

**Self-evaluation on the relevance of the Forest Products Annual Market  
Review to the needs of member States and challenges in the forest sector**  
(Subprogramme-level evaluation, December 2022)

Progress report as of 30 June 2024

#	Recommendation	Management response	Responsibility	Target date	Progress
1	<b>The evaluation recommends the Forest Products Annual Market Review to include information, data and statistics on Sustainable Development Goals relevant to the various forest products market sectors.</b>	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>One of the core objectives of the publication is to inform the audience about the situation of production and consumption of forest products markets and their contribution to accelerate progress towards the achievements of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The first chapter of the publication on Economic Overview and Policies lends itself to be a good place to include information, data and statistics on the SDGs relevant to the various forest products market sectors. The Joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section (the Joint Section) will focus mainly on highlighting the information for SDGs 7 and 12.</p>	Forests, Land Management and Housing Division (FLHD)	31 December 2023	<p><b>Implemented</b></p> <p>The Forest Products Annual Market Review was published in November 2023 and includes information, data and statistics on Sustainable Development Goals relevant to the various forest products market sectors.</p> <p>The link to the SDG's is clearly stated in the introduction (page 2):</p> <p><i>"The analysis of the various wood commodity markets now also contains additional information on how these market trends contribute to the achievement of the various United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), namely SDG 7 ("Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all"), 11 ("Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable"), 12 ("Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns"), 13 ("Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts") and 15 ("Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss")."</i></p> <p>Specific references are made a various part of the specific chapters (e.g. forest certification or sawn hardwood and SDG 15.2).</p>
2	<b>The evaluation recommends the subprogramme to consider – to the extent possible and without creating additional workload – redirecting existing regular budget resources for layout and printing to be primarily</b>	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>The Joint Section and PMU will discuss with UNOG which digital type formats of publications suitable for machine reading and translation algorithms they offer or could offer in the near future -without creating additional workload to the subprogramme- to make ECE publications more accessible (noting that the</p>	FLHD and PMU	31 December 2023	<p><b>Implemented</b></p> <p>The FLHD and PMU successfully discussed with the Division of Conference Management (DCM) in December 2023 and agreed on the way forward to implement this recommendation.</p> <p>DCM confirmed that the discussion about machine readable electronic publications was timely and fully in line with the UN's "Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities" and the UN</p>

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	used to produce an electronic publication. A machine-readable electronic publication makes the content accessible to visually impaired users and users not able to read one of the three official languages of the UNECE via machine translation.	current pdf digital option is not machine-readable).			<p>Disability Inclusion Strategy to increase inclusiveness.</p> <p>The publishing section would be able to offer the choice between two main types of electronic publications. (i) Reflowable document, which automatically adjusts the layout of the text to the electronic device (static html) and (ii) e-publications for e-readers.</p> <p>UNECE and DCM aim to use the FPAMR and a selected number of other UNECE publications to test new presentation formats in addition to the PDF versions.</p>
3	The evaluation recommends the subprogramme to investigate how – within the resources available – technological solutions could help further streamline the workflow to adjust to the human resources available in the subprogramme. These solutions could include – but may not be limited to – (partially) automated text generation automatized interactive graphics based on information from the database, and shorter expert assessments by each market segment.	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation. The Joint Section, in consultation with ECE Programme Management and Support Services Division, will explore possible technical solutions (aligned to available resources) that could assist in the adjustment of the current workflow to the actually available and allocated human resources.</p> <p>To that effect, the Joint Section will consult with the members of the Team of Specialists (ToS) on sustainable forest products, with ECE Programme Management and Support Services Division as well as relevant sections/departments within the UN about possible options and experiences with streamlined publication production workflow, including semi-automated text generation and interactive graphs with a view to facilitate possible automation within existing resources.</p>	FLHD	31 December 2024	<p><b>In progress - delayed</b></p> <p>The secretariat had initial discussions with experts in member States about organizing a webinar on the issue in order to increase its capacities to automatize text in future editions of the publication.</p> <p>The webinar is expected to be held in Q3 of 2024.</p>
4	The evaluation recommends the subprogramme to urge member States to consider a long-term planning for sustainable funding of the independent market expert	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation. The Joint Section will present the outcomes of the evaluation of the FPAMR to member States during the 44th session of the Joint UNECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management (31. May – 2. June 2023) and the 81st session of</p>	FLHD	31 December 2023	<p><b>Implemented</b></p> <p>The secretariat informed member States during the 44<sup>th</sup> session of the Joint Working Party on Forest Products Statistics, Economics and Management (31 May – 2 June 2023) about the Self-evaluation on the relevance of the Forest Products Annual Market Review to the needs of member States and challenges in the forest sector.</p>

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	<b>input to the Review through a multi-donor, multi-year project.</b>	the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (21-24 November 2023). The Joint Section will use these opportunities to particularly raise the issue with member States and urge them to consider providing a long-term funding for the FPAMR.			<p>The secretariat highlighted recommendation 4 and member States took note of the funding needs. The Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry took note of the report from the Joint Working Party.</p> <p>The secretariat did not manage to obtain any firm pledges for long term funding of the publication.</p>
5	<b>The evaluation recommends the subprogramme to raise to the extent possible, awareness among member State representatives and readers of the Review on gender and human rights issues related to the forest market sector. This could be done by including a relevant question on gender and human rights in the Country Market Statements, the results could be summarized in the economic overview and policies chapter of the Review.</b>	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>The Joint Section will include a relevant question on gender and human rights in the annual Country Market Statement prepared by member States. These statements are prepared for the meetings of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry. As the structure and main topics of the Country Market Statements are prepared by the Joint Section and requests for the country market statement will be sent in Q3 2023 to member States, the Joint Section will include in the 2023 template a request for relevant information on gender and human rights issues related to the forest market sector.</p> <p>The Joint Section will, in a second step, use the information provided by member States, and add a segment in the economic overview and policies chapter of the Market Review of 2024.</p>	FLHD	31 December 2024	<p><b>In progress</b></p> <p>The secretariat informed member States during the 44<sup>th</sup> session of the Joint Working Party on Forest Products Statistics, Economics and Management (31 May – 2 June 2023) about the Self-evaluation on the relevance of the Forest Products Annual Market Review to the needs of member States and challenges in the forest sector.</p> <p>The secretariat highlighted recommendation 5 and member States took note of the inclusion of questions on gender and human rights in the Country Market Statement.</p> <p>The request for the country market statements was sent to member States in June 2023 with a submission deadline of October 2023. 12 out of 18 member States included for the first time a chapter on “Gender and human rights issues related to the forest market sector” (<a href="https://unece.org/forests/2023-country-market-statements">https://unece.org/forests/2023-country-market-statements</a>). The secretariat highlighted the availability of this information under agenda item 5 (e) of the 81<sup>st</sup> session of the UNECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (<a href="https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2023-08/ECE_TIM_2023_1_FAO_EFC_2023_1_en.pdf">https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2023-08/ECE_TIM_2023_1_FAO_EFC_2023_1_en.pdf</a>).</p> <p>The 2023 edition already included a short text about the Women’s Forest Congress, and it is planned that the 2024 edition of the Forest Products Annual Market Review will include a summary of the information provided by member States.</p>