



**What:** Forest Information Billboard – “Info about Info”

**Origin:** At the thirty-fourth session of the Joint UNECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management, Geneva, 27-29 March 2012 the need for a more frequent and regular communication on forest information relevant developments in the UNECE region was highlighted. The request was discussed at the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Team of Specialists on Monitoring SFM, 22-34 May, Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation, which now operates as a platform for cooperation for this particular project. The ToS recommended developing a regular, joint bulletin that shares existing forest-related reporting initiatives among organizations and countries.

**Why:** To ensure a more frequent exchange of information and developments on forest related reporting processes among organizations and countries. This will contribute to increasing interaction and communication among organizations involved in facilitating and coordinating such processes at the international level. Such processes can then lead to improved and better coordinated national reporting and consequently reduced reporting burden.

**For Whom:** Primarily for national and international forest sector statisticians and experts involved in international data collection and reporting; however, the billboard is open for all interested audience.

**By Whom:** The bulletin is open to contributions from all countries and organisations who have important information to share on developments in their area of work, as indicated above.

**What is there:** Developments in international reporting occurring in or being relevant to particular regions/countries; preliminary findings from studies/publications; communication of related material including announcements, invitations, questionnaires and other news to be shared openly, in particular among experts who are not normally involved in a particular process or activity. The issues relevant to CIS region, Europe and North America are the main focus of the billboard.

**Who owns:** The bulletin will function as a billboard, owned by the whole forest information community, no logos or acronyms will be displayed. All relevant organizations and processes are invited to manage and contribute to the bulletin. The current list includes organizations that are involved in the work of the ToS: Biodiversity International, CEPF, EEA, EFI, ENFE, ENFIN, Eurostat, FAO, Forest Europe, ICP Forests, JRC Ispra, Montreal Process, PlanBleu, UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section. The list is open to other organizations.

**Who facilitates:** The UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section will collect submissions from contact persons, nominated by each organization, and publish them on a regular basis. Contributions should comply with the formatting and timing requirements (see section below) and will be the sole responsibility of the author/organization.

**Which format and how often:** The bulletin will consist of a series of announcements/news items, each consisting of no more than 250 words, with a link to the full source of information. Initially, this billboard will be issued in the form of a pdf/html document prepared on quarterly basis. The form and frequency may change depending on needs and capacity (e.g. online service).