



Report of the 40th session of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management

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



COFFI 2018



**COFFI2018 – 76th Session of the ECE Committee on Forests and the
Forest Industry**

5-9 November 2018, Vancouver, Canada

Outline

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- Overview
- Guidance by Work Area
- Planned activities within and outside of the ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber section
- Any other business
- Data and place of next meeting
- Election of officers

Overview

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- The Joint ECE/ FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management held its 40th session in Geneva on 22 March 2018.
- 18 member States attended the meeting.
- The meeting was originally intended to be a two-day meeting (22-23 March), however, a UN strike was announced for 23 March, so the Joint Working Party agreed to complete the work by adding additional hours.
- The meeting had three main parts:
 - Secretariat + ToS reporting on achievements by Work Area and feedback and guidance provided by member states.
 - Overview of the Warsaw Integrated programme of Work.
 - Operational topics
 - Other business
 - Date and place of next meeting
 - Election of officers

Work area 1: data, monitoring and assessment

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On Data monitoring and assessment the Working party was briefed on:

- Work undertaken on reporting on forests and sustainable forest management; and the activities of the ToS on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management.
- Forest products statistics (JFSQ, Timber Forecast, HS revision) and the activities of the ToS on Forest Products Statistics.
- Forest products markets (FPAMR) including the activities of the ToS on Sustainable Forest Products.
- Wood energy work including the activities of the ToS on Wood Energy. The Team invited the Joint Working Party to encourage participation and nominate additional Wood energy experts to the Team.

Work area 1: data, monitoring and assessment

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On Forest resources, Member States:

- Welcomed the information and expressed satisfaction with the progress of work on the 2020 global and regional reporting.
- Supported the proposed plan for future work pertinent to the forest resources assessment in the framework of global and regional reporting.
- Took note of the decision by the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the European Forestry Commission to not continue work on the System for Evaluation of the Management of Forests (SEMAFOR).
- Appreciated the Team of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management activities and agreed with the work and actions proposed, including, establishing an informal forest databank network and analysis of the reporting on forest damage.
- Requested that the secretariat provide more information to member States about the initiatives proposed by the Team of Specialists in due course.

Work area 1: data, monitoring and assessment

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On Forest Products Statistics, Member States:

- Took note of the work on conversion factors and requested that the secretariat inform the European Environment Agency, Eurostat and Forest Europe on the status of this study.
- Encouraged changes to HS 2022, particularly on engineered wood products, and invited the secretariat to solicit support from delegates for this process, if necessary.
- Welcomed the progress made to assess data on the circular economy, noting the addition of recovered wood in the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire, and encouraged further work in this area.
- Expressed support for the work of the Team of Specialists on Forest Products Statistics and called on member States to nominate additional members.

Work area 1: data, monitoring and assessment

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On Forest Products Markets, Member States:

- Acknowledged the financial support provided by Finland for the 2018 Forest Products Annual Market Review;
- Country Market Statements were identified as a potential source of information on wood construction and other topics for inclusion in the Market Review;
- Supported a special chapter on wood construction and suggested that innovative use of wood, such as for production of chemical extracts, could be considered for special chapters;
- Stressed the importance of involving the private sector in discussions and work on forest products markets. Making the Market Review more relevant to the private sector could help involving of industry representatives;
- Pointed out, that it would be helpful to keep the lists of Teams of Specialists up to date, available on the website, and periodically distribute them to member States' focal points.
- Noted the possibility of the secretariat working together with the European Commission on an “information document” on the Cascaded use of wood, which the Secretariat will follow-up on.

Work area 1: data, monitoring and assessment

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On Wood Energy, Member States:

- Provided guidance on the future data collection for the Joint Wood Energy Enquiry and publication of results.
- Encouraged the secretariat to further improve the harmonization of wood energy data throughout relevant databases in the forest and other.
- Requested publication of the wood energy data earlier than in previous years, ideally within one year after the launch of the Joint Wood Energy Enquire.
- Agreed that the next round of the Joint Wood Energy Enquiry (for the reference year 2017) should be launched in autumn 2018 and be presented to the forty-first session of the Joint Working Party in 2019.
- Proposed organizing capacity-building workshops every two years, in line with the reporting cycle of the Joint Wood Energy Enquire.
- Agreed that the Joint Wood Energy Enquiry results should be available through: Short country profiles addressed to policy makers; a searchable, interactive database hosted by the ECE Statistics Division, and; a compressed flat-file of the entire dataset for download.

Work area 2:

Policy dialogue and advice

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On Policy dialogue and advice, the Joint Working Party was briefed on:

- The outcome of the international conference celebrating 70 years of ECE and FAO cooperation “Marianske Lazne +70”, September 2017, Czech Republic.
- The roundtable on “Sustainable Forest Management and the Sustainable Development Goals”, held at the “Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the ECE Region”, Geneva, March 2018.
- The 2019 International Day of Forests (theme, “Forests and Education”) will be held the same day as the “Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the ECE Region (including SDG-4).
- The forthcoming Ministerial Roundtable on Forest Landscape Restoration and the Bonn Challenge in the Caucuses and Central Asia, Astana, Kazakhstan, June 2018.
- The the mid-term review of the Rovaniemi Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy (focusing on implementation).
- ToS on Forest Policy (Forest Policy Network) current and future activities.

