



# Economic and Social Council

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## Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

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### 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, 31 May -2 June 2023

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>
May 2022 – May 2023
<b>3. Leader/Deputies and Secretary:</b>
<p>Leader: Friedrich Schmitz, Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Germany</p> <p>Deputies: Stefanie Linser, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU); Andrzej Talarczyk, Forest and Natural Resources Research Centre, Warsaw, Markus Lier (until Dec. 2022), Ministry of Agriculture and Forest, Finland</p> <p>Secretary: Roman Michalak</p>
<b>4. Members:</b>
69 members, of which 17 female
<b>5. Countries:</b>
<p><b>26 countries:</b> Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Poland, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, United States of America.</p> <p><b>14 organizations, processes and universities:</b> Armeniatree, Confederation of European Forest Owners, European Commission (AGRI, DG ENV, EUROSTAT, JRC), 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 (FAO), Forest Europe - Liaison Unit Bonn, Montreal Process, Forest and Natural Resources Research Centre – Warsaw, Sylva Nova, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences – Vienna (BOKU), University of Molise.</p>
<b>6. Meetings held in 2022 and 2023:</b>
<p>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).</p> <p>The <b>first (30th) meeting</b> of the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on monitoring sustainable forest management was held on 28 September 2022, in Vienna, Austria (hybrid).</p> <p>The <b>second (31st) meeting</b> of the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on monitoring sustainable forest management was held on 08 February 2023 (online).</p> <p>The <b>third (32nd) meeting</b> of the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on monitoring sustainable forest management, was held on 30 May 2023 in Geneva (hybrid).</p> <p>The UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on monitoring sustainable forest management supported organization of the <b>Scientific-Technical Symposium "Assessing Forest Damage and Disturbance"</b>, held on 29 - 30 September 2022 in Vienna, Austria.</p>

## 7. Outputs and impacts achieved since May 2022:

The ToS on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management continued carrying out the project, “Assessment of forest damage/disturbance in the ECE region” to improve methodology, reporting capacity and knowledge on forest damage in the ECE region. The project is coordinated by Michael Koehl, with the support of other members of the ToS (Frank Koch, Stefanie Linser, Guy Robertson, Andrzej Talarczyk). The implementation of the project is supported by Austria, Canada, Finland, Germany, and the United States of America. The ToS and the project team initiated and held a [Scientific-Technical Symposium "Assessing Forest Damage and Disturbance"](#), on 29 - 30 September 2022 in Vienna, Austria. It showed the status of monitoring and reporting of forest damage and disturbance in Europe and other regions. It elaborated possibilities for improvement in coordinating the survey frequency across countries, harmonizing definitions and damage thresholds, and standardizing levels of detail.

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 statistical information on forests of the UNECE region. This supports the presentation and dissemination of the results of the Global and Pan-European 2020 reporting on forests and sustainable forest management.

Furthermore, the Forest Databanks Network supported the implementation of the project “Strengthening capacity of policy and decisions makers, and forest service specialists to develop national forest information systems in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia” continued. Via a dedicated survey, in consultation with national experts, an analysis of common challenges of forest information management in the beneficiary countries has been carried out and a guide on developing a Forest Information System (FIS) is being drafted. Pilot applications in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan have been initiated.

The publication “Reporting on forests and Sustainable Forest Management in the Caucasus and Central Asia” was prepared with the input of the members of the ToS (Annemarie Bastrup-Birk, Michael Koehl, Kari Korhonen, Stefanie Linser, Andrzej Talarczyk). The study was published in April 2023.

A side event was organized and conducted by the Joint Section on 8 May 2023 during the UNFF18 under the title “Rooted in forests: National and regional action for global impact”, The Joint Section presented INForest as an important tool, as well as digitization as a crucial opportunity for action. In addition, Jaroslav Kubišta, Director, Forest Management Institute (FMI) of the Czech Republic, and a member of the Team, presented the INForest-based Czech forest information platform “Facts on Forests”.

The preparatory work for the 2025 cycle (2021-2025) of the pan-European data collection on forests and sustainable forest management done by the ECE and FAO in 2022 and early 2023 focused on the update of the pan European questionnaire and the development of a digital interface for data submission and collection. The Team reviewed the pan-European 2025 questionnaire and proposed changes in reporting modalities via monthly online consultations of the Core Group and the meeting of the Team on 8 February 2023.

