

Economic Commission for Europe Food and Agriculture Organization
Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry European Forestry Commission

**Joint UNECE/FAO Working Party on
Forest Statistics, Economics and Management
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Item 6 (d) of the provisional agenda

GUIDANCE OF WORK AREA 4: CAPACITY-BUILDING

AGENDA ITEM 6 (d)

Note by the Secretariat

Summary

According to its mandate, the Working Party is expected to provide guidance to Work Area 4: Capacity-building. This document provides information about activities in this work area since the Working Party's last session, as well as plans for the future, drawing the Working Party's attention to any specific issues where guidance is needed.

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I. Capacity building

A. Market and Statistics

Bioenergy from the Forest Sector – Capacity Building for Information workshop

1. The Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management (Joint Working Party) and the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Wood Energy recommended the organization of a workshop to improve knowledge and information on wood energy in the region. Following this recommendation, the Joint ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section (Joint Section), together with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and FAO Forestry Department organized a capacity building workshop, bringing together statistical and forest experts in the area of wood energy. It took place in Budapest from 7-9 December 2016. This was the second workshop to focus on the Joint Wood Energy Enquiry, following on the event in Paris in 2012.
2. More than 40 experts from over 20 countries attended. The workshop also included a number of organizations active in renewable energy information including: the Energy Community, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the International Energy Agency (IEA). The workshop focused on strengthening capacities of countries that had difficulty in the past in providing information to IRENA and/or the UNECE/FAO.
3. The participants presented available data on wood energy in their countries and the obstacles to providing information to the international processes. These included lack of reliable data for small bioenergy facilities and households, the dispersal of information across national organizations and the difficulty of cooperating between them, as well as conversion factor issues. Leaders guided small groups of participants in how to complete the questionnaires from IRENA and UNECE/FAO. A field trip to nearby biomass facilities was organized with the kind support of Mr. Bernard von Puttkamer.
4. Documents and presentations from the meeting are available on the website (<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=43908>). The UNECE and FAO are grateful for the organizational and financial support to this workshop provided by IRENA and for the logistical support from the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia in Budapest.

B. Forest Policy

Streamlining the next round of Forest Sector Outlook studies – workshop

5. A workshop “Streamlining the next round of Forest Sector Outlook Studies in the UNECE region” was organized in Pushkino, Moscow Region, Russian Federation on 12-13 December 2016. The workshop was organized by the Joint Section, with the support of the Russian Federation in close cooperation with the Federal Forest Agency of the Russian Federation (FFA). Twenty-seven participants and speakers, mainly from Russian federal and local executive bodies, science and business attended the event.
6. The meeting, which was organized in response to a request by the Russian Federation, aimed at improving communication and cooperation on forest sector outlook related issues between experts from the Russian Federation and other experts from the ECE region. The overall objective of the workshop (in line with the objective of the Team of Specialists on Forest Sector Outlook) was to take further steps to cover the entire ECE region in the next round of Forest Sector Outlook Studies, including the Russian Federation and countries of the CIS.
7. The workshop was a first step to define the best model for the Russian Federation Forest Sector Outlook Study. Participants highlighted that this model should consider the features of the Russian forestry and timber sectors and include the goals of the State programme of Forestry development 2013-2020. Regarding the direction of future work, participants discussed and proposed: (i) sharing the modeling results from the North American Outlook Study with the Russian Federation; (ii) providing training to Roslesinforg (Russian Public Forest Management Enterprise) in the use of the EFISCEN forest growth model; (iii) organize a forest products markets modeling event back-to-back with the next ToS meeting.

National Forest Policy Dialogue

8. At the request of the Ukrainian Government, a National Forest Policy Dialogue Workshop took place in Kiev (Ukraine) on 15 September 2016. About 50 participants from state forest resources agencies, NGOs, academia and research institutions, together with Joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section staff and representatives of Poland and Belarus. Ukraine, Poland and Belarussian representatives presented their country reports about sanitary cuttings, including their different approaches. Then, the workshop discussed the all aspects of sanitary cuttings in Ukraine and concluded that (i) the sanitary condition of Ukrainian forests has a tendency to deteriorate due to complications of climatic conditions and the increasing level of outbreaks of pests and diseases; (ii) recently the capacity of forest enterprises for sanitary cutting is beyond the volume planned; and (iii) there is an urgent need to improve early diagnosis of diseases.

