



Report of the thirty-seventh session of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management

Mr. Johannes HANGLER

Chair of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management



UNECE



**Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations**

Outline

- Overview
- Workshop
- Guidance by Work Area
- Self-assessment
- Roundtable discussion
- UNFF infographic
- Data and place of next meeting

Overview

- Joint ECE/ FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management held its thirty-seventh session in Geneva from 18 to 20 March 2015
- 21 member states attended the meeting
- Three main parts:
 - i. Secretariat + ToS reporting on achievements by Work Area and feedback and guidance provided by member states
 - ii. Roundtable discussion
 - iii. Self-assessment of the Working Party

Workshop

“Threats to the Sustainability of the Forest Sector Workforce”

- Workshop moderator Thorsten Arndt reported
- Challenges:
 - low profitability of many (small) businesses
 - forest work not regarded as desirable, esp. to young people
 - hazardous profession
- Recommendations:
 - Improve data on forest sector workforce
 - Analyse changes in the sector
 - Put emphasis on education and positive communication

Guidance by Work Area

WA1

- data, monitoring and assessment

WA2

- policy dialogue and advice

WA3

- communication and outreach

WA4

- capacity building

Work Area 1

- Secretariat reported on
 - Global and regional reporting (FRA 2015, quant. Pan-European Indicators, SEMAFOR, forest ownership enquiry, report for UNFF)
 - Forest products statistics (JFSQ, Timber Forecast Q, HS revision)
 - Forest products markets (FPAMR)
 - Wood energy (JWEE)
- ToS on Monitoring SFM: Stein Tomter informed about
 - Geneva meeting, Oct. 2014: review draft report for UNFF and draft questionnaire on forest ownership
 - Planned Engelberg meeting: review of results of 2015 reporting processes, incl. SEMAFOR

Work Area 1 cont.

- ToS on Forest Products Statistics: Branko Glavonjic informed about
 - 17th March meeting: JFSQ, test survey on game meat
- ToS on Sustainable Forest Products: Eoin O'Driscoll informed that
 - Planned workshop in Montenegro (postponed to December 2015)
 - Team members reviewed the FPAMR
- ToS on Wood Energy: Kasimir Nemestothy informed about
 - 2nd meeting, 11-13 March, Vienna: JWEE methodology, conversion factors, wood balances, possible wood energy publication, plan to organise a JWEE training workshop

Work Area 1 cont.

- Feedback & recommendations by Member States
 - Parallel manner of global and regional reporting was welcomed
 - Pilot character of SEMAFOR was stressed
 - Forest ownership enquiry was welcomed, but increasing number of enquiries raised concerns about reporting burdens
 - WP welcomed the study “Forests in the ECE region” and recommended sharing it with UNFF-11
 - Delegations expressed concerns about the reduction in JFSQ data validation at Eurostat
 - WP requested the Forest Products ToS to think about linking its work more directly with the work of the Joint Section
 - Wood energy publication and training workshop idea was welcomed

Work Area 2

➤ Secretariat reported on

- Green Economy incl. the RAP, first results of the wood construction study, developments related to SDGs and the timeline for a new Outlook study (identification of policy options + budget plan 2015, decision on scope based on available funds 2016, modelling 2017, report 2018)

➤ ToS on Forest Policy: Marta Gaworska informed about

- 1st meeting, Sept. 2014, Krakow: means and ways to implement the RAP at national levels
- 2nd meeting, Oct. 2015, Prague: should continue to support RAP implementation through exchange of experiences and information

➤ ToS on Forest Sector Outlook: Jeff Prestemon informed about

- Ispra meeting in Jan. 2015: Forest Sector Outlook study

Work Area 2 cont.

➤ Feedback & recommendations by Member States

- The work on the study «*Promoting sustainable building materials and the implication on the use of wood in building*» was welcomed, also the idea to present the outcomes to the Committee on Housing and Land Management
- WP welcomed the intention to further harmonize the outlook studies in the ECE sub-regions
- WP noted the timeline for a future outlook study
- WP requested the secretariat to ensure good coordination between different studies, to avoid replicating existing studies and to coordinate well with ongoing studies

Work Area 3

➤ Secretariat informed about

- Forest Communicators Network activities:
 - A Task Force meeting in Engelberg in Feb. 2015 elaborated communication recommendations for Silva 2015.
 - regular meeting in May 2015 in Barcelona
- the International Day of Forests 2015 programme of events, which took place at the Palais des Nations on 20 March under the banner «Forests for Food – Food for Forests»

Work Area 4

➤ Secretariat informed about

- The status of the UNDA project «SFM for Greener Economies in the Caucasus and Central Asia» (implemented until July 2015)
- A new UNDA funded capacity-building project in CCA for 2016-2017

➤ ToS on Green Jobs: Andreas Bernasconi informed about

- 1st meeting in June in Geneva + team leader meeting in Oct. 2014: action plan 2014-2016 was developed
- Organisation of the workshop on 17 March 2015
- Planned activities: 2nd meeting 24-25 March 2015 in Geneva, side-event in Engelberg 4 Nov. 2015, workshop in Ireland 2016

Work Area 4 cont.

- Feedback & recommendations by Member States
 - Current work on capacity building and green jobs was welcomed
 - The importance of positive communication on addressing the challenges related to jobs was stressed

Self-assessment

- Achievements and shortcomings were assessed in two groups.
- Each group presented conclusions and recommendations.
- The recommendations can be found in Annex I of the report.
- The WP agreed that the secretariat present progress made in implementation of these recommendations during next WP session.

Roundtable discussion

- In-session 2 hours roundtable discussion on «**Approaches to the valuation of forest ecosystem services in the ECE region**»
- Participants found that the value of wood products account for more than 80% of the monetised value generated.
- The issue of valuing ecosystem services is receiving increasing policy attention.
- Despite many scientific studies undertaken in this field, data are often not of sufficient quality of coverage for use in statistics.
- It was recognized that there are many important values that are not currently incorporated in our valuation system and many challenges remain.

UNFF infographic graphic



Date and place of next meeting

- The Working Party agreed to hold its next meeting in the week of the International Day of Forest 2016.
- Following dates are foreseen:
 - Celebration of the IDF on 21 March
 - Workshop on 22 March
 - Working Party from 23 to 24 March

THANK YOU!



For more information please see
ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2015/2 or contact the secretary of
the Working Party: **Mr. Florian Steierer**



UNECE



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations