



**UNECE**



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

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**UNECE-FAO  
FORESTRY AND TIMBER SECTION**

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**First (30<sup>th</sup>) Meeting of the “UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on  
Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management”**

*Vienna, Austria, 28 September 2022*

Hosted by  
University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna, Austria



***Report from the meeting***

*Item 1. The meeting was opened and chaired by Mr. Friedrich Schmitz (Germany), the leader of the Team of Specialists. The Team observed a moment of silence in memory of Mr. Professor Adrian Lanz, a former leader of the Team, who passed away last year.*

*Ms. Stefanie Linser (University of Natural Resources and Life Science, Vienna (BOKU)), deputy leader of the Team, welcomed the Team on behalf of the host, the University of Natural Resources and Life Science Vienna (BOKU).*

*Mr. Anssi Pekkarinen (Leader of the FAO Forest Resources Assessment Team) addressed the Team on behalf of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).*

*Mr. Roman Michalak, Secretary to the Team, welcomed the Team on behalf of the Joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section.*

*Mr. Friedrich Schmitz, the leader of the Team under the previous terms of office, presented the agenda of the meeting, which was adopted by the Team without any modifications (Annex I). The list of participants is attached to this report (Annex II).*

*Item 2. The renewal of the mandate for the Team of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management required elections of a leader and deputy leaders of the Team. The Team unanimously elected Mr. Friedrich Schmitz (Germany) as the leader of the Team for the next term of office. Further, the Team unanimously elected Ms. Stefanie Linser (University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU)), Mr. Markus Lier (Finland) and Mr. Andrzej Talarczyk (Forest and Natural Resources Research Centre, Warsaw) as deputy leaders of the Team.*

*Item 3. Updates on the progress and plans for forest information related developments were given by Mr. Anssi Pekkarinen (FAO) in a presentation on the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA). He informed participants about the progress of FRA related activities since the last TOS meeting, the outreach of the different FRA products and plans towards the FRA 2025 reporting process. Mr. Anssi Pekkarinen highlighted the FRA 2020 Remote Sensing Survey, including key results such as the drivers of global and regional deforestation. Furthermore, he informed the Team about the process of the National Correspondent nominations, plans for the development of the FRA platform, as well as the 26<sup>th</sup> session of the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO).*

*Mr. Bernhard Wolfslehner (European Forest Institute FOREST EUROPE Support Team) informed participants about forest information and monitoring related work of FOREST EUROPE's work programme and highlighted some aspects of the European Forest Institute's work in this area. Mr. Bernhard Wolfslehner indicated that use of criteria and indicators is a key tool for sustainable forest management; forest risk, employment and education in the forest sector were also work areas for FOREST EUROPE. The preparatory work for the joint data collection with UNECE and FAO was presented as well.*

*Ms. Jingpin Lei (Montreal Process Liaison Office, China) highlighted the forest-information related work of the Montreal Process and shared insights on future steps of the voluntary collaborative forum. Ms. Jingpin Lei informed the Team on the upcoming release of the latest Montreal Process synthesis report, as well as a future joint side event on forest biodiversity indicators.*

*Mr. Marco Onida (European Commission) outlined the rationale and process towards a harmonized forest-observation reporting and data-collection framework by the European Commission in the European Union. Mr. Marco Onida presented the challenges for forest monitoring and planning and stressed remote sensing as a critical enabler for obtaining data on forests in the European Union.*

*Mr. Roman Michalak (Joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section) provided an update on the Joint Section's activities since the last meeting of the Team in different work areas of the Joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section, including communication, forest products, capacity building, forest landscape restoration, and boreal forests.*

*Item 4. Mr. Andrzej Talarczyk (Consultant to the Joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section) presented an overview of forest-information systems, their components, and linked concepts in use. In his presentation, Mr. Talarczyk elaborated on the needs and benefits of forest information systems in forest policy and management.*

*To inform the Team on forest-information systems related recent developments in countries and organizations, Mr. Anssi Pekkarinen (FAO) gave a presentation on the FAO FRA platform and outlined its latest improvements, as well as possible future steps. Subsequent developments include revised validation checks, observation status flags and a new generation of easy-to-use geospatial data along with improved data integration and data repository.*

*Ms. Annemarie Bastrup-Birk (European Environment Agency) informed the meeting about the structure and components as well as future opportunities of the Forest Information System for Europe (FISE). While providing information on the status of Europe's forests, Ms. Bastrup-Birk outlined the role of FISE in supporting legislation in the European Union, including the European Green Deal.*

