The purpose of the Forest Information Billboard is to gather all news from the forest sector in one place: from forest reporting, new publications, and upcoming events. The contribution to the Billboard is voluntary. Please send your text (max. 250 words) including links to the full source of information as well as related photos or figures to Sofiia Parent. Please note that the editing of the texts is on the full responsibility of contributors, as well as the copyrights for images. Texts are published as received.

Issue 3, 2021

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- **What’s new in the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber section?**
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TODAY’S HIGHLIGHT:

Forest Landscape Restoration in Eastern and South East Europe in the focus for Ministerial Meeting on October, 12.

The Ministerial Meeting on Forest Landscape Restoration and the ECCA30/Bonn Challenge in Eastern and South-East Europe will take place on 12th of October, 2021. It is the first endeavour to strengthen political commitment and enhance collaboration on forest landscape restoration within the region.

The Meeting will provide an opportunity for the Eastern and South-East European countries to join, contribute and reinforce global communities’ efforts within the Bonn Challenge (a global initiative to bring 350 million hectares of degraded and deforested land into restoration by 2030) and the ECCA30 (a regional forest restoration initiative of Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia with a 30 million hectare target by 2030). The Ministerial Meeting is expected to bring together Ministers of 17 countries from Eastern and South-East Europe and will serve as a platform to declare countries’ commitments to accelerate work on identification of deforested and degraded lands and intensify efforts to restore and afforest them by 2030.

The Ministerial Meeting is organized jointly by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in cooperation with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the support of the Government of Germany.

More information will follow soon, please check our website for the updates: https://unece.org/forests/events/ministerial-meeting-forest-landscape-restoration-and-ecca30bonn-challenge-eastern
WHAT'S NEW IN THE UNECE/FAO FORESTRY AND TIMBER SECTION?

Forest Products Annual Market Review 2020-2021 – statistical annex now available

The statistical annex to the Market Review is now available at www.unece.org/forests/fpamr2021-annex. This includes over 80 tables showing the leading producers and traders in the three subregions of Europe, North America and the former Soviet Union. Over 40 countries provided data for this year’s publication.

The data cover more than 20 primary products in volume (1000 m3 or 1000 mt) and value (for trade). The file also includes tables showing apparent consumption by product.

For the main aggregates a forecast for 2021 is available.

Trade flow tables, showing trade by country as a share of global imports, are also available for the years 2018-2019 and earlier. See page https://unece.org/forests/forest-products-trade-flow

The publication itself will be available to those registering for the November 2021 meeting of the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the FAO European Forestry Commission (https://unece.org/forests/events/foresta2021)

ECE/FAO Forest Products Statistics – complete dataset 1964-2020 now available

The complete TIMBER database can be found here in a flat-file format: Complete Forest Products dataset | UNECE

Primary and secondary forest products are covered, including roundwood, sawnwood, wood-based panels, pulp and paper. It contains over 27,000 series (country/product/flow/unit) for the period 1964-2020.

More than 45 countries from the ECE region of Europe, North America and the former Soviet Union are included.

Additional data and publications can be found at the Forestry and Timber webpage for data: https://unece.org/forests/data-and-statistics
ECE/FAO Forest Products Prices have been updated

Data are available for over 80 series of a wide range of forest products, including roundwood, sawnwood, wood energy, panels, pulp and paper. Additionally unit price data for exports and imports have been updated for the period 1964-2020. This provides a complete overview of all flows in the TIMBER database for over 40 countries.

For more information: https://unece.org/forests/prices

INForest – now is available in Czech

“INForest” is the new forest communication tool that gathers key pieces of information on forests and the forest-based sector in the UNECE region in one place and highlights the wealth of information that is available. The platform offers the most up-to-date information about how much forest there is and how this number has changed over decades, the structure of forest, detailed information about the goods and services forests provide, as well as their contribution to the health of our economies, societies and the environment.

Thanks to the Forest Management Institute Czech Republic, this tool and related information is now available in the Czech language at https://forest-data.unece.org/. This is the fourth language available on INForest, which is also offered in English, Russian and Polish. Other languages may be added depending on interest.

For more information, please contact Roman Michalak or Alex McCusker in the Joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section.
Living with fire in the boreal biome

During the event “The science and policy of wildfires in the boreal biome”, which was held on the margins of the International Boreal Forest Research Association (IBFRA) Conference on 20 August 2021, experts from the boreal region discussed current drivers and trends of wildfires in the boreal region and assessed their socio-economic and socio-ecological implications.

