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Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry

European Forestry Commission

Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics,  
Economics and Management

**Forty-second session**

Geneva, 22-24 March 2021

### **Report of the forty-second session of the Joint Economic Commission for Europe and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management**

#### **Introduction**

1. The Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management (henceforth referred to as Joint Working Party) held its forty-second session from 22 to 24 March 2021. In response to the global COVID-19 pandemic and its associated public health concerns and constraints the formal session was conducted almost exclusively with online participation on an exceptional basis.
2. All presentations and electronic media referred to in this report are available at: <https://unece.org/forests/jwpssem2021>.

#### **Attendance**

3. Delegations from the following member States participated in the meeting: Armenia, Austria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.
4. The secretariats of the following intergovernmental organizations and processes were also represented: the European Commission.
5. The following United Nations (UN) bodies and agencies participated in the session: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).



6. Representatives of the following non-governmental organizations participated in the session: Association for Farmers Rights Defense (AFRD), Confederation of European Paper Industries (CEPI), the European Confederation of Woodworking Industries (CEI-Bois), European Organization of the Sawmill Industry, European Panel Federation, Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC), Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), Union of European Foresters (UEF).

7. Representatives of the following academic institutions were present: Department of Forest Sciences (University of Vigo), European Forest Institute, Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry (University of Helsinki), International Center for Forestry and Forest Industry, Saint Petersburg State Forest Technical University, University of Molise.

8. Representatives of the following private sector companies and associations attended the session: Crann - Trees for Ireland, Dovetail Partners, Panbern, Quebec Wood Export Bureau.

### **Item 1: Adoption of the agenda**

9. The meeting was opened by Mr. Matthias Dieter, the Chair of the Joint Working Party, who welcomed the delegates and expressed his wish that in the near future meetings be held in person rather than online. Ms. Paola Deda, Director of Forests, Land and Housing Division, welcomed the delegates and highlighted the tasks ahead for the Joint Working Party.

10. After opening remarks, the Chair introduced the agenda (ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2021/1/Rev.1) which was adopted without changes. The secretariat requested to discuss under Agenda item 10 (any other business) whether background documents for the forty-third session of the Joint Working Party in 2022 could be issued in English only.

### **Item 2: Outcomes of the joint seventy-seventh session of the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the fortieth session of the FAO European Forestry Commission**

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2019/2 FO:EFC/2019/2 and ECE/TIM/2020/2

11. The secretariat presented a summary of the discussions held at the seventy –seventh session of COFFI and the fortieth session of the EFC, which were held in Geneva from 4 to 7 November 2019 and the seventy-eighth session of the Economic Commission for Europe Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry held in Geneva from 4 to 6 November 2020, and highlighted their implications for the work of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management.

12. The Joint Working Party took note of the information provided.

### **Item 3: Revision of the Rules of Procedure for the Joint Working Party**

Documentation: ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2019/2 and ECE/TIM/2018/2

13. The secretariat informed delegates about options for the Rules of Procedure to be applied to the Joint Working Party: (i) to apply the revised set of Rules of Procedure of COFFI adopted at the seventy-seventh session of COFFI, or (ii) to automatically apply ECE Rules of Procedure; or (iii) to develop a new set of Rules of Procedure specific to the Joint Working Party.

14. Delegates noted that the ECE Rules of Procedure may not be fully suited to the Joint Working Party, it being a joint body of ECE and FAO. The Joint Working Party requested the secretariat to develop an ad-hoc set of draft Rules of Procedure for its consideration and possible adoption at the next session. In developing the draft, the secretariat was requested to liaise with member States to collect suggestions and identify specific areas to be addressed by the new rules.

#### **Item 4: Forests and the circular economy**

Documentation: ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2021/inf.3, ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2021/inf.4 and ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2021/inf.5

15. The secretariat informed the Joint Working Party on the progress of work on forests and a circular economy. This included a presentation on the first draft of the study on how circular economy concepts relate to forest-based industries and on the progress of work on an inventory of existing wood waste classifications and plans for further work.

