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70 YEARS WORKING TOGETHER IN THE SERVICE OF FORESTS AND PEOPLE



Item 2.(d) Report of the Working Party

Jeffrey Prestemon,
Chair of the Joint UNECE/FAO Working Party on Forest
Statistics, Economics and Management



**Las2017 - Joint Session of the ECE Committee on Forests and
the Forest Industry and the FAO European Forestry Commission**
9-13 October 2017, Warsaw, Poland

LAS 2017



This presentation refers to the background documents ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2017/2

This presentation is

- ... a report of the thirty-ninth session of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management
- ... focusing on Item 6 – guidance on work areas 1-4

- ... not about the CONTENT of the Integrated Programme of Work (ECE/TIM/2017/7–FO:EFC/2017/7)
- ... not about the Terms of References of the Team of Specialists in the IPoW 2018-2021 (ECE/TIM/2017/8–FO:EFC/2017/8)

The content of those will be tabled for discussion under Item 2.(h) later on.

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- Pilot application of the System for Evaluation of Management of Forests (SEMAFOR);
- Study on forest ownership in the ECE region;
- Delegates supported the plans for the streamlining of the global and regional reporting and appreciated the role the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists;
- The Working Party suggested reflecting better the role of the joint work on the collaborative forest reporting in the ECE/FAO Integrated Programme of Work 2018-2021.

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- The Working Party noted the excellent cooperation between the FAO FRA Team, the Forest Europe Liaison Unit Bratislava and the Joint ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section on integrated data collection;
- Delegates expressed support for extending cooperation on data collection in the preparation of the next edition of the State of Europe's Forests report (SoEF);
- The delegates of the Russian Federation and Switzerland underlined the importance of producing the State of Europe's Forests under the UN umbrella. The delegate of Belgium stated that the task of producing SoEF should remain with Forest Europe.

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- Plans for the JFSQ 2017, to be issued in 2018, were discussed:
 - incorporating the Harmonised System (HS) 2017 correspondence tables;
 - Changes were planned, including dropping part of the pulp items and adding items on tropical roundwood, recovered wood and making veneer sheets a separate item.
- The Intersecretariat Working Group on Forest Sector Statistics (IWG), prepared a list of initial proposals for the World Customs Organization for the HS 2022 revision;
- The Team of Specialists on Forest Products Statistics urged the publication of the game-meat survey results.

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- The Joint Working Party delegates expressed their appreciation for the work of the ToS and encouraged continued efforts to improve forest products statistics;
- Several countries pointed out the importance of the HS 2022 work and called on countries to support the changes mentioned with their national customs focal points;
- The secretariat explained the cooperation on data via the IWG and with FAO, including the FAOSTAT database and the use of JFSQ removals data in the Forest Resources Assessment;
- A representative of FAO underlined the good cooperation with ECE and other members of the IWG and the support this provided to sustainable development goals.

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- The secretariat updated the Joint Working Party on the dissemination of the film, “More heat with less wood”, issued during the previous session of the Working Party;
- It has been translated into Albanian, Georgian, and Turkish using local resources. A version in Serbian is expected later this year. The secretariat expressed its thanks for these contributions and to the German Government for the financial contribution to produce the original film;
- Presentation of preliminary results of the Joint Wood Energy Enquiry with 2015 data (...). The higher response rate is likely the direct effect of the successfully conducted joint FAO/ECE/IRENA capacity building workshop in Budapest, Hungary;
- The ToS on wood energy provided an update on the upcoming publication on “Wood energy in Europe, CIS and North America”.

Work Area 1: Data Monitoring and Assessment

Wood Energy

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- The Joint Working Party thanked the secretariat for their successful work on wood energy and the updates provided.
- Several member States expressed their strong appreciation for the data collected and the scope for improving collaboration provided by the JWEE.
- The Joint Working Party expressed its particular appreciation for the capacity-building workshop.
- Member States were supportive of the future plans (...) particularly the proposed approach to bring data of the JFSQ and JWEE together and to improve the linkage with international energy data providers.
- Member States and stakeholders highlighted the importance of assessing wood biomass policies and their potential impacts on wood products and the forest sector.

Work Area 1: Data Monitoring and Assessment

Forest products and markets

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- The Joint Working Party was briefed on the plans for the Forest Products Annual Market Review (FPAMR) 2016-2017;
- No plans for significant changes to the format and structure;
- Special chapter on tariff and non-tariff barriers affecting forest products trade;
- Delegates expressed their satisfaction with the FPAMR, and mentioned that more could be done for its dissemination.

