

Report on the 38th Session of the Joint UNECE-FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management



Seventy-fourth session of the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry
18-20 October 2016, Geneva, Switzerland



Work Area 1: Data Monitoring and Assessment

- Great success in data collection for the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire (JFSQ) and the Timber Forecast Questionnaire (TFQ)
 - Thank you to all member states
- Wood Energy Team of Specialists
 - Writing a publication on wood energy use in the ECE
 - Meeting scheduled for spring in Washington, DC



Work Area 1: Data Monitoring and Assessment



- Wood Energy ToS (Continued)
 - There is a great need for consistent data for science and policy making
 - Need to better understand wood energy-traditional forest products markets interactions
- HTS Work of the Forest Products Statistics ToS
 - Efforts on improved classifications of fibreboard, particles and chips, pulp and paper categories, engineered wood products, charcoal briquettes



Work Area 1: Data Monitoring and Assessment



- Joint Wood Energy Enquiry a success
 - Wood = 3.5% of all energy, 35% of renewable energy in the ECE
- Sustainable Forest Products Team of Specialists
 - Collaboration with the ToS on Green Jobs in workshops was highlighted, with success in workshop in Montenegro last December
 - Great desire and need for more funding—e.g., capacity building in the Balkan nations, southeastern Europe



Work Area 1: Data Monitoring and Assessment



- Pilot project on the System for the Evaluation of the Management of Forests (SEMAFOR)
 - Most of the 17 ECE member states that were piloted report increasing forest area
 - Lack good information on
 - forests available for wood supply
 - Eutrophication of water is a problem
 - Poor rates of natural regeneration found
 - Not enough protected areas
 - Great promise in this project's approach



- **Work Area 2: Policy Dialogue and Advice**

- Forest Sector Outlook Team of Specialists
 - Leadership met Monday 17 October 2016
 - The next round of Outlook studies is in process, meeting planning underway
 - Scenario development in progress
 - Meeting scheduled with Russian Federation
 - Intent to harmonize modeling of all ECE subregions
 - Member states urged catastrophic risk to be considered in these outlooks, to the extent possible



- **Work area 3:**

Communication and outreach

- Forests and Water themed events on the International Day of the Forest on 21 March 2016
- Forest Communicators Network
 - Need to update and advance social media efforts
 - Need for more publications to be translated to Russian



Work Area 4: Capacity Building



- United Nations Development Account (UNDA)-funded capacity building, including a new effort, for 2016-2019, “Accountability Systems for SFM in the Caucasus and Central Asia”.
- Great efforts at bringing together the expertise of multiple teams of specialists
 - Forest Products Statistics
 - Green Jobs in the Forest Sector
 - Sustainable Forest Products



Roundtable on COP21

- Theme: what will the Conference of Parties 21 meeting in Paris in December 2015 mean for the work of the Joint WP?
- Six speakers
 - Dirk Nemetz, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)—COP21 implications for the forest sector
 - Heikki Granholm, Director, Natural Resources Department, Finnish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry—implications of COP21 for Finland
 - Prof. Tomasz Zawiła-Niedźwiecki, Deputy Director General, Polish Directorate General of the State Forests, and Poland’s “Carbon Farms”



Roundtable on COP21

- Speakers (continued)
 - Prof. Gert-Jan Nabuurs, Professor, European Forest Resources, Alterra/Wageningen University and Research—how the Paris Agreement might influence future forest-related research and science
 - Mr. Sebastian Rüter, Senior Researcher, Thünen Institute of Wood Research—carbon accounting in harvested wood products, need for high quality data
 - Ms. Thais Linhares-Juvenal, Head, Forest Economics and Statistics, FAO—emphasized implications of the UNFCCC on FAO’s future work on forests, how it is committed to supporting nations in achieving targets under Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs).



Roundtable on COP21

- Some important points
 - What about the increased threat of forest disturbances due to climate change—insects and diseases, wildfires? If we sequester more carbon, then our risk of catastrophic rapid releases of carbon
 - Need to work on forest resilience
 - The COP21 agreement is not prescriptive; it gives each country the freedom to find its way to zero net emissions, bringing in the forest sector as it desires



Roundtable on COP21

- Some important points
 - Enhanced role of forests in achieving net greenhouse gas emissions reductions
 - Carbon accounting
 - Consideration of implications of carbon markets, carbon taxes
 - Increased need for more science on the carbon-neutrality question
 - Increased need for high quality data
 - Carbon stocks
 - Wood products carbon



JWP Officer Changes

- Johannes Hangler (Austria), moving to Immediate Past (Vice) Chair
- Jeff Prestemon (USA) as the Chair
- Mr. Matthias Dieter (Germany) was elected Vice Chair
- Honored the work Ms. Elina Mäki-Simola for her dedication and service as chair and vice chair of the Working Party from 2011-2016.