16. The Joint Working Party took note of the information provided. Member States supported the direction of the secretariat's work on forests and a circular economy and recommended that the secretariat expand the work on "Circularity concepts in forest-based industries" to include:

- (a) The circular nature of the carbon cycle in sustainably managed forests and current threats to forests;
- (b) Clarification of the role of bioenergy in a circular economy;
- (c) Link between circular economy concepts, the carbon cycle and climate change mitigation;
- (d) Balancing the provision of wood materials with other forest ecosystem services;
- (e) Consideration of potential adverse consequences of specific recycling and recovery of wastewood on carbon emissions, and the need for a careful analysis of implementing circularity applications to maximize benefits and mitigate unexpected consequences;
- (f) The interplay between a circular economy and the bioeconomy, and the concept of circular bioeconomy, describing the importance of favouring bio-based feedstock in replenishing a circular system.

#### **Item 5: Guidance on Work Areas (not already contained in previous items)**

Documentation: ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2020/3, 4, 5, 6 and ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2021/3, 4, 5, 6

17. The secretariat presented activities completed in each of the four Working Areas since the Joint Working Party's last meeting and invited delegates to comment on these and future activities.

#### **Work Area 1: Data, monitoring, reporting and assessment**

##### **1. Forest Resources**

18. The secretariat presented activities undertaken as part of the Work Area 1: Data, monitoring, reporting and assessment related to forest resources.

19. The Joint Working Party took note of the information provided and:

(a) Appreciated the results of the collaborative work of ECE, FAO and Forest Europe on forest resources monitoring, reporting and assessment, and supported further cooperation;

(b) Welcomed recent outputs, including a study on forest ownership and country overviews on forests and forest management in the Caucasus and Central Asia;

(c) Recommended continuing the implementation of the project “Assessment of forest damage/disturbances in the ECE region”, taking into consideration (i) analysis of the potential for using damaged wood; (ii) clarification of proposed terms; and (iii) the heterogeneity of reporting practices on forest disturbances.

(d) Recommended continuing the collaboration between ECE, FAO and Forest Europe in the next phases of the project, and welcomed the interest of some member States to participate in the project;

(e) Recommended continuing the work on data dissemination and other related outputs, taking advantage of electronic means of dissemination;

(f) Recognized the work of the Team of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management and encouraged the Team to continue its work within the current mandate.

## **2. Forest products statistics**

20. The secretariat informed the Working Party about the results of the Harmonised System (HS) work for the 2022 revision of the HS and the plans for 2027, the rate of replies and processing of the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire (JFSQ), the impact of using only actual forecasts in the published forecast tables, and the status of Engineered Wood Products data. The JFSQ replies in 2020 were at the highest rate ever, despite the difficult conditions for correspondents.

21. The Working Party took note of the information provided and:

(a) Supported the work on forest products statistics, appreciating the excellent cooperation between members of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Forest Sector Statistics;

(b) Endorsed the work on improving the Harmonised System trade classification and the plans to request input from members of the Working Party and the Teams of Specialists;

(c) Called for further capacity-building efforts to improve understanding of the JFSQ and to explore small-scale collaboration;

(d) Recognized the normative work of the Team of Specialists on Forest Products Statistics in developing the JFSQ and urged simplification where possible;

(e) Thanked the secretariat, the Team of Specialists and the national correspondents for the work on forest products statistics, which is a core activity of the Joint Section and a basis for other activities at the national and international level.

## **3. Forest products markets**

22. The secretariat informed delegates of the current status of the Forest Products Annual Market Review (FPAMR), highlighting the importance of the publication as a process that enables the Joint Section to refine the quality of forest products data and connects the Joint Section with market experts, who assist in this process and provide market intelligence.

23. The 2020 FPAMR was particularly challenging for the secretariat given the lack of funds and COVID-19 working restrictions, which, among other factors, did not allow interns to assist with the production of the publication. These challenges were addressed by

downsizing the Market Review; in-kind assistance from authors and member states; and the automation and standardization of tables and graphs.

