Team of Specialists on Boreal Forests

1st meeting

21 October 2020
Welcome by Acting Chief of the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section

Mr. Gianluca Sambucini
Round of introductions

- Introduce yourself: name, affiliation, country
**Item 1: Adoption of the agenda**

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Item 2: Election of the Team leader and Deputy leader(s)
Forests

Membership and officers

- Member States and stakeholders are expected to nominate their representative(s) to a Team.
- Experts without official affiliation can also contribute to the team’s work at the invitation of the Team leader, in close consultation with the Secretariat.
- Each ToS appoints it officers for a duration of two years: a leader and, if deemed necessary, one or two deputy leaders.
- After one term of two years, one of the deputy leaders is usually appointed leader.
Team Leader / Deputy Leader
Roles and Responsibilities

- Team leader
  - Ensure that the Team’s ToR are applied;
  - Conduct Team meetings and draft meeting reports, in consultation with participants of the meeting;
  - Coordinate the preparation of the work plan;
  - Coordinate and facilitate the implementation of the work plan, incl. by raising funds, where appropriate;
  - Coordinate the preparation and presentation of annual implementation reports at the Joint ECE/FAO WP;
  - Organise and attend meetings of the leaders of ToS

- Deputy leader(s)
  - Replace Team leader whenever necessary
  - Assist leader with certain tasks, such as preparing workplan and reports, making contacts and fund raising
Nominations received

- Team leader
  - Dr. Darren Sleep (Canada)

- Deputy leader(s)
  - Mr. Vladimir Dmitriev (Russian Federation)
Item 3: Update by the Secretary
Established at the Joint Session of ECE COFFI and FAO EFC in November 2019

Formally approved by EXCOM in December 2019

Duration: January 2020 to December 2021

Methods of work: annual team meeting and other methods as determined by the Team


Terms of Reference can be found here: http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/timber/images/1_mandat.pdf
Countries that have so far have nominated experts: Austria, Canada, Finland, Lithuania, Norway, Russian Federation, Sweden, United States of America.
Team members

Roles and Responsibilities

- Team members
  - Attend Team meetings;
  - Contribute to the work between Team meetings;
  - Answering enquiries from the leader or the secretariat;
  - Relaying information on the Team’s work at the national and subnational level.
Secretariat (in close cooperation with Team leader):

- Contact member States and relevant stakeholders for updating the lists of Team members and issuing meeting invitations;
- Assist in scheduling of meetings and other activities;
- Provide technical means and innovative solutions to facilitate cost-effective meetings and possibility for remote access to meetings;
- Provide guidance in fulfilling the ToR;
- Facilitate meetings and assist leader in preparing the meeting reports by taking notes and drafting main conclusions and next steps;
- Cooperate with leader in preparing reports on Team’s accomplishments;
- Upload relevant documentation on ToS website before and after meetings, disseminate information on ToS’ activities
Reference to Integrated Programme of Work

- **WA1** • data, monitoring and assessment
- **WA2** • policy dialogue and advice
- **WA3** • communication and outreach
- **WA4** • capacity building
Expected Major Output #1

- Focus on increasing knowledge and understanding of issues related to boreal forests

- Identify priority issues for the sustainable management of boreal forests, taking into account regional realities and differences
Expected Major Output #2

• Create information products that reflect collaborative efforts on boreal forests
• Produce assessment and scoping documents, presentations, and information products describing existing conditions in boreal forests and identifying important issues and opportunities in their management
• Provide consultation and advice on boreal-related issues
Process so far

- Preparatory informal meeting held virtually on 23 April 2020
- Participants were asked to:
  - 1) Identify key challenges facing boreal forests
  - 2) Assess the needs in terms of data, policy recommendations, other tools that could help address some of those challenges
  - 3) Discuss what kind of activities the ToS could focus on
- Country fact sheets
- Short survey
Key challenges / thematic priorities

- Lack of awareness and understanding of the role boreal forests play in global issues such as climate change and the bioeconomy – public perception issues
- Disturbances (natural and man-made) and impacts of climate change (incl. role of boreal forests in mitigation and adaptation)
- The development of a forest-based bioeconomy (incl. indigenous and rural communities)

More insights into key challenges identified by ToS members can be found in the Annex of the background document.
Short-term activities

- Develop a work plan
- Develop key policy/communications products
- Identify research priorities which are aligned with policy concerns
Medium-term activities

- Collaborate with research organizations;
- Establish a science-policy hub and platform for exchange of experience and best practices;
- Develop synthesis paper/study on boreal forests in the context of global change;
- Build on the IBFRA Insight Process to explore further topics to be assessed and engage potential donors;
- Support communication around the IBFRA Insight Process and other relevant themes related to the boreal biome.
Item 4: Discussion about the future plan of activities

- Feasible and expected goals, deliverables and outcomes for the coming year;
- Activities that could be implemented in the short- to medium term, and important meetings that the ToS could contribute to.
Activities and functions as agreed in ToR

- Contribute to the **exchange of information, experiences and best practices** on boreal forests;
- Facilitate a **science policy dialogue** on boreal forest issues;
- Contribute to **identifying knowledge gaps** that – when addressed – can provide policy responses to international challenges;
- Work with other international bodies, incl. IBFRA, with a view to achieving **coordination of initiatives**;
- Collaborate with **other ECE/FAO Teams of Specialists** on cross-cutting issues
Short-term activities

- Develop a work plan
- Develop key policy/communications products
- Identify research priorities which are aligned with policy concerns

Anything to add? Post it in the chat box
Short-term activities

- **How** could these activities be implemented?
  - Working groups
  - Timeline
Medium-term activities

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Medium-term activities

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**Important meetings**

- 3rd International Forest Policy Meeting (IFPM3), 17-18 March 2021
- FAO XV World Forestry Congress, Seoul, 24-28 May 2021
- IBFRA Conference, Fairbanks, 16-20 August 2021
- IUFRO Regional Conference, Moscow, 24-26 September 2021

Anything to add? Post it in the chat box
Important meetings

- **How** could we as team get involved?
  - Possible topics
  - Timeline
Item 5: Date and place of the next meeting
Item 6: Wrap up and closure
Thank you!