The event brought together scientists, policymakers and journalists, who discussed how forest landscape restoration could be applied to enhance resilience of boreal forests, how local stakeholders could be effectively integrated into fire management strategies, and what role the media and wider international community can play in bringing across the right messages and stories about wildfires in the boreal.

The event was organized in close collaboration with the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Boreal Forests, which was created to contribute to science and policy cooperation on boreal forests and improve awareness of the role boreal forests play in global issues such as climate change. Find here the latest infographic on Boreal Forests and Climate Change, and a communications note on the role of boreal forests in sustainable development here.

Useful links:

- Recording
- Presentations and background material
- News release
- Work of the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Boreal Forests
- Infographic on Boreal Forests and Climate Change
- Communications note "Why boreal forests matter - the role of boreal forests in sustainable development"
FOREST COMMUNITY PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

Sustainable cork supply chain takes root in Sardinia

Cusseddu-Miali-Parapinta experimental cork forest, located in Tempio Pausania (Sassari) and managed by Agris Sardegna, the regional agency for scientific research in forestry services, was the first cork forest in the world to obtain the FSC sustainable forest management certification (2005).

More recently, Agris Sardegna decided to carry on these efforts, becoming the first cork forest in the world to ever obtain the verification of all 5 ecosystem services (water, soil, biodiversity, CO2 stock and cultural-touristic services). Its forests spread over 67 hectares, and count over 400 species of plants, 14 species of orchids, 218 types of mushrooms and 42 species of birds. The area is also home to wild boars, hedgehogs, foxes, weasels, martens and hares.

As for water resources, the activity carried out has allowed the maintenance of fresh water springs, wells and flow channels, while soil protection is granted through renaturalization activities, realization of new areas for naturalistic purposes and fire prevention measures. According to calculations, an estimated 2,420.10 tons of carbon are today stocked in the ground. In addition to this, the cork forest produces about 1,600 quintals of gentle cork every 10 years.

Agris Sardegna’s activity lead to the certification of Calangianus-based Molinas Group, which factory produces over a billion corks every year and hundreds of square meters of panels for green building, employing local labor and artisans in a short, sustainable supply chain.

Find more information here: https://it.fsc.org/it-it/news/id/921
Knowledge building and promotion of a lesser-known species (LKTS), the project: GOMBE BY CBG (Compagnie des Bois du Gabon)

The global target of this project supported by the PPECF is to guarantee the economic viability of an abundant species (Gombé / Didelotia spp.) allowing the survival of responsible management systems in Central Africa. The diversification of species to be offered on the markets is becoming a necessity. The economic survival of certified companies in the Congo Basin and in the field depends on the sustainability of the concession model under responsible (sustainable) management according to the FSC® standards.

A promotional process undertaken by the CBG for five years has shown that Gombé has solid potential.

Therefore, the trade of this species can only increase if it is accompanied by optimized data on its characteristics, attested by recognized laboratories, or through use tests on which manufacturers can rely, in complete confidence. These 4 laboratories were therefore selected:

• CIRAD (Center for International Cooperation in Agronomic Research for Development) in France;
• FCBA (Industrial Technical Center for Wood) in France.
• SHR laboratory (Stichting Hout Research)- The Netherlands - is engaged in applied scientific research on the use of wood and its transformation into other materials and products.
• Termolegno in Italy is specialized in the design, production, and installation of drying machines, vaporization, and heat treatment.
• By seeking to guarantee the economic viability of Gombé, the proposed activities aim at perpetuating the sustainable forest management system set up by CBG. This also implies securing jobs and socio-environmental benefits associated with these activities.
Forests have multiple functions in Austria, the most important one especially on steep slopes in the mountains is the protection against natural hazards! Protective forests prevent erosion and thus can minimize or completely prevent natural hazards such as rockfall, landslides or avalanches. Without this highly valuable “green” infrastructure permanent settlement and the use of many economic and cultural areas would not be possible in many mountainous regions.

The protective function of forests is also an important topic in the international context. As a classic cross-sectional issue, protective forests touches on many other topics such as spatial planning, land use, game life and hunting, climate change or biodiversity. To provide diverse background information the webpage www.protective-forest.at was launched. As the protective effect of forests against natural hazards plays a key role in many countries worldwide, the webpage was not only created as an international knowledge platform but also to expand awareness in the general public.

