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Economics and Management

Forty-first session

Geneva, 27-29 March 2019

Food and Agriculture Organization

European Forestry Commission

Report of the forty-first session of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management

Introduction

1. The Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management (henceforth referred to as Joint Working Party) held its forty-first session in Geneva from 27 to 29 March 2019.
2. The presentations and electronic media mentioned in this report are available at <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=48832>.

Attendance

3. Delegations from the following member States participated in the meeting: Austria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America.
4. The secretariats of the following intergovernmental organizations and processes were also represented: the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and Forest Europe.
5. The following United Nations (UN) bodies and agencies participated in the session: the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the World Bank.
6. Representatives of the following non-governmental organizations participated in the session: European Organization of the Sawmill Industry, PanBern, the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes (PEFC), and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI).

7. Representatives of the following academic organizations were present: Bern University of Applied Sciences, University of Freiburg, Haute Ecole de Gestion Geneva, University of Helsinki, the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), the Polish Wood Technology Institute and the Thünen Institute.

8. Representatives of the following private sector companies and associations attended the session: Dovetail Partners, and Sylva Nova.

Item 1: Adoption of the agenda

9. The meeting was opened by Mr. Matthias Dieter, Germany, Chair of the Joint Working Party. Opening remarks were made by Ms. Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett, Director of the FAO Liaison Office with the United Nations at Geneva, and Ms. Paola Deda, Officer in Charge of the Forests, Land and Housing Division, ECE.

10. After the opening remarks, the Chair introduced the agenda, which was adopted without amendments.

Item 2: Outcomes of the seventy-sixth session of the Economic Commission for Europe Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry – including new Rules of Procedure

11. Ms. Maureen Whelan, Manager of International Affairs of the Canadian Forest Service, informed the Joint Working Party about the 76th Session of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI), held in Vancouver, Canada from 5 to 9 November 2018 and highlighted the Vancouver Invitation as one important outcome.

12. The Joint Working Party congratulated Canada for the excellent organization and the interesting substantive discussions at the meeting of COFFI.

13. The secretariat presented a summary of the decisions taken by COFFI and highlighted implications for the work of the Joint Working Party. In particular, the secretariat highlighted the new Rules of Procedure of COFFI which could also be applied to the Joint Working Party should its membership decide so.

14. The Joint Working Party decided that, given the ongoing discussions to amend the COFFI Rules of Procedure, it prefers to defer the decision to the 42nd session of the Joint Working Party in 2020. The Rules of Procedure of ECE therefore continue to apply to the Joint Working Party.

15. The secretariat also informed the Joint Working Party about its important role in providing guidance on the renewal of mandates of the Team of Specialists during the 2019 Joint Session of COFFI and EFC, to be held from 4 to 7 November 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland.

Item 3: Information on the outcome of the Forest Europe Expert Level Meeting

16. Mr. Michal Vančo, Forest Europe Liaison Unit Bratislava, informed the Joint Working Party about developments with regard to a possible future Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe. The Working Party thanked the Liaison Unit for the information provided.

Item 4: Discussion on boreal forests

17. Mr. Peter Blombäck, Head of Policy and Analysis Division, Swedish Forest Agency, informed the Joint Working Party about the recent discussions, led by circumboreal countries in cooperation with the secretariat, on creating a Team of Specialists (ToS) on Boreal Forests.

18. Mr. Florian Kraxner, Deputy Director of the Ecosystems Services and Management Programme and Head of the Center for Landscape Resilience Management at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, Austria, delivered a presentation on circumboreal cooperation and the International Boreal Forest Research Association (IBFRA) Insight Process.

19. A contact group, chaired by Ukraine, was established and finalized the draft Terms of Reference.

20. The Joint Working Party:

(a) Supported the efforts of circumboreal cooperation and recognized the insufficient attention paid to boreal forests globally, acknowledging the importance of boreal forests in terms of their carbon sequestration potential, abundance of biodiversity, economic significance and vulnerability to climate change;

(b) Noted concerns regarding the availability of secretariat's resources to service the proposed Team raised by several countries and the offer of the Russian Federation to assist in this regard;

(c) Recommended the establishment of a ToS on Boreal Forests, according to the draft Terms of Reference (Annex I).

21. The secretariat highlighted the need for adequate funding in order to support the work of all Teams of Specialists (ToS).

Item 5: Green jobs in the forest sector

22. The session discussed the work on green jobs in the forest sector, as a contribution to the implementation of the “Rovaniemi Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy”, Pillar C – Decent Green Jobs in the Forest Sector. It also discussed the outputs of the ECE project on “Improving the capacity of the ECE member States to create green jobs in the forest sector”.

23. Mr. Waltteri Katajamaki, International Labour Organisation (ILO), presented the definition of green jobs and the ILO work related to this topic.

24. Mr. Nicolas Borzykowski, Swiss Federal Office for Spatial Development, presented social and economic data related to the forest sector workforce in the ECE region, based on the upcoming ECE/FAO publication “Forest Sector Workforce in the ECE region”.

25. Mr. Peter Csoka, FAO, recognised the importance of the availability of information on education and informed delegates about two initiatives that FAO and partners, with support from Germany, are about to launch at the global level: one to promote forest education in primary schools and another to create, with the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) members and other partners, a global platform on forest education.

26. Ms. Katie Fernholz, Dovetail Partners, informed the delegates about trends in green jobs in the forest sector in the ECE region, based on the ECE/FAO publication and policy brief on “Trends in Green Jobs in the Forest Sector in the ECE region”.