Work Area 2: Policy Dialogue and Advice

Forest Policy

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- Forests and Water: Valuation and Payments for Forest Ecosystem Services”.
- The RAP mid-term review will be conducted under the guidance of and in coordination with the Team of Specialists on Forest Policy.
- Delegates recognised the importance of the work done by the secretariat and the Team of Specialists on Forest Policy, and encouraged continued efforts in that area.
- Several countries recommended narrowing the activities to allow more tangible outcomes of the future ToS work.
- The Joint Working Party supported the plan of the mid-term review of the RAP;
- A recommendation was made to change the name of the ToS to ‘Forest Policy Network“, to reflect a more dynamic and inclusive nature of the work undertaken;

Work Area 2: Policy Dialogue and Advice

LAS 2017



- Multi-donor trust fund for the implementation of the European Forest Sector Outlook Study III (...) Switzerland already kindly provided funding and other countries were invited to consider contributing to the project;
- The Team of Specialists on Forest Sector Outlook thanked the Russian Federation for the successful workshop on “Streamlining Forest Sector Outlook Studies in the ECE region”, which was held in Moscow, Russian Federation (December 2016).
- At least one Team meeting planned in 2017 as well as capacity building events on how to model forest growth and forest products markets.

Work Area 2: Policy Dialogue and Advice

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- The Joint Working Party confirmed the importance of Forest Sector Outlook Studies and highlighted the importance of considering biodiversity, climate change adaptation and mitigation, as well as the role of SDG's, in future studies.
- Member States urged the secretariat and the ToS to be fully transparent about the process of the upcoming Outlook Studies and to keep member States informed.
- Delegates suggested using national focal points as a means to maintain close communication on the progress of the study and for improving the accuracy and quality of model input data.
- In addition, member States asked for national level study results. The Joint Working Party asked the secretariat and the ToS to work at building capacity on the outlook methodology with colleagues from EECCA and CIS countries.

Work Area 3: Communication and outreach

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- The Joint Working Party was informed about a summary of planned activities for the 70th anniversary of ECE and FAO collaboration and the 4th European Forest Week to be held in conjunction with Las2017 at the European level.
- Delegates expressed their appreciation of publications and informative meeting websites and they recommended:
 - producing summaries of publications to improve the availability of information, the visibility and outreach.
 - homepage of ECE/FAO website in terms of user-friendliness and in order to better promote work outputs.
- Delegates expressed their satisfaction with communication material and information provided on the International Day of Forests and highlighted the usefulness of the “More Heat with Less Wood” video.

Work Area 4: Capacity Building

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- The capacity-building project, “Accountability Systems for Sustainable Forest Management in the Caucasus and Central Asia”, which is funded through the UN Development Account was presented; activities which have been undertaken in 2016/2017 were reported and the time plan until 2019 was shared.
- The secretariat presented the outcomes of the Wood Energy Information and Capacity Building Workshop in Budapest, in December 2016 and a proposal for a workshop on Wood Balances planned for December 2017.
- Delegates urged that capacity building include not only Central Asia and Caucasus but also Eastern Europe. The secretariat indicated this was already a priority for the entire UN system.

Work Area 4: Capacity Building

LAS 2017



- The secretariat presented joint activities in the area of green jobs in the forest sector;
- It will complete the study on social aspects of the forest sector workforce with more national examples on the state of the forest workers in the ECE region;
- Joint side event of ECE, FAO and Forest Europe on green jobs in the forest sector (...) at UNFF12;
- Joint workshop with Forest Europe on Promoting Green Jobs in the Forest Sector (...) in Bratislava, Slovakia, on 27-28 June 2017.

Item 7: Strategic Review

Integrated Programme of Work, including discussion about the
Terms of Reference of the Teams of Specialists

LAS 2017



- The session was chaired by Gerben Jansen from Sweden;
- The Joint Working Party discussed and reviewed the draft, including the scope, structure and content of the Integrated Programme of Work, as well as the Terms of Reference of the Working Party and the Teams of Specialists;
- The recommendations of the WP were attached to the report of the WP and will be discussed by the Joint Session under Item 2.(h);

Item 7: Strategic Review

Integrated Programme of Work, including discussion about the Terms of Reference of the Teams of Specialists

LAS 2017



- The Working Party reviewed the Terms of Reference (ToRs) of the eight Teams of Specialists through an interactive group exercise.
- Delegates were invited to discuss the ToRs of the Teams of Specialists for the IPoW regarding “Outputs and Activities”, “Strengths and Weaknesses”, “External Risks” and “Potential for cooperation”. (...) Members of the Teams briefly presented the current state of the ToR as it was contained in part two of the IPoW
- The results of the discussion provided valuable feedback to the Team of Specialists as well as delegates. The outcomes of the exercise are reflected in the revised ToRs of the ToS in Annex I to the report.





- The Working Party agreed to hold its next session from 22 to 23 March 2018 in Geneva, Palais des Nations;
- The fortieth session of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management will be organized around the International Day of Forests that will take place on 21 March 2018 (more information will be made available in due course on the website of the meeting: www.unece.org/index.php?id=46334);
- The Working Party encouraged the secretariat to further explore the possibility to hold joint meetings with the Housing and Land Management Committee and its subsidiary bodies in the future.

Election of officers

LAS 2017



- The Joint Working Party re-elected Mr. Jeffrey Prestemon (United States of America) as Chair, and Mr. Johannes Hangler (Austria) and Mr. Matthias Dieter (Germany) as ViceChairs. They will hold office until the end of the fortieth session.



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Thank you!



Jeffrey PRESTEMON

USDA Forest Service

09 October 2017, Warsaw