

22 February 2019

Economic Commission for Europe Food and Agriculture Organization
Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry European Forestry Commission

**Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on
Forest Statistics, Economics and Management
Forty-first session**

Geneva, 27-29 March 2019
Item 8 (b) of the provisional agenda

GUIDANCE ON WORK AREA 2: POLICY DIALOGUE AND ADVICE

AGENDA ITEM 8 (b)

Note by the Secretariat

Summary

In accordance with its mandate, the Working Party is expected to provide guidance to Work Area 2: Policy Dialogue and Advice. This document provides information about activities in this work area since the Working Party's last session in March 2018, as well as plans for 2019, drawing the Working Party's attention to any specific issues where guidance is needed. Activities in Work Area 2 for the year 2019 are available in document ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2019/Inf.8 and discussed under Agenda Item 9. Forest sector outlook related matters are the subject of an in-depth discussion under agenda item 6 of the annotated agenda of the forty-first session of the Joint Working Party. Any information on the forest sector outlook and the work of the Team of Specialists will be discussed under agenda item 6. The background paper for agenda item 6 (ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2019/Inf.3) will repeat the key questions from this document related to the subject.

Content:

I.	Forest Policy.....	2
A.	Implementation by the secretariat	2
B.	Meetings/Events (excluding capacity-building)	2
C.	National Forest Policy Dialogue	4
D.	Green jobs in the forest sector	5
E.	Team of Specialists on Forest Policy (Forest Policy Network)	6
F.	Key questions for guidance and discussion	6
II.	Forest Sector Outlook.....	7
A.	Implementation by the secretariat	7
B.	Team of Specialists on Forest Sector Outlook	7
C.	Key questions for guidance and discussion	8
III.	Annex	9
A.	Report of Team of Specialists on Forest Policy	9
B.	Report of Team of Specialist on Forest Sector Outlook.....	11

I. Forest Policy

A. Implementation by the secretariat

1. At the invitation of the Government of Canada, the seventy-sixth session of the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI) was held in Vancouver, Canada, 5 to 8 November 2018. The main theme was "Building the future with forests". The Committee discussed the technical and policy aspects of wood construction, specifically how wood is the material of the future in different construction domains. The Committee approved the "Vancouver Invitation on Sustainable Forest Products for a Better Future", which is a statement of intent to create a larger community of like-minded stakeholders in support of sustainable forest products as a key element of a green economy and to achieve relevant SDGs. The Committee also reviewed the global and regional policy context and provided inputs.
2. The Joint Section published the study on *Forests and Water: Valuation and Payments for Forest Ecosystem Services* (October 2018) and presented it at the COFFI session in Vancouver, Canada. The study showcases how payments for ecosystem services schemes can be applied to forests, focusing on forest's hydrological functions for the mutual benefit of both humans and the environment. In addition, this study contains the most comprehensive database of case studies currently available on water-related payment for forest ecosystem service schemes in the ECE region. Overall 229 schemes were identified in 23 ECE member States, most of them located in the European Union and North America. The Section is planning to develop a regional overview study on the enabling environment (policy, legal, institutional aspects) for forest ecosystem services in the ECE region which will be reviewed by the joint EFC/COFFI session in November 2019.
3. The Joint Section participated in and contributed to the EU Horizon 2020 SINCERE project co-design meeting in Leuven, Belgium in 28-29 January 2019. Over 60 experts from the SINCERE team and external partners participated in the workshop. The SINCERE project team introduced the project including 11 innovation-case-studies on different types of forest ecosystem services, which are implemented in the different parts of Europe as well as one in South America. The publication *Forests and Water: Valuation and Payments for Forest Ecosystem Services* was presented during this meeting.
4. The *Forest Products Annual Market Review* includes a chapter on "policies shaping forest products markets". Topics analysed in the chapter cover a wide array of issues and the main focus changes from one year to another. In 2018, a strong focus was given on legality requirements for wood products (European Timber Regulation and Lacey Act of the United States). In 2017, one major focus of the chapter was on forest certification and the revision of the net global forest area certified. This was possible due to the excellent information provided by the main forest certification schemes on the overlap by their schemes by country with date through mid-2017. The secretariat was not able to update this information in mid-2018 due to the lack of publicly available information. The main certification bodies indicated in informal consultations with the secretariat that the overlap in certification further increased significantly in 2018. The overlap may be so significant that the total net area under forest certification may even have decreased. It is likely that more than 20% of forest area certified in the ECE region is certified under more than one scheme.

