

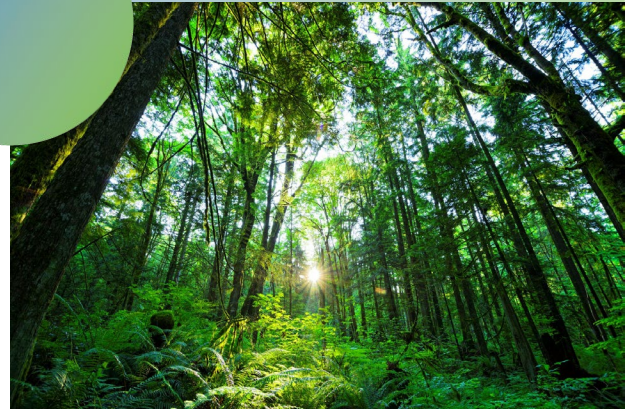


# The Role of the Forest Sector in a Circular Economy

Agenda item 5 (b)



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



# Presentation contents

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- **Mandate**
- **Work on circular economy studies**
- **Member States priorities – results of group work during the last JWP session**
- **Questions to the JWP**

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# Mandate - COFFI/EFC Joint Session 2021

1. “Prepare a series of studies further reviewing the application of circular models in specific forest-based industries, including through identification of case studies and best practice.
2. Take into consideration the whole forest-based value chain and bring attention to the circular nature of wood as a renewable resource and the role of sustainable forest management.
3. Look at existing definitions of a circular economy and present recommendations for adjusting them to the forest sector for consideration of member States during the next Joint Session.
4. Assess member States’ priorities and needs in application of circular models in the forest sector.
5. Provide opportunities for member States to exchange knowledge and best practice on the implementation of circularity principles in the forest sector”\*.

\*(ECE/TIM/2021/2 FO:EFC/2021/2)

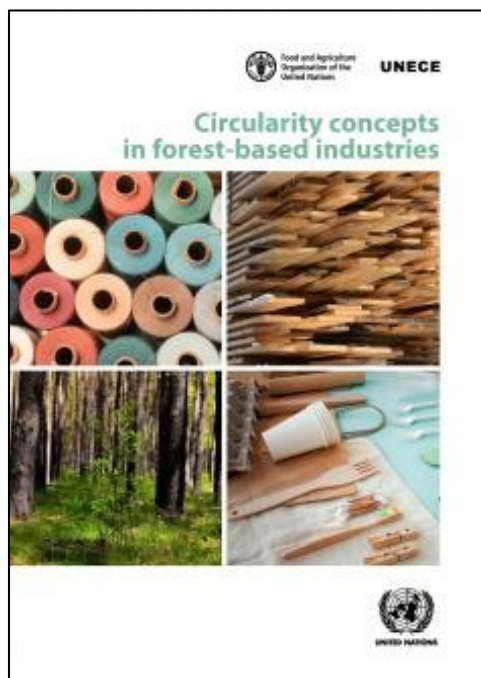
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# Work on CE studies

## General study



## Ongoing work on a series

**STUDY 1** General conditions for a successful transition to a sustainable and circular bioeconomy in forest-based industries

**STUDY 2** Circularity concepts in the wood construction sector - as an example of long-lived products value chain

**STUDY 3** Circularity concepts in pulp and paper industry - as an example of commodities with short life span

# Work on CE studies

## **STUDY 1 General conditions for a successful transition to a sustainable and circular bioeconomy in forest-based industries**

- The study will cover different aspects of forest management such as forest health and regeneration, sustainable provision of all ecosystem services and the optimal use of forest resources, which have an impact on the circularity of forest-based production processes.
- Consultation with ToS on Sustainable Forest Products on the content 23 Feb 2023
- Draft being prepared
- Consultation with ToS on the draft 6 July 2023
- Review by the FAO Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest-based Industries
- Final draft will be presented at the COFFI/EFC Joint Session, Nov 2023

# Work on CE studies

## STUDY 2 Circularity concepts in the wood construction sector - as an example of long-lived products value chain

- The study analyzes how circularity concepts can be applied in the construction industry at different stages of the value chain and in different construction methods.
- The final draft presented during the last COFFI session, Nov 2022
- The layout finalized last week – study available on the website
- Promotion starts in June 2023
  - Invitation to an event organized by EU Swedish presidency related to the New European Bauhaus initiative
  - Invitation to the IUFRO World Congress in 2024