24. The secretariat noted that while the Market Review had fewer pages, it still provides comprehensive information and is available in printed form, PDF, and a web-based format that is suitable for mobile devices and can easily be presented in any language using online translation tools. In addition, the French and Russian versions were available this year in February (much earlier than in past years). The secretariat informed the Joint Working Party that it is unlikely that there will be official translations into French and Russian this year, as a result of the budget crisis.

25. The plans for the 2021 Market Review are to maintain its current concise format. The secretariat expressed gratitude to the government of Sweden for providing funding and in-kind support. Nevertheless, the team working on the Market Review will be downsized, as a result of the forthcoming retirement of one staff member.

26. Finally, the secretariat briefly outlined the other market-based work of the Joint Section including the Market Discussions for the COFFI meeting, the Country Market Statement and the work of the Team of Specialists on Sustainable Forest Products, which conducted a successful online webinar on the use of wood in construction in November 2020.

27. The Joint Working Party:

(a) Acknowledged the importance of Forest Products Markets as a work area and the Forest Products Annual Market Review and supported the current plan of the secretariat for the publication. There was a general sense that information on engineered wood products and factory built homes could be a focus for future improvements in the country market statements. The coverage of these issues could also be increased in the FPAMR;

(b) Indicated support for the current format of the Market Discussions and suggested that they could be longer;

(c) Thanked Mr. Matthew Fonseca, for his service to the Joint Section.

#### **4. Wood Energy**

28. The secretariat informed the Joint Working Party on the wood energy activities completed during the last year. The secretariat further highlighted the importance and relevance of the work on wood energy given that it is currently considered a priority for the global and regional policy agendas.

29. The secretariat thanked the country correspondents and the Team of Specialists on Wood Energy for their support in providing relevant information and statistics on wood energy sources and users in a harmonised and standardized format.

30. The secretariat noted that it has worked to improve the quality and availability of the information on wood energy. This included contributions to FAO's work to improve wood energy modelling for FAO statistics and contributions to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests Global Core Set of Forest Indicators.

31. The secretariat informed the Joint Working Party that preliminary results of the Joint Wood Energy Enquiry were not yet available and that the current reply rate is lower than usual.

32. The Joint Working Party took note of the information provided and:

(a) Congratulated the secretariat on the timely release of the 15 January 2021 press release on the main findings of the Joint Wood Energy Enquiry for the reference year 2017;

(b) Proposed organizing an online capacity-building workshop on wood energy statistics to improve the rate and quality of responses. It also encouraged the involvement of the Team of Specialists on Wood Energy as well as other organizations (e.g. Eurostat) when preparing the workshop;

(c) Encouraged the secretariat to continue collaboration with other organizations, in particular reaching out to the EU Commission, which will set up a new wood energy reporting scheme in the coming years. Closer collaboration is likely to decrease the reporting burden of national correspondents and increase the visibility of the data provided to the Joint Wood Energy Enquiry;

(d) Urged the secretariat to provide the necessary resources for processing, analyzing and dissemination of the information obtained through the Joint Wood Energy Enquiry;

(e) Noted that one of the main challenges for future work on wood energy is to determine the sources of wood currently classified as coming from unknown sources;

(f) Noted that the two topics identified by the Team of Specialists on Wood Energy are very valid and encouraged further work on “wood energy and air quality” as well as “carbon footprint of wood energy”.

## **Work Area 2: Policy dialogue and advice**

### **1. Forest Policy**

33. The secretariat presented activities undertaken as part of the Work Area 2: Policy Dialogue and Advice.

34. The Joint Working Party:

(a) Welcomed the information provided and requested the secretariat to continue supporting the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and accelerate action and delivery within the scope of IPoW;

(b) Requested the secretariat to contribute to the implementation of the UNFF Strategic Plan.

### **2. Forest Sector Outlook**

35. The secretariat informed the Joint Working Party about progress on the Forest Sector Outlook Study (FSOS) in 2019/2020 as well as related activities.

36. Mr. Jeffrey Prestemon, Research Forester and Project Leader at the US Forest Service and Leader of the Team of Specialists on Forest Sector Outlook, informed the Joint Working Party about work completed so far, current plans for the dissemination of the study and other planned activities for 2021.