**Start now and explore the many different tasks of Austrian's Protective Forests at**

[http://www.protective-forest.at/](http://www.protective-forest.at/)
PEFC-certified biomass: a renewable resource from sustainably managed forests

The growing demand of a responsible model of production and consumption has led society to consider alternative approaches that respect the environmental, social and governance aspects (ESG). Thus, solutions with a positive social and environmental impact are becoming the first choices in the market and are leading the change towards a green bioeconomy. In terms of the transition to renewable energy biomass plays an important role because it is a natural an eco-friendly material by itself.

In Spain, The National Integrated Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030 agrees that by 2030 a 42% of the energy consumption from renewable sources should be achieved, exceeding the target set by the government (35%) and the European Union (32%). However, when it comes to energy generation, this percentage rises to 74%, ensuring the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, which is a real challenge for climate change mitigation. This is where forest biomass stands for. Spain is the third country in Europe with the availability of biomass as a resource. It is considered...
to have a neutral emission factor, as the carbon fixed during its life cycle is equivalent to that of its combustion. Likewise, the use of forest biomass for energy must verify its origin from sustainable forest management following strict environmental, social and economic parameters.

PEFC forest certification guarantees the management and sustainable use of forest areas, ensuring compliance with European and national regulations related to Biodiversity, Deforestation, Climate Change and Workers' Rights. In addition, it promotes green employment adapted to local conditions, preserves forests, improves both the productivity of the land and the quality of the product and, all together, it ensures energy efficiency, transparency and traceability of the material throughout its value chain. In this sense, the use of PEFC-certified biomass reduces the risk of fires and pests, so that fauna, flora, soil and water are preserved in certified areas.

**PEFC Spain** has nearly 2,5 million hectares of PEFC-certified forests managed by more than 44,000 forest owners committed to sustainability. Moreover, 1,600 companies have achieved the PEFC Chain of Custody certification in Spain, 59 out of them belonging to the biomass sector.

Catalonia (14), Castilla y León (13) and Andalusia (8) are the autonomous communities with the largest number of biomass processing industries, contributing to the greater availability of this local product. The turnover of certified companies in this resource reaches 120 million euros, making it a sector on the rise with an increase of 35% in the last years and with great potential for sustainable development.

In this growing increase in the demand for certified forest biomass, PEFC forest certification allows companies to achieve the market and socio-economic development, allowing them to have a traceability control mechanism to demonstrate the use of sustainable raw materials.

Choosing the PEFC label makes forest, the people and the planet be preserved.

For more information: [mailto:comunicacion@pefc.es](mailto:comunicacion@pefc.es)

If you want to read more about PEFC and subscribe to our Newsletter, click [HERE](#).
PEFC-certified areas are awaiting you in this stretch of the Way of St. James

PEFC Galicia together with "Ou teu Xacobeo" had created “PEFC no Camiño”, a northern halfway at the Way of Saint James that aims to bring the value of sustainable Galician forests to pilgrims.

PEFC Galicia, in collaboration with the government of Galicia (Xunta) initiative “Ou teu Xacobeo”, has developed an initiative to visit Galicia in a different way through 17 villages that are part of the Way of St. James and have particular interest of the Galician culture: Compostela, Ventosa, Ponte Maceira, Negreira, Vilaserío, Corzón, Olveiroa, Dumbría, Otón, Muíños, Muxía, Vaosilveiro, Buxán, Fisterra, Corcubión and Cee.

The aim of this project is to raise awareness of aspects of the Galician rural landscape, the importance of trees in the natural environment and in cities, forest species, the type of property, uses and work in the bush, toponymy, the relationship between architecture and nature and all this, in an interactive way between pilgrims and the environment. To do this, there is Plan-Guide with QR code access to the official website that can be found in the hostels and information points along the way.

This project promotes responsible tourism in Galicia through rural development using culture and the transmission of knowledge to bring people closer to the enjoyment of nature in a sustainable way.
For more information: comunicacion@pefc.es

If you want to read more about PEFC and subscribe to our Newsletter, click HERE.
We all stand by the trees

The role of certification schemes in protecting forests has recently been in the media spotlight. Various NGOs have campaigned against certification as it is currently, releasing public reports that focused on the perceived inability to tackle environmental challenges in forests, particularly in countries where legislation, or the enforcement of it isn't particularly strong.

