



70th anniversary of ECE COFFI and FAO EFC

Celebrating 70 years of fruitful cooperation on forests



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**39th Joint UNECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics,
Economics and Management**
29-31 March 2017, Geneva



European forests in the post-war period

The challenge of wood supply

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- European forests and timber trade after WWI
 - WWI resulted in overcutting and physical damage to forests.
 - 1920s-1930s: forests started to recover, the consumption and trade of wood increased
 - 1932: creation of the *Comité International du Bois (CIB)*, to promote data collection and cooperation between wood exporters and importers
- After WWII: mobilizing timber to rebuild Europe
 - WWII: tremendous **damages to both forests and infrastructures** for wood production
 - After the war, **wood was needed** to reconstruct the devastated cities and produce coal
 - The challenge of mobilizing timber was first addressed by the **Timber Sub-Committee** of the Emergency Economic Committee for Europe (EECE), established by the Allies and precursor of UNECE
 - The Timber Sub-Committee **cooperated with the newly founded FAO**



Egon Glesinger, founder and leader of the CIB, and first leader of the TC Secretariat

1947: a starting point for international cooperation on forests

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- May 1947: The **International Timber Conference** was held in Mariánské Lázně (former Czechoslovakia) to address the issue of timber mobilization
 - The Conference laid out the guiding lines for the next decades, including already **many elements of SFM** (except biodiversity and non-wood functions)
- The newly established **ECE Timber Committee** and **FAO European Forestry Commission** started to work jointly and promote cooperation and mobilisation of wood on a sustainable basis
 - The **European Forestry Commission** with the task of urgently halting the overcutting of forests
 - The **Timber Committee** with the task of helping forest industries to re-equip themselves and increase production

The first decades of ECE TC and FAO EFC

Focusing on timber market issues

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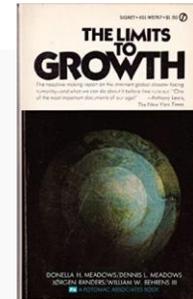
- From 1947, regular sessions once or twice a year
 - ECE was providing timber statistics and market information
 - FAO was collecting data on forests
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- In **1953**, publication of the study **European timber trends (ETTS I)**, which identified long term trends and builds a vision for the future
 - ETTS I called for a “**dynamic forest policy**”: improve information, efficiency and production of wood; increase the forest area through afforestation and reforestation
 - ETTS II in 1964 confirmed the increase in wood production and consumption in the context of **economic expansion**
 - During **Cold War**, TC and EFC provided a unique and privileged international forum for discussing timber issues, including with USA and USSR

1970s-1980s: Raising environmental awareness

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- 1972: “The limits to growth”
- 1973: Oil shock
- ... Raising concerns for **energy supply** as well as **biodiversity**
- 1975: Symposium on “Forests, wood and their role in the **environment**”
- 1976: ETTS III highlights the **multi-functional** nature of forests
- 1978: Seminar on “The **energy** aspects of the forest industries”
- 1979: Symposiums on **tropical timber** and on the effects of **air-borne pollution** on vegetation
- 1986: ETTS IV on **forest damage**, its causes and impacts on wood markets
- **The approach of TC and EFC becomes more holistic, with a focus on policy and sustainability**



1990s-2000s: Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)

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- Forests become a **public concern**, with a focus on biodiversity and tropical deforestation
- 1992 Rio Earth Summit:** the UN Conference on Environment and Development adopts the “**Forest principles**” (no “Convention”)
- UN Forum on Forests (UNFF)** is established in 2000, adopts the four **Global Objectives on Forests** in 2006, and the **UN Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests** in 2007
- Certification schemes** are created to label wood from sustainably managed forests: FSC, PEFC
- Two regional processes draw up sets of **Criteria and Indicators (C&I)** for reporting on SFM: the **Montreal Process** and the **Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests (MCPFE, now Forest Europe)**
- MCPFE adopts high level commitments on SFM

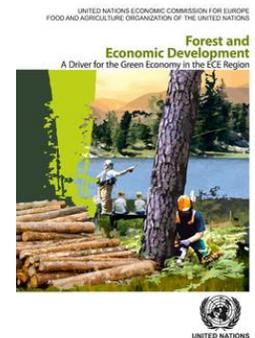
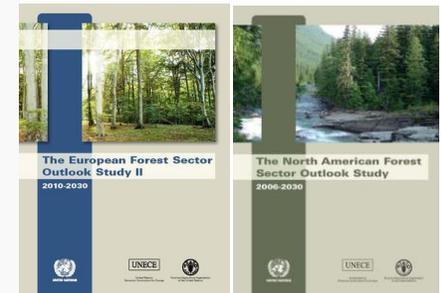


1990s-2000s: Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)

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- The *State of Europe's Forests* integrates new policy relevant topics, e.g. climate change and carbon flow, biodiversity and environmental protection, socio-economic functions...
- ECE/FAO **Outlook studies** for Europe (2011) & North America (2012) address climate change, renewable energy, biodiversity conservation...
- ECE/FAO broadens its approach to include all dimensions of SFM, and enhances **cross-sectoral cooperation** (e.g. Joint Wood Energy Enquiry)

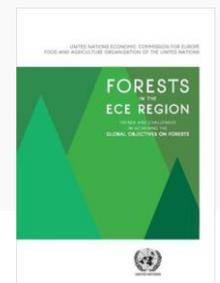
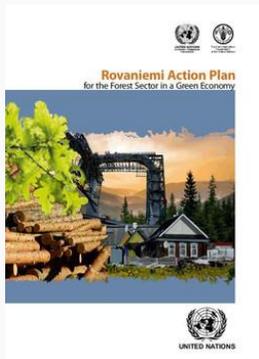


21st century: The forest sector and the green economy

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- **Green economy:** improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities (UNEP)
 - 2013: **Rovaniemi Action Plan on the Forest Sector in a Green Economy** with 5 pillars:
 - Sustainable and consumption of forest products
 - The low carbon forest sector
 - Decent green jobs in the forest sector
 - Long-term provision of forest ecosystem services
 - Policy development and monitoring
- 2015: UN adopts the **2030 Agenda** for Sustainable Development and 17 **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** including Goal 15 which specifically targets the forest sector
- 2015: ECE/FAO publication “**Forests in the ECE Region: Trends and Challenges in Achieving the Global Objectives on Forests**”



The next 7 months...

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- **May-September 2017**

International Conference “**Marianske Lazne +70** – Celebrating 70 years of UNECE/FAO cooperation on forests” in Marianske Lazne, Czech Republic

- Expert workshop on forest certification
- High-Level Roundtable on the past and future of the forest sector in the region

- **9-13 October 2017**

Las2017 - joint session of the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the FAO European Forestry Commission in Warsaw, Poland, and celebration of the **4th European Forest Week**

The next 70 years...

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- 1947-2017: 70 years of ECE/FAO cooperation on forests
- ... **What about the next 70 years?**
- Climate and human societies change faster than forests !
- ECE/FAO successful approach to remain...
 - open, pragmatic, flexible and evidence-based
 - addressing the multifunctionality of forests and the complexity of SFM
 - based on partnerships and cross-sectoral

Thank you!



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