

NEWSLETTER # 28

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October - December 2010 - March 2011

SPECIAL EDITION



UNECE



Comments and suggestions from the timber and forestry community are most welcome. Please write to us at: info.timber@unece.org

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**INTERNATIONAL YEAR
OF FORESTS • 2011**

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Forests for the Future Fine-tuning for FOREST EUROPE Ministerial Conference Oslo June 2011

The health and sustainability of Europe's forests play an important role in solving challenges related to climate change, biodiversity protection and fresh water. Their vitality is also crucial to foster a green economy both in Europe and globally. At the upcoming FOREST EUROPE Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, the ministers will take political decisions necessary to promote the sustainable development of the continent's forests and safeguard their important environmental, economic and societal benefits. The conference is being held in the Norwegian capital on 14-16 June 2011 and will be arranged by Norway and Spain and hosted by the Norwegian Minister of Agriculture and Food, Mr Lars Peder Brekk. The FOREST EUROPE Ministerial Conference will be a major European event in the International Year of Forests 2011.



Sustainable forest management

FOREST EUROPE works for effective implementation of sustainable forest management to protect forests and secure their manifold functions for the environment and society across the globe.

© istock

Ministers and high level representatives responsible for the forests of the 46 European countries and the EU, as well as a number of organisations and stakeholders, will gather at the FOREST EUROPE Ministerial Conference in June this year to take decisions that affect the well-being of people and the environment both within and beyond their borders. Safeguarding sustainable forest management of Europe's forests is not only about economic, environmental and social benefits for Europe - it can also contribute to solving challenges in other parts of the world.

About the Ministerial Conference

The Ministerial Conference next June in Oslo, Norway, will be the sixth occasion for pan-European high-level policy making since the FOREST EUROPE process started in 1990. Norway currently holds the chairmanship of FOREST EUROPE and will consign this task to Spain after the ministerial conference. Up to now, Ministerial Conferences on the Protection of Forests in Europe took place in 1990 in Strasbourg, in 1993 in Helsinki, in 1998 in Lisbon, in 2003 in Vienna and in 2007 in Warsaw. The previous conferences have seen a continual increase in the number of signatory countries and observers and have taken important policy decisions concerning the health and vitality of the continent's forests. Since 1990, nineteen resolutions have been adopted at five Ministerial Conferences. Through the FOREST EUROPE commitments the concept of sustainable forest management has been defined and continuously developed at the pan-European level. The commitments have also served as a framework for implementing sustainable forest management in the European countries. The definition and promotion of sustainable forest management in Europe is one of the main achievements of the FOREST EUROPE process, considered to make a major contribution to the mitigation of climate change, the preservation of water and biodiversity and a wide range of vital aspects related to social and economic benefits. Experts agree that the proven benefits of healthy, sustainable forests in Europe go far beyond the borders of the continent and make a significant contribution also at global level.

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A FOREST EUROPE Expert Level Meeting was held on 14-15 December 2010 at the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. 100 delegates representing 37 European countries and the European Union and 13 observer organisations discussed issues that will be raised at the Ministerial Conference in Oslo. The Expert Level Meeting was a major step forward in the process of preparing the FOREST EUROPE Ministerial Conference Oslo 2011, as the countries agreed on ministerial commitments to further elaborated.

What will happen at the Ministerial Conference

The FOREST EUROPE Ministerial Conference next June will respond to demands on forests of today, including their contribution to a green economy, climate change mitigation, biodiversity conservation, their provision of renewable products and energy and the need to combat illegal logging. Ministers are expected to adopt a common vision, strategic goals and specific targets for forests in Europe. Preservation and sustainable management of forests require a stable and effective platform for coherent policy development and implementation. The conference will therefore also decide on ways to strengthen cooperation in Europe, possibly including opening negotiations of a legally binding agreement on forests in Europe, with the view to enhancing the role of sustainable forest management in delivering goods and services to society.