FSC works towards the same goal as environmental NGOs and campaigners: we all want to protect our forests and make sure they continue to provide the tangible and intangible benefits for us and our grandchildren. This blog explains how FSC supports stricter legislation and why it's important we continue working in high-risk countries.


Forest Fire Protection – professional skills and strategic decisions

7th All-Russian Professional Skill Competition ‘Best Forest Firefighter’ was held in Moscow Region, Russia, during three days of September, 2021.

Professionals from Far East, Siberia, Ural, Volga, North-Western and Central Federal Districts of Russia, as well as from Aerial Forest Protection Service and Society of Volunteer Forest Firefighters participated in federal-level competition.

Exhibition arranged alongside featured specialized machinery, equipment and gear. Around open-air sites, innovative forest fire-fighting techniques were shown.
On the same days, forest firefighting issues were in focus at All-Russian meeting timed to 90th Anniversary of Aerial Forest Protection Service.

Head of the Federal Forestry Agency, Mr Ivan Sovetnikov addressed forest firefighters. He shared plans of the FFA, inter alia aimed at building up teams of professional firefighters and increasing hours for aviation monitoring. The area for ground monitoring is also to be increased by more than 920 thousand kilometers. Mr Sovetnikov added that the most difficult part of forest-fire season is already over: ‘Today, the most difficult situation remains in the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), where forest fires are still active. But they do not threaten settlements’.

Head of the Federal Forestry Agency noted: ‘Following the decision by the President of the Russian Federation, the 'North' forest fire center is to be built. It will allow to further develop air patrol and fire management on remote areas. Another initiative is to create an interregional center of aerial fire protection in the Far East of Russia. Funds for forest fire protection are to double. This can allow to bring the work to a whole new level”.

Head of Federal Forestry Agency expressed gratitude to forest firefighters for their selfless work and caring attitude to forests.
What Wood Agency has completed an update to its annual survey OSB market in Russia 2020-2021

OSB output keeps growing in Russia. In 2020, it grew by +18% compared to 2019. Increased production volumes at Kronospan Ufa, Kronospan Yegoryevsk and Kalevala DOK were the major contribution to this output growth, with small-capacity plants doing their bit.

Almost all OSB consumed in the domestic market is manufactured inside the country. Imported OSB mostly arrives to Russia from Belarus – from Kronospan OSB (Mogilev). After OSB consumption reduced by more than 9% in 2019, the consumption growth in Russia’s domestic market increased by 21% YoY in 2020, although April and May 2020 saw a sharp decline due to the pandemic.

Export from Russia is growing every year. In 2020, OBS export volume increased by 30%. China became the biggest importer for the first time, leaving behind Kazakhstan that had been the leader by OSB export volumes from Russia since 2013. OSB produced in Russia is getting exported to an ever growing number of destinations. In 2020, the Russian product was shipped to markets in New Zealand, Uganda, Angola and Madagascar for the first time. The role of CIS regions in the Russian export reduced – their share declined by 8 percentage points, from 57% in 2019 to 49% by 2020 performance. It is obvious that Russian producers are actively expanding their sales geography and entering highly profitable markets of non-CIS states.


The Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) joined the IUCN World Conservation Congress earlier this month

President and CEO Kathy Abusow joined the opening CEO Summit and spoke about SFI’s commitment to nature-based solutions and the importance of SFI’s comprehensive approach to solving key sustainability challenges. SFI also highlighted two big pieces of news that demonstrate how SFI is linking our standards, conservation, and supporting the next generation.

- SFI Forest Certification Standards Advance Key Global Sustainability and Conservation Priorities

SFI's new forest certification standard revisions advance solutions to some of the world's most
pressing sustainability challenges. The new standards build on SFI’s announcement at the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2016 of the formation of the Conservation Impact Project, which is focused on addressing climate change, biodiversity, and water quality on the SFI footprint.

- **SFI and MANRRS Partner to Foster Diversity in the Forest and Conservation Sector**

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) and Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS) announced a new partnership aimed at ensuring young Black Americans have greater opportunities for rewarding careers in the forest and conservation sector. This partnership seeks to provide transformative solutions to address the urgent need to create more inclusive, sustainable communities around the world. This need is recognized by leading global entities, including the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the United Nations (UN).

