

NEWSLETTER # 30

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Comments and suggestions
from the forestry and timber
community are most welcome.
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WOOD ENERGY

UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber



Wood confirmed as the primary source of renewable energy in Europe

The world is waking up to the possibilities offered by wood

Wood accounts for 3% of the total primary energy supply (TPES) and 47 % of the renewable energy supply (RES) in the UNECE region in 2009, confirming its role as the leading source of renewable energy.

Read more on page 7 and 8, or consult on the UNECE website at:
<http://www.unece.org/forests/mis/energy/jwee.html>

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UNECE/FAO define key messages to stress the contribution of forests and forest products to a Green Economy

Outcome Joint FAO European Forestry Commission and the ECE Timber Committee, Antalya, 10-14 October 2011

Increasing environmental, social and economic expectations are putting unprecedented pressure on forests in the ECE region. Balancing the competing demands of climate change, mitigation and adaptation, of protecting the forests' rich biodiversity, while satisfying a growing requirement for renewable energy and the raw material needs of industry, is a key challenge, which was discussed extensively at the joint session of the FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC) and the ECE Timber Committee (TC), in Antalya on 10-14 October.

Key messages on contributions of forests and forest products to a Green Economy

2. Recognize the low-carbon footprint of forest products. Ensure that full life-cycle analysis is used whenever comparisons are made between forest products and alternatives; for example in green building and green public procurement schemes. In this way, the full environmental impact of all products will be taken into account and better environmental results achieved. Provide authorities with information on the full economic and environmental impact of measures that affect the forest sector so that they can make better informed decisions.

1. Highlight forest benefits. Champion the multiple benefits for people, the economy and the environment of forests, forest products and services. Do so with key decision makers, business, media and the general public. Communicate the innovative potential of forest products. Examples of such innovation include smart paper, wood-based composites and cellulose-based biofuels. Participate in fora and establish dialogues to further develop interaction between the forest sector and society. A special focus of these efforts should be partners in the green economy such as green builders and biofuel providers.

3. Develop green economy policies that fully benefit from forest-based measures. Provide policy arguments backed by economic and scientific evidence to politicians. Use these arguments to support the role of forest products and services, as well as forest-based jobs, in the green economy. Demonstrate the value of ecosystem services to decision makers. To achieve better environmental and economic results, take into account the value of ecosystem services in policy and regulatory decisions.

Good information on how to integrate these different objectives is key to helping policymakers reach informed decisions that will optimize the forest sector's contribution to the green economy.

More information about this meeting is available at: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=16262>

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Policy Talk and IYF Closing Ceremony Palais des Nations, Geneva, 13 December 2011

What will European and North American forests look like in 2030? Will they store carbon, preserve biodiversity or help countries meet renewable energy commitments? Are trade-offs unavoidable?

"Forests 2030: The future of forests in Europe and North America"

Experts from governments, international organizations, NGOs and industry held a debate on issues related to forests in the ECE region and tackled different issues such as: Are European and North American forests growing? What are the challenges they encounter? How can policy makers address those challenges? What if policy makers privileged biodiversity conservation in European and North American forests? What if they favor carbon sequestration in forests over other functions? And what are the implications of reaching the renewable energy targets for wood and forests in Europe and North America?

The debate was chaired by Michael Zammit Cutajar, former Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and was held under the patronage of H.E. Mr. Janusz Zaleski, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Environment, Poland.

Discussions focused on the key findings of three major reports: the State of Europe's Forests 2011 report; the European Forest Sector Outlook Study (2010-2030); and the North American Forest Sector Outlook Study (2006-2030). The depth of data on forests in the ECE region represents a valuable asset for both international organizations who use it to communicate effectively with the private sector and for policy makers, who need good statistics on which to base their decisions.

The panel stressed the multifaceted role of forests in the overall economy (in the public and private sector), as well as their importance in meeting emission and renewable energy targets. The balance between different functions could be successfully achieved through competitiveness and continuous economic and industrial innovation, which could thrust the emergence of a new generation of wood-based products.

Politicians were called on to ensure a level playing field across the region and among regions as a prerequisite for guaranteeing the sustainability of bioenergy and allowing for the deployment of efficient biomass installations.

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The Chair concluded that tension between the policy options was too evident for policy makers to keep away from making choices. Different choices will have to be made according to national or regional economic, social and environmental contexts. However, a strong optimism was emerging, indicating that innovation, driven by policy and economic incentives, could balance these demands. When considering options, policy makers should look at costs and benefits beyond the forest sector alone and should remain aware of the potential policy conflicts. In the same way that climate change has not been left exclusively to climatologists, it is clear that forest policy is too important to be left to foresters alone.