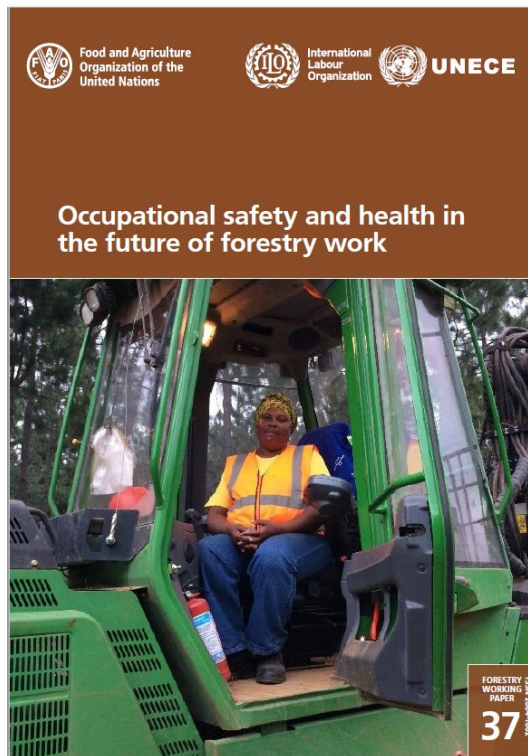


# Work on CE studies

## **STUDY 3 Circularity concepts in pulp and paper industry - as an example of commodities with short life span**

- The study will analyze how circularity concepts can be applied in the pulp and paper industry at different stages of the value chain and in different industries using pulp and paper, such as printing or packaging.
- Consultation with ToS Sustainable Forest Products on the content 23 Feb 2023
- Draft being prepared in cooperation with CEPI, case studies, high industry interest
- Consultation With ToS on the draft 6 July 2023,
- Review by the FAO Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest-based Industries
- Final draft will be presented at the COFFI/EFC Joint Session, Nov 2023

# Joint ILO/UNECE/FAO study



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# Results of group work 43<sup>rd</sup> JWP session

## Member States' needs in improving their capacity in the implementation of a circular economy

- Raising awareness
- Capacity building

# Results of group work 43<sup>rd</sup> JWP session

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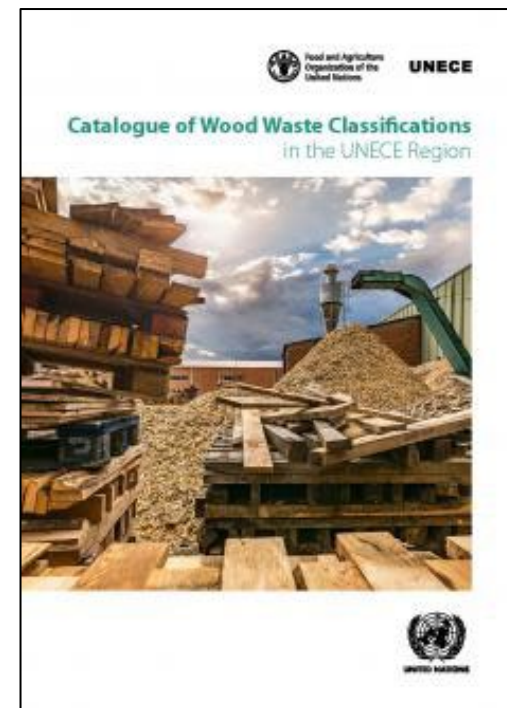
## Key areas where further exploration and analysis is needed

- Sustainable production and consumption
- Governance, cooperation, and communication

# Results of group work 43<sup>rd</sup> JWP session

## Key areas where further analysis is needed

- Sustainable production and consumption
  - Green public procurement in a circular economy
  - Incentives to use renewable resources
  - Sustainable use of raw materials in a circular economy
  - Cascading use of wood in a circular economy
  - Classifications of recycled materials
  - Analysis of logistical aspects of recovery and recycling
  - Inclusion of the bioeconomy component



# Results of group work 43<sup>rd</sup> JWP session

## Key areas where further analysis is needed

- Governance, cooperation, and communication
  - Existing solutions and regulations supporting the transition towards a circular economy
  - Building of local collaborative networks and industrial ecosystems
  - Raising awareness among consumers about sustainable/circular consumption

# Results of group work 43<sup>rd</sup> JWP session

## UNECE/FAO role

- Raise awareness about the benefits of a transition to a circular economy
- Be a platform for exchange of information
- Organize knowledge-sharing workshops
- Collect case studies of good practice
- Develop guidelines on specific topics/ the implementation of circularity in forest-based industries

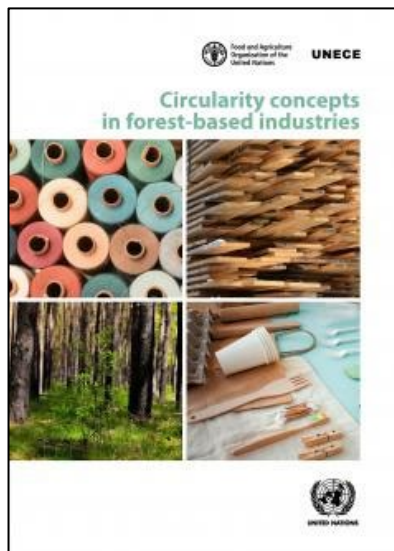
The image displays four infographics, each detailing a 7-step guide for making more circular choices as consumers in different sectors:

- Furniture:**
  - 1. AVOID:** Buy too much; Avoid unnecessary items; Buy instead of buy.
  - 2. REDUCE:** Design out waste and pollution; Reuse products and materials in use as long as possible; Repair and reuse systems.
  - 3. REUSE & RECYCLE:** Consider vintage, reupholstered and second-hand options; Invest in designs that last and can be disassembled and reupholstered; Think about modular furniture.
  - 4. RECOVER & TREAT:** Repair when you can; Return to the shop when possible; Give to charity or multi-collector services for furniture.
  - 5. DISPOSE:** Promote sustainable wood production and certification patterns; Repair and reuse; Repair producers' responsibility; Recycle the disposal of wood products.
- Plastic:**
  - 1. AVOID:** Single-use plastic products like shopping bags, cutlery, etc.
  - 2. REDUCE:** Buy too much plastic; Reduce plastic items; Consider package-in; Buy from retailers in biodegradable materials for "biodegradable" or "recyclable" labels.
  - 3. REUSE & RECYCLE:** Use and reuse your plastic and bio-based products for as long as possible; Sort for reusable products such as food containers; Get creative re-purpose plastic items.
  - 4. RECOVER & TREAT:** Use and reuse plastic products in particular packaging, for as long as possible; Reuse one-sided paper for notes, stickers, or flyers, etc.
  - 5. DISPOSE:** Recycle paper responsibly; Paper can be easily recycled up to 7 times. After that, most of the paper fibres become too short to be used for creating new paper and so on.
- Paper and paperboard:**
  - 1. AVOID:** Design out waste and pollution; Reuse products and materials in use as long as possible; Repair and reuse systems.
  - 2. REDUCE:** Consider electronics, if when you can; Buy products with less unnecessary packaging; Choose reusable items.
  - 3. REUSE & RECYCLE:** Identify paper; Use and reuse paper products in particular packaging, for as long as possible; Reuse one-sided paper for notes, stickers, or flyers, etc.
  - 4. RECOVER & TREAT:** When you can, choose a condition product that has been bio-based; Have no information printed on their plastic waste.
  - 5. DISPOSE:** Paper can be easily recycled up to 7 times. After that, most of the paper fibres become too short to be used for creating new paper and so on.
- Fashion:**
  - 1. AVOID:** Buy new garments; Think about what you really need; Care for your clothes and give them a longer life.
  - 2. REDUCE:** Buy too much; Buy instead of buy.
  - 3. REUSE & RECYCLE:** Choose product labelling carefully; Consider what fibres your clothes are made of; Avoid synthetic fibres; They are made of plastic; Choose renewable and biodegradable material like wool, linen, etc.
  - 4. RECOVER & TREAT:** Repair; Reuse; Recycle; Treat.
  - 5. DISPOSE:** Recycle paper responsibly; Paper can be easily recycled up to 7 times. After that, most of the paper fibres become too short to be used for creating new paper and so on.

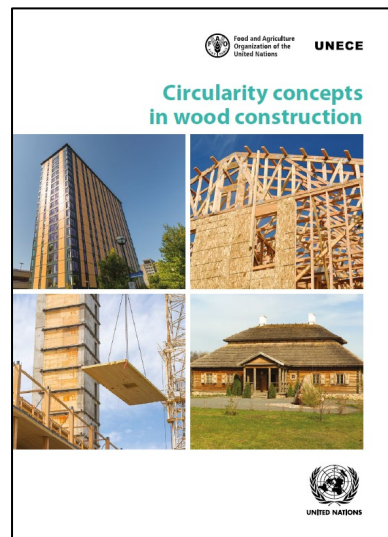


# Possible way forward (2024 - 2025)

- Existing work – finalization, knowledge sharing, capacity building



**General  
Conditions  
for a  
sustainable  
and circular  
bioeconomy**



**Circularity  
concepts in  
pulp and  
paper  
industry**

# Possible way forward (2024 – 2025)

- **New studies - based on identified needs**
  - Sustainable production and consumption
  - Governance, cooperation, and communication



# Possible way forward (2024 – 2025)

- **Case studies - webpage or PDF catalogue**
  - Sustainable production and consumption
  - Governance, cooperation, and communication



# Possible way forward (2024 – 2025)

- **Continuation of sessions dedicated to circular economy during the JWP sessions, COFFI sessions and COFFI/EFC sessions**
- **National and regional policy dialogues, capacity building, knowledge-sharing events upon request**
  - Turkey (national)
  - Kyrgyzstan (regional)



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# Key points for guidance and discussion

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The Joint Working Party is invited to:

- (a) Take note of the activities and the publications presented.
- (b) Provide feedback on the work presented and guidance on possible future work.



# THANK YOU

Alicja Kacprzak  
Forestry Officer  
Secretariat  
01 June 2023

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

