



# Economic and Social Council

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**Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations**

## Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry

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

#### Forty-third session

Geneva, 1-3 June 2022

Item 5 Guidance on Work Areas

## Food and Agriculture Organization

European Forestry Commission

### ECE/FAO Teams of Specialists reports

#### Information document on Items for regular reporting to the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management

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<b>1. Name: Team of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management</b>
Team website: <a href="https://unece.org/forests/team-specialists-monitoring-sustainable-forest-management">https://unece.org/forests/team-specialists-monitoring-sustainable-forest-management</a>
<b>2. Period covered:</b>
April 2021 – May 2022
<b>3. Leader/Deputies and Secretary:</b>
Leader: Friedrich Schmitz, Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Germany Deputies: Markus Lier, Ministry of Agriculture and Forest, Finland; Stefanie Linser, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU); Andrzej Talarczyk, Forest and Natural Resources Research Centre, Warsaw Secretary: Roman Michalak
<b>4. Members:</b>
70
<b>5. Countries:</b>
<b>26 countries:</b> Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Poland, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United States of America <b>12 organizations, processes and universities:</b> Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Armeniatree, Confederation of European Forest Owners, European Commission, European Environment Agency, European State Forest Association - EUSTAFOR, European Forest Genetic Resources Programme – EUFORGEN, European Forest Institute (Forest Policy Research Network and EFI Forest Europe Support Team), Food and Agriculture, Organization of the United Nations, Forest Europe - Liaison Unit Bonn, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences – Vienna (BOKU), University of Molise, Sylva Nova.
<b>6. Meetings held in 2021 and 2022:</b>
Monthly coordination video meetings of the core group of the Team, with the participation of the leader, deputy leaders and coordinators of the task groups (on forest damage and forest data banks). The fourth (29 <sup>th</sup> ) meeting of the “UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on monitoring sustainable forest management” - the second session was held on 21 April 2021 ( <a href="https://unece.org/info/events/event/360453">https://unece.org/info/events/event/360453</a> ) A webinar organized by the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on monitoring sustainable forest management on 21 April 2021 “Relevance, challenges and expectations from the global and regional reporting on forests and sustainable forest management” ( <a href="https://unece.org/info/events/event/360577">https://unece.org/info/events/event/360577</a> )
<b>7. Outputs and impacts achieved since March 2021:</b>
ToS on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management initiated the project “Assessment of forest damage/disturbance in the ECE region” to improve knowledge, methodology, and reporting capacity on forest damage in the ECE region. The project is coordinated by Michael Koehl, with the support of the members of the ToS (Frank Koch, Stefanie Linser, Guy Robertson, Andrzej Talarczyk). Implementation of the project is supported by Austria, Canada, Finland, Germany, and the United States of America.

The Forest Databanks Network (an informal sub-group of ToS experts in the field of forest data banks, led by Andrzej Talarczyk), provided advice to the UNECE regarding improving INForest – a web portal presenting forests of the UNECE region. UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section in cooperation with experts from Poland developed a new version of INForest, with some functionality improvements and refreshed data on forest products and trade.

The publication “Reporting on forests and Sustainable Forest Management in the Caucasus and Central Asia” was coordinated by Stefanie Linser, with the input of the members of the ToS (Annemarie Bastrup-Birk, Michael Koehl, Kari Korhonen, Andrzej Talarczyk).

A side event was organized and conducted on 9 May 2022 during the UNFF 17, under the title “Every tree counts: Past, present and future of forests in the UNECE region and beyond”. The side event (moderated by Stefanie Linser) presented insights, tools, and opportunities for action, based on the Joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section’s most recent work, with a focus on the “Forest Sector Outlook Study, 2020-2040” and the INForest online forest sector knowledge platform (by Andrzej Talarczyk), and related national developments.

### 8. Outputs and impacts expected for coming 2022 and first half of 2023

Support to the implementation of the project “Assessment of forest damage/disturbance in the UNECE region”, which is scheduled from October 2020 until December 2022. The expected outputs of the project are a report on the current state of reporting on forest damages and reporting and recommendations to improve reporting under the ever more obvious impacts of climate change on forest ecosystem health and vitality. The project results will be presented at: the “Scientific-Technical Symposium “Assessing Forest Damage and Disturbance” jointly organized by UNECE, FAO, and the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Regions and Tourism, on 29-30 September 2022 in Vienna, Austria. More information about the meeting is available at <https://unece.org/info/Forests/events/364295>.

