



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations



# Report of the 44<sup>th</sup> session of the Joint Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management

Item 4 (d) (i)

**Michal Synek (Chair)**

San Marino, 20-23 November 2023



# Background

- **44th session of the Joint Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management, Geneva, 31 May – 2 June 2023**
- **19 member States attended**
- **First “*in-person only*” meeting since 2019**

# Agenda

1. **Adoption of the agenda.**
2. **Matters arising since the last session:**
3. **Rules of Procedure for the Joint Working Party.**
4. **Thematic focus**
5. **Guidance on work areas**
6. **Overview on forest and forest sector related work by the Economic Commission for Europe and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations that are not covered by the integrated programme of work.**
7. **Integrated Programme of Work review process.**
8. **Election of officers.**
9. **Date and place of next meeting.**
10. **Any other business.**
11. **Adoption of the report.**

# Agenda

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6. **Overview on forest and forest sector related work by the Economic Commission for Europe and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations that are not covered by the integrated programme of work**
7. Integrated Programme of Work review process – **FORESTA item 4 (d)**
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# Rules of Procedure for the Joint Working Party

**The Joint Working Party agreed not to adopt its own Rules of Procedure and be governed by the Rules of Procedure of its parent body, the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry.**

# Thematic focus

Forest damage

– FORESTA Item 4(d)

**Wood energy**

Draft regional urban forestry opportunity plan

– FORESTA Item 5(c)

**Digital transformation of forest data collection, processing  
and dissemination**

# Wood energy

The secretariat reported on its work on wood energy, presented an overview of the procedural steps for the successful launch of the collection of the wood energy data for the reference year 2021 via the Joint Wood Energy Enquiry (JWEE) and presented the preliminary results of the JWEE for the reference year 2021.

The Joint Working Party:

- confirmed the two-year cycle of the data collection on wood energy as appropriate.
- Welcomed the availability of detailed country-level wood energy data on the ECE website;
- Took note of the ad hoc task group on wood energy statistics

# Digital transformation of forest data collection, processing & dissemination

The secretariat informed delegates about its data strategy and related work, including a modernized approach to data collection through the development of a tailored central data platform; the platform would allow some degree of automatic data exchange

Czechia, Finland, Germany, Poland and Switzerland presented national experiences.

The report of the meeting summarizes the main outcomes of the interactive working group discussions

Member States took note of the request to consider providing the required financial or in-kind resources.

Heads of delegation shall be contacted by the secretariat to nominate a national focal point for consultation by the secretariat during the scheduled implementation of its data strategy and related work.

**→ Related to FORESTA2023 Draft Decision 2023–15**



# Guidance on work areas

**Work Area 1: Data, monitoring, reporting and assessment;**

**Work Area 2: Policy dialogue and advice;**

**Work Area 3: Communication and outreach;**

**Work Area 4: Capacity-building**

# Work Area 1: Data, monitoring, reporting and assessment

- **Forest Resources**
- **Forest products and wood energy statistics**
- **Forest products markets**

# Work Area 1: Data, monitoring, reporting and assessment

## Forest Resources

The secretariat informed about the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025 and progress made for the 2025 Joint ECE/FAO/Forest Europe PanEuropean Data Collection on forests and sustainable forest management.

The secretariat outlined the new digital interface developed for national data submission and presented the next steps in the preparatory process.

The work has been implemented according to schedule, with the support of the Governments of Sweden and Switzerland.

However, the continuation of the process depends on additional funding.

# Work Area 1: Data, monitoring, reporting and assessment

## Forest products and wood energy statistics

- The Joint Working Party Expressed appreciation for the new online tools for the facilitation of the global and the pan-European forest data collection and underlined the importance of extrabudgetary resources to fully benefit from them in the implementation of the 2025 JPEDC;
- Voiced concern about insufficient resources and underlined the importance of the availability of regular budgetary resources for the long-term data-related work in the Joint Section;
- Took note of the work and proposed activities of the ToS on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management;

# Work Area 1: Data, monitoring, reporting and assessment

## Forest products and wood energy statistics

The secretariat presented the results of the work on forest products and wood energy statistics over the reporting period including.

