The UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section and the history of regional forest sector outlook

“Streamlining the next round of Forest Sector Outlook Studies in the UNECE region”
Pushkino, Moscow Region, the Russian Federation 12-13 December 2016
Outline

- The UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section – introduction
- History of European Forest Sector Outlook Studies
- Role of the Russian Federation
- Future studies
... is a multilateral platform which facilitates greater economic integration and cooperation among its fifty-six member States.

... promotes sustainable development and economic prosperity through:

- policy dialogue,
- negotiation of international legal instruments,
- development of regulations and norms,
- exchange and application of best practices as well as economic and technical expertise,
- technical cooperation for countries with economies in transition.
- data and statistics
40% of the world’s forest area but 60% of the world’s industrial roundwood production
History of the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section

1947
- International conference at Marianske Lazne (Tchecoslovakia)
- Timber Bulletin (4 x year)
- 1st Timber Committee
- 1st Market Review

1953
- Publication of timber statistics 1913 – 1950
- European Timber Trends Studies (1913-1960)

1966
- 1st session of the Joint UNECE/FAO Working Party on forest statistics

1990
- 1st meeting of the Ministerial Conference on Forest Protection in Europe

2007
- 1st Joint Wood Energy Enquiry

2010
- Best Practice guidance of wood mobilisation in Europe

2013
- Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a green economy
Forestry and Timber Section

- **WA1**: data, monitoring and assessment
- **WA2**: policy dialogue and advice
- **WA3**: communication and outreach
- **WA4**: capacity building
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1953 – ETTS I

• Covering the period 1913-1960
• Transition from post-war reconstruction to a period of economic growth and rising demand.
• Based on unprecedented data gathering on European forests, especially their potential cut
• Detailed analysis of how timber was used for construction, furniture, railways and mines etc. and the factors determining future growth.
• It called for (and quantified) a “dynamic forest policy”.
• Substitution of wood by other materials
1964 – ETTS II

• Period 1950-1975
• Reviewed developments since ETTS I
• Demonstrating that events had in fact outstripped the “optimistic” forecasts of the earlier study
• Development of new forecasts which addressed in particular the need for rational use of wood
• Potential for supply from developing countries.
1976 – ETTS III

• Period 1950-2000
• First to use formal models for demand
• Special attention to countries’ estimates of their own forests’ potential.
• Assessment of contributions of wood residues, recovered paper and trade with other regions
• Making a judgement on likely supply from North America, USSR and the tropical regions.
• Expected shortages of small sized wood
• More intensive forest management and improved use of residues and recovered paper
1986 – ETTS IV

• Period to 2000 and beyond
• Introduction of so-called “non-wood benefits” of the forest, notably environment, recreation and non-wood products, attempting (not quantified) forecasts for these benefits, as well as analysing their influence on wood supply.
• Analysis of consequences of forest damage, including that attributed to air pollution
• Outlook on the use of wood for energy
• First study not to foresee a “shortage” of wood, but a more balanced and flexible future.
1996 – ETTS V

• Period 1990-2020
• Introduced a number of methodological improvements, notably a range of scenarios.
• It stressed the importance of “self-regulating mechanisms” in bringing balance to the sector
• Projected steady growth in demand and increased harvests, within the limits of sustainable wood supply.
2005 – EFSOS

- Period 2005 – 2025
- More comprehensive and less timber-oriented approach
- Outlook after the recovery from the recession due to the transition in many countries from centrally planned economies.
- It stressed again the importance of recycling and residues
- Anticipation of growing demand for renewable energy from wood – but no data available
- Increased forest area, and higher harvests, but still well below the sustainable levels.
- It also drew attention to the need for a cross-sectoral policy approach, rather than a focus on the forest sector alone.
Improving information on wood energy

Europe Brent Spot Price FOB (Dollars per Barrel)*

*Source: EIA
2011 – EFSOS II

• Period 2010 – 2030
• Focused on major challenges for the period to 2030
  • mitigating and adapting to climate change
  • renewable energy
  • biodiversity conservation
  • maintaining competitiveness.
• Using several linked models
• Four scenarios were constructed to model the consequences of major policy choices.
• It stressed the complexity of the policy challenge and the need to work closely with other policy areas.
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For more information please consult our website:

http://www.unece.org/forests/welcome.html

... or contact

florian.steierer@unece.org