Through the decisions in Oslo, the European countries should convey a strong political message on the potential of forests and sustainable forest management for the wellbeing of people, development of sustainable green economies and environmental values and on the added value of regional and international cooperation to this end.

The Ministerial Conference will also table the State of Europe's Forests 2011 report, which will provide a comprehensive picture of the status of forests and trends in sustainable forest management in Europe. The report will be a significant basis for the discussions at the conference.

Celebrating International Year of Forests



Europe's Forest Capital 2011: The upcoming FOREST EUROPE Ministerial Conference will be convened on 14-16 June 2011 in the Norwegian Capital Oslo. The city is surrounded by great areas of forests surround, a considerable portion municipally owned.
© Innovation Norway

The United Nations has declared 2011 as the International Year of Forests. The FOREST EUROPE Ministerial Conference on 14-16 June 2011 in Oslo, Norway, will be a major European contribution to celebrate and highlight the importance of forests. The overall objective of this UN initiative is to raise awareness about the need to strengthen the sustainable management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests for the benefit of current and future generations. The International Year of Forests was launched on 2 February 2011 at the Ninth Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) in New York, USA.

The FOREST EUROPE poster and brochure Healthy Forests for Europe and beyond has been elaborated to inform relevant fora about the upcoming Ministerial Conference and its topics. It can be downloaded or ordered from our website www.foresteurope.org/Publications.

Follow the road to the FOREST EUROPE Ministerial Conference Oslo 2011 at www.foresteurope.org

Arne Ivar Sletnes
Head of FOREST EUROPE
Liaison Unit Oslo



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Forests, Climate Change and Green Economy

Forest products are crucial to mitigate climate change and foster a green and sustainable economy in Europe and globally.

FOREST EUROPE – The Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe

FOREST EUROPE is the pan-European policy process for the sustainable management of the continent's forests. It develops common strategies for its 46 member countries and the European Union for the protection and sustainable management of forests. Founded in 1990, the continuous co-operation through FOREST EUROPE has led to achievements such as the guidelines and criteria for sustainable forest management.

High-priorities for FOREST EUROPE are to strengthen the role of forests in mitigating climate change, to secure the supply of good-quality fresh water, to enhance and preserve forest biodiversity, and to provide renewable forest products. Other important tasks are to develop a framework for future political collaboration and to prepare options for decision by ministers on a possible legally binding agreement on forests in Europe.

Norway currently holds the chairmanship of FOREST EUROPE and will convene the next ministerial conference on 14-16 June 2011.

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A series of events and meetings revolving around the issue of information on forests and forest products in the UNECE region are taking place at the United Nations Palais des Nations, 21-24 (25) March 2011.

Monday, 21 March

Seminar on State of forests in the UNECE region

The seminar will provide a snapshot of UNECE forests in the last two decades, focusing on trends, obstacles to healthier forests, and future challenges yet to be addressed. The meeting will discuss the effectiveness of forest assessment measures put in place (primarily criteria and indicators), in the context of current and foreseen challenges.



During the last two decades there has been intensive international and policy debate on sustainable development, in particular on issues related to biodiversity, climate change, desertification and of course forests. The UNECE region also experienced crucial political and economic changes during this time, such as the transition from centrally planned to market driven economies, the steep rise in demand for renewable energy as well as the recent economic crisis and recession. As a result of the increased profile of forests and in response to economic and environmental challenges, the forest sector has advanced the concept of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM), its principles and tools for its application. Among them were the Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management (C&I).

Criteria and Indicators of SFM, in addition to contributions from many longstanding national assessment programs outside of C&I processes, have been successful in shaping the majority of national and regional forestry reports. Forest Europe (Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe) and the Montréal Process (the two international processes active in the UNECE region) generated sets of regional criteria and indicators. Work on criteria and indicators strongly influenced the shape and content of the main global reporting process: the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment.

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The last edition of the Global Forest Resources Assessment was completed in 2010; the report on State of Europe's Forest is expected in June 2011. Key Findings from this assessment will be presented in March 2011. These two reports, which cover 1990-2010, as well as reports prepared in the frames of Montréal Process provide high quality information will tell us about the current situation of forests and their management in the UNECE region.