27. The Joint Working Party highlighted the need to further analyse the potential for the creation of new jobs in the forest sector and forest related industries in relation to the development of new economic activities, such as the bioeconomy, the biorefineries industry, the use of new technologies, wood construction (in particular prefabrication of construction

elements) and forest ecosystem services. The need to explore the evolution of forest wages was also emphasised.

28. Mr. Andreas Bernasconi, Leader, ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Green Jobs in the Forest Sector, informed participants about accomplished and planned activities of the Team under the current mandate.

29. Mr. Michal Vančo, Liaison Unit Bratislava, presented Forest Europe's activities on green jobs in the forest sector.

30. Mr. Peter Poschen, University of Freiburg, introduced the interactive work on the draft "Guidelines on the Promotion of Green Jobs in Forestry". The summary of the group discussions is available at <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=48832>.

31. The Joint Working Party:

(a) Approved the "Joint ECE/FAO/Forest Europe Guidelines on the Promotion of Green Jobs in Forestry" as an official publication and advised the Joint Section to incorporate the comments resulting from the group work during the session. The meeting appreciated the cooperation and coordination of the work with Forest Europe;

(b) Recommended that an executive summary be included in the document and the text be completed with pictures and other visuals to improve the reading experience. A review of country best practices could be envisaged as an add-on to the Joint ECE/FAO/Forest Europe Guidelines. In this regard, Sweden reiterated its invitation to host a joint meeting of the Team of Specialists on Green Jobs in the Forest Sector and the Forest Europe Expert Group on Green Jobs, Education and Training Systems in September 2019, in order to explore synergies between the work of the two groups;

(c) Expressed its satisfaction and appreciation with the work of the Team of Specialists on Green Jobs in the Forest Sector. The meeting recommended the Joint Section and the Team of Specialists on Green Jobs in the Forest Sector continue to address issues related to the development of green jobs and explore opportunities for increased coordination with Forest Europe;

(d) Recommended the extension of the ToS.¹

Item 6: Discussion on Forest Sector Outlook

32. The secretariat informed the Joint Working Party about the process for the preparation of the Forest Sector Outlook Study, in particular the events that had taken place in the previous year.

33. Mr. Jeffrey Prestemon, Research Forester and Project Leader at the US Forest Service and Deputy Leader of the Team of Specialists on Forest Sector Outlook, presented the preliminary results of the scenario modelling for the Forest Sector Outlook Study.

34. The secretariat introduced the proposed three outputs of the outlook study:

(a) A methodology report, describing in detail the assumptions, model and scenario set-up;

(b) A web page containing all modelling results including for regions and individual countries;

(c) The actual Forest Sector Outlook Study, a concise publication directed at policy makers with a focus on two aspects, climate change and structural changes.

¹ In accordance with ECE rules, the ToS are extended for a term of two years.

35. Delegates participated in an interactive group session providing feedback regarding the modelling results, the proposed outputs of the outlook study and the research undertaken in their respective country or organization that could feed into the final study. The results of this group work can be found in Annex II.

36. Concerning the final outputs, the Joint Working Party:

(a) Welcomed the three proposed outputs;

(b) Noted that the methodology report should also address critical comments that had been received concerning the scenario modelling;

(c) Stressed the importance of having results available at country level. Some delegates mentioned their preference to view their respective country results before they are published. The secretariat confirmed that those results are available upon request to the secretariat or Mr. Prestemon;

(d) Welcomed the proposal that the Forest Sector Outlook Study should contain concise messages, which go beyond graphs and tables and tell a story. Delegates stressed the importance of communicating the results to sectors other than forestry;

(e) Some countries stressed the analysis in product trade flows between sub-regions due to the changes in operating environments.

37. Further, the Joint Working Party:

(a) Recognized that focusing on major global trends and challenges will reduce emphasis on detailed projections of forest resources on a country level;

(b) Invited countries to send further information on research and projects at the national level which could feed into the Forest Sector Outlook Study, in particular on climate change adaptation, to the secretariat after the session;

(c) Expressed satisfaction with the work of the Team of Specialists, the US based modelling team and the secretariat for the Forest Sector Outlook Study;

(d) Agreed to organise workshops focussing on policy aspects at the inception and the conclusion of the work of the outlook study;

(e) Noted that individual countries have an interest in capacity building in the area of forest sector outlook modelling;

(f) Suggested increasing the exchange among countries and experts on modelling that addresses risks stemming from climate change, in particular from natural disturbances;

(g) Delegates recommended extending of the mandate for the Team of Specialists on Forest Sector Outlook and agreed to integrate the ToS on Forest Policy into it.

Item 7: Discussion on electronic means for sharing forest relevant information

38. The ECE has been tasked with transitioning to electronic media and away from printed publications.

39. Mr. Matija Potocnik (Graphic Arts Assistant, Production and Support Service, Printing Department of the United Nations in Geneva) presented various formats for electronic media that the United Nations can produce in-house and highlighted the advantages for e-publications as a new format for formerly printed content. The UN printing department has designers and technical experts in electronic media, including electronic publishing and interaction with social media.