**FOREST EUROPE Work Programme 2021-2024 adopted**

The FOREST EUROPE Expert Level Meeting took place on 1-2 September 2021 and centred on the strategic discussion and adoption of the Work Programme 2021-2024. It will focus on Sustainable Forest Management (SFM), a Pan-European Forest Risk Mechanism, and Green Jobs and Forest Education. It also introduces the Rapid Response concept for policy dialogue on emerging issues, and a cross-cutting communication approach.

A SFM think tank will aim at keeping the sustainable forest management concept fit for the future. This group's final report will need to explore all tools in the context of current challenges to further strengthen the role of SFM in policy and practice.
The Pan-European risk knowledge mechanism focuses on the importance of being able to respond, both through building a cooperation on risk management, early response, disaster prevention and preparation, and through sharing knowledge and supporting networks.

Green jobs and forest education will bring new energy to the topic, try to close generation gaps, get more members of younger generations involved in forestry jobs, and address the shift to more digitalization.

The communication strategy focuses on adapting the messages to different audiences through human stories and having more presence online. The first campaign is a set of interviews conducted by a freelance DW climate and environmental journalist. It includes topics related to the State of Europe's Forests report such as forest cover, protected areas, climate change impacts, biodiversity and more. Watch the series here.

For more information: social media.

**BASAJAUN Project “Building A Sustainable Joint between rural and urban areas Through Circular and Innovative Wood Construction Value Chains”**

**BASAJAUN** is a major European innovation action about sustainable building with wood. The main objective of BASAJAUN is to demonstrate how wood construction chains can be optimized to foster both rural development and urban transformation whilst being connected with sustainable forest management in Europe. The core idea is to enable the construction of a medium-sized building with the lowest possible hectares of forest. Two full-scale, medium-sized demonstration buildings will be constructed in Finland and France, using innovative architecture and a complete digitalization of the “forest to building” chain to show how wood construction can benefit rural areas.

The Basajaun project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement no. 862942 from 2019-2023 and is a part of the Wood4Bauhaus Alliance initiative. The consortium comprises 29 partners from 12 countries.
including 8 leading research and technology organizations, 3 universities, 15 companies and 4 other public and sectoral organizations. The project is coordinated by the Tecnalia Research and Innovation Foundation in Spain.

One of project partners is Lukasiewicz Research Network – Wood Technology Institute, which is a part of the Łukasiewicz Research Network, third largest R&D network, providing business with attractive, broad and competitive technological solutions. Łukasiewicz offers a unique “challenge system” powered by a group of 4,500 scientists, who under 15 working days take up a business challenge and present the entrepreneur with potential solutions: https://lukasiewicz.gov.pl/en/for-business/
The 6th edition of the France's Forests report (sustainable forest management indicators) available on a new website

France has revised its sustainable forest management (SFM) indicators every 5 years since 1995: the last edition issued in July 2021.

The set of indicators is built to be consistent with the European and world reports, but adapted according to the specificities of French forests. Through around fifty indicators, each of them accompanied by a detailed analysis, stakeholders have access to a co-developed reference information.

The 2020 trends show that the area of French forest has continued to grow by nearly 20% for the last 35 years. However, forests must face increasing pressure, particularly because of ungulate populations, health disease (such as bark beetles), and more generally climate change with summer droughts which are becoming more frequent and intense. French forest also provide 56 million m³ of wood per year for a value estimated at 2.8 billion euros.

The National Institute of Geographic and Forest Information launched a new website (https://foret.ign.fr/IGD) to widely share the informations carried by this set of indicators. The website, developed in French, will soon be available in English too. It gives access to each indicator and allows to download data.

Online version of the summary here: https://foret.ign.fr/api/upload/IGD_2020_SYNTHÈSE.pdf
Special Issue on the Swiss National Forest Inventory

The current issue of the Swiss Forestry Journal (5/2021) is dedicated to the Swiss National Forest Inventory (Swiss NFI). The six articles in the issue present results and analyses that have become possible thanks to recent developments in the scope and methodology of the Swiss NFI.

The article by Urs-Beat Brändli and co-authors is likely to be a particular gem, as it provides the first reference on the number and type of tree microhabitats in the Swiss forest. The tree microhabitats were recorded on the sample plots of the Swiss NFI according to the European typology, elaborated within the research project Integrate+. The Swiss NFI is the first national inventory in Europe to introduce this typology.

The paper by Brändli et al. as well as all other papers are available here: https://meridian.allenpress.com/szf/issue/172/5.