The seminar provides a unique opportunity for an exchange of views amongst experts on the main findings from the recent publications and discussing directions of future work of relevant processes in the region:

- The most up-to-date information and past trends in the state of forests and forest management in the UNECE region;
- Current and expected challenges related to state, trends, use and management of wood resources in different parts of the region;
- Application of C&I throughout sub-regions, which will include: a review of lessons learned, identification and discussion of problems/successes related to this concept, its application as well as plans for developments.

For more information please contact:

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Forestry Officer - Forest Resources Assessment

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Tuesday, 22 March

Joint FAO/UNECE Zero meeting for a proposed Working Party to facilitate exchange of expert advice based on the work of UNECE/FAO Teams of Specialists (ToS).

For more information, please contact:

Ms. Paola Deda, Chief

UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section, Geneva

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Wednesday and Thursday, 23-24 March

The Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics will review and provide guidance of the work areas on markets and statistics, forest resources, outlook studies. In addition, for the first time, work in policy and cross-sectoral issues will also be reviewed. There will be individual presentations on the status of the wood energy enquiry and the North American Outlook Study as well as a roundtable on the status of forest information, focusing on possible methods of improving efficiencies and reducing reporting burden. The Working Party will also be asked to review the results of the "zero meeting" (taking place 22 March) and decide whether the recommendations from the meeting should be accepted.

For more information, please contact:

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Tel: +41 (0)22 917 2880, Email: alex.mccusker@unece.org

Friday, 25 March

Timber Committee/European Forestry Commission joint Bureaux and Meeting of the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Outlook

Relevant documents and the registration form are available at:

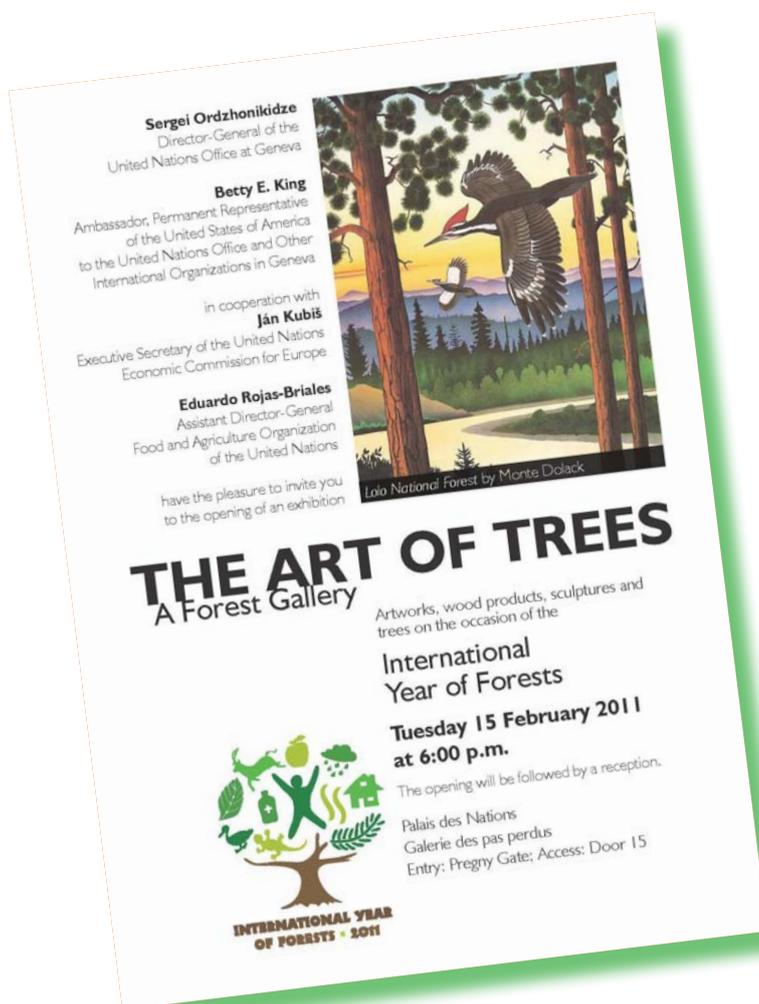
<http://timber.unece.org/index.php?id=324>