40. The Joint Working Party discussed in small groups some examples of how the forest sector could better engage with the broader public. Mr. Paul Ehgartner (Austria) presented the

web portal of the “Climate-smart forests initiative”; Ms. Maureen Whelan (Canada) presented the innovative report on “State of Canada’s Forests”; Mr. Tatu Torniainen (Finland) presented the Finnish “eServices for forest owners and service providers”; Mr. Philippe Français-Demay (France) presented the application “Keys to the Forest” as well as the “Guide for Communal Forest Managers” and Mr. Andrzej Talarczyk (Poland) presented the “web portal of the Forest Data Bank” and the application “Mobile Forest Data Bank”.²

41. The Joint Working Party took note of the information provided.

Item 8: Guidance on Work Areas (not already contained in previous items):

Work Area 1: Data, monitoring, reporting and assessment

1. Forest resources

42. The secretariat provided a brief update on the global and regional work undertaken on reporting on forests and sustainable forest management. Major developments included the recognition of a global core set of forest-related indicators, developed by the CPF Task Force, by the 13th session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and the conclusion of the national data collection processes for the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) and ECE/FAO/Forest Europe Pan-European reporting on Forests and Sustainable Forest Management. The secretariat acknowledged the excellent cooperation with international organizations involved in this work.

43. The secretariat expressed its gratitude to national and international experts, including national correspondents and members of the Team of Specialists, as well as the governments of Austria, Georgia, the Russian Federation and Switzerland, for their input and support to the work of the secretariat, notably for the production of the two publications, “Forest Ownership in the ECE Region” and “State of Forests of the Caucasus and Central Asia”.

44. Mr. Adrian Lanz, Leader of the Team of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management, presented activities of the Team of Specialists in 2018 and 2019 and on the work planned until the next session of the Joint Working Party. In addition to providing support to the global and regional reporting, work of the Team focused on analysing and developing international forest damage/disturbance assessments and exploring new means for strengthening work on forest data processing and dissemination.

45. The Joint Working Party:

(a) Welcomed the information provided and expressed satisfaction with the progress of work on the 2020 global and regional reporting, recognizing the added value of the FAO FRA reporting platform and supporting related work on the future global and pan-European reporting;

(b) Supported the proposed plan for future work on the forest resources assessment in the framework of global and regional reporting, notably in advancing the use of information technology means in storing, processing and disseminating collected data, underlining the importance of forest-related information dissemination beyond forest sector boundaries;

(c) Invites FAO to pay special attention to the development of an interactive database on the FRA 2020 results;

(d) Acknowledged and recognized the importance of the work on the studies on forest ownership and forests in the Caucasus and Central Asia, and supported the plan to review

² Links are also available on meeting webpage at: <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=48832>.

the national questionnaire on forest ownership, and to allow voluntary updates of national forest ownership information;

(e) Appreciated the update on the activities implemented by the Team of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management, recommended the extension of its mandate and the direction of work and actions proposed, underlining the timeliness and importance of the work on improving reporting formats, definitions and guidelines on reporting in general and in particular on forest damages. The Joint Working Party recommended extending this work beyond the Team membership and including the FAO FRA National Correspondents network in the region; also expressed concerns about possible additional work load and requested to pay due attention to this issue.

(f) Expressed its gratitude to Mr. Stein M. Tomter, the outgoing Leader of the Team of Specialists on Monitoring SFM, for his excellent work and dedicated leadership over the last four years, and congratulated the newly elected Leader Mr. Adrian Lanz and wished him all success with this function.

2. Forest products statistics

46. The secretariat informed the Working Party about the work on engineered wood products (EWP), the status of the Harmonised System nomenclature changes planned for 2022, the results of an analysis of forecasts, and a possible statistical capacity-building workshop.

47. Ms. Graça Louro, Deputy Leader of the Team of Specialists on Forest Products Statistics, presented the report of the Team and briefed the Working Party on the discussion of the 26 March 2019 meeting of the Team.

48. A delegate suggested considering adding products such as nail-laminated timber, dowel-laminated timber and advanced bio-products to the Engineered Wood Products questionnaire.

49. More simplification of the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire was also suggested.

50. Delegates urged that caution be applied when using the trade data from the initial EWP questionnaire collection and that this be indicated when disseminating information. The Joint Working Party also recognized that in several countries data on the EWP will be expert estimates.

51. The Joint Working Party:

(a) Thanked the secretariat, ToS and the national correspondents for the work on forest products statistics, which is a core activity of the Joint Section and a basis for other activities;

(b) Agreed with the recommendation of the ToS to issue the Engineered Wood Products questionnaire again this year and highlighted the importance of having information on these products;

(c) Supported capacity-building workshops and suggested a joint workshop with the Team on Sustainable Forest Products;

(d) Requested, given the dates of the forthcoming Joint Session, that the Timber Forecast Questionnaire and national market statements have the same October deadline as last year;

(e) Recognized the significant efforts made by member States in supplying information and encouraged them to continue in order to support the publications and databases of the ECE and FAO.

(f) Recommended the extension of the ToS.

3. Forest product markets

52. The secretariat informed delegates that work on forest products markets constitutes a smaller share of the secretariat's work than has been the case in past years, as a result of other work demands that require attention. Currently, the *Forest Products Annual Market Review* (FPAMR) and the Market Discussions at the Annual COFFI and COFFI/EFC meeting make up the majority of market-related work. The Joint Working Party was briefed by the secretariat on plans for the *Forest Products Annual Market Review 2018-2019*, and was invited to provide guidance on its quality, content and timing, especially considering the plan to produce the FPAMR as an electronic media and reduce the size of the publication by about 25%.

53. The secretariat thanked: Finland for providing funding for the 2018 and 2019 editions of the *Forest Products Annual Market Review*, the Team of Specialists on Sustainable Forest Products for proof-reading and providing expertise, the University of Helsinki for providing interns, and the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire correspondents, authors and partners. In addition, the secretariat acknowledged the strong in-kind support from the US Forest Service, which provided three authors for the 2018 FPAMR, of which two will continue into 2019.