37. The secretariat informed the Joint Working Party that the FSOS will be translated into French and Russian.

38. The Joint Working Party:

(a) Welcomed the progress on the preparation of the FSOS and the applied integrated modelling approach for the entire ECE region;

(b) Was informed about forest sector modelling activities in member States and plans on how to support the dissemination of FSOS; and

(c) Highlighted the importance of the study and its data for policy making.

### **3. Boreal Forests**

39. Mr. Darren Sleep, Senior Director of Conservation Science and Strategies at the Sustainable Forestry Initiative and Leader of the Team of Specialists on Boreal Forests informed the Joint Working Party about recent activities and planned outputs of the work of the team of Specialists on Boreal Forests, including conclusions from the roundtable discussions “Snapshot on Boreal Forests’ Contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals”,

which took place as part of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in the ECE region on 15 March 2021.

40. The Joint Working Party:

(a) Expressed its satisfaction and appreciation with the work of the Team of Specialists on Boreal Forests, especially with regards to its potential for becoming an efficient platform for science-policy dialogue;

(b) Recommended continuing the work of the ToS on Boreal Forests as part of the new Integrated Programme of Work 2022-2025.

### **Work Area 3: Communication and outreach**

41. The secretariat updated the Joint Working Party about recent communication activities, including those that had to be moved online due to the COVID-19 pandemic. These included a virtual exhibition on forest biodiversity, which was launched in November 2020 and is still available online.

42. To celebrate World Environment Day 2020 (5 June), a global photography contest was launched to raise awareness of the alarming speed at which species' natural habitats are disappearing worldwide.

43. The International Day of Forests (IDF) was celebrated on 21 March 2021 with a video "Forests in a nutshell", which tells the lesser-known story of forests as important providers of nutritious and healthy food, with the potential to transform food systems into drivers for sustainable development around the world.

44. The Joint Working Party took note of the information provided and:

(a) Encouraged the secretariat to continue to use the expertise of the Forest Communicators' Network;

(b) Recommended communicating about the sustainable use of forest resources already taking place in the ECE region;

(c) Encouraged further supporting the member States to address misinformation around sustainable forest management, in particular in boreal forests;

(d) Emphasized the importance of dissemination of the Forest Sector Outlook Study;

(e) Suggested a closer linkage to the work in the other work areas, (including their ToSs) to support appropriate communication of the activities and work done there;

(f) Expressed satisfaction with the Forest Information Billboard.

### **Work Area 4: Capacity-building**

45. The secretariat informed the Joint Working Party about capacity-building activities undertaken as part of Work Area 4. These activities were related to forest resources, forest products, statistics, and forest policy advice. The secretariat also highlighted the main outcomes from the UNDA capacity-building project "Accountability Systems for Sustainable Forest Management in the Caucasus and Central Asia" implemented from 2016 to 2020.

46. The Joint Working Party took note of the information provided and:

(a) Appreciated the work of the secretariat on the implementation of capacity-building projects on developing criteria and indicators on sustainable forest management in the Caucasus and Central Asia;

(b) Welcomed the capacity-building work in the Caucasus and Central Asia and stressed the importance of extending support on the JFSQ to the whole ECE region;

- (c) Encouraged the use of online tools in capacity-building and working in smaller groups to share knowledge;
- (d) Supported continuing capacity-building activities on forest products statistics and wood energy reporting;
- (e) Recognized the importance of providing support to countries in developing national forest outlook studies;
- (f) Welcomed the work on the knowledge platform, as a tool to support countries of the Caucasus and Central Asia in their work on forest landscape restoration.

## **Item 6: Strategic Review of the Integrated Programme of Work**

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2020/2, ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2021/7 and  
ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2021/inf.1

### **1. Guidance on the revised draft of the Integrated Programme of Work 2022-2025**

47. The secretariat presented the status of the Strategic Review process, including the development of the new Integrated Programme of Work (IPoW) 2022-2025. The second draft of the new IPoW was presented to the Joint Working Party (ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2021/7).