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INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF FORESTS 2011



For more on the press release, the photo gallery, speeches and video, please visit: <http://timber.unece.org/index.php?id=2>

To celebrate the International Year of Forests, UNECE and FAO have constructed a “temporary forest” inside the Palais des Nations building, in the “Salle des pas perdus” gallery. Some 70 living trees from 27 different species from Europe and North America, with heights ranging from 2 to 6 meters, create a stunning atmosphere.

The trees provide the background to an artwork exhibition of the American painter Monte Dolack, whose work has been inspired throughout the years by North American forests and outdoor living. The exhibition, entitled “The Art of Trees – A forest gallery”, includes innovative wood products and materials, as well as art and design pieces made of wood.

This forest gallery reflects the growing appreciation of the contribution of forests to economic, environmental and social wellbeing, including as carbon sinks and as renewable source of energy. Following the exhibition, 21 trees will be planted in the park of the Palais des Nations.

The exhibition is organized by the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section in partnership with the United States of America Permanent Mission to the United Nations.

Mrs. Hillary Clinton, U.S. Secretary of State, visited the exhibition on the occasion of the Human Rights Council on 28 February 2011.

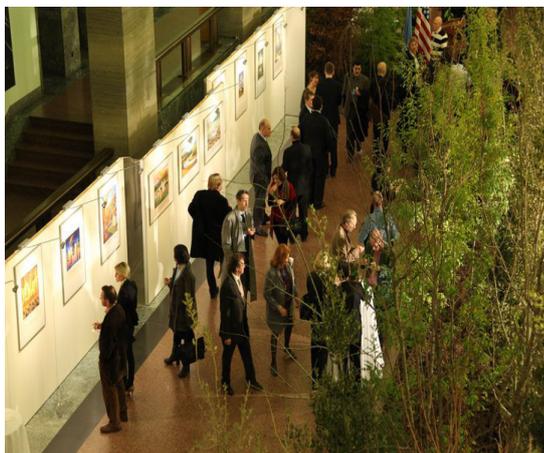
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**15 February 2011
Exhibition Opening**

**International Year of
Forests 2011**



Eduardo Rojas-Briales

Assistant Director-General and Head of
Forestry Department of the United Nations
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)



Andrey Vasilyev

Deputy Executive Secretary
United Nations Economic Commission for
Europe (UNECE)



Betty E. King

Ambassador, Permanent Representative of
the United States of America to the United
Nations Office and other International
Organizations in Geneva



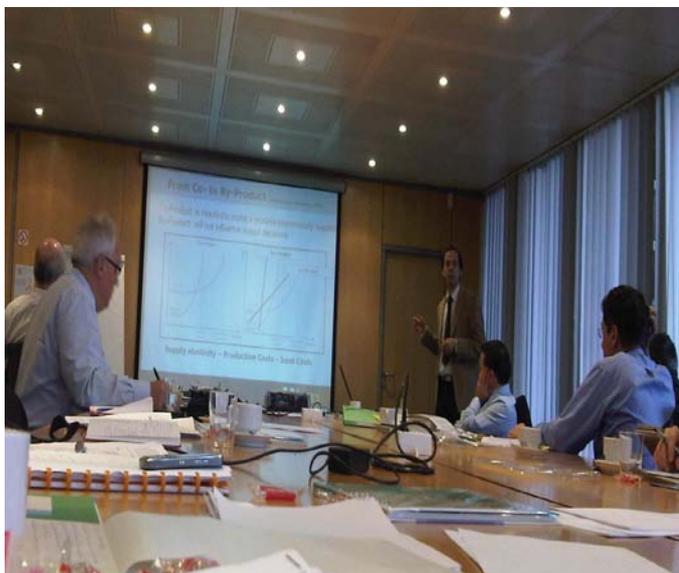
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The European Forest Sector Outlook Study (EFSOS) 2
Brussels, 18 January 2011

“BRIGHT IDEAS FROM BRUSSELS!”



