



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Item 4

Reporting on implemented and ongoing work

Forest products markets

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Geneva, 22-24 May 2024



Outline

- **Low carbon construction**
- **Forest Products Annual Market Review**
- **Report by the Team of Specialists**

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Low carbon construction

Prepared “Draft policy guidelines/principles on advancing low carbon construction in cities” – presented @ Foresta 2023 (20-23 November 2023), San Marino (to be finalized in 2024)

Contributed to UNEP – CONFERENCE “Buildings and Climate Global Forum” (7 - 8 March 2024) Paris, France

Organized COP28 side event – “Carbon sponge city - Why cities can help solve our climate problems” 01 December 2023 , Finland Pavilion , Dubai United Arab Emirates

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Forest products annual market review (FPAMR) 2024 edition

Peter Pechacek

- **Acknowledgments**
 - **FAO funding**
 - **Florian Steierer**
 - **Technical review - FAO Forestry division (NFO) in Rome**
- **Format similar to previous years - 5 chapters on**
 - **Overview & policies**
 - **Sawn softwood**
 - **Wood-based panels**
 - **Pulp and paper**
 - **Wood energy**
- **Structure of chapters by subregions - Europe, Eastern Europe, Caucasus/Central Asia, North America**

Forest products annual market review (FPAMR) 2024 edition cont'd

Peter Pechacek

- **Lead & contributing authors**
- **Analysis period July 2023 – May 2024**
- **Based exclusively on author's market knowledge; UNECE does not provide any statistics for the analysis period**

Forest products annual market review (FPAMR) 2024 edition cont'd

Peter Pechacek

- **Workplan**
 - **Tight deadlines - late start/additional requirements**
 - **Compliance with FAO publication rules**
 - **Writing Style English**
 - **Publication workflow – Plagiarism check**
 - **Ready for printing early September**
 - **Printed (if possible) 4 weeks ahead of COFFI**

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ToS on Sustainable Forest Products

Meetings and output (2023-2024)

- **The ToS held meetings on the following issues:**
 - ToS team meetings
 - Forest products and the circular economy
 - The impact of the EUDR in the UNECE region
 - Market discussions at FORESTA 2023.
- **We organised a workshop at FORESTA 2023 on “How to Minimise Carbon in Buildings”**
- **ToS Members contributed to the writing and editing of the FPAMR 2022-2023.**

ToS SFP Hybrid-workshop at FORESTA 2023

“How to Minimise Carbon in Buildings”

- Targeted at professional influencers in the building sector in the UNECE region
- Our Workshop was heavily promoted on LinkedIn
- Included speakers from the forest products and building sectors
- Speakers presented case studies from across the ECE Region
- A wide-ranging discussion underlined wood construction’s carbon & time-saving benefits and cost-efficiency.

Follow-up: on an ongoing basis, we need to raise and broaden the awareness amongst key decision-takers and policy-makers of the benefits of using forest products in construction.

BUT: we cannot undertake this without appropriate resources, including: funding, staffing and other in-kind inputs.

ToS SPF work on the EU Regulation on deforestation-free products (EUDR):

- Without a formal relation with the EU authorities on the EUDR, the UNECE is well placed to offer a neutral platform for constructive discussion on how actors, esp. operators & traders, may best prepare for and comply with the EUDR. So...
 - from January to April 2024, the ToS devised and executed a targeted survey to identify the main common issues on and obstacles to EUDR implementation and also possible practical solutions which could help make the EUDR work.
 - The survey results identified the main forest-based products and their places in supply chains for which stakeholders had the highest concerns. An on-line meeting (26/04/2024) with respondents discussed and refined these and identified some overlaps with other, existing legal requirements on forest-based products, with a view to streamlining/minimizing the bureaucratic burden for market actors.
 - Possible solutions were grouped into: changes to the EUDR act (not feasible at this stage) and interpretations of and/or adjustments to implementing rules (feasible subject to EU and/or EU member states' acceptance). All results are being communicated to the relevant EU services.

Summary of main EUDR issues identified by the ToS survey and on-line meeting (26/04/2024):

- Geo-location, esp. will the 4 ha. land-plot threshold be modulated?;
- Can there be more clarity/flexibility on the “forest degradation” definition?;
- More clarity/flexibility on “plantation” and “regeneration”, etc. definitions?;
- Can there be clarity on countries’ risk assessment to avoid all being medium?;
- Will the ongoing testing by operators enable the start dates foreseen?;
- How and when will the EU Interface inputs and outputs be fully operational?;
- Will there be more flexibility for dates of “transition stock”?;
- What are the alternatives to “mass-balance”, e.g. so-called “bulking”? ;
- Confidentiality safeguards: for both authorised and unauthorised users;
- Improve information dissemination vis-à-vis non-EU countries ;
- How will disputes be settled between member states and the EU Commission?

Proposed work programme (2024)

The ToS will provide support for the Secretariat by:

- Organising the market discussions (COFFI 2024)
- Tracking developments of the EUDR (This is likely to continue into 2025)
- Provide market guidance to the ToS on Forestry Statistics and Wood-biomass Energy
- Contribute inputs to and proof-read the FPAMR (2023-2024);
- Hold ToS meetings (online)
- Organise online workshops as required, including those on low carbon construction
- Support and communicate with other ToS and externally regarding ECE outputs, including improvement of the web-site and an increased use of relevant social media

Issues for consideration by the Working Party

- Consider the importance of deforestation-free supply chains for forest products and invites the JWP to encourage the secretariat to focus on this topic during the Market Discussion of the eighty-second session of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry in November 2024;
- Financial, material and staffing support is required for the ongoing production of the FPAMR (valid content, quality, timeliness, etc.) and for other ToS activities, especially events.
 - Accordingly, member States are invited to propose and discuss all feasible options, including in-kind (e.g. personnel time) and financial support to the activities.
- The ToS needs to further improve our communication output, especially via the web-site and on social media.
- The Working Party is invited to help gather ToS inputs and disseminate ToS outputs, e.g. events



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Thank you

Geneva, 22–24 May 2024



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