

PREFACE

The report "Forest Resources of Europe, CIS, North America, Australia, Japan and New Zealand (*industrialized temperate/boreal countries*)", which is abbreviated hereafter as the "TBFRA-2000", is the UN-ECE/FAO contribution to the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment 2000. TBFRA-2000 has been carried out under the auspices of the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics, a subsidiary body of the FAO European Forestry Commission and the UN/ECE Timber Committee. As a part of the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2000, it is based on the Global FRA-2000 platform (the Global Framework) which was proposed by the "Kotka-III" expert consultation (June 1996, Kotka, Finland).

This volume, which contains the main TBFRA-2000 results, will be accompanied by a number of thematic papers. The assessment as a whole, and this Main TBFRA-2000 Report, are based on the national replies to a detailed enquiry from the TBFRA correspondents of 55 temperate/boreal industrialized countries. In accordance with the Working Party's programme of work, a team of specialists has guided the preparation of the enquiry and the implementation of the project.

The Main Report includes statistical and descriptive information together with analyses undertaken by high level experts in the following specific thematic areas: Area of Forest and Other Wooded Land (OWL), Ownership and Management Status, Wood Supply and Carbon Sequestration; Biological Diversity and Environmental Protection; Forest Condition and Damage; and Protective and Socio-Economic Functions. These topics constitute the Chapters of the report. The report also includes the Introduction and Executive Summary, as well as a section with an analysis of the reliability and comparability of the data. More than 80 main tables with the validated national statistics on the different parameters of forest resources are included in the publication. In many cases where official TBFRA data were not available, estimates were made by the correspondents in cooperation with the secretariat.

All aspects of the invaluable and interesting information provided by countries could not be covered in this Main Report. The remaining national data will be analysed and published in accompanying discussion papers. The following topics might be the subjects of the accompanying papers: biodiversity, carbon sequestration and balance, protected areas, forest condition and damage to forest, etc.

The country files, which will include tables of essential TBFRA-2000 data for each participating country, will also be published as a satellite paper, and the country information from the TBFRA-2000 database will be supplied and inserted into the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2000. The electronic TBFRA-2000 database will be made available on the Internet (UN/ECE Timber Committee home page).

The TBFRA-2000 publication is issued on the sole responsibility of the secretariat of the UN/ECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission. Every effort has been made to check the accuracy and consistency of the information presented in the report, but because of the enormous mass of data involved, some errors or inconsistencies may have been overlooked and have slipped into the publication. The secretariat would welcome feedback from the readers and users of the publication, as well as comments which would help to improve the quality of future work on the international forest resources assessments.