The European Forest Sector Outlook Study (EFSOS) 2 which is currently in preparation, looks at the impact on the forest sector, over the period until 2030, of choosing different policy options. These options include, giving priority to promoting biodiversity, mitigating climate change, and supporting a significant expansion of wood energy. Using a modelling approach allows the results of adopting these different policy priorities to be judged against two reference baseline assumptions or ‘business as usual’. For the first time in EFSOS, the current study will try to examine what the effects might be of giving priority policy support to encouraging innovation in the forest sector. Thus, it will explore the

consequences for the sector of successful innovation beyond innovative products alone, to include marketing and improved efficiency of processing. On this basis, it might be possible to estimate the likelihood of increased substitution of wood for non-renewable materials and energy, for instance.

“Clearly, this is a challenging area to explore and inevitably it will be affected by considerable uncertainty. In an effort to gain some understanding of the potential for innovation within the sector, and the policy support that might be needed to foster such innovation, a discussion and brainstorming meeting was held in Brussels on 18 January 2011. About 20 people in all, drawn from across Europe, including participants from industry and industry associations, research bodies and universities, as well as a team from the Forestry and Timber Section, spent a stimulating day exploring ideas together. One of the successes of this meeting was that it brought together a range of key experts from different fields who would not usually find themselves sitting round one table. The outcome of the day was much food for thought, which now has to be digested and then presented in two chapters that will appear in the EFSOS report towards the end of 2011.

As well as thanking all those who took part, thanks are due also to the Confederation of European Paper Industries (CEPI), who kindly hosted the meeting.

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Outcome of the Workshop “Improving Forest Products Marketing to Help Drive Sustainable Rural Economic Development in Southeast Europe”

Another in a series of forest products marketing workshops was held in **TfYR Macedonia on 7-9 December 2010**. Participants came from countries in the Balkan region and together with additional speakers from western Europe, they held discussions on topical marketing issues. Marketing workshops are conducted as funding permits under the activities of “Markets and Statistics” of the Intergrated Programme of Work of the Timber Committee and European Forestry Commission.

The workshop was organized by the Macedonian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy, which was also a sponsor, together with UNECE/FAO.

The workshop was sponsored by the Central European Initiative with matching funding from the Austrian Government and FAO in Geneva, Rome and Budapest.

The workshop concluded that countries have a tradition in using wood for energy, but it is often inefficient use of solid firewood with negative ramifications on the forest resource. Another conclusion was that the absence of comprehensive, up-to-date, accurate market information, e.g. statistics, is missing for conducting marketing of wood products, hinders the development of the region's forest sector. Recommendations included, among others, establishing a regional market information system website, using international standards and definitions, in order to have transparent forest products market information for all countries in southeast Europe. The information would be the basis for conducting market analyses for the region, to identify new market opportunities, promote innovation in products and processes and contribute to forest sector development.

Full conclusions and recommendations and more information on the workshop may be found at: <http://timber.unece.org/index.php?id=328>

UNECE/FAO Policy Workshop on the implications for the forest- based sector of recent trade legislation, Brussels 13 April 2011

"Does banning illegal logging rule out wood?"

Overview:

What are the implications for the timber trade of the new EU and the US timber trade regulations?

Following its annual Market Discussions in 2010, the UNECE Timber Committee requested its UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Products Marketing “to consider the legality and competitiveness of forest products”. Timber's competitiveness could be impacted by the evolving trade regulations, specifically the EU Regulation Against Illegal Logging (replacing the Due Diligence Regulation) and the US Lacey Act Amendment.

