Regulators, Network operators
  - Private sector –project developers, industry associations
  - Parliament, NGOs, media (2<sup>nd</sup> day)
  - Financial actors – IFIs, development banks and commercial lenders
  - International community – Donors, Consulates, etc.
- Adapted to the specifications and requirements of the host country
- Discussion guided by a **practical “problem/solution” Discussion Paper**
- **Neutral international facilitators** for the dialogue
- Involves two days – **one expert day** following by a **half day for high-level decision-makers** to deliver key messages from experts
- **Conclusion:** Discussion Paper is reformatted into a **“Recommendation Paper”** prioritizing the next steps which is sent to all participants and high-level decision-makers for further action



# Forest-related activities of the ECE Committee on Environmental Policy

## Contact

Zaal Lomtadze, Chief of Section, Secretary to the Committee on Environmental Policy and Environment for Europe and Sustainable Development Section, [zaal.lomtadze@un.org](mailto:zaal.lomtadze@un.org)



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# Committee on Environmental Policy

## What is CEP?

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- **CEP** is the overall governing body of UNECE environmental activities.
- Its work is based on several strategic pillars:
  - Providing the secretariat to the **Environment for Europe process** and participating in the regional promotion of Agenda 21;
  - Development and carrying-out of **environmental performance reviews** in the UNECE countries non-members of OECD and some countries beyond the UNECE region;
  - Overseeing UNECE activities on **environmental monitoring, assessment and reporting**;
  - Increasing the overall effectiveness of UNECE **multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs)** and facilitating the exchange of experience on MEAs' implementation;
  - Participating and/or facilitating the exchange of experience in a number of **cross-sectoral activities** (education for sustainable development, transport, health and environment, environment and security initiative, European environment and health process).



# Environmental Performance Reviews

Thematic chapters on forestry



## FORESTS

Chapter/Year	2016	2017	2018	2019
<i>Biodiversity, forestry and protected areas</i>		Tajikistan	Albania	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
<i>Forestry and environment</i>	Georgia Belarus		Bosnia and Herzegovina Mongolia	

# Environmental Performance Reviews

## Structure of a chapter on “Forestry and environment”



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- Description of the current situation (forest areas, composition, age, increment, fires, economic pressures, acid rain impact)
  - State of forests / Protected forests / Other wooded lands / Type of forest management including ownership / Logging and illegal logging, afforestation, reforestation, productivity
- Pressures from forestry on
  - Forests / Biodiversity and ecosystems / Soil / Landscape / Non-wood forest products / Development and wellbeing of local communities
- Impact from and adaptation to climate change
- Legal, policy and institutional framework:
  - Legal framework / Policies, programmes and strategies and related action plans, and their implementation / Sustainable development goals and targets relevant for the chapter / Institutional framework / Coordination with institutions responsible for environmental protection at national, regional and local levels / Regulatory, economic, fiscal and information measures
- Participation in international agreements and processes
- Assessment, conclusions and recommendations



# Environmental Performance Reviews

## EPR-Forestry relevant SDG targets

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<b>Goal 15</b>	<b>Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss</b>
<b>15.2</b>	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 <i>15.2.1 Progress towards sustainable forest management</i>
<b>15.b</b>	Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation <i>15.b.1 Official development assistance and public expenditure on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems</i>

# Environmental Performance Reviews

## Cooperation with the forest and wood sector

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- At the UN level (the Joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section):
  - Providing data on:
    - Forest resources (FRA data)
    - Wood harvesting (JFSQ data)
    - Wood energy (UNECE/FAO JWEE data and FAO WISDOM data)
    - Forest products production and trade (JFSQ)
    - Contribution of the forest sector to national economy (FAO study)
  - Review of draft chapters and recommendations
- At the national level (national forest committees/agencies, forest and wood sector):
  - Cooperation with international experts dealing with thematic chapters on forests and forestry:
    - Providing data and information
    - Organizing field trips



# Forest-related activities of the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources and United Nations Resource Management System

## Contact

Harikrishnan Tulsidas, Economic Affairs Officer, UNFC and Resource Management,  
harikrishnan.tulsidas@un.org



