



Team of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management

Report

May 2022 – May 2023

Agenda Item 5. (a)

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Joint Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics
and Management, May 31-2 June 2023



Mandate of the Team

- **Contribution to the Integrated Programme of Work**

- Work Area 1, “Data, monitoring, reporting and assessment”,
- Work Area 2, “Policy dialogue and advice”
- Work Area 4, “Capacity-building”
- **focus on sustainable forest management monitoring, assessment and reporting and work on criteria and indicators.**

- **Objectives**

- **To strengthen the work on:**

- (i) forest monitoring and reporting,
- (ii) assessing the state of forests and sustainability of forest management and
- (iii) monitoring the role of the forest sector in a green circular and bioeconomy in the region;

- **To advise the ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section on the implementation of activities in Work Area 1 “Data, monitoring, reporting and assessment”, with regard to,**

- the collection, harmonization, review, analysis of data and
- dissemination of information on forests and sustainable forest management in the region.

Members

- **Leader**
 - Friedrich Schmitz, Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Germany
- **Deputies**
 - Stefanie Linser, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna;
 - Andrzej Talarczyk, Forest and Natural Resources Research Centre, Warsaw
- **Secretary**
 - Roman Michalak
- **71 Members from 26 Countries and 14 Organizations**
 - Several members of the Team take part also in the work of other UNECE/FAO TOS's.

Meetings 2022-2023

- **First (30th) meeting of the UNECE/FAO ToS on monitoring SFM,**
 - held on 28 September 2022, in Vienna, Austria (hybrid).
- **Organization of the Scientific-Technical Symposium "Assessing Forest Damage and Disturbance",**
 - held on 29 - 30 September 2022 in Vienna, Austria.
- **Second (31st) meeting of the UNECE/FAO ToS on monitoring SFM,**
 - held on 08 February 2023 (online).
- **Third (32nd) meeting of the UNECE/FAO ToS on monitoring SFM,**
 - held on 30 May 2023 in Geneva (hybrid).

Outputs and impacts 2022 - 2023

- **Project on the “Assessment of forest damage/disturbance in the ECE region”**
 - to improve knowledge, methodology, and reporting capacity on forest damage in the ECE region.
 - coordinated by Michael Koehl, with the support of the members of the ToS, Frank Koch, Stefanie Linser, Guy Robertson, Andrzej Talarczyk.
 - supported by Austria, Canada, Finland, Germany, and the United States of America.
 - Scientific-Technical Symposium in Vienna, September 2022
 - **Finalization of the publication, autumn 2023**

Outputs and impacts 2022 - 2023

- **The Forest Databanks Network** (an informal sub-group of ToS experts, led by Andrzej Talarczyk),
 - **provided advice to *INForest*** – a web portal presenting statistical information on forests of the UNECE region.
 - <https://forest-data.unece.org>
 - **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”*.
- **The publication *“Reporting on forests and Sustainable Forest Management in the Caucasus and Central Asia”***, published in April 2023,
 - **prepared with the input of the members of the ToS** (*Annemarie Bastrup-Birk, Michael Koehl, Kari Korhonen, Stefanie Linser, Andrzej Talarczyk*).

Outputs and impacts 2022 - 2023

- **UNFF18 side event,**
“Rooted in forests: National and regional action for global impact”
 - Presentation of *INForest* as an important tool, as well as digitization as a crucial opportunity for action.
 - 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”*.
- **Preparatory work for the 2025 cycle (2021-2025)** of the pan-European data collection on forests and sustainable forest management,
 - Support to 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 the meeting of the Team on 8 February 2023.

Expected outputs and impacts 2023 - 2024

- **The Team will contribute to the work on assessment of forest damage/disturbance in the UNECE region**
 - Finalization of the publication.
 - Development of a proposal for the refinement of forest damage reporting in the ECE-region.
- **The Team and the Forest Databanks Network will support**
 - an updated version of INForest, with functionality improvements and refreshed data.
 - the finalization of the project on developing Forest Information Systems.
- **The Team can support preparations for the third reporting cycle on forest ownership in the ECE-region.**

Expected outputs and impacts 2023 - 2024

- **The ToS can provide support to the 2025 cycle of the Global and pan-European reporting on forests and sustainable forest management by**
 - training of National Correspondents on the interactive pan-European forest data collection;
 - conceptual developments in forest monitoring, assessment, and reporting.
- **The next in-person meeting of the ToS is planned for spring 2024.**



At your service

Friedrich Schmitz

Leader

Roman Michalak

Secretary

**Team of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable
Forest Management**

31st of May 2023, Geneva

Joint Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics
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