Support to the presentation and dissemination of the results of the Global and Pan-European 2020 reporting on forests and sustainable forest management.

Support to ECE, FAO, and Forest Europe in preparation for the 2025 cycle of the Global and Pan-European reporting. According to the mandates received the Team’s work will focus on:

- preparation of the interactive pan-European forest data collection portal, integrated with the one developed for FRA;
- providing advice and support to the project on developing Forest Policy and Management Support Information Systems, which will be initiated by the Joint ECE/FAO Section in 2022;
- conceptual developments in forest monitoring, assessment, and reporting. The integration of remote sensing as well as the needs of players in high-level politics has to be discussed continuously.

The next meeting of the Team of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management will be held on 28 September 2022, back-to-back to the forest disturbance/damage symposium in Vienna, Austria. More information about the ToS meeting is available at: <https://unece.org/info/Forests/events/364293>.

### 9. Issues for the attention of the Working Party:

The COVID-19 situation has posed serious challenges to international cooperation, but it is also an opportunity to increase capacities and competence in employing technical advances in communication and remote collaboration. The Joint Working Party has already underlined the importance of using modern communication means to increase the visibility of the work done by the ToS and Joint Section regarding the forest sector, and the ToS will continue to use both “in-person” and virtual means of communication in its work, for example, the next meeting and the symposium will be held in a hybrid format.

### 10. Other comments:

The development of the INForest platform was done in collaboration with the Team of Specialists on Forest Products Statistics.

Several members of the Team take part also in the work of other Teams, including the members of the Core Group: Markus Lier is also a member of the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Boreal Forests  
Andrzej Talarczyk is also a member of the UNECE/FAO Team Specialists on Sustainable Forest Products

<b>1. Team of Specialists on Forest Products and Wood Energy Statistics</b>
<p>Team website: <a href="https://unece.org/forests/team-specialists-forest-products-and-wood-energy-statistics">https://unece.org/forests/team-specialists-forest-products-and-wood-energy-statistics</a></p> <p>This report of the Team of Specialists (ToS) on Forest Products and Wood Energy Statistics is the result of merging of the former ToS on Forest Products Statistics and the ToS on Wood Energy. This report therefore includes two separate reports under heading 7 (7.a and 7.b) on past “Outputs and impacts achieved”. The remaining part of the report reflects the structure and plans of the merged ToS and is based on the outcomes of the first meeting of the ToS for the period 2022/2023 that was held on 28/29 April 2022.</p>
<b>2. Period covered:</b>
April 2021 – May 2022
<b>3. Leader/Deputies and Secretary:</b>
<p>Leader: Francisco Aguilar  Deputies: Branko Glavonjic, Ewa Leszczyszyn, Graça Louro, Holger Weimar  Secretary: Daniel Griswold</p>
<b>4. Members:</b>
58
<b>5. Countries:</b>
27 countries: Austria, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.
<b>6. Meetings held in 2021 and 2022:</b>
<p>ToS on Forest Product Statistics: April 2021  ToS on Forest Product and Wood Energy Statistics: April 2022</p>
<b>7. a) Outputs and impacts achieved by the former ToS on Forest Products Statistics (March 2021 – December 2021):</b>
<p>The main ToS on Forest Products Statistics outputs in the last year were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Collection of statistics and information within the:</li> <li>- Production of JFSQ for 2021, covering the compilation on post-consumer recovered wood as a single item, as agreed by the team and discussed during 2019.</li> <li>- Timber Forest Questionnaire 2021</li> <li>- Questionnaire for Engineered Wood Products (Glulam, CLT, LVL, I-beams, production and trade), developed since 2017.</li> <li>- Active participation of ToS members in the production of the Forest Products Annual Market Review 2021-2022 (FPAMR 2021-2022)</li> </ul>
<b>7. b) Outputs and impacts achieved by the former ToS on Wood Energy (March 2021 – December 2021):</b>
<p>The main ToS on Wood Energy outputs in the last year were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Active participation of ToS members in the publication of the Forest Products Annual Market Review 2021-2020 (Chapter 9: Wood energy)</li> <li>- Engagement in the analysis of Joint Wood Energy Enquiry (JWEE) data and trends</li> <li>- Synergies across members created to assess the value of wood energy in residential consumption, and improve conversion factors (presented in scientific journals)</li> <li>- Webinar: On a 26 May 2021, Ms. Ashley Steel, Forest Officer (Statistics) at FAO provided an overview of their currently ongoing process of revising the global wood fuel modeling.</li> </ul>

