

**Economic and Social Council**

Distr.: General
9 November 2023

Original: English



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

Economic Commission for Europe**Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry**

Eighty-first session

San Marino, 20-23 November 2023

Item 4(d)(i) of the provisional agenda

Joint Committee/Commission matters: Reporting on the implementation of the 2021-2025 Integrated Programme of Work and related decisions. Report of the Joint Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management

Food and Agriculture Organization**European Forestry Commission**

Forty-second session

San Marino, 20-23 November 2023

Summary of Findings on Wood Energy Statistics 2022-2023**Note by the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Products and Wood Energy Statistics and its Ad Hoc Task Group on Wood Energy Statistics**

Published as received.

Summary

This document was prepared by the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists (ToS) on Forest Products and Wood Energy Statistics and its Ad Hoc Task Group on Wood Energy Statistics. It provides an update on the activities and findings of the Ad Hoc Task Group during 2022 and 2023 and presents activities proposed by the team.

The Committee and the Commission are invited to take note of the activities, findings and points for consideration, and to provide guidance on the proposed activities.

I. Introduction

1. This document was prepared by the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists (ToS) on Forest Products and Wood Energy Statistics.
2. At its first meeting in April 2022, the ToS created an Ad Hoc Task Group to conduct a “**review of methods of data collection to better respond to policy questions on wood energy supply-chain**” (hereafter: the Ad Hoc Task Group on Wood Energy Statistics). The Ad Hoc Task Group on Wood Energy Statistics is open to all members of the ToS and acts under the oversight of the ToS, as defined in the [Report](#) of the first meeting of the ToS.
3. At its forty-fourth session in 2023, the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management [welcomed](#) the proposal of the ad hoc task group on wood energy statistics to develop a summary of findings for the 2023 session of COFFI.
4. This document informs delegates about the work and preliminary findings of this Ad Hoc Task Group.

II. Background

5. The Joint Wood Energy Enquiry (JWEE) originated from a need recognized by UNECE member States to have reliable and consistent information on wood energy production which is comparable between member States and reference years. As stated in UNECE’s 2018 report on [Wood Energy in the ECE Region](#), the JWEE survey aims to gather information to:
 - (a) Reflect realities in the wood energy sector in a comprehensive and timely manner in gathering national wood energy data from official and non-official sources;
 - (b) Bridge knowledge and data across the energy, waste and forest-based sectors to support comparability of respective statistic;
 - (c) Foster cross-sectoral collaboration among national energy, waste and forest-based sector experts and all other relevant stakeholders;
 - (d) Show the impact on the forest-based sector of energy use and the impact on the energy sector of woody biomass.
6. The survey has been in effect since 2006 with 14 member States participating in the first survey. The number of member States providing information increased until 2015 and participation gradually decreased since then.
7. While the JWEE already provides information to produce metrics of wood energy production and use, the ToS raised the question of whether it would be possible to further improve those metrics and whether they may be further complemented to provide relevant information to address contemporary questions related to wood energy policy.

III. Summary of Activities

8. The Ad Hoc Task Group on Wood Energy Statistics has held two virtual meetings and had various interactions through e-mail requests for feedback.
9. The group identified a set of wood energy related policy topics based on data and information needs that they have identified at the national level and as experts during the first virtual meeting of the Ad Hoc Task Group on Wood Energy Statistics (June 22, 2022). Topics identified during the first meeting were organized into eight broad policy categories and then paired with currently available metrics from the JWEE, that could be used to inform policymakers and others. This exercise recognized two needs: first, that there may be a need to expand the dissemination of existing JWEE data, and second, that there may be additional data needs that could be addressed through a

revision of the JWEE as well as the use of external data (e.g. data from FAO, the International Energy Agency, the International Renewable Energy Agency, the United Nations Statistics Division). The identified policy categories, with brief descriptions of coverage, include the following (in alphabetical order):

