The Green Life of Wood - LCA Workshop

Results of the Working Groups and Conclusions

Geneva, Switzerland

16 October 2012
General Recommendations

• Complete accurate, objective national Life Cycle Inventory Data Bases on internationally recognized standards (eg. ISO 14040).

• Create national wood LCA boards/councils.

• Consider economic and social aspects in addition to environmental aspects provided by LCA.

• Promote global rules to EPDs (Environmental Product Declarations) e.g. by national LCA boards.

• Recognize and promote LCAs that are fully transparent in terms of processes for data collection, which data sets are used and how these data are presented.
RECOMMENDATIONS TO MEMBER STATES

• Make the best use of existing data and studies to develop tailored and rational arguments to back policies in favour of wood and wood products.

• Put “pro-wood “policies and/or low carbon/low energy policies into action through implementation of economic incentives and regulations.

• Support those policies by enhancing communication towards the general public and professionals, who also need to be convinced and educated.

• Assist in creating conditions for mobilization of wood to meet the induced demand, incl. exploring opportunities for woodland creation and specific effort in small forest holdings.
RECOMMENDATIONS TO FOREST INDUSTRIES

• Support the development of strong marketing and communication skills.

• Improve cooperation within and beyond the sector at all levels of the value chain.

• Improve the investment in innovation and R & D and seek improved public and private.

• Communicate more effectively with actors in plain language outside the sector to include policy makers, architects, designers and civil engineers.
• Prepare a communication strategy on the importance of forest and forest industry for sustainability.

• Use the Timber Committee infrastructure/position to promote the credentials of wood and the wood industry as green competitive material.

• Make full use of the ECE-FAO Forest Communicators Network and the FAO Advisory Group on paper and wood to enhance communication on the sustainability and suitability of wood.

• Produce summary papers for policy makers on targeted topics (incl. a policy paper on the LCA based on the ‘green life of wood workshop’)
• Use the existing publications (e.g. the FPMR, EFSOS etc.) to produce more focused, synthetized outputs (e.g. policy briefs, fact sheets) and tailored to wider audiences.

• Share information and promote the sustainable use of wood within other communities, within and outside UNECE, and other sectors.

• Make sure that the messages to be delivered in the context of the European Forest Week in 2013 include reference to the sustainability of wood.

• Integrate relevant recommendations above in the ECE-FAO Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy.
Life cycle assessment (LCA) is a comprehensive environmental accounting tool to evaluate overall environmental impact of a material or product throughout its life from cradle-to-grave, as well as from cradle-to-cradle. LCA procedures and methods are governed by established rules and standards e.g. developed by ISO. However, further methodological development and information sharing is required. There is currently sufficient evidence through LCA and other tools (e.g. forest data, certification, etc.) proving the environmental performance of wood and other forest-based products. LCA provides a basis for making informed decisions along the whole value chain (from policy to production and consumption), thus improving resource efficiency. The forest sector has not yet made full use of LCA in its work, including communication.