B. Meetings/Events (excluding capacity-building¹)

Ministerial Roundtable on Forest Landscape Restoration and the Bonn Challenge in the Caucasus and Central Asia

5. The Joint Section, in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and with the financial support of Germany, organized the meeting. A publication on "Forest Landscape Restoration in the Caucasus and Central Asia" was presented at the Ministerial Roundtable on Forest Landscape Restoration and the Bonn Challenge in the Caucasus and Central Asia (21-22 June 2018, Astana, Kazakhstan). To prepare for the

¹ Capacity building related events are reported under item 8d, document Inf.7.

Ministerial Roundtable, the following events were organized: a briefing for representatives of all national missions in Geneva of the Caucasus and Central Asian countries; an advisory mission to Kazakhstan; a preparatory meeting for the Ministerial Roundtable (27 April 2018, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan) for technical experts; and a side event at the 13th session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (7 May 2018).

6. The Ministerial Roundtable led to pledges of more than 2.5 million ha to be restored under the Bonn Challenge. The commitments were made by Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan did not commit to the Bonn Challenge but showed serious interest in forest landscape restoration and indicated that they might join the Bonn Challenge in the future. The meeting further adopted the Astana Resolution (http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/timber/meetings/2018/20180621/Resolution_ENG.pdf), committing the region to go beyond 2.5 million ha, and strengthen partnerships and regional cooperation to this end. A field session on forest landscape restoration which showcased successful Kazakh examples was organized the day before the Ministerial Roundtable.
7. The results of the project and the Ministerial Roundtable were presented by a representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan at the seventy-sixth session of the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (5-9 November 2018, Vancouver, Canada).
8. Future work on a follow-up to the project can be found in document ECE/TIM/WP.2/2019/Inf.7.

Follow-up to the implementation of the Rovaniemi Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy

9. The Section, under the guidance of the Team of Specialists on Forest Policy, completed the mid-term review of the Rovaniemi Action Plan (RAP). The mid-term review process outputs include:
 - a) Preparation of a report on regional progress in the implementation of the RAP (www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/timber/publications/DP-72_Follow-up-RAP-advance_copy.pdf);
 - b) Organization of a workshop to ensure a wide stakeholder consultation to develop recommendations on the further implementation of the RAP (www.unece.org/index.php?id=47491);
 - c) Development of a web-page including information gathered through the mid-term review (www.unece.org/forests/areas-of-work/policy-dialogue-and-advice/forestsgreeneconomy/the-rovaniemi-action-plan-for-the-forest-sector-in-a-green-economy).
10. In addition to reaching out to the stakeholders of the Rovaniemi Action Plan to collect information on its implementation, the Joint Section also reviewed its own activities, where the Section was identified as leading actor. The results of this review are included in the mid-term review report and are available on the ECE/FAO website.²
11. The Joint Section continued promoting and monitoring the implementation of the Rovaniemi Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy. For instance the RAP was presented during the “Innovative bio-based products: investment, environmental impacts and future perspectives” conference, in Brussels on 6 June 2018. Also, the information about the status of the implementation of the RAP was included in the background document for the twenty-fourth session of the ECE Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) “Activities to support countries in their efforts to green their economies and achieve sustainable development” (ECE/CEP/2019/5) and the RAP mid-term review report was included as information paper no.2 supporting the CEP discussions.

2

http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/timber/meetings/2018/20180213/Activities_of_the_Joint_Section_supporting_the_RAP_implementation_2014-2017.pdf

SDGs and Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the ECE Region

12. The Joint Section plans to contribute to a peer-learning roundtable on “The Power of Knowledge for Change” during the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the ECE Region in Geneva on 22 March 2019. Among other topics it the roundtable will discuss how the understanding of sustainable forest management and the relation between humans and the environment can be fostered through forest pedagogy. As a side event to the Regional Forum and to celebrate the International Day of Forests 2019, a forest quiz is planned for 21 March 2019 in cooperation with the Government of Poland and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC).

SDGs and High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

13. The Joint Section prepared a policy brief on ECE forests and the SDGs for the 2018 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development. The policy brief focuses on the ECE region and highlights how sustainably managed forests and the derived products are essential in achieving many of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the Agenda 2030. It focuses on the SDGs under review in 2018, specifically, SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation, SDG 7: Renewable Energy, SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities, SDG 12: Responsible Consumption, and SDG 15: Life on Land.
14. The Joint Section organised several activities during the HLPF 2018 (New York, USA, 9-18 July 2018) to illustrate the role forests play in the achievement of forest-related SDGs. These included (i) presentation of the “Made in Forests” movie at the opening of the High-Level Segment of the HLPF 2018; (ii) organization of the “Forest, Fashions and SDGs” evening reception and presentation of the movie; (iii) organization of a side event on “UN Partnership on Sustainable Fashion and the SDGs” and (iv) dissemination of a policy brief on the contributions of the forestry sector to the implementation of the SDGs, which was prepared by the Joint Section.