Closing Ceremony International Year of Forest 2011



In closing, delegations of Geneva-based Missions to the United Nations were invited to decorate the 'United Nations tree' - a symbol of multilateralism – by contributing decorations related to the cultural, economic, environmental and social importance of forests in their respective countries. As the tree was lit with LED lights, the Forestry and Timber Section passed the 'baton' of the International Year of Forests on to the UNECE Division for Sustainable Energy, who will be working intensively in 2012 to mark the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All and support the cause of energy accessibility and sustainability in the ECE region.



For more information on "Forests 2030: The future of forests in Europe and North America" and the closing ceremony, please visit the UNECE website at: <http://www.unece.org/iyf-closing.html>

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Stakeholder meeting on the action plan for the forest sector in a Green economy, Palais des Nations, Geneva, 26 March 2012



If they come from sustainably managed forests and are sustainably produced, forest products contribute to a Green Economy. Policymakers are also increasingly interested in assigning values to the ecosystem services that forests provide – such as carbon storage, protection of drinking water and biodiversity – and then developing payment schemes to encourage their preservation and development.

“Forests in a Green Economy” was the underlying theme of the joint meeting of the ECE Timber Committee and FAO European Forestry Commission held last October in Antalya, Turkey. Discussions highlighted forests’ existing and potential contributions and the changes that are needed to make the sector even greener.

The meeting reviewed and welcomed the ECE/FAO [Action Plan \(http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/timber/images/ECE_TIM_2011_3_E-FO_EFC_2011_3.pdf\)](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/timber/images/ECE_TIM_2011_3_E-FO_EFC_2011_3.pdf) for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy developed in 2011. The Plan will be further refined during a second **Stakeholder Meeting in Geneva on 26 March**, and enriched following the call for contributions “Forests in a Green Economy: share your experience!”, which was widely circulated last month (see box below). The objective is to set up an on-line database of case studies and examples in order to help policymakers to identify successful solutions for the transition to a Green Economy.

Call for contributions

As many countries have already developed important measures and initiatives, an on-line database of relevant case studies and experiences in the ECE region on the Forest Sector in a Green Economy has been set up to collect from member States and relevant organizations.

Examples and case studies can differ in nature, covering sustainable forest management, sustainable forest products, innovative and environmentally sound solutions etc. Moreover, in line with the recommendation of the ECE/FAO workshop on Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) held in Geneva in July 2011, the database should also contain examples of PES schemes.

Kindly provide your name and contact details, together with information on your ‘Forests in a Green Economy’ case study to: greenecconomy.forests@unece.org

For further information, please contact:

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To register for the meeting and to find more detailed information, click here:

<http://www.unece.org/forests.html>

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Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party on Forest Statistics Economics and Management 34th session, Palais des Nations, Geneva, 27-29 March 2012

The Working Party (newly renamed) will provide guidance and exchange views on the five work areas: markets and statistics, forest resources, outlook studies, social and cultural, and policy and cross-sectoral issues. Delegates will also review the work of the Teams of Specialists and provide input to the Strategic Review which will decide priorities for the period 2014-2018. A presentation of the results, and planned work on the Joint Wood Energy Enquiry will also be made.

To register and more detailed information can be found at: <http://www.unece.org/forests.html>

Outcome of the Forests Products Marketing Workshop confirms broad support for enhanced regional cooperation

Bled, Slovenia 30 November to 1 December 2011

More than 60 people from industry, government, universities and state and private forestry hailed this significant workshop a success and urged everyone to work together to promote the south east Europe forestry sector within the region and to a wider audience.

The workshop provided an excellent opportunity for exchange of knowledge and best practice, both within and from outside the region and participants were unanimous in their support for the continuation of such workshops. This was the fifth such workshop organized under the auspices of UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber section, in cooperation with local partners. In this case, the Slovenian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food and the Slovenian Forestry Institute with Dr Nike Krajnc and colleagues having successfully attracted financial support from Mikran - More than Fibre and Paper, and the Central

European Initiative. Without the generous support of both, the workshop could not have taken place.

