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In this issue

- UNECE/FAO Teams of Specialists
- European Forest Types
- Workshop on Estimating Potential Sustainable Wood Supply
- ECE/FAO Region reaches out to China
- Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics
- Statistics Workshop for the CIS Region
- Klaus – a storm damaging forests in France and Spain
- 60 Anniversary of the Timber Section
- Forthcoming meetings

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

UNECE/FAO
Timber Section
Trade and Timber Division
Palais des Nations
CH – 1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Tel.: +41 22 917 3254
Fax: +41 22 917 0041

Email: info.timber@unece.org
www.unece.org/timber



United Nations

UNECE/FAO TEAMS OF SPECIALISTS

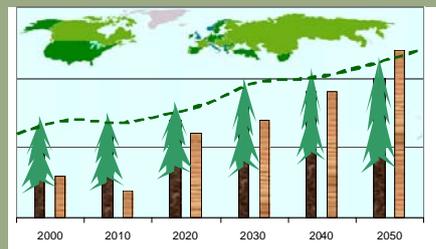
Forest Communicators Network



Professional communicators from government, private sector and NGOs share experience, spread expertise on communication and advise international bodies on communication issues. Played a major role in preparing the European Forest Week 2008.

Forest Sector Outlook

Team members from national Ministries, research agencies, international forest- and environment-related institutions, associations and projects bring together their expertise and ideas to develop a new forest sector outlook study.



Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management



The team which is a successor of the Team of Specialists on Forest Resources Assessment, gathers practitioners and researchers on forest and forest management monitoring. As part of its mandate, the Team contributes to the reporting on SFM in the region and provides regional advice to the global assessment.

FAO/ECE/ILO Expert Network

A network of experts concerned with implementation, especially as regards the workforce.

Recently has organised two Conferences of Forest Training Centres and one on safety and health in forest operations.



ON 2 APRIL FOR THE FIRST TIME THE LEADERS OF ALL SEVEN TEAMS, EACH WITH THEIR OWN MANDATE AND MEMBERSHIP, MET WITH THE BUREAUX FOR MUTUAL BRIEFING AND FINDING SYNERGIES. THESE TEAMS MAKE AN INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTION AND WE DECIDED TO MAKE THIS MORE VISIBLE THAN IN THE PAST.

Forest Policy in Eastern Europe and Central Asia



Forest policy experts from 29 countries exchange information on priority issues and lessons learned, identify needs for assistance and work jointly to enhance capacities in forest policy formulation and implementation.



Forest Fires

Global wildland fire experts address trans-boundary cooperation in fire fighting, fire management for terrain contaminated with unexploded ordinance, global vegetation fire inventory and the Rosersberg Initiative (training and competence).

Forest Products Markets and Marketing

Marketing experts continue to focus on green building issues and will organize a workshop to kick off the Timber Committee week in October. They also are building capacity in forest products marketing.



WORKING TOGETHER FOR TIMBER AND FORESTS

UNECE/FAO TEAM OF SPECIALISTS ON FOREST POLICY IN EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

Forest policy experts from 21 countries in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus met in Budapest on 4-6 March 2009 for the first time as members of the "Team of Specialists on Forest Policy in Eastern Europe and Central Asia". They exchanged information on policy developments in each country and decided of future Team activities to enhance national capacities in forest policy formulation and implementation. The work plan prepared for the period 2008-2013 proposes activities with the objective of strengthening cooperation between countries and enabling them to benefit from the expertise and lessons learned by others. Future activities encompass the set up of a website, workshops to bring together experiences, success stories and needs for expertise, and information provision and discussion of terms and definitions related to forest policy.

The Team will monitor the implementation of the Krtiny Declaration which addresses recommendations to governments in Eastern Europe and Central Asia and International Organizations to strengthen the policy and institutional framework.

Meeting documents and proceedings are available at:
www.fao.org/regional/seur/events/UNECE_FAO_TOS/UNECE_FAO_TOS_en.htm

OUTLOOK STUDY WORK STARTS

Planning for the next forest sector outlook study started with a meeting of the Team of Specialists.

More details in the next Newsletter.

UNECE/FAO TEAM OF SPECIALISTS ON MONITORING SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

The inaugural meeting of the team under its new mandate was held on 25-27 February 2009 at the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. The meeting came as a continuation of the past 14 meetings of teams which were organized under previous mandates. Following a call for nominations of members for the new period of the Strategic Plan, the team is of 36 officially-nominated members from 30 countries. In addition, 7 experts from various organisations have so far been invited by the secretariat to contribute to the team.