48. Mr. Keith Anderson, Senior Advisor at the Federal Office for the Environment of Switzerland, moderated the segment addressing the review of the second draft, inviting the Joint Working Party members to provide their feedback.

49. The Joint Working Party members reviewed the text of the second draft, raised questions, and proposed specific changes. The secretariat clarified the questions, took note of the proposals and will be address them in the revised draft of the IPoW.

### **2. Guidance on the possible structure and scope of Teams of Specialists in support of the future Integrated Programme of Work 2022-2025**

50. The secretariat presented possible structures and scope of the Teams of Specialists in support of the future Integrated Programme of Work, and made some specific proposals:

- (a) Confirm the mandate of the Team of Specialists on Boreal Forests and include specific tasks and outcomes for the period of its mandate;
- (b) Renew the Team of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management;
- (c) Renew the Team of Specialists on Sustainable Forest Products;
- (d) 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;
- (e) Nonrenewal of the Team of Specialists on Forest Sector Outlook for the duration of the Integrated Programme of Work;
- (f) Nonrenewal of the Team of Specialists on Green Jobs and the Team of Specialists on Forest Communication.

51. A tour-de-table followed. The following countries took the floor: Austria, Canada, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America.

52. Delegates expressed overall appreciation for the role and work of the Teams of Specialists, which they consider to be essential pillars of the ECE/FAO Integrated Programme of Work. Delegates also appreciated the background paper prepared by the secretariat to facilitate this discussion and the overall intention of streamlining the work of the teams and



increase efficiencies. Special mention of INForest, a recently launched information and knowledge data platform, as an effective example of the work of the ToSs and the secretariat, was made. Delegates also stressed the importance of cross-team cooperation, to be fostered through both online informal meetings and events, as well as joint activities.

53. The Joint Working Party provided the following guidance on the possible future set of Teams of Specialists:

- *Team of Specialists on Boreal Forests*: There was a general consensus that the mandate of this newly established ToS should be extended over the period covered by the IPoW 2022-2025;

- *Team of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management*: General satisfaction was expressed on the work of this team, which has been very productive through the years and whose maintenance is essential to guarantee continuity of work in this area.

- *Team of Specialists on Sustainable Forest Products*: There was a general consensus that the mandate of this ToS should be extended over the period covered by the IPoW 2022-2025.

- *Merging of the Team of Specialists on Forest Products Statistics with the Team of Specialists on Wood Energy*: Wood energy was deemed as very relevant, requiring capacities under the new IPoW. While most delegates appreciated the rationale behind the proposal, they were concerned that the size of the new team would be rather cumbersome for the secretariat to service and stressed that the focus of the team should not become too broad. The creation of specific sub/thematic-groups within the merged team could guarantee that both aspects are allocated the necessary time and attention; it was noted that different experts should be appointed by member States for each of the sub-teams. Moreover, it was suggested to also address wood energy in other ToS, where appropriate.

- *Non-renewal of the Team of Specialists on Forest Sector Outlook for the duration of the Integrated Programme of Work*: There was an overall consensus that the team could be suspended for the moment, given the completion of the Forest Sector Outlook Study 2021, provided that the secretariat would continue working on its dissemination and capacity building activities. Several countries suggested to use the wording “suspension” instead of “non-renewal” to clarify that this would be a temporary pausing of the work of the Team. The final proposal for the consideration and approval of COFFI/EFC should make it clear that the Outlook ToS is not discontinued, but simply put on hold for the period 2022-2025, as it is expected to be reactivated for the subsequent period. A respective para for integration in the IPoW under point 16 (e) was suggested to enable the secretariat resuming work on the Forest Sector Outlook if deemed necessary.

- *Non-renewal of the Team of Specialists on Green Jobs*: There was no consensus on the discontinuation of this Team of Specialists, and a general agreement on the importance of its work and output. In order to increase cooperation, suitable modalities to facilitate joint work of Forest Europe and ECE/FAO on this important issue should be identified and pursued. ECE was asked to explore with ILO if ILO could provide the secretariat support for the Team as part of their cooperation with ECE and FAO;

- *Non-renewal of the Team of Specialists on Forest Communication*: There seem to be an overall consensus on the importance of maintaining this ToS, with FAO providing its secretariat and increasing its ties with the work of ECE/FAO. Alternatively, all ToS should increase their work to disseminate information and communicate their outcomes on relevant products.