Taking place over two days in early December 2011, the workshop benefited from speakers from Austria; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Croatia; Serbia, Slovenia and Switzerland. There was a strong Finnish contingent, including Mr Pekka Metso, Finnish Ambassador to Slovenia, and Mr Hans Sohlström, Vice-President of UPM Kymmene, who outlined his vision for the sector and provided strong encouragement for the view that the sector has a bright and prosperous future, in spite of the difficulties that the industry currently faces.

Participants laid the foundation for the Bled Declaration, highlighting and recommending future priorities and action.

The declaration and presentations can be found at: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=16265>

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WOOD ENERGY



UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber

Wood confirmed as the primary source of renewable energy in Europe

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Wood energy accounts for 3% of the total primary energy supply (TPES) and 47% of the renewable energy supply (RES) in the UNECE region in 2009, confirming its role as the leading source of renewable energy. Wood covered almost 20% of the total energy demands of Sweden, Finland and Estonia and accounted for well over half the renewable energy supply in the Nordic and Baltic states as well as in Serbia and the Czech Republic. Around 44% of all mobilised woody biomass supply is used for energy purposes. Despite the increasing rate of wood consumption for energy, the region's forests are increasing in area as well as standing volumes.

These are the main conclusions of the UNECE/FAO Joint Wood Energy Enquiry (JWEE), a biennial questionnaire that aims to shed light on the real role of wood energy within the region by promoting cross-sectoral communication and cooperation between the energy and forestry sectors. Now in its third round since 2005, the JWEE has become a reference source of information on wood energy, drawing responses from an increasing number of countries.

Sources of wood energy

The main sources of wood energy are:

- Co-products and residues from forest-based industries, including processed wood fuels with improved energy content such as wood pellets, briquettes and charcoal (also called indirect sources) contributing 57%.
- Woody biomass from forests and other wooded land (also known as direct sources) such as logging residues, thinnings and clearings, which represent 40% of consumption.
- Recovered waste wood (mainly waste from construction, but also packaging and old furniture) which accounts for 3% of wood energy supply.

However, the proportion of these three sources varies among countries, with Serbia, Italy, France, the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Norway and Russia relying heavily on direct supplies of wood fibres whereas countries such as the United States, Belgium, Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Slovakia, Austria and Ireland rely mainly on wood supply from indirect sources. Finland, Sweden, Slovakia and the United States have large shares of energy generated from black liquor reflecting the relative importance of the pulp and paper industries in the forest sector. Waste wood is reported as a significant source of wood energy in the UK, Ireland, Germany and Switzerland where it is mainly consumed in power applications and waste to energy plants. In general, however, data on recovered wood is difficult to obtain and often not discernible from generic waste statistics.

Uses of wood energy

Wood energy is consumed in roughly equal measure (approximately 39% each) by forest-based industries and households. The highest shares of industrial use are in the United States, Ireland, Slovakia, Belgium, Finland and Sweden. The forest products industry typically consumes energy generated from the solid and liquid co-products of its manufacturing processes. Countries with important forest industries, such as Finland, Sweden and the United States, therefore, have a higher level of industrial consumption.

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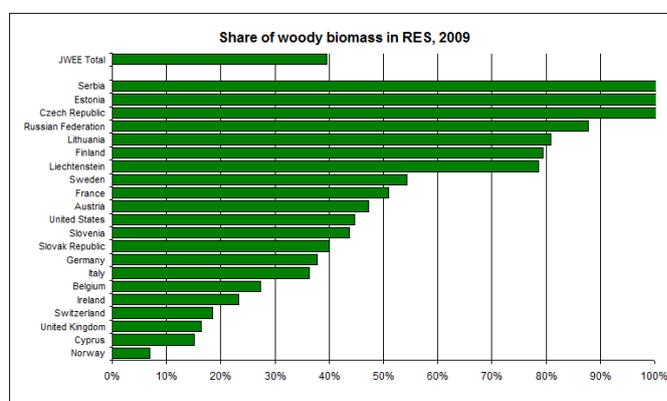
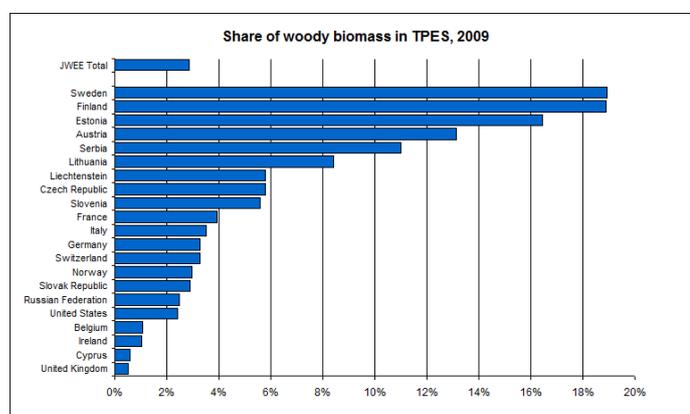
Residential use, mainly dependent on direct supplies of firewood, is prevalent in Southern and Central Europe with Serbia, France, the Czech Republic, Italy, Lithuania, Germany, Austria and Switzerland reporting this category as their primary use. Wood energy use by private households is often higher than anticipated as it may not be fully accounted for.