- (a) **Air quality:** Emissions from wood energy (including carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, methane, sulphur dioxide, particulate matter etc.) that affect air quality.
 - (b) **Carbon footprint:** Emissions from wood energy (including carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, methane etc.) that have negative climate change implications.
 - (c) **Cascading use:** Promotion of efficient use of wood resources.
 - (d) **Climate change mitigation:** The role of wood products (incl. wood energy) in climate change mitigation strategies.
 - (e) **Economic relevance:** Significance of wood energy to GDP.
 - (f) **Energy security:** Contribution of wood energy use to domestic energy supply.
 - (g) **Rural development:** Contribution of wood energy use to rural development by generating income.
 - (h) **Sustainability:** Evaluating the impacts of wood energy use on global forest resources.
10. An online survey was sent on 18 August 2022 asking all ToS members to rate the top three policy categories (of the eight identified), based on the potential to better utilise and disseminate existing JWEE data and/or to enhance the JWEE questionnaire to fill data gaps for policymakers. Twenty-eight of the 68 members of the ToS replied to the survey (41% response rate).
 11. Survey results were shared with the Ad Hoc Group through a second virtual meeting on October 12, 2022. Group members attending the October 12th call proposed expanding the final selection to top four categories (from the original top three policy categories selected through the survey) due to the thematic interlinkages of the two policy categories: cascading use and sustainability.
 12. At the Second Meeting of the Team of Specialists on 30 May 2022, the coordinators of the Ad Hoc Task Group on Wood Energy Statistics presented a report of activities since the first meeting of the Team of Specialists and reported the findings of the assessment of available statistical information on wood energy for these four policy categories. The Team discussed the findings and acknowledged that additional information may be gathered to address questions raised during the presentation, within the scope of the current mandate of the Ad Hoc Task Group on Wood Energy Statistics.
 13. The Team of Specialists [informed](#) The ECE/FAO Joint Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management of its work and potential activities at its forty-fourth session in 2023.

IV. Summary of Findings

A. Preliminary results

14. With input from ToS members and the Secretariat, the Ad Hoc Task Group on Wood Energy Statistics identified four major policy categories as currently most relevant to its mandate. These categories (in alphabetical order) and associated description/coverage include:
 - a. **Cascading use:** Promotion of efficient use of wood resources.
 - b. **Climate change mitigation:** The role of wood products (incl. wood energy) in climate change mitigation strategies

- c. **Energy security:** Contribution of wood energy use to domestic energy supply
 - d. **Sustainability:** Evaluating the impact of wood energy use on global forest resources.
15. With the four major policy categories identified (cascading use, climate change mitigation, energy security and sustainability), the Ad Hoc Task Group on Wood Energy Statistics conducted a more detailed mapping to identify the correspondence of existing JWEE metrics with the identified policy categories. The correspondence table presented in Annex (Table 1) identifies available JWEE information to help inform answers to potential questions within those policy categories and support fact-based discussions.

B. Key Outstanding Questions

16. What are the key data gaps in discussions on wood-energy policies in the UNECE region?
17. Are these metrics valid and are there any additional wood energy policy topics that the Ad Hoc Task Group on Wood Energy Statistics should consider?
18. How could information from other sources help improve and/or expand metrics to support informed policy?

C. Activities proposed by the Team of Specialists and its Ad Hoc Task Group on Wood Energy Statistics

19. Generate a document summarizing selected policy categories, their general descriptions, and the corresponding JWEE metrics, along with each metric's available data point by year and UNECE member country. Use identified metrics to develop a report on issues revolving around the identified policy categories for wood energy in the UNECE region.
20. Conduct a survey of policymakers to assess the completeness and relevance of the policy issues identified and on key outstanding policy questions and their related data needs.
21. Identify and propose possible amendments to the JWEE (including potentially new metrics or indicators) that support fact-based policy discussions.
22. Identify other sources of information that could complement the JWEE and allow for the production of new metrics.

D. Points for consideration

23. Delegates are invited to provide feedback on the findings, including the relevance of the four identified policy categories and to provide guidance on the proposed activities by the Team of Specialists and its Ad Hoc Task Group on Wood Energy Statistics.
24. In particular, delegates may wish to identify key outstanding data gaps related to priority wood energy policy topics that could be addressed by the proposed activities, comment on the mapping of JWEE metrics to policy categories, and/or propose additional metrics that could contribute to evidence based discussions and policymaking for priority wood energy policy topics if developed.

Annex

Table 1
Correspondence of JWEE metrics and the identified categories

JWEE Metric		Categories			
ID	Description	Cascading use	Climate change mitigation	Energy security	Sustainability
1	Roundwood removals from forest and outside forest (1000m3)				X
2	Roundwood supply from forest and outside forest including net trade (1000m3)				X
3	Total calculated domestic supply of woody biomass (1000m3)				X
4	Total primary energy supply (TPES), (ktoe)		X	X	
5	Share of renewables (RES) in TPES		X	X	
6	Total wood energy supply, volume basis (1000 m3)			X	X
7	Total wood energy supply, energy basis (ktoe)			X	X
8	Average wood energy consumption (m3/capita)			X	X
9	Fuelwood consumption per rural inhabitant (m3/inhabitant)			X	X
10	Pellets consumption per inhabitant (kg/capita)	X			
11	Share of net annual increment directly used for energy (%)	X		X	X
12	Share of roundwood supply directly used for energy purposes (%)	X		X	X
13	Share of calculated domestic consumption of woody biomass used for energy purposes (%)	X			X
14	Share of woody biomass in TPES (%)		X	X	
15	Share of woody biomass in RES (%)		X	X	
16	Share of wood energy generated from black liquor, energy basis (%)	X	X	X	
17	Imported wood fuel as share of wood energy, volume basis (%)			X	