54. The Joint Working Party requested that the secretariat prepare a proposal on the new architecture of Teams of Specialists as part of the new IPoW, taking the above into consideration. This proposal would be submitted for the consideration of, and approval by, the Joint COFFI/EFC session in October 2021.

**Item 7: Overview of forest and forest sector related work by the Economic Commission for Europe and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and a draft list of Integrated Programme of Work activities planned for 2022**

Documentation: ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2021/Inf.2

55. The secretariat presented a tentative list of activities planned for 2022 to the Joint Working Party. The Joint Working Party reviewed the list of activities as contained in the document ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2021/Inf.2 (Preliminary list of activities and publications planned for 2022).

56. The list of activities, reflecting amendments by the Joint Working Party, was approved as shown in the Annex.

57. The Joint Working Party was also informed about ECE and FAO activities beyond the Integrated Programme of Work.

58. The secretariat provided a short overview on behalf of the following ECE sub-programs: Environment and Multi-domain Statistics Section, 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).

59. Mr. Norbert Winkler from the Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia provided an overview of FAO's work, outside of the Integrated Programme of Work, on forests in the ECE Region. The two overview presentations are available on the ECE website.

**Item 8: Election of officers**

60. At the end of the forty-second session, Mr. Matthias Dieter, Germany, Chair of the forty-first and forty-second sessions, was elected as Vice-Chair. Ms. Magdalena Wolicka-Posiadała, Poland, Vice-Chair of the forty-first and forty-second sessions, was elected as the new Chair. Mr. Michal Synek, Czech Republic, was elected as new Vice-Chair. They will hold office until the end of the forty-third session.

61. The Working Party expressed its appreciation to Mr. Jeff Prestemon, United States of America for his dedication and service as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Working Party from 2015-2021 and to Mathias Dieter for his service as Chair.

**Item 9: Date and place of next meeting**

62. The Joint Working Party agreed that the forty-third session of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management will be held on 22-24 March 2022 in Geneva.

63. The Joint Working Party requested a three-day session to allow for interactive sessions and sufficient time for catching up on missed discussions in the past two years caused by the postponed meeting in 2020 and the hybrid meeting in 2021 due to sanitary measure against COVID-19.

**Item 10: Any other business**

64. The Joint Working Party requested that the secretariat prepare all parliamentary documentation for its forty-third session in all official languages of the ECE.

**Item 11: Adoption of the report**

65. The Joint Working Party adopted the report of its session on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat.

66. The meeting closed at 17:23 on Wednesday 24 March.

## Annex

### I. Tentative list of activities for 2022

#### A. Work Area 1: Data, monitoring, reporting and assessment

##### 1. Forest resources

(a) Collection, validation and dissemination of statistics on forest resources, functions and services, progress toward Sustainable Forest Management (SFM), and the contribution of the forest sector to a green economy

- Reporting on the Global Forest Resource Assessment (FRA) and the Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire (CFRQ): cooperation with the FAO and other CFRQ partners on the preparation of the data collection for the 2025 reporting process;
- Joint pan-European reporting on forests: cooperation with Forest Europe and FAO FRA secretariat on the preparation of the next reporting cycle (subject to the agreement with partners);
- Cooperation with member States, and other national and international partners on the exchange of information and the development forest information systems, including national forest data banks;
- Dissemination of the results of the 2020 global and the pan-European reporting on forests and SFM.

(b) Analysis and assessment of the state of forests and the sustainability of forest management; and the monitoring of the role of the forest sector in a green economy

- Assessment of forest conditions and the impact of biotic and abiotic disturbances; thematic study and review of formats for international reporting on forest disturbances - continuation of the project, including the organization of a scientific-technical conference in Vienna, Austria.