## 8. Outputs and impacts expected of the merged ToS for coming 2022 and first half of 2023

- Continue the work on definitions, methodologies and information sources.
- Preparation of forecast data on forest products production and trade.
- Review of statistics regarding removals to share information, identify gaps and inconsistencies in definitions and methodologies
- Review methods of data collection to better respond to policy questions regarding wood energy supply-chains
- Collection of historical data on forest products, species trade, and prices
- Production of JFSQ for 2021
- Timber Forecast Questionnaire 2022
- Support to the FPAMR production
- Preparation of data and the statistical annex for the FPAMR 2021-2022;
- Preparation of tables and graphs for the Market Forecasts 2022-2023
- Improvement of the existing database and expansion of available information
- Dissemination through FAOSTAT and ECE websites.

## 9. Issues for the attention of the Working Party:

The ToS on Forest Product and Wood Energy Statistics raised the following points for the attention of the Working Party:

The Team recommends including Engineered Wood Products (EWPs) as an integral part of the JFSQ in 2022, perhaps limited to the UNECE region, and not to issue the EWP as a stand-alone questionnaire on a trial basis.

The Team expressed a clear preference for FAOSTAT to flag aggregate data as “aggregate” rather than alternative approaches that are under consideration.

The Team agreed that data supplied through the JFSQ by national correspondents is important to collect and should be preferred over COMTRADE data.

The Team supported continued participation in the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Forest Sector Statistics and attendance at other international meetings.

The Team supported input to the Harmonized System 2022 revision to take effect in 2027, review of international classifications.

## 10. Other comments:

The Team approved the list of proposals for the 2027 revision of the Harmonized Standards finalized at the 35<sup>th</sup> meeting of the IWG.

The Team agreed to establish the following two ad hoc task groups, with task group coordinators:

- 1) Review of statistics regarding removals to share information, identify gaps and inconsistencies in definitions and methodologies, and;
- 2) Review of methods of data collection to better respond to policy questions on wood energy supply chain.

Date: 3 May 2022

<b>1. Name: Team of Specialists (ToS) on Sustainable Forest Products</b>
Website: <a href="https://unece.org/forests/team-specialists-sustainable-forest-products">https://unece.org/forests/team-specialists-sustainable-forest-products</a>
<b>2. Period covered:</b>
April 2021 – May 2022
<b>3. Leader/Deputies and Secretary:</b>
Leader: Eoin O’Driscoll Deputies: Jeremy Wall, Delton Alderman Secretary: Florian Steierer
<b>4. Members:</b>
91 of which 18 females
<b>5. Countries:</b>
30 countries: Austria; Azerbaijan; Belarus; Bulgaria; Canada; Croatia; Czech Republic; Estonia; Finland; France; Georgia; Germany; Ireland; Italy; Latvia; Netherlands; Norway; Poland; Romania; Russian Federation; Serbia; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; Turkey; Ukraine; United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; United States of America and Uzbekistan.
<b>6. Meetings held in 2021 and 2022:</b>
<i>24 November 2021</i> <a href="#">Meeting of the Team of Specialists on Sustainable Forest Products</a> <i>09 December 2021</i> <a href="#">Meeting of the Team of Specialists on Sustainable Forest Products</a>
<b>7. Outputs and impacts achieved since March 2021:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Inputs to, production and publication of the 2020-21 Forest Products Annual Market Review (FPAMR), with special features on the continuing impacts of the global Covid 19 crisis and green forest products;</li> <li>- Proof reading of the FPAMR</li> <li>- A discussion with the Secretariat on how data input (for the FMAMR) can be improved</li> <li>- A discussion with the Secretariat on the use of social media to improve the visibility of the Joint ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section</li> <li>- Contribution to the celebration of the International Day of Forest 2022 on packaging made from sustainable forest products.</li> </ul>
<b>8. Outputs and impacts expected for coming 2022 and first half of 2023</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Inputs to, production and publication of the 2021-22 FPAMR;</li> <li>- Live meeting and/or webinar for ToS members and invited experts on innovation in, market developments of and prospects for novel engineered wood materials, products and systems, including composites;</li> <li>- In person meeting and/or webinar for ToS members and invited experts on the current and future wood availability and production and trade in the ECE region.</li> <li>- ToS meetings will be held online and on the margins of ECE meetings</li> </ul>