The Team of Specialists on Forest Products and Wood Energy Statistics also presented a summary of its activities

The Joint Working Party (key points):

- Welcomed the Team's proposal of the ad hoc task group on removals and the ad hoc task group on wood energy statistics to develop summaries of findings for possible presentation to the 2023 COFFI session or the 2024 Joint Working Party

[ECE/TIM/2023/Inf.6 – FAO:EFC/2023/Inf.6](#)

[ECE/TIM/2023/Inf.7 – FAO:EFC/2023/Inf.7](#)

**Work Area 1:  
Data,  
monitoring,  
reporting  
and  
assessment**

**Summary of Findings on Removals Statistics 2022-2023**

ECE/TIM/2023/Inf.6 – FAO:EFC/2023/Inf.6

- **Survey on Removals Statistics** to compare methodologies across countries (25 replies)

The ToS proposes (summarized):

- Developing profiles of national approaches.
- Developing a technical proposal on improving the comparability of JFSQ data.

# Work Area 1: Data, monitoring, reporting and assessment

## Summary of Findings on Removals Statistics 2022-2023

ECE/TIM/2023/Inf.6 – FAO:EFC/2023/Inf.6

### Points for Consideration (summarized)

- Provide feedback on the findings of the survey on wood removals in the ECE region
- Suggest how to use the collected data
- Provide guidance on the proposed activities
- Provide support to the ToS and Secretariat, including potentially providing in-kind and financial support for the proposed activities

# Work Area 1: Data, monitoring, reporting and assessment

## Summary of Findings on Wood Energy Statistics 2022-2023 ECE/TIM/2023/Inf.7 – FAO:EFC/2023/Inf.7

- Survey to identify policy categories with potential to better utilise and disseminate existing JWEE data and/or to enhance the JWEE questionnaire to fill data gaps for policymakers.

### Proposed activities (summarized)

- Generate a document summarizing selected policy categories, and the corresponding JWEE metrics. Use identified metrics to develop a report for the UNECE region.
- Conduct a survey of policymakers on key outstanding policy questions and their related data needs.
- Identify and propose possible amendments to the JWEE.
- Identify other sources of information to complement the JWEE.



# Work Area 1: Data, monitoring, reporting and assessment

## Summary of Findings on Wood Energy Statistics 2022- 2023 ECE/TIM/2023/Inf.7 – FAO:EFC/2023/Inf.7

Points for consideration (summarized)

- Provide feedback on the findings
- Provide guidance on the proposed activities
- 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

# Work Area 1: Data, monitoring, reporting and assessment

## Forest products markets

The secretariat informed the Joint Working Party about the self-evaluation of the Forest Products Annual Market Review which proposed considering new formats for the publication which should be more inclusive and raise awareness on human rights and gender aspects in the forest sector.

→ FORESTA Country Market Statement request

The Joint Working Party agreed that “sawn softwood, wood energy, and pulp and paper” should be the three topics of the pilot Data Briefs in 2023

→ FORESTA Market Discussion

# Work Area 2: Policy dialogue and advice

## 1. Circular economy:

The secretariat informed the Joint Working Party of the work on forests in a circular economy

The Joint Working Party:

- (a) Took note of the activities and publications presented;
- (b) Supported the direction of the ongoing and planned work;
- (c) Pointed to the importance of wood use in a circular economy and the specific nature of wood as a raw material in its consideration of the circular economy in relation to recycling, downcycling and cascading use; and
- (d) highlighted the role of sustainable forest management in the process of wood production.