So far, four inventories have been carried out by the Swiss NFI, each about 10 years apart, and the fifth is underway (2018-2026).

In a welcome move the new EU Forestry Strategy recognizes the role of wood in construction as a key solution to the climate change crisis, but it lacks a comprehensive approach to forests

The European woodworking industries have been advocating for a long time for an increased recognition of the role of wood-based products to decarbonize key sectors of the economy, such as construction and renovation. The carbon absorbed from the atmosphere is stored in the trees and consequently in the products, and that effect, paired with the substitution of fossil-based and energy-intensive construction materials, can help to drastically reduce the overall carbon footprint of the building stock.
In a welcome and timely move the EU Forest Strategy, published today by the European Commission, acknowledges this key contribution and the role of the woodworking industry in helping to turn the construction sector from a source of greenhouse gas emissions into a carbon sink as set out in the Renovation Wave and the new European Bauhaus initiative and as advocated by Commission President von der Leyen.

For more information: https://f15e48fb-651f-4f51-bf48-c1e0302f673f.filesusr.com/ugd/5b1bdc_de259549392d45f9b828f7d22023103f.pdf

Stricter rules protect biodiversity and intact forest landscapes in Russia

With the new FSC standards for Russia that came into force in March, all FSC-certified forests are subject to stricter controls. Forest managers must set aside up to 80 per cent of the intact forest landscape to preserve their biodiversity. From next year onwards, no harvesting will be allowed in the newly certified intact forest landscapes, with only a few exceptions. In addition, when it comes to preserving forests of high conservation value, such as intact forest landscapes, all stakeholders with an interest in that forest, including Indigenous Peoples, must be engaged.


UN-REDD: The Annual Report was released late August

This Annual Report presents the results of the UN-REDD Programme up to and including 2020. It builds on and continues a progressive series of technical, policy and knowledge achievements at the nexus between climate and forests since the Programme's launch in 2008.
Gender and REDD+ Updates

In the face of ongoing deep-rooted gender barriers and inequalities, both state and non-state stakeholders are still charting a path forward in integrating gender in REDD+, creating conditions for the change needed to achieve sustainable development and combat climate change. A recently published Round Up on gender offers a concise reference tool for partner countries and REDD+ stakeholders with key entry points for integrating gender, suggested activities and good practice examples.

The September REDD+Resource newsletter focuses on the issues of the upcoming Food Summit: how to increase production while halting the assault on our planet? We can become more sustainable consumers, by shifting to approaches such as nature positive production, which promotes equitable livelihoods and is resilient against stress factors like climate change and extreme weather events.
Finland’s forests in comparison to FOREST EUROPE and EU-28 countries

The Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke) has recently published a set of infographics on Finland's forests in a European context demonstrated with selected FOREST EUROPE Criteria and Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management. Aim of the infographics is to inform stakeholders on forest trends, changes and emerging issues. The infographic have been published by Luke since 2015 annually.

Annual analytical review “MDF/HDF Market in Russia in 2020-2021”: moderate production decrease based on the results of 2020, unprecedented price growth by 247% and commissioning of new facilities

The production output of MDF/HDF, fiberboard (all types of fiberboards) reached 3.7 million m³ (-4.5% vs 2019). If we exclude the mature segment of the wet-processed fiberboard from the calculations, the production output of MDF/HDF and dry-processed fiberboard as of the end of 2020 was 3.3 million m³, -4.8% vs 2019. The decrease was recorded based on such companies as Kastamonu, Kronospan, Swiss Krono, Latat, etc.

The average load of working enterprises was 62% (including the unemployed capacities). In 2019, a new player, Pavlovsky Woodworking Plant, was added to the existing facilities (capacity is 250,000 m³/year); in 2021, a new plant of Kronospan Group was launched in the Kaluga Region, Kronospan Kaluga, and MDF Plant in Mortka (KHAD) resumed its activity. Thus, the all-Russian capacities for the production of MDF/HDF, dry-processed fiberboard amounted to 4.6 million m³. Wet processed fiberboard production capacity is sufficient to cover domestic demand and export supplies. The maturity of wet-processed fiberboard segment, old equipment, competition with MDF/HDF explains the decrease of capacities in the last decade: APPM, Nelidovskiy Woodworking Plant, and Mariiskiy Pulpmill have stopped producing this type of board.