“Regulations affecting the trade of timber products are evolving quickly, and this evolution should be closely monitored because of the impacts on the entire forest sector.” So concluded the UN workshop on “Emerging Trade Measures in Timber Markets” in 2010.

This one-day policy-oriented workshop builds on the outcomes above and provides a platform for presentations and discussions on the current developments and how they affect the timber trade in 2011.

Objectives:

- to better understand recent trade legislation in the UNECE region, in particular the Lacey Act Amendment and the EU's Regulation Against Illegal Logging, its implications for and likely impacts on the forest-based sector;
- to stimulate focused discussion as a basis for drawing workshop conclusions and possible recommendations for wide distribution.

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Expected outputs:

- broadened awareness of the legislation, its implications and impacts amongst sectoral stakeholders as well as other interested parties;
- conclusions and recommendations for policymakers and others, including for consideration during the future development of such legislation.

Target audience:

- Timber trade federations and associations;
- Wood and wood-based products' manufacturers and traders;
- End users of wood and wood-based products, including architects associations.
- Government departments, especially policymakers and implementers.
- Intergovernmental agencies.
- Other including non-governmental organizations, NGOs, eNGOs, certification bodies, etc.

Format:

- One-day, stand-alone workshop having opening and closing sessions with a key speakers;
- English-French interpretation to facilitate attendance and involvement by a wide international audience (subject to sponsorship budget);
- legal and technical concepts to be explained in plain language.
- Adequate time for discussion, both in-session and at meeting breaks.

Workshop sponsorship is being sought as the Team of Specialists has no funding. Sponsorship is needed for the meeting at the level of €3-5,000.

*For more information contact subgroup leaders for the Team of Specialists on Forest Products Marketing:
Mr. Eoin O'Driscoll
Tel: +353 87 9679528, eoin@drima.com and*

*Mr. Jeremy Wall
Tel: + 32 (0)2 295 3726, jeremy.wall@ec.europa.eu.*

*Workshop information will be made available at
www.unece.org/timber*

Forest Products marketing
Capacity Building in Southeast
Europe Slovenia, 2011

Call for Sponsors

Another in the series of forest products marketing workshops is being planned in Slovenia in late 2011. As with other marketing workshops, it will bring together participants and speakers from southeast Europe who represent government policymakers in forest sector, industry associations, university and research, and private forest owners associations. Discussions will be on topical marketing issues. Marketing workshops are conducted as funding permits under the activities of "Markets and Statistics" of the Integrated Programme of Work of the Timber Committee and European Forestry Commission. All workshop webpages may be found at www.unece.org/timber/mis/workshops.htm

At the current time the UNECE/FAO is seeking sponsors from governments, industry associations and intergovernmental agencies.

If your organization has the possibility to partially support this workshop, please contact

*Ed Pepke, Marketing Specialist
UNECE/FAO
at Ed.Pepke@unece.org*

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Quality and Legitimacy of Global Governance Case Lessons from Forestry

Timothy Cadman¹

Global decision-making forums are becoming almost as significant as national governments, yet they are far away from 'the people'. How is it possible to tell whether such institutions are democratically legitimate? As the international community struggles with major issues such as deforestation it is increasingly turning to sustainable development and market-based mechanisms to tackle environmental problems. Since the Rio 'Earth' Summit of 1992 sustainable development has become the major policy framework, through which the international community deals with such pressing environmental issues such as deforestation.

Implicit in this approach is a belief that the market provides the best mechanism to bring government, business and society together, and a whole plethora of schemes have been developed in response. Yet how legitimate are these institutions, and where is their democratic accountability? Cadman looks at four institutions created to address forest management: the Forest Stewardship Council (non-governmental); the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (business); the ISO 14000 Series of environmental standards (technocratic); and the United Nations Forum on Forests (governmental). He finds large discrepancies in the approaches taken, and the degree to which the four systems provide for meaningful participation and productive deliberation amongst stakeholders trying to address the global forest crisis.

