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ORGANIZATION**

Timber Committee

European Forestry Commission

Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party
on Forest Economics and Statistics

Thirty-first session
Geneva, 31 March-1 April 2009
Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda

GUIDANCE OF WORK AREAS

Work area 1: Markets and Statistics

Note by the secretariat

Summary

According to its mandate, the Working Party is expected to provide guidance to work area 1: Markets and Statistics. This document discusses the activities in forest products statistics during the last year. The Working Party is invited to note and comment on any developments in the work area and also respond to the specific questions posed within this note.

1. This document is produced in accordance with the programme of work as approved by the Timber Committee in ECE/TIM/S/2008/6 and “to provide guidance on the implementation of work areas 1, 2 and 3 and parts of work area 5” as stated in the terms of reference of the Working Party as approved by the Timber Committee in ECE/TIM/S/2008/6/Add.1.

I. Outputs

A. Forecasts

2. In 2008 the secretariat produced the Timber Committee Forecasts as well as data tables in support of the Forest Products Annual Market Review (FPAMR) based on the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire (JFSQ). Presentations made at the Timber Committee meeting were based on the forecasts supplied by countries prior to the meeting as well as the preliminary JFSQ data.

B. Forest Products Markets

3. At the time of writing, work is proceeding on the final Forest Products Statistics, 2003-2007. All forest products data were uploaded to the Faostat interactive database, the primary distribution site for forest products data, in July and December. Unfortunately it was not possible for the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to provide the preliminary 2007 data in August. Data were available on the Timber Committee/European Forestry Committee website. Final 2007 data are now available at Faostat. The price database continues to be updated.

C. On-line Data

4. All data are provided in electronic-only form on the website (<http://www.unece.org/timber/DataAndStats.html>). This year that includes:

- (a) The chapter and annex tables (apparent consumption) of the FPAMR;
- (b) A complete data set of country and product tables for the FPAMR;
- (c) The preliminary 2003-2007 dataset accessible through hyper text markup language (HTML) pages linked to portable document format (PDF) and Excel format. Final data are being prepared now for dissemination.
- (d) A complete file of all forest products data (1964-2007);
- (e) The graphs and associated information presented to the Timber Committee during European Forest Week;
- (f) The complete set of forecast tables for 2008-2009 for products and regions;
- (g) On-going price statistics as these data are updated.

D. Data availability

5. In general data flow seems to have stayed the same. There has been a slight upturn in responses (40) with a decline in number of individual items filled-in. For an evaluation of data replies please see the annex. We continue to have problems with the declining availability of production data due to confidentiality issues and replies that arrive late or largely incomplete.

E. Indicators of Achievement

6. In terms of the "indicators of achievement" used by the United Nations to evaluate performance, the table in the annex shows the results for the last 16 years. The "% satisfactory" is the number of countries supplying more than 80 percent of the 209 possible responses to JQ1 and JQ2, divided by the total number of countries in the UNECE region. This reached 69 percent in 2005 (the fall to 53 percent for 2007 is normal as the full data cycle is not yet completed). The target approved by the General Assembly for 2009-2010 is 68 percent which appears feasible, particularly if the upcoming Moscow workshop (see paragraph 15) results in a permanent improvement to the ability of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) region countries to reply with forest products statistics data.

F. Secondary Products, Trade by Species and Fire Statistics

7. Regrettably the data on secondary products and trade in species have not been published for the last three years through lack of resources. The secretariat apologizes for the difficulties that have impeded production of these already-collected data and continues to aim to produce these. We intend to engage some consultancy funds to recover lost ground in 2009.

8. Data on fire statistics are currently not being collected by UNECE. The last time data were collected was for the year 2005 and these figures also need some processing time to prepare for dissemination. This activity did not appear of the highest priority, given that data are collected by Joint Research Centre (JRC) for Europe and nationally for North America. The secretariat is consulting with partners on the priority to be assigned and possible partnerships in this area.

9. It is expected that outputs in 2009 will be the same as in 2008.

II. Inter-organizational Cooperation

10. Cooperation between the four organizations collecting data through the JFSQ continues through the Inter-secretariat Working Group on Forest Sector Statistics (IWG). Since the February 2008 meeting, reported on at the 2008 Working Party meeting, the IWG has not met. The next meeting is currently planned for February 2009 and will review the results of the implementation of the HS2007, the questionnaire changes, the results of 2008 data collection and the general timetable and plans for 2009. Information on the IWG meetings can be found at www.unece.org/timber/mis/iwg. A report on the February meeting will be supplied to the Working Party.

