




MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

Evaluation Title:	Self-evaluation on the relevance of the Forest Products Annual Market Review to the needs of member States and challenges in the forest sector		
Period of Review:	2018 - 2021		
Date of Evaluation Report:	12/12/2022		
Approved by	Chief, a.i. PMU Nicolas DATH-BARON	Date	Signature
		03/02/2023	
Cleared by:	Director of Division Paola DEDA	02/02/2023	
Prepared by:	Economic Affairs Officer Florian STEIERER	02/02/2023	

Recommendation 1:

The evaluation recommends the Forest Products Annual Market Review to include information, data and statistics on Sustainable Development Goals relevant to the various forest products market sectors.

Management Response:

UNECE accepts the recommendation.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

One of the core objectives of the publication is to inform the audience about the situation of production and consumption of forest products markets and their contribution to accelerate progress towards the achievements of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The first chapter of the publication on Economic Overview and Policies lends itself to be a good place to include information, data and statistics on the SDGs relevant to the various forest products market sectors. The Joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section (the Joint Section) will focus mainly on highlighting the information for SDGs 7 and 12.

Responsibility: Forests, Land Management and Housing Division
Timeline: 31 December 2023

Recommendation 2:

The evaluation recommends the subprogramme to consider – to the extent possible and without creating additional workload – redirecting existing regular budget resources for layout and printing to be primarily used to produce an electronic publication. A machine-readable electronic publication makes the content accessible to visually impaired users and users not able to read one of the three official languages of the UNECE via machine translation.

Management Response:

UNECE accepts the recommendation.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

The Joint Section and PMU will discuss with UNOG which digital type formats of publications suitable for machine reading and translation algorithms they offer or could offer in the near future -without creating additional workload to the subprogramme- to make ECE publications more accessible (noting that the current pdf digital option is not machine-readable).

Responsibility: Forests, Land Management and Housing Division and Programme Management Unit
Timeline: 31 December 2023

Recommendation 3:

The evaluation recommends the subprogramme to investigate how – within the resources available – technological solutions could help further streamline the workflow to adjust to the human resources available in the subprogramme. These solutions could include – but may not be limited to – (partially) automated text generation automated interactive graphics based on information from the database, and shorter expert assessments by each market segment.

Management Response:

UNECE accepts the recommendation.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

The Joint Section, in consultation with ECE Programme Management and Support Services Division, will explore possible technical solutions (aligned to available resources) that could assist in the adjustment of the current workflow to the actually available and allocated human resources.

To that effect, the Joint Section will consult with the members of the Team of Specialists (ToS) on sustainable forest products, with ECE Programme Management and Support Services Division as well as relevant sections/departments within the UN about possible options and experiences with streamlined publication production workflow, including semi-automated text generation and interactive graphs with a view to facilitate possible automation within existing resources.

Responsibility: Forests, Land Management and Housing Division
Timeline: 31 December 2023

Recommendation 4:

The evaluation recommends the subprogramme to urge member States to consider a long-term planning for sustainable funding of the independent market expert input to the Review through a multi-donor, multi-year project.

Management Response:

UNECE accepts the recommendation.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

The Joint Section will present the outcomes of the evaluation of the FPAMR to member States during the 44th session of the Joint UNECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management (31. May – 2. June 2023) and the 81st session of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (21-24 November 2023). The Joint Section will use these opportunities to particularly raise the issue with member States and urge them to consider providing a long-term funding for the FPAMR.

Responsibility: Forests, Land Management and Housing Division
Timeline: 31 December 2023

Management Response, Evaluation, PMU, UNECE

Recommendation 5:

The evaluation recommends the subprogramme to raise to the extent possible, awareness among member State representatives and readers of the Review on gender and human rights issues related to the forest market sector. This could be done by including a relevant question on gender and human rights in the Country Market Statements, the results could be summarized in the economic overview and policies chapter of the Review.

Management Response:

UNECE accepts the recommendation.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

The Joint Section will include a relevant question on gender and human rights in the annual Country Market Statement prepared by member States. These statements are prepared for the meetings of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry. As the structure and main topics of the Country Market Statements are prepared by the Joint Section and requests for the country market statement will be sent in Q3 2023 to member States, the Joint Section will include in the 2023 template a request for relevant information on gender and human rights issues related to the forest market sector. The Joint Section will, in a second step, use the information provided by member States, and add a segment in the economic overview and policies chapter of the Market Review of 2024.

Responsibility: Forests, Land Management and Housing Division

Timeline: 31 December 2024