

## Draft Notes for ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Products Statistics

As of 16 April 2018

Wednesday, 21 March 2018, Palais des Nations, Geneva (room VIII),  
9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., 3 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Leader: Branko Glavonjic

Deputy Leader: Sheila Ward

**Items in bold** should be carried out prior to next meeting.

### 1) *Welcome and agenda, introductions, election of Leader and Deputy*

The Team was welcomed by the Leader and Secretary. There were 12 countries represented. The draft agenda was approved. The Team appointed Branko Glavonjic as Leader and Graça Louro as Deputy (provisionally, pending approval of her hierarchy). The Team expressed its warm thanks to Sheila Ward for her contribution to the Team's work.

### 2) *Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire*

#### a) Review final version of 2017

The Team reviewed the JFSQ 2017 and commented on the changes decided at the IWG in February.

- Item 4 (post-consumer recovered wood). The current structure (a single item, not aggregated elsewhere) was seen as correct. It should cover energy and material (e.g. particle board) use. **A conversion factor (m<sup>3</sup> – mt) should be provided** (to be used if no national factor available). The Team called for this data to be used for prefilling the JWEE.
- Item 6 (sawnwood) will include sleepers, Team asked that this **be noted in footnotes to disseminated data series**.
- Item 7 (veneer) is now its own item. Production should cover all veneer including that going to plywood (treating it in a similar fashion to pulp and paper now). This would change data series (should be footnoted). Members pointed out this data may not be available and could lead to overcounting.
- Item 8.3 (fibreboard) definitions are being changed to account for dry production of insulating board.

The members were asked about eventually dropping JQ2 and 3 in favour of using international trade statistics databases. All present agreed that they believed national correspondents were the most suitable to provide accurate national forest products statistics and that official raw trade data needed checking and revision by national correspondents. Participants did not see provision of trade data as a significant reporting burden.

On the question of combining the JQ2 and JQ3 correspondence tables no views were expressed, indicating **tacit permission to do this in next round of JFSQ (in 2019)**.

Members expressed their content with the addition of item 4 (recovered post-consumer wood) and the attention paid to new information needs in the industry.

The Team discussed the problem of removals data being confused with fellings, despite clear definitions at the international level, and the different national practices in what constituted roundwood removals and the source of these data. **It recommended a study be carried out to survey these differences on national data collection for removals.** The Team agreed with the continued use of underbark figures.

#### b) HS 2017 correspondence tables

A question was raised on how to handle “ex” codes, indicating the use of part of an HS code to provide data. The secretariat (FAO & ECE) indicated that ideally national trade statistics would be more detailed and could supply the required level of information, secondly knowledge of the local situation could be used to make an estimate, finally a “technical” estimate could be made, splitting figures equally across the “ex” items.

#### 3) *Timber Forecast Questionnaire*

The Secretariat raised the possibility of asking for wood fuel trade by species group. The Team believed accurate forecasts of this were not needed or feasible so it should not be requested.

Members proposed **a revised deadline for this year’s forecast (and statement)** as the COFFI meeting was planned for November. The deadline could be October 5.

#### 4) *Review of Engineered Wood Products draft*

The Team endorsed the questionnaire and **called to have it issued this year**. The Team agreed to keep the four products proposed, to provide conversion factors for these, there should be a December deadline in order to provide replies to next ToS meeting. Members asked for better CN codes. **ECE to request more information from producers (also part of HS2022 work)**. Roof trusses were seen as outside the scope and too localized. The unit for I-beams should be linear meters or tonnes. A suggestion to use European Standards definitions was agreed.

#### 5) *Roundwood Balance*

a) Results of December 2017 meeting on balances (forest and products)

The Secretariat presented results of wood balance workshop. Members expressed their appreciation and desire to see this developed further in line with conclusions of workshop.

b) Comments, issues, follow up, ideas

The Team suggested focusing on longer-term analysis and energy use of industrial Roundwood.

c) How to avoid doublecounting of production

This item was not discussed and held over for a future meeting.

## 6) *HS 2022*

a) Status of proposals

FAO presented the status of the proposals (see presentation). The Team expressed its appreciation for this work.