## 8. Outputs and impacts expected for coming 2023 and first half of 2024

The ToS will work on the conclusions of the project “Assessment of forest damage/disturbance in the UNECE region”. Aspects are the current state of forest damages and reporting systems and recommendations to improve reporting under the more obvious impacts of climate change on forest ecosystem health and vitality, and the finalization of the topical publication.

The Team and the Forest Databanks Network will support an updated version of INForest, with some functionality improvements and refreshed data on forest products and trade in cooperation with experts from Poland.

The ToS will provide advice and support to the finalization of the project on developing Forest Policy and Management Support Information Systems.

The ToS will support ECE, FAO, and Forest Europe in the 2025 cycle of the Global and Pan-European reporting. According to the mandates received the Team’s work will contribute to:

- training of National Correspondents on the interactive pan-European forest data collection portal, integrated with the one developed for FRA;
- conceptual developments in forest monitoring, assessment, and reporting.

The next in-person meeting of the Team of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management is planned for spring 2024.

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

The Team considers further activities in the area of forest damage and disturbance based on results of the ongoing project on “Assessment of forest damage/disturbance in the ECE region”. The ToS will develop a proposal for the improvement of forest damage/disturbance reporting in the ECE region.

The Team considers the opportunity for a future third reporting cycle on forest ownership in the ECE region by analysing lessons learnt from the previous cycle and stakeholders’ needs

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 ToS will continue to use both “in-person”, and virtual means of communication, either separated or combined, in its work to ensure inclusiveness.

**10. Other comments:**

The Team has been discussing with the Team of Specialists on Forest Products and Wood Energy Statistics possible cooperation on reviewing the reporting of wood removals in the next reporting cycle of the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire (JFSQ).

Markus Lier stepped down from the function of a deputy leader due to his new position at the European Commission (EC). He will continue a regular membership in the Team.

Date: 10 May 2023

<b>1. Name: Team of Specialists on Forest Products and Wood Energy Statistics</b>	
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>	
<b>2. Period covered:</b>	
May 2022 – May 2023	
<b>3. Leader/Deputies and Secretary:</b>	
Leader:	Francisco Aguilar
Deputies:	Branko Glavonjic, Ewa Leszczyszyn, Graça Louro, Holger Weimar
Secretary:	Daniel Griswold
<b>4. Members:</b>	
60 members, of which 22 female	
<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, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.	
<b>6. Meetings held in 2022 and 2023:</b>	
22 June 2022	<a href="#">Team of Specialists on Forest Products and Wood Energy Statistics – Ad hoc task group on wood energy: first meeting</a>
28 June 2022	<a href="#">Team of Specialists on Forest Products and Wood Energy Statistics – Ad hoc task group on wood removals: first meeting</a>
12 October 2022	<a href="#">Team of Specialists on Forest Products and Wood Energy Statistics – Ad hoc task group on wood energy: second meeting</a>
28 April 2023	<a href="#">Team of Specialists on Forest Products and Wood Energy Statistics – Ad hoc task group on wood removals: second meeting</a>
30 May 2023	<a href="#">2nd Meeting of the Joint ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Products and Wood Energy Statistics</a>
<b>7. Outputs and impacts achieved since May 2022:</b>	
<p>The ToS is organized under two <i>ad-hoc</i> groups to better address our Mandate. Specialists were invited to join either or both <i>ad hoc</i> groups with tasks to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Review of statistics regarding removals to share information, identify gaps and inconsistencies in definitions and methodologies</li> <li>○ Review of methods of data collection to better respond to policy questions on wood energy supply-chain.</li> </ul> <p>A “Questionnaire on Removals Statistics” was developed with the aim to improve the understanding of the quality and comparability of removals statistics, including data collected through the JFSQ. This understanding will inform the work of the team to improve reporting quality and comparability. The questionnaire was shared with ToS members and JFSQ national correspondents (Nov-Dec 2022). Eurostat supported circulation of the questionnaire. Twenty-six replies were received (Hungary, Azerbaijan, Sweden, United Kingdom, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Montenegro, Germany, Norway, Latvia, Cyprus, Portugal, Serbia, France, Poland, Czech Republic,</p>	

United States, Canada, Finland, Iceland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Slovenia, North Macedonia, Spain, Italy). The evaluation of responses is in progress. Preliminary results were shared at the biannual Expert Group on Forestry statistics, Eurostat (Luxemburg 1-2 March, 2023) and in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the ToS.