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Economics and Management**

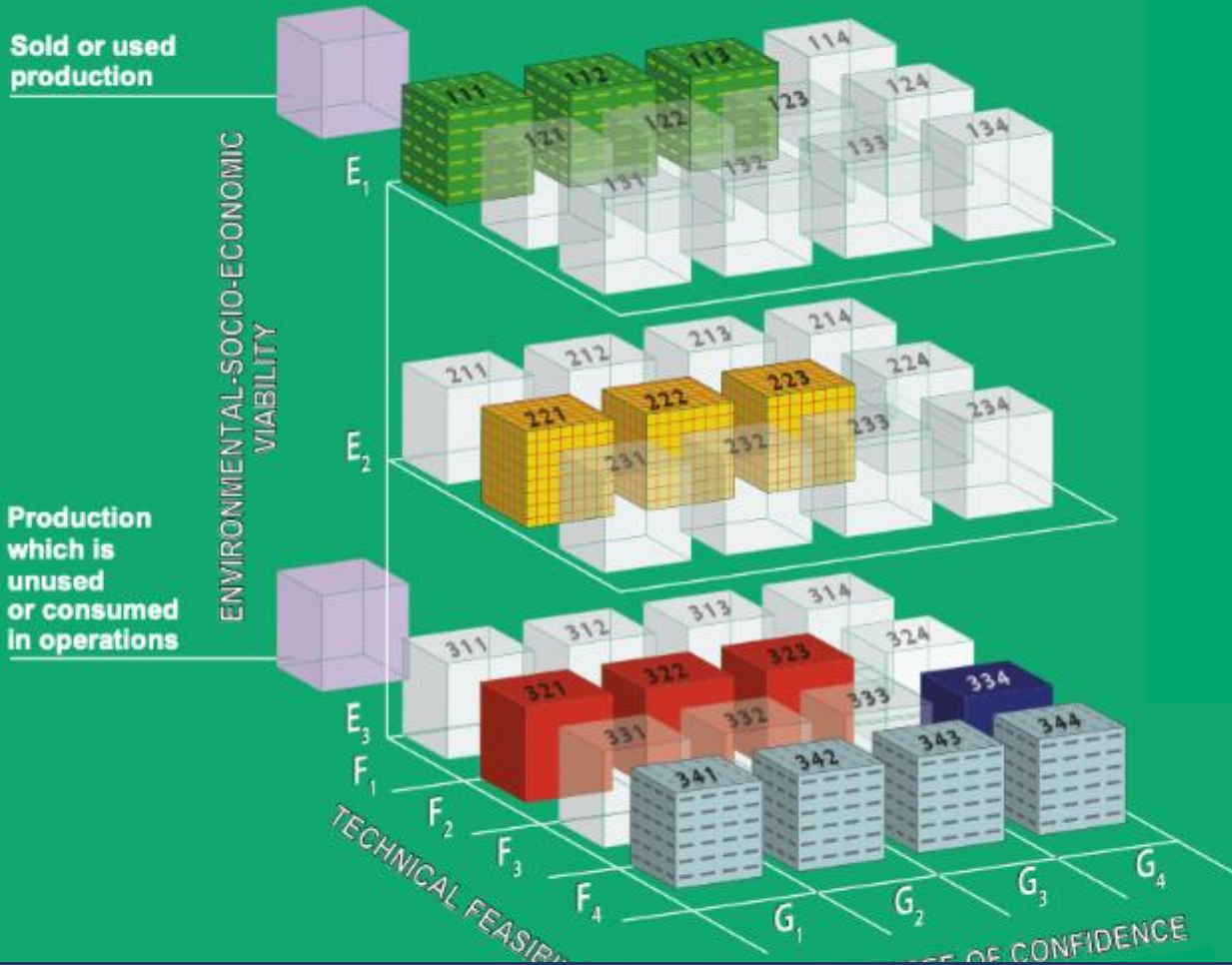
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# UNFC and UNRMS

Supporting sustainable resource management



A unified, comparable, interoperable and harmonized approach to resource assessment and management.

# Principles based



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1. State rights and responsibility
2. Responsibility to the planet
3. Integrated, indivisible management of resources
4. Social Contract
5. Service orientation

6. Comprehensive resource recovery
7. Circularity
8. Health and safety
9. Innovation
10. Transparency
11. Continuous strengthening of core competencies and capabilities.