54. The secretariat outlined the challenge of having no budgeted funds to produce the FPAMR. This has created a situation where the FPAMR is dependent on the financial contribution of a member State to fund the hiring of authors each year; and a situation where authors cannot be secured via a contract, delaying the commencement of work.

55. The issue of French translations of the FPAMR being about two years behind schedule (i.e., the French version of the 2017 edition comes out at about the same time as the 2019 edition is out in English) was discussed. Francophone countries stated that it is very important to continue with a French version of the FPAMR and that a solution would be a one-time drop of the translation process for one year (e.g., the 2017 edition), so that translators could start work on the most recent version available (e.g., the 2018 edition).

56. Several delegates asked if users had been consulted about the decision to release the FPAMR as an electronic product and who had decided that the FPAMR should be more concise by 25%. The secretariat informed the delegates that the move to electronic media is a UN-wide movement, and the reduction was in answer to the fact that it has grown over time and needs to keep its focus.

57. Mr. Eoin O'Driscoll, Leader of the Team of Specialists on Sustainable Forest Products, presented the achievements and activities of the Team in 2018 and their tentative plans for 2019.

58. The Joint Working Party:

- (a) Acknowledged the financial support provided by Finland for the 2018 and 2019 *Forest Products Annual Market Review*;
- (b) Acknowledged the importance of the *Forest Products Annual Market Review*;
- (c) Recognized the importance of the work on forest products markets and the contributions of the Team of Specialists;
- (d) Recommended the extension of the ToS.

4. Wood Energy

59. The secretariat informed the Joint Working Party on the launch of the publication *Wood Energy in the ECE Region*. The secretariat expressed its gratitude to Finland for its financial and in-kind contribution and thanked Mr. Francisco Aguilar, United States, for coordinating this publication. The secretariat highlighted its good cooperation with the Air Convention and emphasized the negative role that wood energy plays in contributing to air pollution which arises from wood stoves, if wood is not stored and burnt properly. Wood energy may be coming under greater scrutiny should air quality standards significantly tighten in member States. This may have been one of the reasons why the film "More heat with less wood" has become the

second most popular video of the entire ECE within only three years. The film was launched during the 38th session of the Joint Working Party, and the secretariat again thanked the German climate fund for the financial support for the product. The secretariat further highlighted that the film was translated in other languages and that the Georgian version is particularly popular, with almost 20,000 views alone. The video also highlights the carbon cycle of wood energy.

60. The secretariat informed the Joint Working Party that different stakeholders sought advice from the secretariat on the various sources of wood biomass used for energy generation. It expressed its gratitude to member States for providing excellent information via the Joint Wood Energy Enquiry (JWEE). Information collected in the JWEE enabled the secretariat to provide fact-based information to the discussion.

61. Mr. Sebastian Glasenapp, Thünen Institut, presented the results of the ongoing data collection for the reference year 2017. As of March 2019, 29 member States had replied to the enquiry and 28 of these provided detailed information on sources and users of wood energy. With additional expected replies the JWEE2017 will have the highest response rate since its introduction in 2007. Preliminary results indicate that in those member States reporting, about 446 million m³ of wood was used for generating heat and/or power. Mr. Glasenapp emphasized that the JWEE provides a unique set of information on the portfolio of wood sources used by different user groups. The preliminary results can be found on the website of the meeting.

62. The secretariat also informed the Joint Working Party, on behalf of the team, on the planned future work of the ToS. The team is planning to organize the fifth Meeting of the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Wood Energy from 3 to 4 June 2019 in Umea, Sweden. The meeting will be hosted by the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences.

63. The Joint Working Party:

- (a) Welcomed the publication on wood energy in the ECE region;
- (b) Took note of the information provided by the secretariat and congratulated the secretariat for the quality and importance of the process of collecting data on wood energy. Many member states have structures in place that allow them to regularly provide good quality information on wood energy;
- (c) Requested the secretariat, with the support of the ToS on Wood Energy, to further improve the JWEE. Member States made two specific recommendations for improvements. To consider allowing countries to report damaged wood as a separate source of wood energy and also to consider showing the results in Table IV in energy units;
- (d) Advised the secretariat to further harmonize the information on wood energy in various databases and to closely work with relevant agencies, namely the International Energy Agency and the International Renewable Energy Agency;
- (e) Recommended the extension of the ToS.

Work Area 2: Policy dialogue and advice

64. The secretariat delivered a brief presentation on activities in the work area Policy Dialogue and Advice for the relevant reporting period.

65. Ms. Monika Linn, Principal Advisor to the Executive Secretary, ECE, briefed the joint Working Party on the outcomes of the 2019 Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the ECE region, which took place 21-22 March 2019, in Geneva, Switzerland. The Joint Section contributed to the Forum by organizing a side event celebrating the International Day of Forests and by contributing a speaker on forest education and pedagogy to the Roundtable “The Power of Knowledge for Change”. Ms. Monika Linn stressed that it is easy to find linkages between SDGs but it is difficult to implement SDGs in a cross-sectoral manner due to

sectoral approaches and institutional set ups, especially at national levels. She added that SDG monitoring is also a challenging process due to lack or insufficiency of data and data quality.