We worked on a prioritization of policy-relevant areas related to wood energy. Through ToS working meetings and an online survey amongst ToS members these topics were identified: “Sustainability”, “Climate change mitigation”, “Energy security”. Data from the Joint Wood Energy Enquiry (JWEE) were reviewed to identify available indicators to address each identified wood energy policy issue.

## 8. Outputs and impacts expected for 2023 and first half of 2024

8.1 Develop a summary of findings from the “Questionnaire on Removals Statistics” and continue the review of statistics regarding removals to share information, and to identify gaps and inconsistencies in definitions and methodologies.

8.2 Offer a summary of status and trends relevant to sustainability, climate, and energy security questions about wood energy uses in the ECE based on identified JWEE indicators and other relevant sources of information. Identify and propose possible amendments to the JWEE (including potentially new indicators) to better respond to policy questions.

8.3 Explore the possibility of developing, resources permitting, more formal reports and/or technical proposals to define and address identified gaps, inconsistencies and needs, focusing on topics such as:

- A report on gaps and inconsistencies in current removal definitions and methodologies
- A technical proposal on improving comparability through voluntary removals reporting
- A report on data collection tailored to better respond to policy wood energy sector questions
- The technical proposal of new or edited indicators within the JWEE to better answer policy relevant questions.

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

The Working Party is invited to provide guidance to the ToS on the outputs and impacts expected for 2023 and first half of 2024, with particular reference to the possible activities under paragraph 8.3 and potential sources of funding for these activities.

## 10. Other comments:

The ToS has effectively managed online meetings of ad hoc groups and its leadership. It has provided a nice balance to our work.

The ToS has identified the following as areas of growing interest among member States that might also be of interest to our work. These regard statistics of:

- post-consumer wood waste;
- wood by-products;
- wooden houses;
- input-output flows on wood market.

The ToS on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management is invited to take note of the results of the Questionnaire on Removals Statistics.

The Team is discussing possible cooperation with the Team of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management on reviewing the reporting of wood removals in the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire (JFSQ).

Date: 02 May 2023

<b>1. Name: Team of Specialists on Sustainable Forest Products</b>
Team 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>
May 2022 – May 2023
<b>3. Leader/Deputies and Secretary:</b>
Leader: Eoin O’Driscoll Deputies: Jeremy Wall, Delton Alderman, Christoph Pfemeter and Ivan Eastin Secretary: Florian Steierer
<b>4. Members:</b>
93 members, of which 21 female
<b>5. Countries:</b>
31 countries: Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Uzbekistan.
<b>6. Meetings held in 2022 and 2023:</b>
06 September 2022: on-line <a href="#">Meeting of the Team of Specialists on Sustainable Forest Products</a> ; 23 February 2023, 15 September 2022, 07 July 2022, 10 May 2022, 14 April 2022: informal online consultations with UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Sustainable Forest Products on various studies on forest products in a circular economy ( <a href="#">link</a> ).
<b>7. Outputs and impacts achieved since May 2022:</b>
Assisted (part-authored and part-edited) the UNECE Secretariat with the production of the Forest Products Annual Market Review ( <a href="#">FPAMR</a> ) 2022 Proofread the FPAMR Reviewed UNECE publication on Circularity Concepts in Wood Construction (forthcoming) Provided speakers for the UNECE, including the Committee on Forests and Forest Industries (COFFI) Market Discussion (2022) Attended the ToS team Leader training (2022) Participated in a UNECE forum on JWEE training and reporting (4/2023)