The power and heat sector is the most important consumer of wood energy in the United Kingdom, and has relatively large shares in Germany, Sweden and the Baltic region. Overall it represents 20% of wood energy use.

Main Trends

It was possible to identify trends in the use of wood energy and to provide a comparison based on a subset of countries that have responded to previous rounds of the enquiry. Between 2005 and 2009, the amount of wood used for energy purposes grew annually by 2.7%. One of the biggest movers, in relative terms, is the United Kingdom where wood now accounts for 16.3% of renewable energy supply (up from 8.2% in 2005) and 0.52% of total primary energy supply (up from 0.15% in 2005).

The role of wood in total primary energy supply grew whereas a slight decline in the role of wood energy among renewables was recorded. This, perhaps, reflects a faster rate of growth by other sources of renewable energy such as wind and solar. The structure of sources for wood energy has been relatively stable whereas there has been a growing trend to use wood for power and heat combined with a decrease in the use of wood energy in the residential sector.



Further Info:

The complete datasheets can be downloaded at <http://www.unece.org/forests/mis/energy/jwee.html>. The next round of the enquiry will be launched later this year following a capacity-building event to train national correspondents from participating countries.

For any additional comments or questions kindly contact:

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FOREST EUROPE and UNECE/ FAO launched interactive database on indicators of sustainable forest management in Europe

A web-based resource tool based on the joint FOREST EUROPE/ECE/FAO State of Europe's Forests 2011 report was released on 20 December 2011; containing the new unpublished data on forests, forest management and forest industry in the pan-European region. In addition to the English version, for the first time the database is available in Russian.

This new information tool which builds on a database released for the previous State of Europe's Forests report, provides a comprehensive, up-to-date description of the status and trends of forests and forest management in Europe. Based on 6 pan-European criteria for sustainable forest management, the database offers tremendous knowledge on 31 quantitative indicators to anyone interested in learning more about Europe's forest-related data and activities.

In addition to characteristics of European forests and forestry data in general, the user also has access to information on the balance of carbon in forest ecosystems, forest health condition, status of forest biodiversity as well as information on wood energy. Aspects of production, including wood and non-wood products and services, are presented along with information on protected forest areas as well as data collected in the process of the pilot application of new [European Forest Types](#). The database also provides information on social and economic aspects of the forestry sector.

In line with the structure of criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management, the data are presented in a way that illustrates trends of chosen variables for the years 1990, 2000, 2005 and 2010. The interface enables online review and simple analysis, but also allows selective extraction of the requested data in different formats.

The database, which was produced with support provided by the Government of Finland in cooperation with UNECE Statistical Division, is available at: <http://w3.unece.org/pxweb/>. These data are presented alongside other statistical data from different parts of the UNECE work programme. The FOREST EUROPE Liaison Unit Oslo and UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section encourage the international community to take advantage of this valuable resource, and to make suggestions for further improvement.

Additional information on State of Europe's Forests 2011 including the main report, country reports on qualitative and quantitative indicators, reports on European Forest Types, data and definitions is available at, <http://www.unece.org/forests/fr/outputs/soef2011>

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Staff



Dominique Reeb holds an M. Sc. in Forestry from the University of British Columbia, Canada, and has over 25 years' work experience, mostly in developing countries and countries in transition. During his various assignments and responsibilities he gained diversified experience in forest and natural resources management and more specifically, in participatory forestry, forest policy and institutional development.

His longest assignment was in Africa, where as team leader of a GIZ project he developed, in collaboration with the Gambian Forestry Department, a community forestry concept from pilot stage up to countrywide implementation, including the preparation and formulation of a supportive institutional framework (policy and legislation).