The intensive 2.5-day programme enabled the Team to address the most urgent issues that are in the current agenda. Among others issues, the Team discussed aspects related to the FAO Forest Resources Assessment 2010 reporting, including complex variables of "Permanent Forest Estate" and "Area under Sustainable Forest Management". Considerable amount of time was dedicated to discussions on aspects related to the better consistency between the MCPFE reporting of quantitative indicators and the FRA. This resulted in a set of recommendations which implementation should diminish national reporting burden, and at the same time should increase the usefulness of the data reported. Finally, the Team carefully reviewed the possibilities and consequences of using the new European Forest Type categories in the next MCPFE reporting cycle.

The full report of the meeting includes the Team's recommendations and other useful documentation, and is available at:
<http://timber.unece.org/index.php?id=130>.

EUROPEAN FOREST TYPES

Introduction

Acting within the framework of the MCPFE Work Programme the UNECE/FAO is leading the work on refinement of European forest types, with a view of their future application in the pan-European reporting on forests. This is the first of several articles in the newsletter which will briefly describe the process and overall classification.

Background and Process

The main reason for introducing the forest types concept into SFM assessment is to improve reporting by describing separately forests which differ significantly from each other. Seven of the 35 MCPFE indicators are to be broken down "by forest type". A simplified concept ("predominantly broadleaved", "mixed" and "predominantly coniferous") was used for the reports prepared for earlier MCPFE conferences.

The need for a better classification of forest types is widely recognised. Development activities are based on the proposal for classification that has been prepared by European Environment Agency, in cooperation with an international consortium of experts coordinated by the Italian Academy of Forest Sciences, led by Prof. M. Marchetti.

According to the 2007 proposal the following European forest types (at the first "category" level) were distinguished:

1. Boreal forest
2. Hemiboreal forest and nemoral coniferous and mixed broadleaved-coniferous forest
3. Alpine coniferous forest
4. Acidophilous oakwood and oak-birch forest
5. Mesophytic deciduous forest
6. Lowland to submountainous beech forest
7. Mountainous beech forest
8. Thermophilous deciduous forest
9. Broadleaved evergreen forest
10. Coniferous forests of the Mediterranean, Anatolian and Macaronesian regions
11. Mire and swamp forest
12. Floodplain forest
13. Non-riverine alder, birch or aspen forest
14. Plantations and self-sown exotic forest

Subsequent issues of the Newsletter will present each of the 14 categories.

WORKSHOP ON ESTIMATING POTENTIAL SUSTAINABLE WOOD SUPPLY

On March 30 a workshop was held to propose an overall assessment of potential sustainable wood supply.

Kit Prins summarised the recommendations of the Workshop:

- Countries should carry out studies of the potential sustainable supply of all sources of wood, and share the information internationally, so that a regional picture can be constructed.
- Good practice principles for studies of potential sustainable wood supply developed by the workshop are at the disposal of countries on a voluntary basis in order to prepare future / adjust current studies of potential wood supply.
- Countries are encouraged to adapt their approach to the good practice principles in the interests of international comparability and to enable the creation of an overall regional picture.

A revised version of the recent UNECE/FAO study on potential sustainable wood supply study, taking account of comments, would be issued later this year and contribute to an improved estimation of European wood supply potential.

A list of conclusions and recommendations, as well as all the other documentation, can be found on our website at: <http://timber.unece.org/index.php?id=128>

THE ECE/FAO REGION REACHES OUT TO CHINA



The China National Forest Products Industry Association (CNFPPIA) kindly invited Ed Pepke to give a presentation on global timber trade trends at the International Flooring Conference in Changzhou on 26 March. Over the last 10 years the *Forest Products Annual Market Review* has reported on Chinese markets and their impacts on the UNECE region, both positive and negative. He profited from being in China to build collaboration with the CNFPPIA, the Chinese Academy of Forestry and the State Forestry Administration.

31ST MEETING OF THE JOINT FAO/UNECE WORKING PARTY ON FOREST ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS

The 31st meeting of the Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics was held in Geneva on 31 March 31 to 1April.

Delegates were briefed on the results of the Joint Wood Energy Enquiry (JWEE) 2007 as well as providing guidance to the activities taking place in markets and statistics, sustainable forest management, outlook studies and policies and institutions. The Working Party endorsed the conclusions and recommendations formulated at the Workshop on Estimating Potential Sustainable Wood Supply.

All the information presented at the meeting can be found at: <http://timber.unece.org/index.php?id=125>

WORKSHOP ON FOREST PRODUCTS STATISTICS FOR THE CIS-REGION NATIONAL STATISTICAL CORRESPONDENTS

On 16-19 February 2009 a joint FAO and UNECE meeting was held in Moscow. Representatives of nine CIS countries attended the meeting. The objectives were to increase awareness and understanding of the role of forest products statistics, the collection methods used by FAO and UNECE and to strengthen the network of country correspondents. The participants identified a number of obstacles to successful cooperation in forest products statistics at the national and international level and methods of overcoming these. Several follow-up actions were identified, including organizing national-level workshops.

