



Report of the Joint Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management

ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2021/2

Rome, Italy
22 November 2021



Background

- **The 42nd session Joint ECE/ FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management was held successfully from 22-24 March 2021 in Geneva, Switzerland.**
- **27 member States attended the meeting.**
- **The first meeting of the Joint Working Party since 2019 (COVID-19 pandemic)**
- **Hybrid meeting – secretariat in meeting room and participants online (simultaneous interpretation E/F/R)**

1. Revision of the Rules of Procedure

The secretariat informed delegates of the possible 3 options for the Joint Working Party: the revised set of Rules of Procedure of COFFI adopted at its 77th session; the ECE Rules of Procedure; or a new set of Rules of Procedure developed specifically for the Joint Working Party.

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. The secretariat was requested to liaise with member States to collect suggestions and identify specific areas to be addressed by the new rules.

Status:

No progress since the session - this process will be started after the end of the Joint Session

2. Forests and the circular economy.

The Joint Working Party took note of the progress of work on forests and a circular economy. The secretariat had presented 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.

Member States supported the direction of this and recommended some topics to be included in study.

Status:

The secretariat shared with delegates a pre-final version of the publication which includes the guidance from the Joint Working Party and member States.

NOTE: The outcome will be discussed under Item 3 (g) of this session.

3. Guidance on Work Areas

The JWP provided guidance on 3 work areas:

Work Area 1: Data, monitoring, reporting and assessment;

Work Area 2: Policy dialogue and advice;

Work Area 3: Communication and outreach;

Work Area 1

Forest Resources (key recommendation)

- The JWP 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.

Forest products statistics (key recommendation)

- Endorsed the work on improving the Harmonized System trade classification and the plans to request input from members of the Working Party and the Teams of Specialists.

Work Area 1

Forest products markets (key recommendation)

- 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 [shorter more data driven] publication. (...) engineered wood products and factory-built homes could be a focus for future improvements in the country market statements (...) [and] coverage of these issues could also be increased in the FPAMR.

Wood Energy (key recommendation)

- Encouraged the secretariat to continue collaboration with other organizations (...). 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.

Work Area 2

Forest policy (key recommendation)

- 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;

Forest Sector Outlook (key recommendation)

- Highlighted the importance of the study and its data for policy making.

Boreal Forests (key recommendation)

- 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;

Work Area 3

Communication and outreach (key recommendation)

- Encouraged further supporting the member States to address misinformation around sustainable forest management, in particular in boreal forests.

Work Area 4

Capacity-building (key recommendation)

- 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;

4. Strategic Review of the Integrated Programme of Work.

The Joint Working Party provided

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

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

Note: The outcome of the consultation was forwarded to the Joint Session and will be discussed under Item 3 (c)

5. Overview on ECE and FAO forest and forest sector related activities 2022.

Joint Working Party took note of:

- **a tentative list of 2022 activities covered by the Integrated Programme of Work presented by the secretariat**
- **ECE and FAO activities beyond the Integrated Programme of Work.**

Note: The list of tentative list of activities adopted by the JWP will be replaced by the List of planned activities adopted by the joint session.

6. Election of officers

The 42nd session elected until the end of the 43rd session:

Ms. Magdalena Wolicka Posiadła (Poland) as new Chair.

Mr. Matthias Dieter (Germany) as Vice-Chair.

Mr. Michal Synek (Czech Republic) as Vice-Chair.

The Working Party thanked 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.

7. Date and place of next meeting

In 2022, the Joint Working Party requested to organize a three-day session to allow for interactive sessions and sufficient time for catching up on pandemic related postponed discussions

*****2022***NEW DATE***2022***NEW DATE***2022***NEW DATE*****

1-3 June 2022 (hybrid meeting: in person + online)



THANK YOU

Magdalena Wolicka
Chair of the UNECE/FAO JWPFSEM 2021-2022
Chief expert - Polish Ministry of Climate and Environment
23 November 2023