Methods of protection forest soils during logging operations (review)

The new publication prepared with participation of Russian Northern Research Institute of Forestry brings a comprehensive view on the experience in preventing or limiting negative impacts of mechanised logging on soil. The goal of the analysis is to provide guidance on minimising the negative impact of logging machinery on soil and thereby promote sustainable forest management. This article also provides a comprehensive view on how the soil's properties change after logging operations. Soil
rehabilitation after logging may take many decades, and some damage is irreparable. Therefore, given the strong influence of soils on forest productivity, it is essential to protect forest soils in order to ensure successful renewal and productivity of future forests.

Based on this review of management practices for reducing adverse impacts on soils and soil cover, it can be concluded that there are effective ways to reduce the negative impact of logging.

Despite high interest in applying sparing methods of wood harvesting, implementation of measures designed to reduce negative impacts on forest soils after logging is limited.

The study was supported with a grant by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Russian Federation for young scientists-candidates of sciences within the project no. MK-2622.2021.5 «Patterns of changes in the forest ecosystems under the influence of anthropogenic factors (logging) in the boreal forests of the North».

Ilintsev A.S., Nakvasina E.N., Högbom L. Methods of protection forest soils during logging operations (review) // Lesnoy Zhurnal [Russian Forestry Journal], 2020, no. 5.

More information by contacting Mr. Aleksey Ilintsev. The full article will be available from November 20, 2021 on the website Russian Forestry Journal and then in the Web of Science Core Collection.
UPCOMING EVENTS

Advancing the sustainable management of urban trees and forests
A virtual peer-to-peer learning roundtable

Urban trees and forests are a cost-efficient and scalable nature-based solution that can play a key role in sustainable development and climate change adaptation and mitigation in cities. Many cities are strengthening efforts to integrate urban trees and forests into their resilience strategies and to develop or update urban forestry masterplans. However, while doing so, cities face many challenges.

By providing a peer-to-peer learning opportunity for mayors, local stakeholders, and experts, the webinar aims to discuss how urban forestry and green infrastructure can be integrated into urban planning, understand how trees can be sustainably grown in cities, and share experiences on innovative approaches to finance sustainable urban forestry.

Selected cities and experts will share examples and proven practices for addressing these challenges, and mayors, local stakeholders, and experts are encouraged to provide input in peer-to-peer Q&As. Anyone interested in urban forestry is welcome to register for the event and follow the presentations and discussions.

The webinar is organized as part of UNECE’s “Trees in Cities Challenge”, a global campaign inviting mayors to pledge, restore, protect, and sustainably manage urban trees and forests.

For more information on the event, including the agenda and registration, please visit https://unece.org/forests/ticc-virtualroundtable2021.
Upcoming Foresta2021 and #EuropeanForestWeek

Foresta2021 - the Joint Session of the 79th Session of the UNECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI) and the 41st Session of the FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC) will be held in Rome from 22 to 25 November 2021. Under the theme “Future of Forests”, Foresta2021 will feature the launch of the Forest Sector Outlook Study; the adoption of a new Integrated Programme of Work (IPoW) of COFFI and EFC; discussions about forest landscape restoration, urban forestry, and the contribution of forests and forest products to a circular bio-economy.

Foresta2021 will be held in conjunction with the Sixth European Forest Week (EFW), which will be celebrated from 22 to 28 November 2021 and will provide an excellent opportunity to increase the visibility of the growing challenges facing forests and the possible solutions as we enter the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. Interested stakeholders can contribute to the EFW by holding a virtual side event, as well as by organizing national and local celebrations. Applications for side events are still open, please follow the link below for more information.

For more information about the European Forest Week, visit: http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/european-forest-week/en/

For more information about Foresta2021, visit: https://unece.org/info/Forests/events/357375

*** NEW DATES*** 43rd Session of the Joint UNECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management (1-3 June 2022)

Please note that the date for the 43rd Session of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management has changed. The meeting is now scheduled to be held from 1-3 June 2022. Additional information, registration and documentation will be provided on the website of the meeting in early 2022 (https://unece.org/info/events/unece-meetings-and-events/forests). For further details, please contact the Secretary of the Working Party, Mr. Florian Steierer.
IUFRO World Day - Digital Forest Science Forum 2021

Join the International Union of Forest Research Organizations on 28 and 29 September 2021 to connect, re-connect and interconnect all over the globe! Embark on a free journey around the world with 24 hours of forest-related research topics, science/policy forums and networking.

