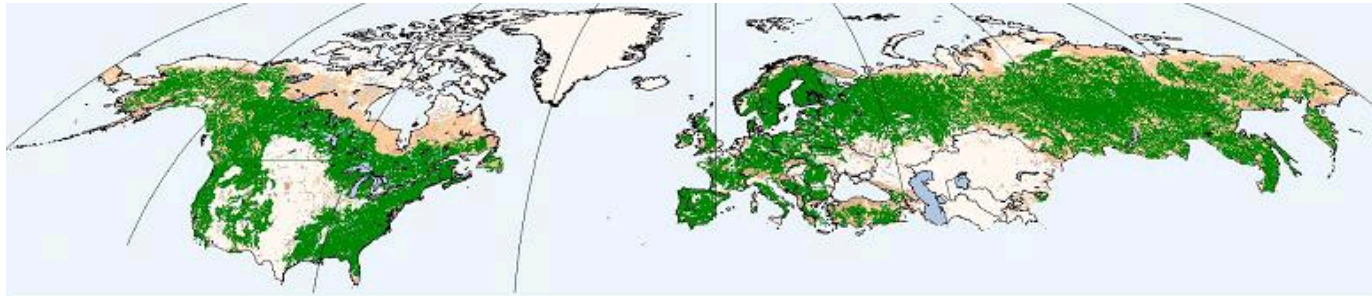


UNECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission



This leaflet introduces the UNECE Timber Committee (TC) and the FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC), who work together to promote sustainable forest management in Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and North America, through their integrated programme of work. The UNECE and the FAO Forestry Department jointly provide the secretariat team to implement the programme.

Principles

- Balance between ecological, economic and social dimensions of sustainability
- Need for strong consensus among stakeholders
- Cross-sectoral approach
- Partnerships
- Recognise special needs of CIS and south-east Europe

Activities of the programme

- Analyse and monitor policy and developments on the ground
- Collect, validate and disseminate information and analysis
- Stimulate exchange of experience and cooperation between countries

Objective of the programme:

To contribute to achieving sustainable forest management, including the sound and legal use of wood, other forest products and services, throughout the UNECE region, and to ensure measurement of that progress.



Integrated programme of work on forests and timber, 2005 - 2008

The integrated programme has five major work areas and 21 programme elements as follows:

1. Markets and statistics

- Statistics on production, trade, consumption and prices of forest products
- Analysis of markets for forest products, notably topical and policy relevant aspects
- Capacity building for forest products marketing in countries of CIS and south east Europe
- Monitoring and analysis of markets for certified wood products
- Statistics on forest fires

2. Forest resource assessment (FRA) and indicators of sustainable forest management in the region

- Indicators of sustainable forest management in the region
- Regional contribution to global FRA
- Support to development of national systems for forest monitoring

3. Sector outlook studies: analysis and follow-up

- Implementation and follow up of the European Forest Sector Outlook Study (EFSOS)
- Forest relevant cross-sectoral issues at the pan-European level
- Sector policy aspects of increased use of wood energy

4. Social and cultural aspects of forestry

- Role of women in forestry
- The social dimension of sustainable forest management in Europe, e.g. safety and health aspects
- Role of contractors

5. Policy and cross-sectoral issues

- Contribution to the regional dimension of the global dialogue
- Monitoring recent developments in policies and institutions
- Trends in policies and institutions for the sector in CIS and south east Europe
- Trade and environment issues - extent and causes of illegal logging
- Forest fires
- Sectoral and cross-sectoral communication
- Preparation



of forest and
forest products
country profiles

Structures

UNECE Timber Committee

TC meets annually in Geneva, as a forum for policy discussion and for discussion of market trends and outlook. It also reviews implementation of the work programme.

FAO European Forestry Commission

EFC meets every two years, alternately in an HQ location (Geneva or Rome) and a member country. It reviews recent developments in policy and institutions and acts as a policy forum. It identifies emerging policy issues in the region for the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO). It also reviews implementation of the work programme.

Bureaux

The Bureaux consist of the office-holders, Chairman and Vice-Chairs, of the TC and the EFC and the Chair of the Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics.

Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics

The Working Party meets annually in Geneva to provide guidance to activities in work areas 1, 2 and 3, as well as any other linked activity.

Joint Experts Network to implement sustainable forest management

This is an international structure which acts as an interface between forest practitioners, researchers and policy makers; and link for sustainable forest management policy implementation in Europe and North America.

Secretariat

A team in Geneva, with staff from both UNECE and FAO, services the intergovernmental meetings, collects and analyses data, convenes seminars and workshops and coordinates the inputs of hundreds of national experts.

Teams of specialists

Several activities are implemented or guided by teams of specialists, voluntary groups of experts who work with the secretariat to achieve specified goals. The integrated programme has seven teams as follows:

- Markets and marketing
- Monitoring forest resources for sustainable forest management in UNECE region
- Gender and forestry
- Best practices in forest contracting
- Support and contribution to sustainable development of the forest sector in south east Europe and in the CIS
- Forest fires
- Forest communicators network

Data and statistics

The secretariat maintains and makes available in paper and on the website, a number of databases:

- Production and trade of forest products (annual data)
- Forest resource data
- Prices of forest products and roundwood
- Forestry assistance to countries in transition



UNECE/FAO Timber Branch website

The UNECE/FAO Timber Branch website covers a huge collection of forest and forest-related information, statistics, publications and documents which are available for downloading.

All UNECE/FAO Timber Branch meetings and workshops' documents, presentations and background papers are also available on the website (www.unece.org/trade/timber).



Partnerships

The TC and the EFC work wherever possible in partnership with other organisations. Operational partnerships are in place with the Liaison Unit for the Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE), Eurostat International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO) and the European Forest Institute (EFI). Cooperation has been established and is on-going with a wide range of social, economic and environmental NGOs.

Publications

Publications are issued on every aspect of the work programme. Regular publications include:

- Forest products Annual market Review;
- Regional forest resource assessments;
- Indicators of sustainable forest management;
- European forest sector outlook studies (EFSOS); and
- Country profiles of the forest and forest products sector.



UNECE Member Countries

Albania*
 Andorra
 Armenia
 Austria*
 Azerbaijan
 Belarus
 Belgium*
 Bosnia and Herzegovina
 Bulgaria*
 Canada
 Croatia
 Cyprus*
 Czech Republic*
 Denmark*
 Estonia*
 Finland*
 France*
 Georgia
 Germany*

Greece*
 Hungary*
 Iceland*
 Ireland*
 Israel*
 Italy*
 Kazakhstan
 Kyrgyzstan
 Latvia*
 Liechtenstein
 Lithuania*
 Luxembourg*
 Malta*
 Monaco
 Netherlands*
 Norway*
 Poland*
 Portugal*

Republic of Moldova
 Romania*
 Russian Federation
 San Marino
 Serbia and Montenegro
 Slovakia*
 Slovenia*
 Spain*
 Sweden*
 Switzerland*
 Tajikistan
 The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
 Turkey*
 Turkmenistan
 Ukraine
 United Kingdom*
 United States
 Uzbekistan

*Member of the FAO European Forestry Commission