In 2000 he moved to FAO headquarters as a Forestry Officer, then as Senior Forestry Officer in charge of participatory forestry. His work in Rome was mainly dealing with aspects of: participatory processes for forest administration, participatory processes in the National Forest Programme framework, role of forestry in poverty alleviation, training in participatory approaches, conflict management, community-based forest fire management, community-based enterprise development, forest tenure, backstopping and supervisory missions of Technical Cooperation Projects (TCP) and field programmes/projects in Africa, Central and Eastern Europe, Asia and Latin America. From 2007 till end of 2008 he was posted in the FAO Sub-regional Office for Central Asia in Ankara, Turkey, as Senior Forestry Officer.

His work in Central Asia focused on NFP development, forest policy and legislation and forest tenure. From the end of 2008 to January 2012, he was Chief Technical Adviser in charge of implementing the FAO project "Capacity Building and Institutional Development for Participatory Natural Resources Management and Conservation in Forest Areas of Mongolia". He has recently joined the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section in February 2012 and will be its Deputy Chief.

Elina Warsta joined the section in November as an Associate Professional Officer (APO Forest) dealing with forest policies and monitoring. Before that, she worked in research and teaching in the Forest Products Technology Department of Aalto University, Espoo, Finland, and participated in developing new courses in bioproduct technology.

Elina has studied forest products chemistry and environmental technology, and completed her Master's thesis for the Finnish Forest Research Institute (Metla) related to an international project on climate change effects on tree growth and chemistry.



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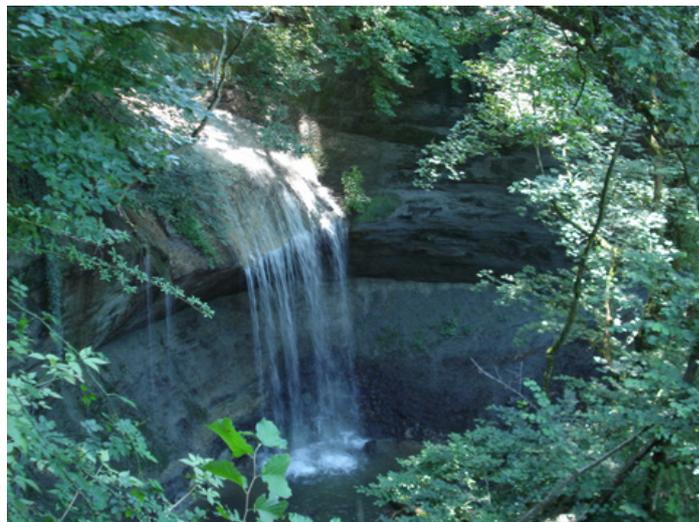
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Colloque final du projet franco-suisse ALPEAU 28 et 29 Mars 2012 à Evian (F)

Pour faire part des expériences, partager les acquis et travailler sur les suites à donner en lien avec l'ensemble des acteurs, les partenaires du projet vous invitent à participer au colloque final du projet qui aura lieu les 28 et 29 Mars 2012 à Evian (Haute-Savoie, France).

Ce colloque est destiné aux élus et collectivités en charge de l'approvisionnement en eau potable, aux élus et gestionnaires des territoires forestiers, aux acteurs de l'eau et de la forêt en général.

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



Rio+20, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development Rio de Janeiro, June 2012

The spotlight will be on the green economy at Rio+20, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to be held in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012. Much has been published and discussed about this new concept and how it might shape the future of humanity and its development paths. As the discussions leading to Rio emphasize, it is now time for action. UNECE is ready and already working to make this concept operational.

Regarding forestry, an action plan, which identifies steps for countries to make the green economy concept operational in the forest sector, has been developed. The plan will be followed by examples of initiatives already undertaken at the national level to build knowledge and facilitate action.

For more information, you can download the latest version of the [Action Plan](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/timber/images/ECE_TIM_2011_3_E-FO_EFC_2011_3.pdf) (http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/timber/images/ECE_TIM_2011_3_E-FO_EFC_2011_3.pdf) and read the article on page 5.



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FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

12-16 March, Ispra
Consultation on Global FRA 2015

26 March, Geneva
Stakeholder Meeting on the Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy

27-29 March, Geneva
34th session, Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party on
Forest Statistics, Economics and Management

30 March, Geneva
UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists
on Forest Sector Outlook

8 May, Geneva
Policy Talk on Wood Energy

22-24 May, St.-Petersburg
UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists
on Monitoring Sustainable Forests Management

11-13 June, Paris
Joint Wood Energy Enquiry Workshop



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