<b>8. Outputs and impacts expected for 2023 and first half of 2024</b>
<p>Assist (part-authoring and part-editing) the UNECE Secretariat with the production of the FPAMR</p> <p>Proof read the FPAMR</p> <p>Provide speakers for the UNECE, including the COFFI Market Discussion (2023)</p> <p>Provide other advice and assistance as requested by the Secretariat</p> <p>Hold at least one physical event, either stand-alone or back-to-back with another, focused on a relevant topical theme within the team’s mandate.</p>
<b>9. Issues for the attention of the Working Party:</b>
<p>How can we raise the awareness of the benefits of using sustainable forest products?</p> <p>Communication is now increasingly digital, web or mobile enabled. Printed reports and journals are now often out of date by the time they are printed. How can we evolve and develop in this evolving marketplace? How can we make our output more responsive and targeted? We need to move on from an expensive and slow FPAMR process.</p>
<b>10. Other comments:</b> (e.g. collaboration with other ToS, justification for not holding a meeting, etc. )
<p>How can we work with other UNECE bodies and/or agencies, as well as other relevant bodies, to promote the work of the ToS on SFP?</p>

Date: 09 May 2023



<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>
May 2022 – May 2023
<b>3. Leader/Deputies and Secretary:</b>
Leader: Kai Lintunen Deputies: Jennifer Hayes, Lourdes Lázaro Marín, Tomass Kotovičs, Gerda Wolfrum Secretary: Maria De Cristofaro
<b>4. Members:</b>
269 members
<b>5. Countries:</b>
35 countries: 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, Türkiye, United Kingdom, United States of America.
<b>6. Meetings held in 2022 and 2023:</b>
The UNECE/FAO Forest Communicators' Network annual meeting and workshop was held in Ljubljana on 7–9 June 2022, hosted by the Slovenian Forest Service.
<b>7. Outputs and impacts achieved since May 2022:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Secured and held 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 talked about the importance of communicating effectively within and beyond the forest sector.</li> <li>○ Organized 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 then reported on the World Forestry Congress with the support of network members.</li> <li>○ Organized and spoke at 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), that took place from 5-9 September 2022 in Langebaan, South Africa.</li> <li>○ Provided strategic communication advice and aided the dissemination of products for the International Day of Forests 2023, including a video spot that was produced in 46 languages and broadcast by the following news outlets Euronews, Africanews, Deutsche Welle and France24.</li> <li>○ Discussed communication strategies and activities at a meeting aimed at "Enhancing advocacy and impact of selected forestry programmes" held in November 2022 at FAO HQ in Rome.</li> <li>○ Secured a sub-plenary session to be held at the XXVI IUFRO World Congress in June 2024 in Stockholm, Sweden.</li> <li>○ Task force members presented activities and campaigns of FCN global networks to Austrian forest communicators in December 2022.</li> <li>○ Attended a meeting for a selected taskforce of German-speaking FCN members hosted by Mr Matthias Schwoerer, Head of the European and International Forest Policy Division of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture.</li> </ul>

<b>8. Outputs and impacts expected for 2023 and first half of 2024</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Organize a session with keynote speakers and an expert panel on how to communicate effectively to shape a sustainable future with wood, to be held at the World Congress of Architects, Copenhagen, on 2-6 July 2023. At the session, Global Forest Communicators Network members will showcase communication techniques that promote wood as a sustainable building material.</li> <li>○ Organize the Annual Global Meeting of the leaders of the six Regional Forest Communicators Networks, to be held back-to-back with the World Congress of Architects in Copenhagen. The Annual Global Meeting will include a workshop to enable the exchange of information on the latest communication intelligence and skills. The global meeting will also discuss regional updates and issues across the six networks, galvanise regional action to promote major forestry initiatives including the ‘Grow the Solution’ awareness initiative, and prepare for the next International Day of Forests.</li> <li>○ Hold the UNECE/FAO Forest Communicators’ Network annual meeting and workshop in Prague on 20-22 June 2023, hosted by the Czech Ministry of Agriculture and the Faculty of Forestry and Wood Sciences of the Czech University of Life Sciences.</li> <li>○ Organize a sub-plenary session at the XXVI IUFRO World Congress in June 2024 in Stockholm, Sweden.</li> <li>○ Support the communication activities of a new project under preparation with the working title: Towards a Global Wood Policy Platform: Sustainable Wood for a Carbon-neutral Bioeconomy.</li> <li>○ Provide strategic communication advice and input to develop key messages and communication products on the theme of ‘Forests and Innovation’ for the International Day of Forests 2024.</li> </ul>
<b>9. Issues for the attention of the Working Party:</b>
None to report
<b>10. Other comments:</b>
None to report

Date: 02 May 2023

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