



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Federal Ministry
Republic of Austria
Agriculture, Forestry, Regions
and Water Management

Assessing Forest Damage and Disturbance

**Scientific-Technical Symposium jointly organized by
the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE),
the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and
the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water
Management**

29-30 September 2022

Hosted by

University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna, Austria



Background

The natural disasters, diseases and pests of the past years have shown the vulnerability of forests. Research and the assessment of forest damages and disturbance indicate an urgent need for improving monitoring and reporting.

Therefore, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management will jointly organize a symposium on assessing forest damage and disturbance in the UNECE region in Vienna, Austria from 29-30 September 2022.

The symposium aims to contribute to a harmonized forest damage and disturbance assessment in the UNECE region as well as the identification of innovative monitoring and reporting techniques for application at international and national levels. The symposium will provide impulse for the development of a future damage and disturbance reporting system for the consistent assessment across spatial and temporal scales.

The symposium will also provide a platform for sharing the results of a related project, which was initiated by the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management in 2020. It is implemented by the Joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section with the support of Austria, Canada, Finland, Germany and the United States of America.

Objectives and Format

The symposium aims to encourage the exchange of ideas, experiences and opinions as well as raise awareness about the need for the assessment of forest damage and disturbance. It will discuss new ideas for consistent, reliable and comprehensive information on forest damage for management and policy decision making.

Participants will include national and international policymakers, forestry related authorities, forest owners and managers as well as experts from technical and research facilities. The symposium will include keynote speeches, presentations and interactive discussions around the following thematic sessions:

- International forest damage/disturbance reporting and assessment
- National forest damage/disturbance monitoring in the UNECE region
- New opportunities and methods for forest damage/disturbance monitoring

The symposium is organized as a hybrid event at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences in Vienna.

Registration deadline for in-person participation is 15 July 2022.

Registration deadline for virtual participation is 23 September 2022.

Please register via the following [Link](#).

Please find practical information for accommodation and travel in [the linked pdf file](#)



UNECE



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29-30 September 2022

Venue: University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU)
Feistmantelstrasse 4, 1180 Vienna, Austria



Tentative Programme

First Day, 29 September 2022

10.00 – 18.00

Opening of the symposium

- *Moderation by Stefanie Linser*

Gerhard Mannsberger, Vice Rector, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU)

Johannes Hangler, Deputy Director of the Directorate on Forest Policy, Forest Economy and Forest Information, Austrian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management

Liliana Annovazzi-Jakab, Chief of the Joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section
Representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Introductory speech of the first day

Conceptual foundations for forest disturbance and damage reporting in the UNECE Region -
Guy Robertson (USDA Forest Service)

International forest damage reporting and assessment

- *Moderation by Anssi Pekkarinen*

Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) and Global Core Set (Indicator 6) needs - **Anssi Pekkarinen** (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations)

Pan-European forest damage related monitoring – **Jens Haertel** (Forest Europe Liaison Unit Bonn)

Forest disturbances data needs of the Montreal Process - **Tim Payn** (SCION Crown Research Institute New Zealand)

The Database of Forest Disturbances in Europe (DFDE) - **Mart-Jan Schelhaas** (Wageningen University)

International forest health monitoring in Europe – status and information needs - **Marco Ferretti** (Swiss Federal Institute WSL and International Cooperative Programme on Assessment and Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Forests)

Forest fires monitoring - **Andrea Camia** (Joint Research Centre of the European Commission)

Q&A

Lunch at University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU)

Field trip to the Vienna Danube National Park

Bus to port

Boat to the Vienna Danube National Park

Guided tour of the Vienna Danube National Park by the Director of the Vienna Forest Administration

Return by bus

Joint dinner

Second day, 30 September 2022

09.00-15.00

Introductory speech of the second day

Ecological implications of changing forest disturbance regimes - **Rupert Seidl** (Technical University of Munich)

New opportunities for forest damage monitoring

- *Moderation by Roman Michalak*

Innovative tools in line with methodological aspects for harmonized forest damage assessment in the ECE region - **Frank Koch** (USDA Forest Service)

Integrated system for forest damage and disturbance monitoring – the perspective of large-scale bark beetle outbreak in Central Europe - **Tomáš Hlásny** (Czech University of Life Sciences Prague)

Remote sensing and modelling of climate change induced disturbances - **Pieter Beck** (Joint Research Centre of the European Commission)

Q&A

Coffee Break

Stakeholders' needs for forest damage/disturbance assessment

- *Moderation by Frank Koch*

Information needs to avoid market distortions - **Felix Montecuccoli** (Confederation of European Forest Owners)

Information needs for salvage logging and reforestation - **Piotr Borkowski** (European State Forest Association)

Information needs on raw material supply – **Silvia Melegari** (European Sawmill Association – EOS)

Information needs on forest damages/disturbances for biodiversity monitoring - **Annemarie Bastrup-Birk** (European Environment Agency)

Global stakeholders' needs for forest damage/disturbance assessment - **Shiroma Sathyapala** (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations)

Q&A

Lunch at University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU)

National forest damage monitoring in the UNECE region

- *Moderation by Guy Robertson*

Extent and trends of forest damage/disturbance by the main causes based on additional national and subnational data - **Markus Melin** (Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke))

Forest damage monitoring in Austria - **Klemens Schadauer** (Austrian Federal Research and Training Centre for Forests, Natural Hazards and Landscape (BFW))

Forest health status and monitoring in Canada – **Byron Smiley** (Natural Resources Canada)

Forest health status and monitoring in Spain – **María Pasalodos** (Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge (MITECO))

Forest health monitoring in Türkiye – **Hilal Orucu** (Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Türkiye Republic, General Directorate of Forestry)

Forest health monitoring in the United States of America – **Frank Koch** (USDA Forest Service)

Q&A

Coffee Break

Future international forest damage reporting

- *Moderation by Markus Melin*

Future forest damage/disturbance monitoring, assessment and reporting - **Stefanie Linser**
(University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna)

Criteria and Indicators – their role for assessment of forest damages - **Michael Köhl**
(University of Hamburg)

Future international damage/disturbance monitoring, assessment, and reporting – concluding discussion

Closing remarks

- *Michael Köhl (University of Hamburg)*

End of the symposium