The meeting was hosted by the All-Russian Institute of Continuous Education in Forestry and included a tour of the Vladimir region and a plywood mill. Previous correspondent meetings have been held in Geneva as well as Santiago, Chile and India.

Staff

Marion Briens, French Associate Professional Officer, joined the Timber Section in November 2008 and has been actively contributing to the work on policies and institutions, notably the Team of Specialists on Forest Policy in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, the Inter-Secretariat Coordination Group on Monitoring Forest Policy, and the FRA 2010 reporting process.

KLAUS – A STORM DAMAGING FORESTS IN FRANCE AND SPAIN

On 24-25 January a destructive windstorm ripped through southern France, causing devastation to private property and forests, also in Spain. Winds roared up to 200 kilometres per hour. The windthrow amounted to 30% of the region's annual harvest. Coming during weak roundwood markets for industry needs, where demand was down 50%, prices fell.



In southwest France, the Aquitaine sustained tremendous damage, amounting to 30-50 million m³ to 300,000 hectares. This equates to up to 7 years of the region's annual harvest and 2 years of France's annual softwood harvest.

In northwest Spain, the Galicia region was hardest hit. The Union des Sylviculteurs du Sud de l'Europe (USSE) estimates the damage at 1.5 million m³, mostly to plantations of eucalyptus and maritime pine. This volume equals about 30% of Galician annual harvests and 15% of Spain's annual harvest.

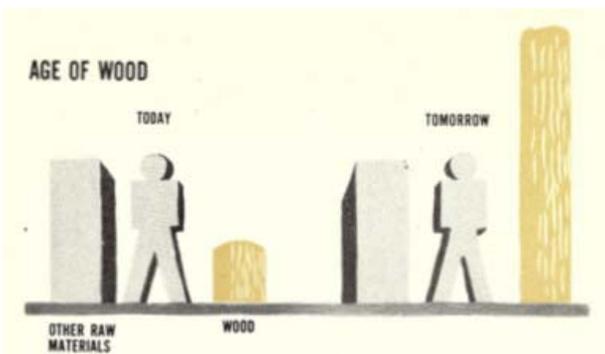
Governments took action to provide assistance in the form of compensation, stocking logs under water and helping industries to use the abundance of wood for products and energy

The Timber Section established a website on storm damage with a link from the homepage. As information becomes available, the site is updated. It contains the *UNECE/FAO Manual on Acute Storm Damage*.

www.unece.org/timber/storm/storm.htm

SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TIMBER SECTION

The ECE/FAO forest and timber programme was founded 60 years ago. A International Timber Conference at Marianske Lazne addressed a major crisis: millions of homeless after the war, an urgent need for reconstruction and building materials especially timber, war-devastated and heavily over-cut forests, shortages of labour and capital, and generally disrupted societies. The Conference agreed on a plan of action, calling for increased cuttings, and restrictions on lumber consumption in the short term, combined with a long term commitment to forest management and the establishment of forest industries. It also recommended the establishment of international bodies: the ECE Timber Sub-Committee (later a full Committee) and the FAO European Forestry Commission.



Source: "The Coming Age of Wood" by Egon Glesinger, 1949.

The Committee first met in October 1947 and the Commission in July 1948, with a joint ECE/FAO secretariat, based in Geneva and led by Egon Glesinger, later head of FAO's forest activities.

Over the first five years, ECE/FAO set the pattern which was to be maintained:

- Quarterly reviews of "softwood lumber production programmes", which were compared to likely needs, the size of the "gap" estimated, and corrective measures.
- Maintenance and improvement of statistical series on forest products market.
- Collection of information on the state of the European forest resource, based on direct contacts with national forest inventories, in the few countries where such inventories had been carried out. This work was carried out as part of a global effort led by FAO.
- Exchange of information on forest policy at sessions of the EFC.
- European *Timber Trends and Prospects*, published in 1953, which called for a "dynamic forest policy" after careful consideration of the outlook for demand for wood in Europe, roundwood production and international trade.

It is easy to see in the above the ancestors of today's Timber Committee market discussions, Timber data base, forest resource assessment, policy forums and forest sector outlook studies.

Source: Based on a presentation by Kit Prins at the European Forest Week

2009 MEETINGS

- Geneva, 13-14 May, core team meeting on Outlook Studies
- Grenoble, 16-18 June, UNECE/FAO Workshop on Wood Mobilization. (see at http://timber.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/meetings/Grenoble_WKP_Registration_01.doc)
- Geneva, 12-16 October, UNECE/FAO Timber Committee, 67th Session, including:
 - Workshop on "Responding to Climate Change: wooden building products and systems in the UNECE Region" on 12 October
 - Market Discussions on the Economic crisis on 13 – 14 October
 - Policy Forum "The Forest Sector and a Green New Deal" on 15 Oct.