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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION
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**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION**

Timber Committee

European Forestry Commission

Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party
on Forest Economics and Statistics

Thirty-third session
Geneva, 23-24 March 2011
Agenda item 3 (a) of the provisional agenda

Guidance on Work Area 1: Markets and Statistics

AGENDA ITEM 3 (a) – REVIEW AND PLANS - STATISTICS

Note by the secretariat

Summary

According to its mandate, the Working Party is expected to provide guidance to Work Area 1: Markets and Statistics. This document discusses the activities in forest products statistics during the last year. The Working Party is invited to note and comment on any developments in the work area and also respond to the specific questions posed within this note.

I. Outputs

A. Forecasts

1. In 2010 the secretariat produced the Timber Committee Forecasts as well as data tables in support of the *Forest Products Annual Market Review, 2009-2010* (FPAMR) based on the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire (JFSQ)¹. Presentations made at the annual Timber Committee Market Discussions were based on the forecasts supplied by countries prior to the meeting as well as the preliminary JFSQ data.
2. The secretariat received forecasts from 29 countries in 2010, one less than in 2009.

B. Forest Products Markets

3. At the time of writing, work is proceeding on the final Forest Products Statistics, 2005-2009. All forest products data were uploaded to the FAOSTAT interactive database, the primary distribution site for forest products data, in July and December. FAO also provided the preliminary 2009 data in August. Data were available on the UNECE Timber Committee (TC) and FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC) website. Final 2009 data are now available at FAOSTAT. Due to a shortage of staff resources, the price database has not been updated since May 2010 although we intend to do so.
4. We have tended not to use price data from other international organizations (e.g. World Bank Global Economic Monitor – Commodities, <http://databank.worldbank.org/ddp/home.do?Step=1&id=4>) but rather simply point users to this source of data. *We would like to receive guidance on whether this policy should be changed.*
5. *We would ask countries that are not currently supplying price statistics and that would be in a position to supply them to please consult with the secretariat on the feasibility, usefulness and modalities of providing current and representative price information of forest products.*

C. Online Data (including prices)

6. All data are provided in electronic-only form on the TC/EFC website (<http://timber.unece.org/index.php?id=84>). This year that includes
 - The chapter and annex tables (apparent consumption) of the FPAMR;
 - A complete data set of product tables by country for the FPAMR;
 - The preliminary 2005-2009 dataset accessible through HTML pages linked to PDF and Excel format. Final data are being prepared now for dissemination.
 - The data on trade in secondary products (for 2005-2009);
 - A complete file of all forest products data (1964-2009);
 - The graphs and associated information presented to the Timber Committee;
 - The complete set of forecast tables for 2010-2011 for products and subregions;
 - On-going price statistics as these data are updated.

D. Data Availability

7. The secretariat received about the same level of replies as in previous years with an upswing in JQ3 and EU/ECE and a decline in the forecast data. For a detailed listing of data availability please see the annex.

¹ The JFSQ consists of questionnaires on wood removals and forest products production (JQ1), trade of primary products (JQ2), trade of secondary products (JQ3) and species trade (EU/ECE). Additional questionnaires are supplied for other organizations, i.e. ITTO1-3 and EU1-3.

E. Indicators of Achievement

8. In terms of the "indicators of achievement" used by the UN to evaluate performance, the table in the annex shows the results for the last 18 years. The "% satisfactory" is the number of countries supplying more than 80% of the 209 possible responses to JQ1 and JQ2, divided by the total number of countries in the UNECE region. This reached a high of 77% for 2007, marking a return to the pre-1990 rate of reply. This significant improvement can mainly be attributed to the data collected at the Moscow workshop in February 2009. A concern is the steep fall for 2008 to 66%. This reflects some of the data collection problems in the latest JFSQ collection cycle, i.e. that countries were not able to provide more complete data for the "y-2" period which they are normally able to do. The target approved by the UN General Assembly for 2011-2012 is 68% which we are not quite reaching.

F. Secondary Products and Trade by Species

9. Data on secondary products were published as part of the Forest Products Statistics for the first time in five years during the summer. It is expected that these data will now form part of the "routine" production cycle and continue to be published on a regular basis, showing the last 5 years.

10. The trade by species data (2005-2009) have been processed and prepared for publication. This was possible due to support from an intern in the section. The data should be available shortly after the Working Party meeting.

11. Plans for 2011 are to produce the same outputs as in 2010. Work on the Joint Wood Energy Enquiry will be presented under agenda item 4.

