UNECE

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Agenda Item 5.a

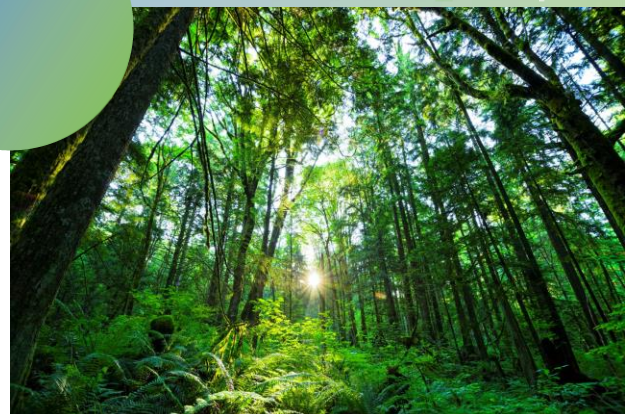
Update on the progress of work on the project on forest damage/disturbance in the UNECE region

Bastian Stahl, UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section

First (30th) meeting of the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on monitoring sustainable forest management

University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, Austria
28 September 2022

BOKU



Trends of forest damage/disturbance in the ECE region

- **FRA 2020 identified,**
  - insects as the most reported damaging agent in the ECE region;
  - forest fires as increasingly damaging events in the ECE region;
  - the affected forest area of extreme weather events as decreasing in the last two decades.
- The main types of damage and their damage patterns vary across the ECE sub-regions.
- **Multi-factorial hazard events in forest areas,**
  - will probably develop more frequently due to climate change;
  - are likely to change damage patterns in terms of severity, extent, and seasonal duration over the long term.
- Increased damage threats the provision of ecosystem services as well as the economy of the forest sector.

Rationale for forest damage/disturbance reporting in the ECE region

- **Understanding the processes of forest disturbance at multiple scales is a prerequisite for successful management and policy responses.**

- **Monitoring, assessing, and reporting forest damage/disturbance is essential to build knowledge and resilience.**

- **The latest research of forest damages/disturbance assessment indicates an urgent need for improving monitoring and reporting.**

Challenges in forest damage/disturbance monitoring and reporting in the ECE region

- Varying definitions and interpretations of forest damage/disturbance across the ECE region.
- National assessments primarily cover national priorities.
- ECE member States apply within national assessments,
  - various/different approaches of data collection and monitoring cycles;
  - ground-based observation, plot-based sampling, remote sensing, and combinations of these techniques are used in different ways.
- Reference information (e.g. forest type, form of ownership) on forest areas affected by damage/disturbance are inconsistently reported.
- Monitoring and reporting on the time and duration of forest damage/disturbance are not coordinated.

The ongoing project on reporting and assessment of forest damage and disturbance in the ECE region

- **Aim:**
  - Review the international reporting of forest damage/disturbance
  - Analyzing national forest damage/disturbance inventories
  - Contributing to data harmonization in the ECE region
- **Objective:**
  - Improve knowledge, methodology and reporting capacity on forest damage/disturbance in the UNECE region
- **Project timeline**
  - Duration: October 2020 – December 2022
  - Scientific-Technical Symposium in Vienna, September 2022
  - Finalization of the project, December 2022
- **Carried out and supported by**
  - the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management and
  - Austria, Canada, Finland, Germany, and the United States of America, with contributions from experts of countries of the UNECE region

Activities and outputs

- **Survey** on monitoring, assessing and reporting of forest damage/disturbance in ECE member States.

- **Analysis of**
  - the concept of forest damage/disturbance reporting and existing approaches in countries;
  - the current national and international reporting on forest damage/disturbance;
  - methodological aspects for harmonized forest damage/disturbance assessment;
  - innovative tools for forest damage/disturbance monitoring in line with methodological aspects for harmonized data assessment;
  - the extent and trends of forest damage/disturbance in the ECE region.

- A **summary publication** is scheduled to be completed in December 2022

Next step

- More information on assessing forest damage in our scientific-technical symposium in the next two days!
- Jointly organized by UNECE, FAO and the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management, Hosted by University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna, Austria

UNECE

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

THANK YOU

Bastian Stahl
UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section
28 September 2022, Vienna

First (30th) meeting of the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on monitoring sustainable forest management

University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna, Austria
28 September 2022

BOKU