70th anniversary of ECE and FAO collaboration on forests

70 years working together in the service of forests and people

Team of Specialist on Forest Communication, Forest Communicators’ Network – Annual Meeting

30 May – 1 June 2017, Malaga
European forests in the post-war period

The challenge of wood supply

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, 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
May 1947: The International Timber Conference was held in Marianske Lazne (former Czechoslovakia) to address the issue of timber shortages

- Formalization of the cooperation between ECE and FAO
- 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
Anniversary activities and events
Celebrating 70 years in the service of forests and people

- Timeline
  http://www.unece.org/forests/about-us/history-of-the-section.html

- History publication on the 70 years of ECE and FAO cooperation

14-20 October 1952
FIRST TIMBER TRENDS STUDY
At the joint meeting of the Timber Committee of the ECE and the EFC of FAO the first draft of the study of Trends in European Timber Consumption, Production and Trade which assessed long term outlook and reviewed draft timber trends was presented. The establishment of a Working Party was recommended. More details can be found in the report of the meeting.
Anniversary activities and events
Celebrating 70 years in the service of forests and people

Marianske Lazne +70 Celebrating 70 years of UNECE/FAO cooperation on forests
5-7 September 2017, Marianske Lazne, Czech Republic

- Roundtable on Forest Certification
- High-Level segment on the past and future of the forest sector in the region
- Release of history publication on the 70 years of ECE and FAO cooperation
Las2017 - Forests, our common good: Enhancing sustainable development in the light of the Paris Agreement

Joint session of the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the FAO European Forestry Commission

and celebration of the 4th European Forest Week

9-13 October 2017, Warsaw, Poland
Thank you!
FORESTS

The first decades of ECE TC and FAO EFC
Focusing on timber market issues

- From 1947, regular sessions once or twice a year
- ECE was providing timber statistics and market information
- FAO was collecting data on forests

- 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

- 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: Symposia 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)

- 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)

- 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

- **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**”