#IUFROWorldDay: https://www.iufroworldday.org/
Register: https://www.iufroworldday.org/participation

A unique Interactive Map will be the starting point for your free journey around the world of IUFRO. You will be invited to enter our Interactive Map as soon as it opens a few days before the event. You will be notified correspondingly.

More than 70 sessions and a wide array of static contributions will be displayed on the Interactive Map grouped into three time zones: Africa/Europe; North/South America; Asia/Oceania.

**Three Science-Policy Forums**

Each of the time zone groups will also hold a science-policy forum. All three forums will have eminent panelists including national and international policymakers and renowned experts in the respective regions and globally.

**Forest-based Bioeconomy for All - Opportunities and Challenges**
28 September 2021 - 12:00 - 13:30 pm UTC

**Forests and Fire - Intersectionality of Forests and People**
28 September 2021 - 20:00 - 21:30 pm UTC

**Forests and Water: Science-Policy-Practice Interface for Managing Forest and Water Interactions under a Changing Environment**
29 September 2021 - 07:00 - 08:30 am UTC

If you have an appetite for knowledge and want to connect with the IUFRO network, you are invited to join us for a virtual lunchtime session: https://www.iufroworldday.org/copy-of-sessions
Attention to all sustainable furniture champions! Have you heard about the #FSCFurnitureAwards competition? It celebrates FSC-certified indoor and outdoor furniture companies committed to sustainability.

The competition is open to companies based in Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, Poland, San Marino, Serbia, Slovenia and the United Kingdom.

Find out more and apply by 14 October 2021: [http://www.fscfurnitureawards.org/](http://www.fscfurnitureawards.org/)

Participation is free of charge!
“Transformative Change” for Building a Sustainable Society and Forests
International Online Symposium

Date: 8:45-11:45, 15th October, 2021 (Friday), JST
(16:45-19:45, 14th October, 2021 (Thursday), Vancouver time)

Description: The 2019 IPBES Global Assessment Report states that the Aichi Targets of biodiversity conservation and SDGs cannot be achieved without working together to promote “transformative change” that will significantly change the behavior of traditional industrial societies. At this symposium, we invite Prof. Dr. Kai Chan, University of British Columbia, Coordinating Lead Author of Chapter 5 of the report, and Mr. Hiroto Mitsugi, the former Assistant Director General/Forestry Department, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), to discuss why we need “transformative change” and what we can do to promote it in order to conserve forests/landscapes and their essential contributions to people (ecosystem services).

Main language: English (simultaneous translation into Japanese)

For more information: [https://innofesweb.wixsite.com/innofes/general-4](https://innofesweb.wixsite.com/innofes/general-4)
Exploring the importance of Cultural Forest Ecosystem Services in an international perspective –Towards new forest-related business opportunities?
European–Japanese Online Symposium

Date: 15 November 2021: Online (Zoom/Webinar) 6:45-12:35 GST

Description: Diverse cultural forest ecosystem services (FES)—such as human health, education, recreation/tourism—are increasingly demanded by societies around the globe, especially also in high-income countries. During the covid-19 crisis lockdown period, some peri-urban forests provided a vital human health supporting function. In this international symposium, experts/practitioners in Europe and Japan provide insights from research on cultural FES and their importance in forest policy and for forest management. A specific focus will be on the increasing importance of cultural FES as a new source of (business) innovations and the potential contribution of such innovations for forest-related sustainability policies under the frame of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Main language: English

For more information: https://innofesweb.wixsite.com/innofes/about-9
It is time for Youth to share their views and exchange opinions on Forest-related issues!

Do you know students who are doing interesting Research on Forest & Climate issues? Or maybe you saw young people doing on-the-ground projects related to Nature-based Solutions?

The Federal Forestry Agency of Russia invites girls and boys aged 14-22 years old to tell about their own efforts & exchange experience with their peers from all around the world!

The International Junior Forest Contest will be held Online on 16-19 November 2021. In English and Russian.

Participation is Free of charge.

Students’ Research works and Projects will be evaluated by Jury Members from FAO, UNECE, UNEP and other International Bodies and Experts.

All contestants receive certificates of participation, while the works ranked best will get valuable prizes as well.

Please, register here (registration form is also attached).

More information - on the website of Federal Forestry Agency of Russia.

We will be happy to reply your queries sent at forestcontestffa@gmail.com