A question was raised on the issue of distinguishing energy and material use (pulp, panels) of chips in trade data. Several members of the Team indicated this was a significant problem (see also balance workshop). It seems feasible to distinguish industry chips from energy on the basis of the presence of bark (“dirty” vs “clean”). This can be discussed at EU level to create a CN code (CN 2020?). We can include in initial list for HS 2027. Consideration could be given to also distinguishing chips for OSB (if these are traded). This “dirty” versus “clean” definition could also be used in JFSQ at some future point to distinguish industry and energy chips. The pricing basis and the CO<sub>2</sub> life of these two types of chips are significantly different.

b) support on questions remaining – particularly placement of EWP

At the moment FAO and ECE are not requesting support from correspondents as World Customs Organization seems to be ready to accept all items (except recovered wood).

## 7) *Statistical systems*

a) Sharing and exchanging data at international level

ECE explained its data handling. Main issue now is timely updating of replies received in October.

b) Updates from IWG meeting

The Team was briefed on the IWG meeting. Notes from this meeting will be available shortly on the website.

## 8) *Updates from countries*

a) activities that participants believe would be of interest to mention or present at meeting

Martti Aarne presented the latest household fuelwood consumption, available on the Luke website (<http://stat.luke.fi/en/wood-consumption-small-scale-housing>).

Eoin O’Driscoll presented the woodflow information available on the COFORD website (<http://www.coford.ie/news/woodflowandforest-basedbiomassenergyuseontheislandofireland2016>).

b) Publications, links to country forestry statistics information

Czech Republic – “Information on Forest and Forestry in the Czech Republic “ including annual reports in English -  
<http://eagri.cz/public/web/en/mze/forests/forestry/>

Finland – Measuring the Bioeconomy, 2010-2016 -  
<https://www.luke.fi/en/news/forest-sector-continues-to-drive-the-bioeconomy-in-finland-fastest-growth-in-renewables-and-chemicals/>

Poland –

<http://stat.gov.pl/en/topics/agriculture-forestry/forestry/forestry-2017,1,8.html>

<http://stat.gov.pl/en/topics/statistical-yearbooks/statistical-yearbooks/statistical-yearbook-of-agriculture-2017,6,12.html>

<http://stat.gov.pl/en/topics/agriculture-forestry/agriculture/land-use-and-sown-area-in-2017,7,13.html>

<http://stat.gov.pl/en/topics/agriculture-forestry/agriculture/agriculture-in-2016,4,13.html>

Portugal –

The Economic Accounts for Forestry, from Statistics Portugal, are disseminated in English version, the other publications, from ICNF, are only in Portuguese.

(I) Most forestry information comes from the Institute for Nature Conservation and Forests (ICNF), the Portuguese National Authority, through the use of JFSQ databases.

Forest Flows

<http://www2.icnf.pt/portal/florestas/fileiras/resource/docs/fileirassilvoindustriais-15set2017.pdf>;

Forest Markets

<http://www2.icnf.pt/portal/florestas/fileiras/resource/docs/Mercados-Florestais-2016.pdf>; and

Economic Summary

<http://www2.icnf.pt/portal/florestas/fileiras/econ#relatorio-sintese>.

(II) EUTR information:

<http://www2.icnf.pt/portal/florestas/fileiras/resource/docs/reg/RUEM-DEZEMBRO2017.pdf>

(III) Statistics Portugal disseminate forestry information namely within the “Satellite Accounts” covered by the “National Accounts” with the title “Economic Accounts for Forestry” at the link:

[https://www.ine.pt/xportal/xmain?xpid=INE&xpgid=ine\\_cnacionais](https://www.ine.pt/xportal/xmain?xpid=INE&xpgid=ine_cnacionais).

#### *9) Updates on ECE/FAO projects*

ECE updated the Team on the status of game meat (publication drafted), conversion factors (continuing), and the COFFI 2018 meeting planned for Vancouver.

The secretariat requested information from correspondents on contacts in their country for possible information on “barriers and incentives to building with wood”. This would be useful for the planned discussions at COFFI 2018. Czech Republic, Finland, Germany and Poland have so far provided contacts for this.

#### *10) Priorities for new developments in statistics and improving synergies*

Priorities, aside from recurring work, are currently to produce engineered wood products questionnaire. The Team encouraged capacity building and a survey on roundwood removals methodology and information sources.

There is continuing work on the wood balance. The issue of doublecounting should also be pursued.

A 2019 capacity-building workshop could involve experts and non-experts with separate programmes. Workshop could be regional and copied from other successful regional workshops. We would still need to determine a host country and financial support for participants.

#### *11) Next meeting, topics, timing and location.*

Next meeting is planned for immediately before 2019 Working Party, tentatively March 26, 2019.