66. Mr. Peter Csoka, Secretary of the Committee on Forestry and Team Leader, Statutory bodies, CPF and Outreach, FAO, informed the meeting on the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030) which was declared by the UN General Assembly on 1 March 2019. UN Environment and FAO will lead the implementation of the Decade and some already ongoing activities of relevance for achieving the objectives of the Decade

67. The secretariat informed the Joint Working Party on past and future activities on Forest Landscape Restoration. In 2018, a Ministerial Roundtable for Forest Landscape Restoration and the Bonn Challenge resulted in pledges of over 2.5 million ha to be restored by 2030. With the support of Germany and Switzerland further activities on Forest Landscape Restoration in the Caucasus and Central Asia as well as in Eastern and South Eastern Europe are envisaged. ECE has also applied to become a member of the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration (GPFLR).

68. Ms. Paola Agostini, Lead Environmental Economist, Environment and Natural Resources Global Practice, World Bank, informed the Working Party about the idea to launch “30x30”, a country-led initiative to restore 30 million hectares of degraded and deforested lands in Europe and Central Asia by 2030 in support of the Bonn Challenge.

69. Mr. Tomas Krejzar, Director of Department of Forest Policy and Economy, Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic and deputy Team Leader of the ToS on Forest Policy provided a short update of the Team’s work.

70. The Joint Working Party:

- (a) Highlighted the need to further clarify the concept of ecosystem restoration, the importance of funding to support the work in the region, and encouraged organisations to join forces to this end;
- (b) Recommended to use the implementation vehicle of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration for further joint activities on forest landscape restoration;
- (c) Appreciated the opportunity of organizing national forest policy dialogues;
- (d) Stressed the importance of contributing to the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development and was satisfied with the input from the Joint Section to the 2019 Forum.
- (e) Welcomed the proposal of integrating the ToS on Forest Policy into the ToS on Forest Outlook Studies and asked the secretariat to continue to support the ToS Forest Policy work until the final decision is taken at the Joint Session of COFFI/EFC in this matter.

Work Area 3: Communication and outreach

71. The secretariat updated the Joint Working Party about two videos which were produced and released in 2018. The video “Made in Forests - Michelle Yeoh tells a short story on sustainable fashion” was launched at the High-Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development in New York, in July 2018. The video “The Three Little Pigs and Climate Change - the benefits of wood as a low-emission construction material” was launched at the 24th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP24), in Katowice, Poland, in December 2018, to raise awareness about the benefits of wood as a construction material.

72. The International Day of Forests (IDF) was celebrated on 21 March 2019 with several events. A Forest Breakfast and handicraft workshops were kindly organized by State Forests, Poland. An exhibition on innovative wood and cellulose products was organized in a paper cave with the Confederation of European Paper Industries (CEPI). Under the auspices of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development a side event “Forest Quiz Time!” was organized in cooperation with the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes

(PEFC). The FAO Liaison Office Geneva organized a panel discussion on Forests and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The outcomes of the panel discussion were presented to the Joint Working Party by Ms. Wirya Khim, Natural Resources Officer, FAO.

73. Mr. Peter Csoka, FAO, briefed delegates about the status of the discussion on potential themes for the International Day of Forests 2020 and 2021 and presented the communication and outreach activities of FAO during IDF.

74. Ms. Magdalena Wolicka, Chief Expert, Ministry of Environment Poland, reported on the activities of the Team of Specialists on Forest Communication – the Forest Communicators' Network (FCN).

75. The Joint Working Party:

(a) Emphasized that communication and outreach activities should go beyond IDF and continue throughout the year, in this regard the movies and innovative communication means were appreciated;

(b) Welcomed the joint work of the secretariat and PEFC on the topic “Forests for Fashion”, as this is a valuable opportunity to reach out beyond the forest sector;

(c) Shared national examples on successful communication campaigns;

(d) Suggested the topics “Forests and Culture” and “Forest Landscape Restoration” as potential themes for IDF 2020 and requested FAO to transmit these proposals to CPF for its consideration;

(e) Appreciated the web statistics and highlighted the interest of website visitors in price statistics; in this regard it was recommended to link to the Nordic Statistical Service and Luke to the ECE/FAO website;

(f) Stressed the importance of linking the activities of the ToS on Forest Communication – the Forest Communicators' Network (FCN) to the Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work (WIPoW);

(g) Invites FAO to increase its support to the ToS by providing its secretary, thereby decreasing the burden on the Joint Section;

(h) Thanked the Secretary of the FCN for the work.

Work Area 4: Capacity-building

76. The secretariat provided an overview of the UNDA project “Accountability Systems for Sustainable Forest Management in the Caucasus and Central Asia”, and the related regional Forest Congress taking place on 28-31 May 2019 in Issyk Kul, Kyrgyzstan. The publication “Guidelines for the Development of a Criteria and Indicator Set for Sustainable Forest Management”, which was developed under the project, was also presented.

77. The Joint Working Party:

(a) Welcomed the update on capacity-building activities and appreciated the work undertaken by the Joint Section in this work area;

(b) Underlined the importance and timeliness of this capacity-building project as an important step to implement sustainable forest management and forest landscape restoration in this region;

(c) Appreciated the participatory nature of the workshops and the toolbox of methods included in the Guidelines that ensure replicability;

(d) Suggested to explore the possibility of publishing the results of the UNDA project;

(e) Highlighted the importance of participation of delegations from the Caucasus and Central Asia, as well as other Eastern and Southeastern European countries, at intergovernmental meetings, recognizing funding as the main constraint in this regard;

(f) Proposed a joint capacity-building workshop on sustainable forest products and products statistics and highlighted the need to involve the relevant ToSs.