United Nations Forum on Forests Process

15. The Joint Section is following the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) process and implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030. The Joint Section participated in the 13th session of United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF13) (7-11 May 2018, New York, US). A side event on “Sustainable Forest Management and Forest Landscape Restoration in the Caucasus and Central Asia” was held (7 May 2018) in preparation for the Ministerial Roundtable on Forest Landscape Restoration which took place 20-21 June 2018 in Astana, Kazakhstan.
16. The Joint Section participated in the Expert Meeting (EM) on Regional and Sub-Regional Inputs to the UNFF (7-8 January 2019, Bangkok, Thailand). The Joint Section provided inputs to the UNFF call to provide regional and sub-regional contributions to the UNFF14 supporting its inputs to the HLPF 2019. It was agreed that there will be a one and half hour panel during UNFF14, which is dedicated to regional and sub-regional bodies.
17. In response to a request from UNFF in preparation for the 14th Session of the UN Forum on Forests in May 2019, and the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development meetings in 2019, the Joint Section prepared a contribution on good practices, success stories and lessons learned on implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests and the Global Forest Goals. The document includes an overview of the Joint Section’s activities which contribute to the implementation of the Global Objectives on Forests and the SDGs.

C. National Forest Policy Dialogue

18. During the reporting period, the Secretariat supported the organisation of two national forest policy dialogue workshops.
19. A National Forest Policy Dialogue (NFPD) was held on “Reforming the forestry institutional structure in Ukraine: prospects and implications” (5 July 2018, Kiev, Ukraine). The NFPD gathered over 70 representatives from relevant Ministries, scientific institutions, national and international organizations and media. The event was requested and organized by the State Forest Resources Agency of Ukraine, with the support of the Joint Section. The NFPD discussed and provided input regarding various options for reforming the national forestry institutional structure, as well as

strengths and weaknesses of various reforms options. Results of the meeting were summarised by the Chair and submitted for the consideration of the national partners.

20. The Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan (with the support of the Joint ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section and FAO Partnership and Liaison Office in Azerbaijan) organized a National Forest Policy Dialogue "Updating the National Forestry Program (NFP) and restructuring the forestry institution in Azerbaijan" (11-12 of July 2018, Baku, Azerbaijan). Representatives from the national forestry stakeholders (government institutions, NGOs, academia, private sector etc.), international organizations, ECE/FAO, FAO. and experts from Turkey participated at the meeting. The NFPD discussed and provided guidance to the revision of the NFP and restructuring the forestry institutions in the country.
21. The Secretariat will continue to support Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan in 2019 to develop consistent national forest strategies at national levels, considering recent national, regional, and global developments.

D. Green jobs in the forest sector

22. The Joint ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section implemented the project on "Improving the capacity of the ECE member States to create green jobs in the forest sector". Activities included:
 - A knowledge-sharing workshop, "Green Forest Jobs Exploring Opportunities and Increasing the Capacity of ECE Member States" (17-18 September 2018, Geneva, Switzerland) (<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=48714>). The workshop explored how the forest sector can adapt to the emerging opportunities for developing new jobs beyond forest operations, driving new tasks and occupations in the forest, in the context of growing demand for sustainable products and ecosystem services. Discussions contributed to the implementation of the Rovaniemi Action Plan, pillar C – Decent Green Jobs in the Forest Sector. Almost 40 experts across the ECE region participated in the workshop including seven funded participants from Eastern Europe, the Balkans and Central Asian member States. The event was Organized, in cooperation with the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Green Jobs in the Forest Sector (Joint ILO/ECE/FAO Expert Network).
 - A report (policy brief) "Trends in green jobs in the forest sector in the ECE region" was completed with data and information from colleagues of the International Labour Organisation.
 - "Guidelines on the promotion of green jobs in forestry" was drafted, under the guidance of the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Green Jobs in the Forest Sector (Joint ILO/ECE/FAO Expert Network). The first draft benefited from comments and suggestions of international experts in a public consultation (conducted during the knowledge-sharing workshop on 17-18 September 2018). The guidelines also benefited from the review of the colleagues from the International Labour Organisation. Following the decision of the Forest Europe Expert Level Meeting (ELM) on 5-6 December 2018, the draft of the guidelines was sent to Forest Europe to enable Liaison Unit Bratislava to amend it. According to the ELM decision "The merged draft shall bear the logos of ECE, FAO and Forest Europe and contain a statement that it is a joint product of these entities".
23. A Discussion Paper on "Green Jobs in the Forest Sector" was issued in June 2018. The Joint ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section promoted the new publication in the following fora:
 - Presentation at "Green Career Pathways for Innovation in the Forest Sector" side event during the Annual Conference of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (Denver, US, 16 October 2018);
 - Presentation at the annual meeting of the European Organisation of Agricultural, Rural and Forestry Contractors "Standing Committee on Forestry" (Brussels, Belgium, 18 October 2018);
 - Presentation at a policy dialogue "Promoting jobs, protecting people, building consensus" during the UN Environment Management Group Nexus Dialogue "Greening with Jobs: A Just Transition to Sustainability" (Geneva, Switzerland, 23 October 2018);

