

Report Meeting Team of Specialists on Forest Sector Outlook

Date: 21 March 2018

Place: Geneva

Participants:

Full name	Organization
Mr. James Griffiths	Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) Inc
Mr. Johannes Hangler	Federal Ministry of Sustainability and Tourism (BMNT)
Dr. Guy Robertson	USDA Forest Service
Dr. Jeffrey Prestemon	USDA Forest Service
Dr. Maarit Kallio	Natural Resources Institute Finland
Mr. Andreas Eriksson	Swedish Forest Agency
Mr. Paolo Camin	Swiss Federal Office for the Environment
Mr. Łukasz Wrobel	Department of Forestry, Ministry of the Environment
Prof. Tuula Packalen	Natural Resources Institute Finland
Dr. Mart-Jan Schelhaas	Wageningen Environmental Research
Dr. Juan Picos	Universidade de Vigo
Dr. Andrzej Talarczyk	Bureau for Forest Management and Geodesy
Ms. Birgit Lia Altmann	UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section
Mr. Florian Steierer	UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section

Report:

- 1) The Chair, Mr. Mart-Jan Schelhaas, team leader of the Team of Specialists (ToS), opened the session and welcomed everyone.
- 2) The agenda was adopted as proposed.
- 3) The Secretary gave an overview of past meetings and relevant elements from the Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work, the mandate and the Terms of Reference for the Team. The presentation slides can be found at <https://www.unece.org/forests/outlookmar2018>.
- 4) For the period 2018-2019, the Team elected Tuula Packalen (Finland) as new leader, re-elected Jeff Prestemon (USA) and Paolo Camin (Switzerland) as deputy leaders and expressed the wish to have a third deputy from the Russian Federation or CIS. The Team thanked Mr. Schelhaas for his great contributions during his time as leader of the Team.

- 5) The Secretary updated the Team on the Brainstorming Workshop that was held in January 2018, the slides are available at <https://www.unece.org/forests/outlookmar2018>.
- 6) The Team discussed in detail each of the proposed scenarios, in particular the feasibility of implementing them in a model framework or in an alternative way, possible combinations of scenarios and rough indications of probable outcomes of these scenarios. The results can be found in the table in the Annex. In general, the Team identified that there are different interpretations of the word scenario, for some persons a scenario may be just changing one parameter in the model, and for some it entails a full storyline. It is important to be aware of these different interpretations, and identify which type of scenarios should be included in the next study. The Team identified that foresight techniques may be useful to elaborate some of the proposed scenarios, particularly those that involve new products and structural market changes.
- 7) Due to time limitations, the available models were not discussed. The Chair highlighted the possible win-win situation of cooperating with ongoing projects and invited the Team to amend the list of projects for potential cooperation.
- 8) Due to time limitations, there was no exchange on outlook related work from the meeting participants.
- 9) The Team decided not to distribute the Draft Proposal in advance to the WP meeting, but finish it after the comment round in the WP. The Team discussed briefly when to hold the next meeting. This year will see a lot of activities for the next FSOS round, particularly from the Secretariat side. The Team concluded that there was no need for a full ToS meeting at short notice, but decided more dedicated meetings with a smaller group could be organised when needed. Such meetings could be scheduled back-to-back to other meetings, and suggestions for opportunities are welcome.
- 10) There was a short discussion on the question if there should be separate regional studies, or one combined study. So far the tendency was towards producing separate studies, especially since NAFSOS is far ahead in its preparations. However, if models and scenarios are more aligned, it would be an option to combine the studies. No conclusion was reached on this topic.

Annex: Excel file with detailed conclusions per scenario.