Item 9: Overview on forest related work by the Economic Commission for Europe and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and list of Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work activities for 2020

78. ECE and FAO, in line with their governance structures, presented an overview of their forest-related work in the region in order to facilitate the review of the proposed list of activities for 2020. For the ECE, the following presentations were delivered.

79. Mr. Zaal Lomtadze, Chief of the Environment for Europe and Sustainable Development Section, ECE, presented the Activities of the Committee on Environmental Policy and highlighted how useful the Rovaniemi Action Plan was for their work.

80. Ms. Lucia De Strasser, consultant in the Environment Division, ECE, presented the Water-food-energy-ecosystem nexus and how important it was to properly reflect wood energy in this context.

81. Mr. Gianluca Sambucini, Economic Affairs Officer in the Sustainable Energy Division, ECE, updated the Joint Working Party on the work of the Group on Renewable Energy Experts.

82. Mr. Michael Nagy, Statistician in the Environment and Multi-domain Statistics Section of the Statistical Division, ECE, informed the Joint Working Party about national accounting activities in the past year and forthcoming plans which included strengthening National Statistical Offices capacity for production of SDG indicators and the review of the ECE Guidelines for environmental indicators together with the Environment Division.

83. Mr. Tommaso Bassetti, Housing and Land Management, ECE, informed the Joint Working Party on Energy Efficient buildings and the role of embodied energy in buildings.

84. Mr. Ekrem Yazici informed the Joint Working Party on forest related activities that are currently being implemented or planned in the region, outside the work of the Integrated Programme of Work by FAO and particularly highlighted FAO's activities on "Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World".

85. The secretariat informed the Joint Working Party about the background document on planned activities for 2020 and informed the Joint Working Party that the approved list of activities will be attached in the annex of the meeting report of the session.

86. The Joint Working Party took note of the information provided and approved the list of planned activities after amendments (Annex III).

Item 10: Election of officers

87. As the Joint Working Party did not adopt the Rules of Procedure of COFFI to govern its work, and thus the ECE Rules of Procedure continue to apply, the number of Bureau members of the Joint Working Party remains unchanged.

88. The Joint Working Party re-elected Mr. Matthias Dieter (Germany) as Chair, and Mr. Jeffrey Prestemon (United States of America) and Ms. Magdalena Wolicka (Poland) as Vice-Chairs. They will hold office until the end of the forty-second session.

Item 11: Date and place of next meeting

89. The Joint Working Party agreed to hold its next session from 24 to 25 March 2020 in Geneva, Palais des Nations and requested the secretariat to organize the International Day of Forest on 23 March 2020 (given that 21 March, the official IDF date, falls on a Saturday).

Item 12: Any other business

90. The Joint Working Party confirmed, upon request by the secretariat, of the need to issue the annotated agenda and the meeting report as official documents with translation, and requested the secretariat to issue other official documents for the meeting without translation.

Item 13: Adoption of the report

91. The Joint Working Party adopted the report of its session on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat.

92. The meeting closed at 17:30 on Friday 29 March.

Annex

I. Draft Terms of Reference of the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Boreal Forests

Reference to the Integrated Programme of Work: Work Area 1, “Data, monitoring, reporting and assessment”, and Work Area 2, “Policy dialogue and advice”

A. Objective(s)³

- Contribute to science and policy cooperation on boreal forests, while reducing duplication of effort and encouraging the pursuit of cost-effective approaches for circumboreal cooperation;
- Increase collaboration with the International Boreal Forest Research Association (IBFRA) and other boreal-related research organizations, in order to strengthen science and policy cooperation with regards to the boreal biome;
- Improve awareness and understanding of the role boreal forests play in global issues such as climate change and the bioeconomy, as well as in addressing the challenges reflected in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- Advise the ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section on any matters related to boreal forests within the integrated programme of work.

B. Activities and functions

- Contribute to the exchange of information, experiences and best practices on boreal forests;
- Facilitate a science policy dialogue on boreal forest issues;
- Where appropriate, contribute to identifying knowledge gaps that – when addressed – can provide policy responses to international challenges;
- Work with other international bodies, including the International Boreal Forest Research Association (IBFRA), with a view to achieving coordination of initiatives;
- Collaborate with other ECE/ FAO Teams of Specialists on cross-cutting issues.

C. Expected Major Outputs

1. The Team of Specialists on Boreal Forests will identify priority issues for the sustainable management of boreal forests, taking into account regional realities and differences. The Team will focus on increasing knowledge and understanding of issues related to boreal forests.
2. It will:
 - Produce (and contribute to the production of) information products that reflect collaborative efforts on boreal forest issues, e.g. in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the UN Strategic Plan for Forests, and the ECE/FAO Integrated Programme of Work;

³ As outlined in the Haparanda Declaration of 2018.

- Produce, based on existing information, assessment and scoping documents, presentations and other information products describing existing conditions in boreal forests, and identifying important issues and opportunities in their management;
- Provide consultation and advice on boreal-related issues as needed.