C. United Nations Development Account (UNDA) capacity building projects

“Accountability Systems for Sustainable Forest Management in the Caucasus and Central Asia”

9. The capacity building project “Accountability Systems for Sustainable Forest Management in the Caucasus and Central Asia” was funded by the United Nations Development Account (UNDA), under the 10th tranche. The timeframe for the project is 2016-2019 with the Joint Section in the lead. The objective of this project is to strengthen the national capacity of Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan to develop national criteria and indicators (C&I) and reporting/accountability systems for sustainable forest management (SFM).
10. The project was launched at the regional workshop on "Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management in the Caucasus and Central Asia", which was held on 15-18 November 2016 in Yerevan, Armenia. The workshop brought together the forest governance and reporting experts expected to implement or support project activities in their respective countries. The workshop introduced developments in the three relevant international criteria and indicators (C&I) processes (e.g., Forest Europe, Montreal and C&I for Low Forest Cover Countries) and discussed examples from national criteria and indicator development in Austria, Estonia, Iran and Russia. The workshop was an opportunity for peer to peer learning where countries presented their national situations, expectations and plans; as well as for exchange and interaction between all participants.
11. The project website provides information about the project as well as background material in English and Russian (<http://www.unece.org/forests/areas-of-work/capacity-building/unda2016-2019.html>).
12. National coaching workshops to bring together stakeholders and start discussion and development of national criteria and indicators for SFM are planned in all five target countries in 2017. Training materials have been developed to facilitate the national criteria and indicator processes. The first national coaching workshop will take place in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, 15-17 March 2017. The second national coaching workshop is planned for a venue in Kazakhstan, 28-30 June 2017, to be followed by the workshops in the remaining target countries.
13. Beneficiary countries are expected to develop their first proposals for sets of national criteria and indicators for SFM in 2017. These proposals will be presented and discussed at the second regional workshop, planned for the beginning of 2018, which will provide the opportunity for sharing experiences and direction for the continuation of work on the national sets. The project is expected to conclude at the end of 2019.

D. Team of Specialists on Green Jobs in the Forest Sector

14. Two steering committee meetings (leaders and vice leaders) of the Team of Specialists on Green Jobs in the Forest Sector (Joint ILO/UNECE/FAO Expert Network) took place on 18 May 2016 and 20 December 2016. The meetings covered topics related to the Team’s activities including accomplishments of the ToS Green Jobs and collaboration with the Forest Europe Expert Group on Green Jobs, Education, and Training Systems. In addition, the Team held a meeting in Geneva, Switzerland on 14 September 2016 to discuss the substantive work on the “Green Jobs in the Forest Sector” study.

15. In addition, the ToS gave presentations at various conferences and organized an inquiry on green jobs in the summer of 2016. The ToS supported the fifth International Conference of Forestry Training Centers held in Spain in June 2016; and also presented the work of the Team to members of the Mediterranean Regional Office of the European Forest Institute (November 2016).
16. The ToS, in coordination with the secretariat, has exchanged ideas, information and coordinated work with the Forest Europe Expert Group on Green Jobs, Education and Training Systems; and participated in the first meeting of the Forest Europe Expert Group on Green Jobs, Education, and Training Systems held in Zvolen, Slovakia, on 25 – 26 January 2017.

E. Key questions for guidance and discussion

17. The Working Party is invited to:
 - a. Suggest topics for possible future capacity-building workshops.*
 - b. Comment on the work and make proposals for future capacity-building work on wood energy and forest sector outlook studies.*
 - c. Comment on the UNECE/FAO-UNDA capacity-building project focusing on the Caucasus and Central Asia.*
 - d. Advise on future work of the Team of Specialists on Green Jobs in the Forest Sector.*