(c) Cooperation with, and support to, international processes in SFM, including regional criteria and indicator (C&I) processes

- Participation in the FAO FRA Advisory Group;
- Support to the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) secretariat on reporting on the implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030;
- Cooperation with, and support to countries, organizations and international processes (e.g. Forest Europe) in the ECE region on monitoring SFM;
- Contribution to capacity building on forest monitoring in countries of the Caucasus, Central Asia, Eastern and South-East Europe;
- Organization of the meeting(s) of the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Monitoring SFM<sup>1</sup>.

##### 2. Forest products and markets

(a) Collection, validation and dissemination of statistics on production, trade, consumption and prices of forest products

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<sup>1</sup> depending on the approval of composition of the future Teams of Specialists in the future Integrated Programme of Work 2022-2025.

- Preparation of historical data on forest products, species trade, and prices;
  - Preparation of forecast data on forest products production and trade;
  - Improvement of the existing database and expansion of available information;
  - Dissemination through FAOSTAT and ECE websites.
- (b) Analysis of markets for forest products, notably relevant policy aspects, including the Forest Products Annual Market Review (FPAMR) and annual Market Discussions
- Publication of the FPAMR 2021-2022;
  - Preparation of data and the statistical annex for the FPAMR 2021-2022;
  - Preparation of tables and graphs for the Market Forecasts 2022-2023;
  - Preparation of the Market Discussion 2022 and the Market Statement 2022;
  - Dissemination of analysis at industry meetings.
- (c) Support of international processes in forest products
- Participation in the Intersecretariat Working Group on Forest Sector Statistics and attendance at other international meetings;
  - Organization of meetings of the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Products Statistics and the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Sustainable Forest Products<sup>2</sup>.

### 3. Wood energy

- (a) Collection, validation and dissemination of statistics on wood energy
- Analysis of results of the Joint Wood Energy Enquire (JWEE) 2019;
  - Issuance of a new database on wood energy with 2019 (JWEE2019) and previous year's data;
  - Dissemination of the JWEE2019 data at relevant international meetings;
  - Revision of the JWEE for collecting 2021 data (JWEE2021);
  - Launch of the JWEE 2021 questionnaire.
- (b) Analysis of energy-related issues, including demand for, and supply of, wood energy
- Preparation of new information materials on wood energy, such as policy brief, short study, etc. on topics such as wood energy and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), wood energy and climate change and wood energy and air quality;
  - Upon request provide input on forests to the ECE Environmental Performance Reviews.
- (c) Support of international processes in wood energy
- Presentation of the wood energy work at relevant international meetings and cooperation with relevant processes (e.g. International Energy Agency, International Renewable Energy Agency, World Sustainable Energy Days etc.);
  - Organization of meetings of the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Wood Energy<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>2</sup> depending approval of composition of the future Teams of Specialists in the future Integrated Programme of Work 2022-2025

<sup>3</sup> depending approval of composition of the future Teams of Specialists in the future Integrated Programme of Work 2022-2025

## B. Work Area 2: Policy dialogue and advice

- (a) Contribution to the policy-related components of activities under Work Areas 1, 3 and 4
- Organization of National Forest Policy Dialogues (NFPD) workshops in interested countries (Armenia, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and possibly others);
  - Monitoring and developments in global and regional forest policy process (UNFF; Forest Europe, SDG) and contributions, as relevant, to these processes;
  - Support to the continued implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests by providing policy dialogues at the regional and national level.
- (b) The role of the forest sector in a circular bio-economy
- Analysing how circular bio-economy concepts are related to the forest-based sector<sup>4</sup>;
  - Exploration of wood-based value chains in a circular bio-economy<sup>5</sup>;
  - Promotion and dissemination of information about a circular bio-economy, including its social dimension.
- (c) Forest Sector Outlook
- Dissemination of the Forest Sector Outlook Study in the ECE region;
  - Presentation of the results of the Forest Sector Outlook Study at relevant international meetings and cooperation with relevant stakeholders at national, regional and international levels;
  - Organization of meeting(s) of the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Sector Outlook<sup>6</sup>;
  - Organization of capacity building in the area of forest sector outlook modelling.
- (d) Monitoring and support of international processes relevant to policymaking for the forest sector
- Organisation of the Ministerial Roundtable on Forest Landscape Restoration in support of the Bonn Challenge in Eastern and South East Europe in Turkey;
  - Organisation of a follow-up meeting for the Caucasus and Central Asia on Forest Landscape Restoration in the region and implementation of the Strategy for Landscape Restoration and Greening Infrastructure in Caucasus and Central Asia.
- (e) Boreal Forests
- Organization of meeting(s) of the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Boreal Forests<sup>7</sup>;
  - Preparation of a policy brief and communication material to promote the importance of boreal forests for climate action and achievement of Sustainable Development Goals;

