

**ECE/FAO Teams of Specialists report to the
Fortieth session of the
Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on
Forest Statistics, Economics and Management**

Items for regular reporting to the JWPFSEM

1. Name:

Team of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management
Team website <http://www.unece.org/forests/fr/msfm.html>

2. Period covered:

April 2018 – March 2019

3. Leader/Deputies and Secretary:

Leader: Adrian LANZ
Deputies: Annemarie BASTRUP-BIRK, Kari T. KORHONEN, Stefanie LINSER
Secretary: Roman MICHALAK

4. Members: (Number only)

54 members

5. Countries: (List separated by comma)

22 countries: Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ireland, Lithuania, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United States of America.

6. Meetings held:

Second (27th) meeting of the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management, Vienna, Austria, 22-23 November 2018
<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=50844>

7. Outputs and impacts achieved during last year:

Provided input to the reporting of the Global Forest Resources (FRA) 2020 and the FRA reporting on SDGs; discussed on possible problems related to SDG reporting from national FRA data and raised the need for reporting guidelines; identified definitions (e.g. forest certification), method of annual reporting and treatment of reported figures (forecasts vs. estimates) as sensitive topics; recommended inclusion of explanations about the character of the data in the SDG reporting.

Provided input to the process of the pan-European reporting; highly recommended the development of alternative IT tools, electronic forms and formats for the joint FRA and pan-European reporting.

Welcomed the UNECE/FAO initiatives and related studies on forest status, trends and monitoring challenges in the Caucasus and Central Asia region (eight countries); underlined the importance of developing indicators and criteria for SFM with a wide participation of stakeholders facilitating their future use for reporting, communication, forest management and policy support.

Appreciated the results achieved and published in the online database on forest ownership; recommended launch the next reporting cycle around 2025 and to open an updating window 2020 for countries that did not participate in the study and countries with new data, on a fully voluntarily basis; proposed to review the national questionnaire at earliest convenience.

Reviewed a draft questionnaire on forest damage reporting; initiated the discussion on how to improve consistency, quality and relevance of the future international reporting on forest damages; decided to launch the reviewed questionnaire after the conclusion of the FRA and the Pan-European data review.

Recommended the establishment of a network of experts to advance collaboration in the field of forest data banks, underlying the tentative character of the network and its informal nature; underlined the high relevance of the topic, which may be extended beyond the sphere of forest inventory and monitoring.

8. Outputs and impacts expected for coming year:

Improved definitions, related guidelines and reporting formats for national forest damage reporting, based on a questionnaire survey on current methods and available data.

Recommendations and support, if needed, to the annual SDGs reporting, based on national (FRA) data.

Review of national questionnaire on forest ownership, for the intermediate and the next cycle reporting.

Analysis of data (exchange) formats and database requirements to improve the long-term efficiency and consistency of national reporting.

9. Issues for the attention of the Working Party: (if significant issues, how do we stimulate WP discussion)

Questionnaire on national forest damage assessment will be launched in April; proposal for improved modalities for forest damage reporting expected by the end of the year.

Continuous data provisioning and real-time information demand are almost reality (annual SDGs, annual inventory systems). Related technical (IT) systems for improved and efficient data and information provisioning start to attract the attention of the Team.

Regardless of these developments, efforts to fill remaining forest information gaps in parts of UNECE region and worldwide are still of highest priority, supported, if possible, and highly recognised by the Team (e.g. UNECE and other engagement in the Caucasus and Central Asia regions).

10. Other comments: (collaboration with other ToS)

Date: 15/03/2018