The method of analysis is built upon a new arrangement of the accepted attributes of 'good' governance, using a set of qualitative principles, criteria and indicators, and applied to the structures and processes of governance. Recognising that contemporary global institutions are manifold, the analytical framework also locates the institutions typologically, determined by their source of authority (state/non-state), democratic mode (aggregative/deliberative) and degree of governance innovation (old/new). The research findings confirm that the more deliberative the model of democratic interaction, i.e., the more it uses rational discourse and dialogue, the better the system's quality of governance and by extension, the more legitimate the institution.

For further information, see at:

www.palgrave.com/products/title.aspx?pid=395944

tim.cadman@usq.edu.au

¹ Tim Cadman is Sustainable Business Fellow in the School of Accounting, Economic and Finance of the Faculty of Business at the University of Southern Queensland in Toowoomba, Australia. He is a research fellow with the Earth Systems Governance Project and a Member of the Australian Centre for Sustainable Business and Development. He specialises in environmental-social governance, environmental politics and policy, climate change and sustainable forest management.

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Forest products website launched

Two international forest products marketing groups recently launched a collaborative, global forest products marketing “current issues” website, according to officials with the two organizations.

The website was built and is hosted by the Louisiana Forest Products Development Center in the LSU AgCenter, said Rich Vlosky, director of the forest products unit. It contains more than 1,000 documents available for downloading.

The site is a joint programme of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Union of Forest Research Organizations.

“It is the most comprehensive repository in the world of information on major issues that impact global forest sectors,” said Vlosky, who is team leader of the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Products Marketing.

Visits to the website have grown dramatically from 400 in 2004 to more than 119,000 in 2009, Vlosky said. The website address is **www.UneceFaolufro.lsu.edu**

The cooperative venture grew out of joint meetings in Japan and the Republic of Korea in August, 2010, organizers said.

“The two groups have interacted informally over the past five years, including developing a global list of forest products marketing experts which is posted on both organizations’ websites,” said Ed Pepke, forest products marketing specialist in the Forestry and Timber Section of the UN agency.

For further information, please contact:

Richard Vlosky

Tel: 225-578-4527

e-mail: rvlosky@agcenter.lsu.edu

Richard Vlosky, Leader, Team of Specialists on Forest Products Marketing and Crosby Land & Resources Endowed Professor in Forest Sector Business Development and Director, Louisiana Forest Products Development Center, Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, has been appointed to the Advisory Council of the Southeast Agriculture & Forestry Energy Resources Alliance (SAFER).

SAFER is a regional alliance focused on providing strategic leadership to the agriculture and forestry sectors in advancing and leveraging renewable energy initiatives in the South. SAFER pursues this vision with strategies to improve policy, influence research, and advance commercialization and communication with all stakeholders.

Richard Vlosky

Director and Professor

Crosby Land & Resources Endowed Professor in Forest Sector Business Development

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Private forest ownership in Europe: The challenges of demographic change and fragmentation

Forest owners play a key role in sustaining forest ecosystems and enhancing rural development. Nevertheless, a significant lack of knowledge on forest tenure in Europe remains. A joint enquiry by UNECE/FAO, the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE, now Forest Europe) and the Confederation of European Forest Owners (CEPF) was elaborated and addressed to 38 European countries with private forestry. 23 countries participated by submitting national reports¹.

Around half of Europe's forest area (excluding the Russian Federation) is owned by private forest owners. The number of private forest holdings, currently more than 11 million, continues to grow, mainly due to the ongoing restitution process in some European countries as well as fragmentation due to inheritance laws. Yet there is a great variance of ownership structure among countries. For instance, private forests in Austria, France, Norway, Slovenia and Sweden account for more than 75% of the total forest area, whereas in Poland and Bulgaria, they account for less than 20%.

In the majority of responding countries, most private forest holdings are smaller than 3ha in size. This fragmentation represents a major problem as small scale forest ownership is barely profitable and the large number of owners makes the integration of sustainable forest management practices difficult. Thus, local and regional cooperation among forest owners, for example, through forest owner associations, is crucial.