Work area 2: Policy dialogue and advice

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On Policy dialogue and advice, Member States:

- Welcomed the theme of the 2019 International Day of Forests and requested that the secretariat explore organizing a roundtable on “Forests and Education” at the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development.
- Recognized the work of the Team Forest Policy Network and the work on the Rovaniemi Action Plan (RAP), acknowledging that more work is needed on the RAP to link it with SDGs and promote adoption to a wider group.
- Suggested focusing the work of the ToS to smaller priority areas.
- Emphasized that the team work more closely with other ToSs, namely the ToS on Forest Sector Outlook.
- Noted the need to examine how other policies impact work in the forest sector and the benefits of communicating forest policy to other sectors (policy briefs have been helpful and should be continued).

Work area 2:

Policy dialogue and advice

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On Forest Sector Outlook, the Joint Working Party was briefed on:

- The activities and achievements of the Team during the previous year; including possible scenarios (and their technical feasibility) to be included in the next Forest Sector Outlook.
- The roadmap for the development of the next Forest Sector Outlook Study.
- The request for Member State feedback on information about current or planned activities on outlook studies.
- The request to have Member States consider appointing National representation on the ToS (for countries not currently represented).

Work area 2:

Policy dialogue and advice

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On Forest Sector Outlook, Member States:

- Agreed that 2040 would be a reasonable projection year for the currently planned Forest Sector Outlook Study.
- Indicated a preference for having a study covering the whole ECE region, ideally with an integrated modelling for all sub-regions. Some participants mentioned that outlook information at the national level would provide valuable additional information.
- Stressed the importance of capacity-building in the area of outlook studies. This could also help to decrease costs and time for future studies, enabling countries to contribute in the future.
- Stressed that member States can increase their capacities by participating actively in the development of the current Forest Sector Outlook Study.
- Suggested a scenario on “nature conservation” if relevant and feasible.

Work area 3:

Communication and outreach

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On Communication and outreach, the Joint Working Party was briefed on:

- The achievements and activities of the ToS on Forest Communication (Forest Communicator's Network) in 2017, including the 4th European Forest Week, hosted by Poland, and plans for the 5th event.
- The upcoming communication strategy for the secretariat on events, publications and outreach activities.
- On Communication and outreach Member States:
 - Reiterated using the synergies between the International Day of Forests 2019 and the ECE Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, requesting that the secretariat organize the International Day of Forests in conjunction with the Forum.
 - Recommended extending communication activities to target groups outside the forest sector.

Work area 4: Capacity building

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On Capacity building, the Joint Working Party was briefed on:

- The planned capacity-building activities in the area of green jobs in the forest sector, including those of the ToS on Green Jobs.

Member States feedback included:

- Suggested supporting research on the national criteria and indicator sets for sustainable forest management (drafted by the five project countries) as it relates to the project on Accountability Systems for Sustainable Forest Management in the Caucasus and Central Asia;
- Urged further development of wood balance work on a regular (but not annual) basis. Data should be calculated over a larger interval to avoid problems with stock changes.

Overview of UNECE/FAO forest-related work in the region and list of WIPoW activities for 2019

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The Joint Working Party was briefed on:

- The tentative list of activities planned for 2019, within the WIPoW 2018-2021.
- Other activities outside of the WIPoW (thus done by other sections, outside of the Joint ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber section)

Member states approved the list of ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber section activities, as listed in the annex of the meeting report (ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2018/2) with a few clarifications from the Joint Working Party.

Any other business

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- The Joint Working Party confirmed their preference for issuing only the annotated agenda and the meeting report as official documents (translated into French and Russian)
- The other meeting documents could be issued as informal documents (English only), but as France and the Russian Federation were not able to comment, the Joint Working Party asked the secretariat to consult with them before the next session.

Date and Place of 2019 Joint Working Party meeting and election of officers

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- The Joint Working Party agreed that their forty-first session will be held on 27-29 March 2019, requesting a three-day session to allow sufficient time.
- Outgoing chair, Mr. Jeff Prestemon, United States, was elected as Vice-Chair.
- Mr. Matthias Dieter, Germany, was elected as the new Chair.
- Ms. Magdalena Wolicka, Poland, was elected as new Vice-Chair
- The Working Party expressed its appreciation to Mr. Johannes Hangler for his dedication and service as chair and vice chair of the Working Party from 2013-2018.



COMMITTEE ON FORESTS AND THE FOREST INDUSTRY
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Thank you!



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6 November 2018, Vancouver