*Item 5. Mr. Roman Michalak (Joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section) provided an overview of the plans, modalities, and tools for the Joint UNECE/FAO/FOREST EUROPE pan-European data collection on forests and sustainable management in the pan-European region. Mr. Roman Michalak highlighted various groups of indicators, for which different paths of data collection will be applied.*

*Item 6. Mr. Bastian Stahl (Consultant to the Joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section) presented trends of pan-European forest damage/disturbance and informed the meeting on the progress in the implementation of the ongoing project on assessing forest damage/disturbance in the UNECE region.*

*Ms. Shiroma Sathyapala (FAO) introduced the Team to the FAO special study on damages by biotic hazards. Ms. Sathyapala presented study results and previous assessments of forest-invasive species, along with challenges of fragmented data.*

*The agenda item was completed by Mr. Jaroslav Kubišta (Forest Management Institute (FMI), Czech Republic) who presented outcomes of the workshop "Towards A Harmonized Forest-Observation, Reporting and Data Collection Framework" held on 14-16 September 2022, in Kutná Hora, Czech Republic. The workshop illustrated requirements for modern forest monitoring, possibilities of different inventory strategies, the relationship between terrestrial inventory and*

*remote sensing, and future tasks and challenges for an EU framework.*

*Item 7. The Team leader, Mr. Friedrich Schmitz (Germany) informed the Team Members on the results of a survey which was circulated among the Team Members on its future work. In the subsequent discussion, Team Members deliberated on opportunities for future activities; their focus (e.g. data analysis, collection, dissemination, capacity building); content (e.g. sustainability, climate change, damage, biodiversity); and format (e.g. webinar, seminar, workshop). The Team advocated focusing on the Team's main topic, i.e. forest monitoring, assessment and reporting. Furthermore, the attendees emphasized that forthcoming activities/products, in addition to addressing methodological and technical aspects of forest assessment, should be result-oriented and facilitate sharing and discussion of the information on forests and sustainable forest management in the UNECE region.*

*Item 8. The Team leader, Mr. Friedrich Schmitz (Germany) informed the Team Members about the intention to hold its next meeting in May/June 2023. Mr. Friedrich Schmitz informed the Team about the extended invitation of Cyprus to host the meeting.*

*Item 9. The Team of Specialists expressed its sincere gratitude to the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU), Vienna, for the kind invitation and support to the organization of the meeting, as well for the exceptional hospitality the Team received in Austria.*

*Special thanks were expressed to Ms. Stefanie Linser (University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU), Vienna) and Mr. Johannes Hangler (Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management), for their contribution and engagement in the preparation and organization of the meeting and warm welcome to Vienna.*

*Item 10. The First (30th) Meeting of the "UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management" was closed at 17:45 on 21 April 2021.*

*Presentations delivered are available at the meeting's website: [Meeting of the Team of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management | UNECE](#)*

## Annex I

### First (30<sup>th</sup>) Meeting of the “UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management”

Vienna, Austria, 28 September 2022

Hosted by  
University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna, Austria

### Agenda

#### Wednesday, 28 September 2022

Meeting started at 10.00

- Item 1. Opening and welcome by the representatives of:
- a. University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna
  - b. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
  - c. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
- Adoption of the Agenda.
- Item 2. Elections of a leader and deputy leaders of a Team.
- Item 3. Update on the progress and plans for the forest information related developments:
- a. FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA):
    - *Anssi Pekkarinen, FAO*
  - b. Forest information related work of FOREST EUROPE:
    - *Bernhard Wolfslehner, EFI FOREST EUROPE Support Team*
  - c. Forest information related work of the Montreal Process:
    - *Jingpin Lei, Liaison Officer, Montreal Process*
  - d. Forest information related work of the European Union:
    - *Marco Onida, European Commission*
  - e. Joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section
    - *Roman Michalak, Joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section*
- Item 4. Forest Information Systems
- a. Overview of forest-information systems
    - *Andrzej Talarczyk (Forest and Natural Resources Research Centre Warsaw)*
  - b. Overview of recent developments in countries and organizations:
    - FAO FRA Platform: *Anssi Pekkarinen, FAO*
    - Forest Information System Europe (FISE): *Annemarie Bastrup-Birk, European Environment Agency*
  - c. Discussion on audience, impact and possible improvements in forest information systems