Demographic change is also affecting forest

¹ Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.

management practices, with ageing and urbanisation being the main drivers. A large share of forest owners are above 60 years of age. In addition, an increasing share of individual owners is occupied outside the traditional agriculture and forestry sectors.



A study paper presenting these and other main findings from the national country reports is available at <http://timber.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/publications/SP-26.pdf>.

Staff



Arnaud Brizay was recently seconded to the Forestry and Timber Section by the French Ministry of Agriculture. After completing his study in Agronomy, he specialized in Forestry in Nancy.

Arnaud began his career as an agricultural advisor for the French embassy in Dublin. He was then appointed chief of the environment department in a local authority in the North of France. Subsequently attaché for veterinary affairs at the French embassy in Berlin, he became chief of the Section for Economic Development in the French Forest and Timber Directorate.

Arnaud will contribute to the development of pan-European forest governance and will survey the evolution of policy institutions. He will also service the ILO/UNECE/FAO Joint Network on implementation of sustainable forest management.

Arnaud is married to Ulrike and has a one year old son, Clément.

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FAO Forestry Department event in Bangalore to celebrate the International Year of Forests 2011

International Conference on the Art and Joy of Wood Rediscovering Wood: The Key to a Sustainable Future

Bangalore India 19-22 October 2010

The Conference Programme is based around the overall theme of the art and joy of wood. It will include plenary sessions, workshops, exhibitions and cultural events exploring, amongst others, the following topics:

- **What are the broad social and economic trends affecting the markets and end-uses of wood products?**
- **How are producers and users of wood responding to these trends and what more can be done?**
- **What is the scope to develop higher value wood products that capture some of the benefits rising prosperity?**
- **Why do negative perceptions of wood use persist in some places and how can these be overcome?**
- **How can stakeholders in the wood products sector develop strategies to strengthen the linkages between wood use and sustainable development?**
- **What type of support are needed from policy makers, researchers, technical experts and industry associations?**

Participants will hear about the experiences of wood producers and users from around the world as well as the views of leading industry and technical experts.

Furthermore, we look forward to your spontaneous & structured reactions, and please feel free to tip us for brilliant trend-setters and innovators in wood usage. Wood promoters and master wood artists are also welcome if they have a great story to tell or perform. A limited number of work demonstrations and exhibitions are accepted, even though oral presentations, roundtables and posters are the main delivery mode.

You would do us a great service by re-distributing the brochure in your academic, scientific and business networks!

Let me know if you need more information from us, and contact me at: Mr. Jukka Tissari, Forestry Officer (Forest Products Trade and Marketing), Forest Economics, Policy & Products Division, FAO Forestry Department, Tel. +39 06 57054179, E-mail: Jukka.Tissari@fao.org

For the brochure, the full programme and registration, please visit:

<http://www.artjoywood.org/>

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FORTHCOMING MEETINGS 2011

7 February – 2 March, Geneva
Exhibition International Year of Forests

REGIONAL FOREST INFORMATION WEEK

Geneva, Palais des Nations

21 March

Seminar on the state of forests in the UNECE Region

22 March

Joint FAO/UNECE Zero meeting for a proposed Working Party

23-24 March

Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics

25 March

UNECE/FAO Bureaux meeting

25 March

UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Outlook

13 April, Brussels

UNECE/FAO Policy Workshop on the implications for the forest-based sector or recent trade legislation - Does banning illegal logging rule out wood?

12-14 April, Budapest

Meeting of the UNECE/FAO ToS Forest Communicators Network

10-11 May, Geneva

Stakeholder meeting to discuss the Action Plan on the Role of Forests in a Green Economy

6-8 June, Ossiach, Austria

3rd International Conference of Forestry Training Centres

14-16 June, Oslo

Forest Europe Ministerial Conference

4-5 (6 Field Trip) July, Geneva

Workshop on Payments for Ecosystem Services

More on the meetings homepage: <http://timber.unece.org/index.php?id=324>