→ see FORESTA Item 4 (d) (iv)

# Work Area 2: Policy dialogue and advice (cont.)

## 2. Boreal Forests

The secretariat informed delegates of the work on boreal forests and highlighted the development of the policy brief “Boreal Forests and Climate Change – From Impacts to Adaptation”.

The secretariat informed the Joint Working Party of the main activities for 2023/2024, specifically the project-funded scoping study on boreal forests. The secretariat presented a draft of the study and noted that the goals included better communication of the importance of boreal forests beyond the forest sector and outreach to the general public.

The Joint Working Party took note of the activities and the policy brief

→ FORESTA Item5 (d) Update on boreal forest work

## Work Area 3: Communication and outreach

The secretariat presented the ongoing communication and outreach work, highlighting social media campaigns, the Forest Billboard, “The UN Forest Podcast” and the short film “Why Trees?” and the other events organized.

The Joint Working Party agreed to expand the secretariat’s work on communication and outreach by actively making use of its social media channels and sending inputs to the Forest Information Billboard and other outlets.

The Joint Working Party requested the secretariat to organize a survey for member States and the ToS to establish, with the support of member States, thematic communication opportunities to increase its outreach and access to more sustainable funding.

The Working Party requested the ToS on Forest Communication to actively promote the work and products elaborated under the Integrated Programme of Work 2022-2025.

## Work Area 4: Capacity- building

The secretariat informed the Joint Working Party about its capacity-building activities since the previous session, including 32 events involving 1361 participants and also about planned capacity-building activities for 2023/2024.

The Joint Working Party took note of the capacity-building work, emerging needs, the need to further strengthen the secretariat's capacity-building efforts and for additional funding opportunities, and the involvement of member States in capacity-building work.

→ FORESTA Item 5 (f) Capacity building and technical assistance

# ECE and FAO forest and forest sector related activities 2023

ECE and FAO, in line with their governance structures, presented an overview of their forest-related work in the region outside the scope of the Integrated Programme of Work .

The Joint Working Party took note of the forest- and wood-related activities of ECE subprogrammes outside the scope of the Integrated Programme of Work and welcomed the coordination of the various ECE Divisions with the Joint Working Party.

# Election of officers

**The 44<sup>th</sup> session elected until the end of the 45<sup>th</sup> session**

**Mr. Michal Synek (Czechia) as Chair.**

**Ms. Magdalena Wolicka-Posiadała (Poland) as Vice-Chair.**

**Mr. Talha Sadiq (Canada) as Vice-Chairs as Vice-Chair.**



# Date and place of next meeting

**\*\*\* new date \*\*\* new date \*\*\* new date \*\*\* new date  
\*\*\***

**22 – 24 May 2024  
Geneva, Switzerland  
(in-person only)**

**\*\*\* new date \*\*\* new date \*\*\* new date \*\*\* new date  
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# Extension of the mandate of the Teams of Specialists

**The mandates of all Teams of Specialists will end in 2023 and the , an extension request until 2025 will be submitted for approval and subsequent submission to the Executive Committee of ECE for adoption**

**See: [ECE/TIM/2023/5](#); [FAO:EFC/2023/5](#)**

# Extension of the mandate of the Teams of Specialists

In line with the “Guidelines for the establishment and functioning of teams of specialists within UNECE” paragraph 1(c) document ECE/EX/2/Rev.1, **the Committee and the Commission are invited to approve the extension of the mandate of the following Teams of Specialists** (whose terms of reference are contained in ECE/TIM/2021/2-FO:EFC/2021/2) **for the period 2024-2025:**

- (a) Team of Specialists on Boreal Forests;
- (b) Team of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management;
- (c) Team of Specialists on Sustainable Forest Products;
- (d) Team of Specialists on Forest Products and Wood Energy Statistics;
- (e) Team of Specialists on Forest Communication (Forest Communicators’ Network);

The approved extension will be submitted for approval to the Executive Committee of the Economic Commission for Europe.



# Thank you !

San Marino, 20-23 November 2023