**9. Issues for the attention of the Working Party:**

- The broad impacts on and implications for forest products' markets of the global post-Covid economic slow-down, in particular rising interest rates and inflation;
- Possible impacts on forest products' markets of various wood import and export bans.

**10. Other comments:**

As in previous years, this ToS is open to collaborating with other ToS. Many of our members took part in the ECE forestry statistics and wood energy meeting which was held in April 2022.

Date: 4 May 2022

<b>1. Name: Team of Specialists on Boreal Forests</b>
Team website: <a href="https://unece.org/forests/team-specialists-boreal-forests">https://unece.org/forests/team-specialists-boreal-forests</a>
<b>2. Period covered:</b>
April 2021 – May 2022
<b>3. Leader/Deputies and Secretary:</b>
Leader: Mr. Darren Sleep (Canada) Deputy: Mr. Vladimir Dmitriev (Russian Federation) Secretary: Ms. Leonie Meier, UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section
<b>4. Members:</b>
17
<b>5. Countries:</b>
7 countries: Canada, Finland, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden, Russian Federation, and the United States of America.
<b>6. Meetings held in 2021 and 2022:</b>
The following 3 online meetings were held during this reporting period: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">3rd online meeting</a>, 23 June 2021</li> <li>• <a href="#">4th online meeting</a>, 13 October 2021</li> <li>• <a href="#">5th online meeting</a>, 2 March 2022</li> </ul> All meetings were held via the Kudo platform with interpretation in Russian and English.
<b>7. Outputs and impacts achieved since March 2021:</b>
<p>The ToS provided a high-level review of the International Boreal Forest Research Association (IBFRA) Insight Process Report with comments focused on policy implications and identification of gaps to help identify the next insight project. Comments were submitted to the Chair from 5 participating countries. Summarized comments were provided back to IBFRA.</p> <p>The ToS has engaged in the development of draft fact sheets, which are still in process, focused on high-level information on issues of circumboreal concern (e.g., climate change, fire disturbance and management).</p> <p>The ToS produced an infographic on boreal forest and climate change (<a href="https://unece.org/forests/boreal-forests">https://unece.org/forests/boreal-forests</a>) that explains the risks of climate change for boreal forests and the potential to mitigate those risks through international cooperation. In addition, the ToS created a brochure on “Why boreal forests matter - the role of boreal forests in sustainable development” which was distributed via social media during the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2021 (<a href="https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-07/Why%20Boreal%20Forests%20Matter.pdf">https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-07/Why%20Boreal%20Forests%20Matter.pdf</a>).</p> <p>Members of the ToS participated in UNECE events including the event “Snapshot on Boreal forests' contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals” which took place during the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in the UNECE region on 15 March 2021, and “The science and policy of wildfires in the boreal biome” which took place during the International Boreal Forest Research Association (IBFRA) Conference on 20 August 2021. The ToS also participated in other sessions of the IBFRA conference, including a session on public policy and boreal science.</p> <p>The impact of these activities has been to raise the awareness of boreal forest issues for stakeholders, to generate useful and understandable information for policy-makers and the general public, and to promote international cooperation on boreal issues, both in terms of science and policy.</p>



**8. Outputs and impacts expected for coming 2022 and first half of 2023**

The ToS anticipates the completion of fact sheets in the coming months as well as the development of a webinar series with other organizations involved in boreal issues (IUFRO, IBFRA). The intent of these webinars is to both educate about the issues facing the boreal forest and its management, and to inspire opportunities for circumboreal cooperation.