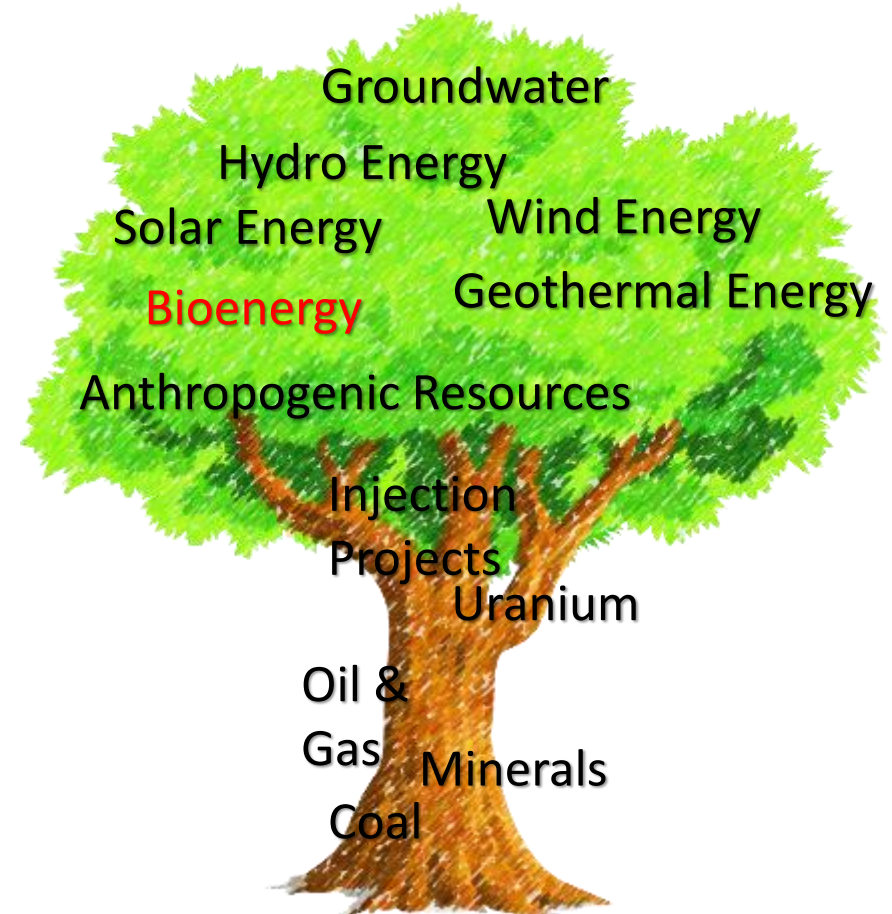
# Designed for integrated resource management



UNECE

## UNFC and UNRMS:

- Align resource management to the 2030 Agenda
- Improve financial resilience through business process innovation
- Derive good social, environmental and economic outcomes
- Obtain social license to operate
- Integrated resource management approach



# Bioenergy resources



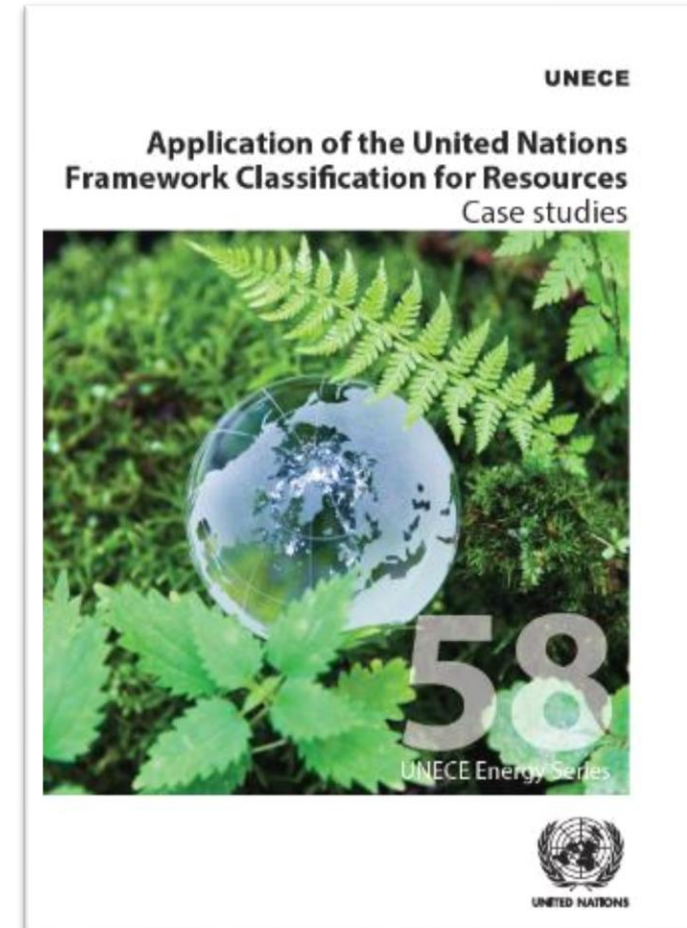
UNECE

- Bioenergy resources can be classified under UNFC.
- Bioenergy sources must be converted to energy products, which should be directly linked to (or a direct replacement of) a fungible energy commodity and saleable in an established market
- **Wood waste** is part of the classification and waste streams such as unprocessed forestry biomass, industrial by-products (cardboard, demolition timber), and municipal solid waste bio-fraction could be considered bioenergy sources.

# Themes for future action



- Food-Water-Energy Nexus approach
- Use of big data, AI
- Waste to resource, energy
- Innovation e.g. Use of mining, energy residues in degraded land restoration, afforestation.





# Thank you!



Florian STEIERER  
Economic Affairs Officer  
**UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section**  
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