- Item 5. Overview of the plans, modalities and tools for the Joint UNECE/FAO/FOREST EUROPE Pan-European data collection on forests and sustainable management in the pan-European region: *Roman Michalak, Joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section*
- Item 6. Updates from Team Members and Secretariat
- a. Update on the progress of work on the project on forest disturbance/damage in the UNECE region
    - *Bastian Stahl, Joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section*
  - b. Introduction of the FAO special study on damages by biotic hazards (pest and diseases and invasive plants)
    - *Shiroma Sathyapala, FAO*
  - c. Outcomes of the workshop "Towards harmonised Forest Observation, Reporting and Data Collection Framework" held on 14-16 September 2022, in Kutná Hora, Czech Republic
    - *Jaroslav Kubišta, Forest Management Institute (FMI), Czech Republic*
- Item 7. Discussion on the directions and plans for future work of the Team of Specialists on Monitoring SFM
- Item 8. Date and place of the next meeting
- Item 9. Closure of the meeting

The meeting of the Team of Specialists was followed by the Damage and Disturbance Symposium, held on 29-30 September 2022, in Vienna, Austria

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**Format:** Hybrid event

**Venue:** Exnerhaus  
Peter-Jordan-Straße 82  
1190 Vienna  
Austria

**Currency:** 1 EUR = approx. 1 USD

**Meeting hours:**

09:30-10:00:	Coffee provision
<b>10:00 – 11:00:</b>	<b>Items 1-3</b>
11:00 – 11:30:	Coffee break
<b>11:30 – 12:30:</b>	<b>Item 4</b>
12:30 – 13:30:	Lunch break
<b>13.30 – 15.30:</b>	<b>Item 5</b>
15:30 – 16:00:	Coffee break
<b>16.00 – 18.00:</b>	<b>Items 6 -9</b>

## Annex II

### List of participants

<b>Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Country</b>
Alberdi Asensio	Icár	Instituto Nacional de Investigación y Tecnología Agraria y Alimentaria INIA	Spain
Alexidze	Gigia	National Agency for Sustainable Land management and Land Use Monitoring	Georgia
Bastrup-Birk	Annemarie	European Environment Agency	
Bobeva	Albena	Ministry of Agriculture and Forests	Bulgaria
Camia	Andrea	European Commission, Joint Research Centre	
Colin	Antoine	IGN - institut national de l'information géographique et forestière	France
Dosa	Melinda	EUROSTAT	
Filipchuk	Andrey	VNILM	Russian Federation
Hangler	Johannes	Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions, and Water Management	Austria
Hermans	Pierre	Sylva Nova, Belgium	
Huber	Marvin	UN Youth Delegate	
Iugov	Andrey	VNILM	Russian Federation
Jonas	Paulsson	Swedish Forest Agency	Sweden
Koch	Frank	U.S. Forest Service	United States
Koch	Hélène	Confederation of European Forest Owners	
Kořakowski	Bartłomiej	Directorate General of the Polish State Forests, International Cooperation Unit	Poland
Korhonen	Kari T.	Natural Resources Institute Finland	Finland
Kovač	Goran	Ministry of Agriculture	Croatia
Kubista	Jaroslav	Forest Management Institute (FMI)	Czech Republic
Lei	Jingpin	Montreal Process Liaison Office	
Linser	Stefanie	University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, Austria (BOKU) and EFI Forest Policy Research Network	
Marchetti	Marco	University of Molise, Italy	
Martirosyan	Vahe	Armeniatree, Armenia	
Michalak	Roman	Joint UNECE-FAO Forestry and Timber Section	
Oldenburger	Jan	Probos Foundation	Netherlands
Onida	Marco	European Commission, ENV	
Pasadolos	Maria	Ministry for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge	Spain

Payn	Tim	SCION Crown Research New Zealand	
Pekkarinen	Anssi	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	
Piloni	Sara	General Directorate of Forests, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry Policies	Italy
Sathyapala	Shiroma	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	
Schmitz	Friedrich	Federal Ministry of Food, and Agriculture	Germany
Stahl	Bastian	Joint UNECE-FAO Forestry and Timber Section	
Talarczyk	Andrzej	Expert	
Valgepea	Mati	Ministry of the Environment	Estonia
Wolfslehner	Bernhard	University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, Austria (BOKU) and FOREST EUROPE EFI Support Team	
Zubieta de Piquer	Belén	Ministry for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge	Spain