There has also been discussion among the ToS on a proposed high-level ministerial meeting of circumboreal nations to release a declaration on boreal forests. The potential date for such a meeting is at this point unknown.

The impact of these activities will be to continue to raise the awareness of boreal forest issues for stakeholders and the general public, and to continue to promote and realize international cooperation on boreal issues, both in terms of science and policy.

**9. Issues for the attention of the Working Party:**

The ToS members have proposed that reports of meetings be shared directly with other ToS via email from ToS Chair. It is our hope that this will allow greater communication and information sharing among ToS, with the possibility of some joint efforts between two or more ToS going forward.

**10. Other comments:**

Date: 29 April 2022

<b>1. Name: Team of Specialists on Forest Communication</b>
Team website: <a href="https://unece.org/forests/team-specialists-forest-communication">https://unece.org/forests/team-specialists-forest-communication</a>
<b>2. Period covered:</b>
April 2021 – May 2022
<b>3. Leader/Deputies and Secretary:</b>
Leader: Kai Lintunen Deputy Leaders: Jennifer Hayes, Lourdes Lázaro Marín, Tomass Kotovičs, Gerda Wolfrum Secretary: Maria De Cristofaro
<b>4. Members:</b>
269 members
<b>5. Countries:</b>
Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Georgia, Hungary, Italy, Iceland, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States of America.
<b>6. Meetings held in 2021 and 2022:</b>
The UNECE/FAO Forest Communicators' Network annual meeting and workshop will take place in person in Ljubljana, 7–9 June 2022, hosted by the Slovenian Forest Service.
<b>7. Outputs and impacts achieved since March 2021:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Held two workshops with representatives of the Regional Forest Communications Network for the International Conference on Forest Education (ICFE) (22-24 June 2021) to develop a document on strategic communication approaches aimed at improving the general public's perception of forestry professions and at promoting a better understanding of sustainable forest management. The session organized by the Regional Forest Communicators Networks, 'Changing the public's image of forestry through advocacy and communications', developed a series of recommendations that fed into a global Call to Action on Forest Education that was endorsed by participants and recognized the need to heighten awareness of the societal importance of careers in forestry.</li> <li>- Organized an in-person, three-day communications training workshop for Young Champions for Forests and Nature during the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2021. Young people aged 18-25 from 12 countries received hands-on communications training and learned how to speak out about some of the world's most pressing environmental and sustainable development challenges, with a special emphasis on forests.</li> </ul>

**8. Outputs and impacts expected for coming 2022 and first half of 2023**

- Secured a forest communications session as part of the main proceedings of the XV World Forestry Congress under Sub-theme 5 - Managing and communicating forest information, data and knowledge. At the session, entitled 'Harnessing the communication effect: communicating effectively within and beyond the forest sector', regional network representatives will talk about the importance of communicating effectively within and beyond the forest sector.
- Network members will also organize a pre-Congress capacity-building workshop aimed at young people, training them to become digital reporters and providing hands-on experience in reporting on sustainable forestry issues. Trained participants will then report on the World Forestry Congress with the support of network members.
- Experts of the Forest Communicators Networks will organize a thematic communication session "Are u being heard ? The power of effective communication"
- in the framework of the XV Conference on Mediterranean-type Ecosystems (MEDECOS), scheduled to take place from 5-9 September 2022 in South Africa.
- Communication advice on the International Day of Forests 2022 and 2023
- Work on updating the Strategic Framework for Forest Communication in Europe
- Work on updating public perception research on forests in Europe
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**9. Issues for the attention of the Working Party:****10. Other comments:**

The UNECE/FAO Forest Communicators' Network Annual Meeting was scheduled to take place from 14 – 16 December 2021 in Ljubljana, Slovenia, but was postponed due to the sudden increase of COVID-19 cases in the country before the event dates. The meeting is now scheduled to take place June 2022.

Date: 22 April 2022

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