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<sup>4</sup> depending on the decision of the Joint Session of COFFI and EFC in autumn 2021.

<sup>5</sup> depending on the decision of the Joint Session of COFFI and EFC in autumn 2021.

<sup>6</sup> depending approval of composition of the future Teams of Specialists in the future Integrated Programme of Work 2022-2025.

<sup>7</sup> depending approval of composition of the future Teams of Specialists in the future Integrated Programme of Work 2022-2025.

### C. Work Area 3: Communication and outreach

- (a) Organization of events and campaigns in support of SFM and forest products and services
- International Day of Forests (IDF) to be celebrated on 21 March 2022 , Geneva, Switzerland;
  - Side event at the fifteenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF16), May 2022, New York, United States of America;
  - Communicating the potential of forest landscape restoration in ECE region through various events;
  - Communicating the potential of sustainable wood products in contributing to SDG12 through various events and exhibitions;
  - Communication campaigns (e.g. ECCA30, Trees in Cities Challenge, Forests for Fashion initiative);
- (b) Dissemination of information via policy briefs, press briefs and ad hoc studies, whenever results are available and new information is released
- Promotion and dissemination of studies and publications;
  - Promotion of the new web page on forest-statistics: <https://forest-data.unece.org/> in meetings and press releases.
- (c) Press releases will be published to present the outcomes of workshops, events and publications. Outreach activities beyond the forest sector, disseminating information that highlights the relevance of forests and forest products to other sectors (e.g. energy events, biodiversity and environment meetings, sustainable construction and building, etc.)
- Events organized in the margins of main forest related as well as cross-sectional meetings.

### D. Work Area 4: Capacity-building

- (a) Organization of capacity-building workshops on:
- Wood energy data collection for national correspondents (Joint Wood Energy Enquiry 2021);
  - Forest products statistics for national correspondents to the JFSQ;
  - Sustainable Forest Management;
  - Monitoring natural disturbances;
  - Forest landscape restoration in the ECE region in support of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration;
  - Forest sector modelling depending on requests of countries and the resources of the Secretariat.
- (b) Team of Specialists on Green Jobs in the Forest Sector
- Organization of meeting(s) of the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Green Jobs in the Forest Sector<sup>8</sup>.

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<sup>8</sup> depending approval of composition of the future Teams of Specialists in the future Integrated Programme of Work 2022-2025.

**E. Secretariat services to its governing bodies and their subsidiary body**

- (a) Intergovernmental Meetings
- Organization of the 43<sup>rd</sup> session of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management in 2022;
  - Organization of the 80<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry in 2022.
- (b) Bureaux Meetings
- Organization of the Joint COFFI and EFC Bureaux meetings upon request of the Chairs of COFFI and EFC.

**II. List of publications for 2022**

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<i>Title</i>	<i>English</i>	<i>French</i>	<i>Russian</i>
Forest Products Annual Market Review 2021-2022	E-600	[F-50]	R-150
Forestry and Timber Publication (2022)	E-600	[F-200]	R-200
Forestry and Timber Publication (2022)	E-600		R-150
Forestry and Timber Publication (2022)	English only, online publications		
Forestry and Timber Publication (2022)	English only, online publications		
Forestry and Timber Publication (2022)	English only, online publications		
Forestry and Timber Publication (2022)	English only, online publications		

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