

A special newsletter from UNECE / FAO Forestry and Timber Section during COVID-19 outbreak, 1 April 2020

This temporary newsletter provides updates on activities of the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section during the coronavirus outbreak. To learn more about the impact of the outbreak on the work of the Secretariat, please visit: <http://www.unece.org/covid-19.html>. For most up-to-date information about the impact on the work of the Joint Section, please contact [Mr. Gianluca Sambucini](#), Acting Chief of Section.

Upcoming meetings

Rescheduled *:

The Joint Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management has been rescheduled for 18-19 June 2020

The first meeting of the Team of Specialists on Boreal Forests has been rescheduled, the meeting date will be announced shortly

The seventh meeting of the Team of Specialists on Forest Products Statistics has been rescheduled for 17 June 2020

**Depending on containment of the COVID-19 outbreak, these meetings might be postponed again. Thus, delegates are advised against making any travel arrangements at the present time. The UNECE/FAO Joint Section is closely monitoring the situation and will provide an update closer to the meeting date.*

Postponed, new meeting date to be announced

The regional meeting on forests in Central Asia and the Caucasus - postponed

The sixth meeting of the Team of Specialists on Wood Energy – postponed

The meeting of the Team of Specialists on Sustainable Forest Products – postponed

The Ministerial Roundtable on Forest Landscape Restoration and the Bonn Challenge in South and South-East Europe – postponed

The United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)

The fifteenth session of the UNFF, in revised and scaled-down format, will be held in early June 2020 in UNHQ in New York. More information on the 15th session, including the provisional agenda, is available [here](#).

What's new in the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section?

A new study on **Forest Product Conversion Factors**, prepared jointly by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and the United Nations Commission for Europe (UNECE) is available for download [here](#).

A new publication on **Forest Ownership in the ECE region**, prepared by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and COST ACTION FACESMAP is also available [here](#).

The Joint Section also contributed to the 2020 report "[Towards Achieving Sustainable Development Goals in the UNECE Region: a Statistical Portrait of Progress and Challenges](#)".

In collaboration with the joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section and international experts, Kazakhstan developed the "**Master Plan for the Development of the Forestry Sector of the Republic of Kazakhstan until 2030**" and an action plan for its implementation. Find out more about Kazakhstan's master plan [here](#) and more about our work in the region [here](#).

Turkmenistan has joined the "**Trees in Cities Challenge**"! With a 2.2. million trees, cities of Turkmenistan joined the ranks of cities like Podgorica (Montenegro), Victoria (Canada), Vancouver (USA), Tirana (Albania),

Helsingborg (Sweden), Bonn (Germany), Malaga (Spain), Mexico City (Mexico), Barcarena (Brazil), Turin (Italy), Sofia (Bulgaria), Tbilisi (Georgia) and Nof Hagalil (Israel), bringing the overall commitment under the “**Trees in Cities Challenge**” to over 10.8 million trees. Find out more [here](#).

The first issue of **Forest Information Billboard** for 2020 is out and available [here](#). All news from the forestry sector, in one place!

The UNECE/FAO Joint Section works closely with its **eight Teams of Specialists** to support the implementation of Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work 2018-2021. Member countries are encouraged to send in their nominations to the Teams. More information on workings of the Teams, including on how to make nominations, is available [here](#).

Suggested readings

The European Tree of the Year 2020 has been announced...and it's the Guardian of the Flooded Village in the Czech Republic! Read the fascinating story behind this year's winner and the runner ups [here](#).

Learn more about the life-changing impact of Brazilian forest industries on people's livelihoods, in these people's own words, [here](#).

If you would like to learn more about how the current Covid-19 outbreak is affecting the forestry sector, you can read [Impact of Covid-19 on the Forest Products Industry by the Forest Resources Association](#) and [Covid-19 and world trade by the World Trade Organization](#).

Readers may also be interested in [5 Lessons From Coronavirus That Will Help Us Tackle Climate Change by Christiana Figueres](#), former Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework on Climate Change, Time Magazine, 24 March 2020 and an opinion piece [on Trees on Commercial UK Plantations 'Not Helping Climate Crisis. from Patrick Barkham](#), the Guardian, 10 March 2020.

And more...

Are you interested in sustainable sourcing for the fashion industry? Watch our short film “[Made in Forests](#)” starring Michelle Yeoh, to learn about the role of sustainably sourced renewable forest fibres in fashion. You can also learn more about the work of the UN Alliance for Sustainable Fashion [here](#).

How easy it is to make efficient use of wood energy at home? Check out UNECE's most watched video of all time, “[More Heat With Less Wood](#)” and check out [here](#) for more information about our work on wood energy.

Anything to add?

If you have recently published a piece which may be relevant for this newsletter (op. ed, book chapter, news article, etc) please send it to [Ms. Milica Apostolovic](#) and we will consider including it in our next newsletter or the next issue of [Forest Information Billboard](#). You may also send articles or links to reports on how to envisage the role of the forest sector in the post-COVID-19 period and identify pathways for the recovery of the forest sector from the current crisis.

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