II. Results of the group work on item 6: Forest Sector Outlook

Group 1: What is your assessment of the presented modelling results?	Group 2: Among the results, what do you think is most important, considering present and future policy choices?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An outlook model would be more useful if it included forest disturbances when it incorporates climate change; that is, while forest productivity changes are important, forest disturbances along with climate change—not just wildfires, but also insects and diseases, windthrow from storms—can accelerate forest type changes and alter the nature of the forest sector • A good outlook model would do a better job if it separately tracked both coniferous and no • Coniferous resources; even better would be to track species because different species have different markets. • Most European forests have laws that prevent forestland to be converted to non-forestland, so the current outlook, when making forest projections, needs to make sure that the projection models constrain forest area change to be nonnegative. • Note that forest area can be lost through not directly intentional actions but can happen due to natural or, more likely, climate change related processes (e.g., disturbances), which might take place even on public land as ecological zones shift over time. How might a model contemplate that? 	<p>Within existing results and prioritized topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Afforestation and reforestation • Shift in production flows between sub-regions • Include scenarios of impact of forest disturbances at different levels (e.g. “what if 20% of forests are lost in a forest fire) • Clear messages on policy impacts and interaction between policies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Construction policies ◦ Energy policies ◦ Conservation policies <p>For future work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open dialogue with other sectors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Review scenarios of agriculture outlooks ◦ Shifts in demand/consumption/land-use change ◦ Competition over resources • Impact on labour and green jobs • Age species structure and availability for wood supply including modelling

Group 3: What is your assessment of the proposed outputs of the outlook study, i.e. methodology report, web page with all the results and publication oriented at policy makers?	Group 4: What kind of research is undertaken in your country or organization which could feed into the final publication, in particular regarding climate change adaptation?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is important to have a simple format for the download of the results, e.g. some form of text format • It would be useful to see the results for individual countries before they are published; important to stress that they are “national level results” with no further detail on sub-areas of the country • The stories (“What if...”) in the publication are a good idea (e.g. carbon sequestration in buildings); a possible story could also be: if we start increasingly building with wood now, how much could we additionally store each year and what would we “hand over” to the next generation in 2040? • The publication directed to policy makers is very useful; with this publication we need to reach other sectors; thus, storytelling and simple messages are key; in addition; it is crucial to consider the target group when communicating (the EEA has a useful template) • It would be good to include in the publication two aspects: a) some information on where we are heading with climate change if we don’t do anything; b) the impact of environmental policies/nature conservation on the availability of wood supply. 	<p>Analysing CC – natural adaptation: Many countries have done studies on potential climate change scenarios at national level, including assessment of possible impacts on forests. These studies often analyse impacts on productivity, composition of tree species, periodicity of disasters (biotic and abiotic) stress of forests (draught, etc.).</p> <p>Preparation for CC – prepare for adaptation – human induced: Many countries already started preparation of their forests for anticipated challenges – variation of species, diversification of species composition in forests (often more broadleaved), testing of new/different provenances and/or sustainable breeding (both of the latter are very expensive). New varieties are often not national but rather of regional or global provenance.</p> <p>Valuation of ecosystem services mentioned several times.</p> <p>Impact of climate change on biodiversity is a very important topic in Estonia</p>

III. Approved list of activities 2020

A. Work Area 1: Data, monitoring, reporting and assessment

1. Forest resources

(a) Collection, validation and dissemination of statistics on forest resources, functions and services, Sustainable Forest Management (SFM), and the contribution of the forest sector to a green economy

- 2020 reporting cycle of the Global Forest Resource Assessment (FRA) and the Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire (CFRQ): cooperation with FAO and other CFRQ partners on the finalization of the final repository of FRA data;

- Joint 2020 pan-European reporting on forests (jointly with the Forest Europe Liaison Unit Bratislava, in coordination with the FAO FRA secretariat): production of the interactive database coordinated with the FRA repository;
 - Review of collection process, national questionnaire on forest ownership in the ECE region, voluntary verification/update of the 2015 data on forest ownership;
 - Production of a mobile application on forest and forest sector data in the ECE countries.
- (b) Analysis and assessment of the state of forests and the sustainability of forest management; and the monitoring of the role of the forest sector in a green economy
- Assessment of forest condition and the impact by biotic and abiotic disturbances: review of formats for international reporting on forest disturbance;
 - 2020 reporting cycle of the Global FRA and CFRQ: support to FAO FRA secretariat to the finalization and dissemination of the main outputs.
- (c) Cooperation with, and support to, international processes in SFM, including regional criteria and indicator (C&I) processes
- Support to the UNFF secretariat on reporting the implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 and the related Communication Strategy;
 - Cooperation with, and support to countries, organizations and international processes (e.g. Forest Europe, Montréal Process) in the region on monitoring SFM;
 - Joint 2020 pan-European reporting on forests: support to the Forest Europe Liaison Unit Bratislava and the FAO FRA secretariat to the finalization and dissemination of the main outputs;
 - Organization of the meeting(s) of the ToS on Monitoring SFM.

2. Forest products and markets

- (a) Collection, validation and dissemination of statistics on production, trade, consumption and prices of forest products
- Preparation of historical data on forest products, species trade, and prices;
 - Preparation and publishing of forecast data on forest products production and trade;
 - Improvement of the existing database;
 - Dissemination through FAOSTAT and ECE websites.
- (b) Analysis of markets for forest products, notably relevant policy aspects, including the Forest Products Annual Market Review (FPAMR) and annual Market Discussions
- Publication of the FPAMR 2019-2020;
 - Preparation of data and the statistical annex for the FPAMR 2019-2020;
 - Preparation of tables and graphs for the Market Forecasts 2020-2021;
 - Preparation of the Market Discussion 2020 and the Market Statement 2020;
 - Dissemination of analysis at industry meetings;
 - Assessment of impact of biotic and abiotic disturbances on forest products markets.

- (c) Support of international processes in forest products
 - Participation in the Intersecretariat Working Group on Forest Sector Statistics and attendance at other international meetings;
 - Organization of the meetings of the ToS on Forest Products Statistics and the ToS on Sustainable Forest Products.