11. During 2008 the World Customs Organization was requested by UNECE, on behalf of the IWG and the Working Party, to consider the inclusion of wood pellets under the HS2012 revision. At the time of this writing the status of this proposal is not clear. An up-to-date report will be made orally to the Working Party.

III. Dissemination

12. The data collected are disseminated through three channels, Faostat, FPAMR and the Timber Committee/European Forestry Commission online database. The Faostat website

(<http://faostat.fao.org/site/626/default.aspx>) has wide-spread name recognition and interactive data selection mechanism but is not updated as rapidly and does not show all data collected by UNECE/FAO. A number of improvements have occurred here over the last year which has enabled the site to regain the usefulness it previously had.

13. The Forest Products Annual Market Review is the main driver of both collection and dissemination of the statistics. The underlying data continue to be included in all analyses. The vast majority of the data used for the publication are available only on the website of the FPAMR (<http://www.unece.org/timber/docs/fpama/2008/fpamr2008.htm>), including aggregated trade flow data, apparent consumption tables and product tables showing the leading countries' production and trade.

14. The UNECE Timber Committee/FAO European Forestry Committee website (<http://www.unece.org/timber/DataAndStats.html>) is the repository for all of the section's statistical information. Analysis of web site statistics indicates this is the most commonly visited page (after the home page) on the website. A detailed analysis by month of web visits will be provided prior to the Working Party meeting.

IV. Workshop on Forest Products Statistics for CIS region National Statistical Correspondents

15. A correspondents meeting for Russian-speaking countries is being organized for the month of February 2009 in Moscow. Arrangements for the meeting are mostly finalized at this time. In accordance with the long-standing request from the Working Party and other bodies, this is an attempt to improve the data flow and response rate from these countries to the JFSQ while building up the network of correspondents and gaining improved understanding of national and international data processes. The meeting has been organized by the FAO sub-regional office in Budapest with strong support from the sub-regional offices in Ankara, FAO Rome and the UNECE/FAO Timber Section in Geneva.

16. An oral report on the results of the workshop will be made during the Working Party meeting. The Working Party will be asked to comment on potential follow-up activities and financing possibilities for these.

V. Conclusion

Question for delegates

17. The Working Party is asked to review the activities in this area and provide guidance on where changes should be made or where activities should be augmented or decreased.

Annex
Replies to the Questionnaires

Questionnaire		Year Questionnaire Sent			
		2005	2006	2007	2008
JFSQ	JQ1 (production) - replies	41	42	39	40
	% of cells filled (of 66)	65.0	65.3	83.4	65.5
	JQ2 (trade) - replies	41	40	38	40
	% of cells filled (of 216)	83.4	90.6	94.8	94.4
JFSQ	JQ3 (sec. prod. trade) - replies	10+24(EU)	15+20(EU)	12+21(EU)	10+25 (EU)
	% of cells filled (of 44)	92.3	75.7	72.9	83.3
JFSQ	EU/ECE1 (species trade) - replies	11+23(EU)	11+23(EU)	13+23(EU)	9+24 (EU)
	% of cells filled (of 88)	87.1	91.8	90.0	76.7
TCQ	TC1 (roundwood forecast) - replies	32	31	31	30
	% of cells filled (of 21)	85.2	94.3	87.2	93.9
TCQ	TC2 (product forecast) - replies	31	31	30	30
	% of cells filled (of 45)	83.3	95.1	87.1	94.6

In 2008 the total number of JQ3 cells was 48. The number of cells on ECE1 was 84. % of cells filled applies only to non-EU/EFTA replies. There were a total of 55 member countries for the period 2005-2006 and 56 for the period 2007-2008.

Indicators of Achievement

Data for Year	% Satisfactory
1992	62.2
1993	60.8
1994	61.5
1995	59.6
1996	55.8
1997	55.8
1998	51.9
1999	59.6
2000	63.5
2001	69.2
2002	71.2
2003	65.4
2004	65.4
2005	69.2
2006	64.2
2007	52.8

Note that results for 2007 are initial and will likely improve significantly next year. See paragraph 6 for explanation of calculation.