II. Inter-organizational cooperation

12. Cooperation between the four organizations (International Tropical Timber Organization, Eurostat, FAO and UNECE) collecting data through the JFSQ continues through the Inter-secretariat Working Group on Forest Sector Statistics (IWG). The IWG met in March 2011 in Rome. Information on the IWG meetings can be found at <http://timber.unece.org/index.php?id=278>. The main issues were a review of activities in 2010, with an emphasis on clarifying problems in data exchange, and preparations for the JFSQ 2010. Some discussion was devoted to methods of increasing political requirement for supplying data (e.g. via ITTA and FAO constitutions). Plans for the implementation of the Harmonised System 2012 were reviewed as well as other possible changes to the JFSQ.

13. The two principles of the IWG are to ask countries for data only one time and for the same data to be used by all organizations sharing the information. Although the first principle is working quite well, efforts in recent years have focused on improving the ability to exchange and keep data consistent between the organizations. Due to varying deadlines, database structures and technical limitations it continues to be quite difficult to share information smoothly and consistently. This remains a major preoccupation of the IWG.

III. Dissemination of Data

14. The data collected are disseminated through three channels, FAOSTAT, the FPAMR and the TC/EFC online database. The FAOSTAT website (<http://faostat.fao.org/DesktopDefault.aspx?PageID=626&lang=en#ancor>) has widespread name recognition and interactive data selection mechanism but does not show all data collected by UNECE/FAO. The FPAMR gets widespread distribution including a significant number of newspaper and trade journal articles each year. The website of the TC/EFC runs about 11,000 page views per month and the page "data and statistics" is the second most visited page on the site (after the welcome homepage). Please see the annex for summary statistics on our website.

The FPAMR page was the 8th most visited page. Regrettably, we cannot count file downloads at this time.

IV. Cooperation with Countries

15. FAO is planning a regional workshop on forest products statistics for the Near East region in June 2011. There continues to be discussion on having a forest products statistics workshop aimed at users of the statistics with the objective of reviewing the outputs we produce and aligning them better with user demand.

16. *The Working Party is invited to review the activities carried out this year and planned for the coming year.*

Annex**Replies to the Questionnaires**

Questionnaire		Year Questionnaire Sent			
		2007	2008	2009	2010
JFSQ	JQ1 (production) - replies	39	40	41	40
	% of cells filled (of 66)	83.4	65.5	67.4	70.6
	JQ2 (trade) - replies	38	40	39	41
	% of cells filled (of 216)	94.8	94.4	92.9	83.4
JFSQ	JQ3 (sec. prod. trade) - replies	12+21(EU)	10+25	9+25	11+25
	% of cells filled (of 44)	72.9	83.3	90.3	77.5
JFSQ	EU/ECE (species trade) - replies	13+23(EU)	9+24 (EU)	9+24	10+24
	% of cells filled (of 88)	90.0	76.7	67.1	76.2
TCQ	TC1 (roundwood forecast) - replies	31	30	30	29
	% of cells filled (of 21)	87.2	93.9	89.8	87.3
	TC2 (product forecast) - replies	30	30	29	28
TCQ	% of cells filled (of 45)	87.1	94.6	94.3	88.2

Starting in 2008 the total number of JQ3 cells was 48. The number of cells on EU/ECE was 84. “% of cells filled” applies only to non-EU/EFTA replies. There are a total of 56 member countries.

Indicators of Achievement

Data for Year	% Satisfactory
1992	62.2
1993	60.8
1994	61.5
1995	59.6
1996	55.8
1997	55.8
1998	51.9
1999	59.6
2000	63.5
2001	69.2
2002	71.2
2003	65.4
2004	69.2
2005	69.2
2006	71.7
2007	77.4
2008	66.0
2009	54.0

Note that results for 2009 are preliminary and will likely be revised upward. See paragraph 8 for explanation of calculation.

Summary Statistics (1 March 2009 – 28 February, 2011)

	1 March 2009 – 28 February 2010	1 March 2010 – 28 February 2011
Visits*	30,637	41,775
Unique visitors	18,367	25,227
Page views	102,156	132,389
Average time on site (min)	03:23	03:10
Top 5 pages viewed (% of total page views)	Homepage (21.2%) Data and Statistics (7.6%) Work Area 1-Markets (4.7%) 67 th Timber Committee (4.4%) Meetings/Documentation (3.6%)	Homepage (17.3%) Data and Statistics (8.2%) Work Area 1-Markets (3.5%) Meetings/Documentation (3.6%) Publications (2.2%)
Top 5 countries visit- ing (% of total visits)	United States (8.3%) Germany (7.2%) UK (7.1%) Finland (5.5%) Switzerland (5.3%)	United States (8.5%) UK (7.7%) Germany (6.0%) France (5.9%) Finland (4.6%)

* Note that visits from the United Nations Office at Geneva are excluded.