3. Wood energy

- (a) Collection, validation and dissemination of statistics on wood energy
 - Issuance of a new database on wood energy with 2019 data;
 - Analysis of results of the Joint Wood Energy Enquiry (JWEE) 2019;
 - Dissemination of the 2019 JWEE data at relevant international meetings;
 - Increasing visibility of ECE data.
- (b) Analysis of energy-related issues, including demand for, and supply of, wood energy
 - Preparation of a new study on wood energy;
 - Provide input to the ECE Environmental Performance Reviews on forests.
- (c) Support of international processes in wood energy
 - Presentation of the wood energy work at relevant international meetings and cooperation with relevant processes (e.g. International Energy Agency, International Renewable Energy Agency, Wood Energy Days etc.);
 - Organization of meeting of the ToS on Wood Energy.

B. Work Area 2: Policy dialogue and advice

- (a) Follow-up to the Rovaniemi Action Plan (RAP) for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy
 - Promoting and monitoring of the implementation of RAP;
 - Implementation of the RAP priority actions as agreed by the Joint Working Party in 2019;
 - Evaluation of RAP process and implementation.
- (b) Contribution to the policy-related components of activities under Work Areas 1, 3 and 4
 - Organisation of National Forest Policy Dialogues (NFPD) workshops in interested countries;
 - Monitoring developments in global and regional forest policy process (UNFF; Forest Europe, SDG) and contributions, as relevant, to these processes;
 - Support the implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests.
- (c) The role of the forest sector in a circular bio-economy
 - Exploring the issue of wood-based value chains in a circular bio-economy;
 - Promotion and dissemination of the study on the Forest Sector Workforce;

- Promotion and dissemination of “Guidelines on the promotion of green jobs in forestry”;
- Publication and/or other communication materials (e.g. video, brochure) on the role of the forest sector in a circular bio-economy;
- Disseminate and promote the publications “Guidelines on the development of Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management” and “the State of Forests of the Caucasus and Central Asia”.

(d) Forest Sector Outlook

- Organization of the meeting(s) of the ToS on Forest Sector Outlook;
- Lead the development of the next Forest Sector Outlook Study;
- Publish and disseminate next Forest Sector Outlook Study in the ECE region.

(e) [Monitoring and support of international processes relevant to policymaking for the forest sector

- Organization of the meeting(s) of the ToS Forest Policy Network.]

(f) Monitoring and support of international processes relevant to policymaking for the forest sector

- Organisation of high-level events on Forest Landscape Restoration and the Bonn Challenge in the ECE region.

(g) [Boreal Forests (pending approval by the Joint Session)

- Organization of the meeting(s) of the ToS on Boreal Forests.]

C. Work Area 3: Communication and outreach

(a) Organization of events and campaigns in support of SFM and forest products and services

- International Day of Forests (IDF), 21 March 2020, Geneva, Switzerland;
- Side event at the fifteenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF15), May 2020, New York, United States of America;
- Organization of the annual meeting of the ToS on Forest Communication – the Forest Communicators’ Network.
- Use of social media and other means of communication to publicize relevant events

(b) Dissemination of information via policy briefs, press briefs and ad hoc studies, whenever results are available and new information is released

- Promotion and dissemination of the study on Green Jobs in the Forest Sector;

(c) Press releases will be published to present the outcomes of workshops, events and publications. Outreach activities beyond the forest sector, disseminating information that highlights the relevance of forests and forest products to other sectors (e.g. energy events, biodiversity and environment meetings, sustainable construction and building, etc.)

- Events organized on the margins of main forest-related as well as cross-sectional meetings.

D. Work Area 4: Capacity-building

- (a) Forest landscape restoration and the Bonn Challenge:
 - Technical workshop(s) on forest landscape restoration and afforestation;
 - Report on the outcomes of the Ministerial Meeting on forest landscape restoration and the Bonn Challenge for Eastern and South-East Europe.
- (b) Organization of capacity-building workshops on:
 - Capacity building workshop for national correspondents on wood energy (Joint Wood Energy Enquiry 2019);
 - Capacity building workshop on natural disturbances;
 - Organization of a capacity building event for national forest sector modelling for experts from CIS countries. Further capacity building events related to forest sector outlook if resources allow.
- (c) Team of Specialists on Green Jobs in the Forest Sector
 - Organization of the meeting(s) of the ToS on Green Jobs in the Forest Sector;

E. Monitoring and management of the Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work

- (a) Intergovernmental Meetings
 - Organization of the meeting of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management in 2020;
 - Organization of the seventy-eighth session of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry in 2020.
- (b) Bureaux Meetings
 - Organization of the Bureaux meetings upon request of the Chairs of COFFI and EFC.
- (c) Strategic review 2020
 - Organization of a workshop on the review of the Warsaw Integrated Program of Work; Evaluation/assessment for the review in line with what is decided by COFFI/EFC in November 2020.

IV. List of publications for 2020

Title	English	French	Russian
Forest Products Annual Market Review 2019-2020	E-600	F-50	R-50
COFFI Forecast for Forest Products Markets (2020)	English only, online publications		
Forestry and Timber Study Paper (2020)	E-400	F-50	R-50
Forestry and Timber Study Paper (2020)	E-400	F-50	R-50
Forestry and Timber Discussion Paper (2020)	English only, online publications		

Forestry and Timber Discussion Paper (2020)	E-500		
Forestry and Timber Discussion Paper (2020)	E-500		

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