- Presentation at the “Jobs and Green Growth” session during the OECD Green Growth and Sustainable Development Forum (Paris, France, on 27 October 2018);
 - Presentation at the “Future Forestry Leaders – Student Research Symposium”, side event during the COFFI session in Vancouver, Canada on 7 November 2018.
24. The Joint ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section continued the work on the Discussion Paper on “Forest Sector Workforce in the ECE Region” which was updated and complemented with statistical data. The issuance of the discussion paper is planned for the end of 2019.

E. Team of Specialists on Forest Policy (Forest Policy Network)

25. The 5th meeting of the Team of Specialists on Forest Policy Network will take place in Geneva on 27 March 2019, during the Working Party. The ToS will review the global and regional policy developments with a view to sharing information and discuss potential contributions to the forestry related SDGs within the scope of the Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work (WIPoW). Considering the lack of interest from member States and other partners, efficient use of financial and human resources as well as potential synergies with the ToS on Forest Sector Outlook, the session will also include a brainstorming session on the future structure of the ToS, specifically the question of “Whether ToS on Forest Policy should be merged with ToS on Forest Sector Outlook or should be kept as a separate body”. The ToS will report to the Working Party after the annual meeting.
26. The annual report of the Team is in the annex to this document. The mandate of the Team runs from 2018-2019 and is subject to renewal by the ECE Executive Committee at the request of the joint session of the ECE Committee on Forests and Forest Industry (COFFI) and FAO European Forestry Committee (EFC) in November 2019.

F. Key questions for guidance and discussion

27. The Working Party is invited to:
- a. Provide guidance and advice on how the Secretariat could improve on publicly available information on forest area under multiple certification in a timely and transparent manner;*
 - b. Advise on future work of the Team of Specialists on Forest Policy, including the extension of its mandate.*
 - c. Provide guidance and advice on how the Secretariat could support the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda within the scope of WIPoW and contribute to the implementation of the UNFF Strategic Plan.*

II. Forest Sector Outlook

A. Implementation by the secretariat

28. During its 40th session, the Joint Working Party agreed to make projections until 2040 for the next Forest Sector Outlook Study (FSOS) and suggested having a single study covering the whole ECE region, ideally with an integrated modelling framework for all sub-regions. Following this advice, the Secretariat, together with the leaders of the Team of Specialists on Forest Sector Outlook, considered different options for a single global forest sector modelling platform. They decided that the modelling would be carried out by experts from the United States of America (US), subject to inputs and reviews of the members of the Team of Specialists. The US offered to conduct the modelling as an in-kind contribution, while a consultancy was required for compiling the background document provided to the Workshop and meeting of the Team of Specialist in Koli and the 41st session of the Joint Working Party.
29. With respect to policy issues addressed by the next FSOS, the Joint Working Party had communicated its priorities after its 40th session via email. With this input, the Secretariat finalized the proposal for the next outlook study. The list of prioritized scenarios included the following topics: climate change mitigation, growth of specific products (construction, fibres and biorefineries), climate change adaptation, upcoming market scenarios (China and Africa), economic disturbances, impacts of increasing natural disasters, nature conservation and trade barriers on forest products markets.
30. On 18 October 2018, the secretariat organized a teleconference for all interested Team of Specialists members. The US modelling team presented the assumptions and structure for a preliminary selection of prioritized scenarios, as well as first preliminary results. Participants asked clarifying questions, discussed the assumptions and provided input for possible further calculations. The Secretariat together with the US modelling team prepared a detailed report of the discussion.
31. The secretariat, in coordination with the Team of Specialists, organized two outlook related events in Koli, Finland on 14-15 February 2019 back-to-back with the final conference of the DIABOLO project: 1. the workshop “Exchange of Experiences in Forest Sector Outlook Studies and Related Work” open to all interested experts; and 2. a meeting of the Team of Specialists. A background paper was prepared for these events containing the results of the modelling contributed by the US modelling team.
32. During the workshop on 14 February 2019, experts presented national and international modelling work of the forest sector as well as forest sector outlook related research. In addition, the US modelling team presented the results of the modelling of the prioritized scenarios. In an interactive session, the participants provided feedback and gave recommendations for further research that could feed into the final FSOS publication. The meeting agenda, presentations, pictures and the meeting report can be found on the ECE/FAO website: www.uncece.org/forests/fsosday2019.
33. The technical discussion was continued at the Team of Specialists meeting on 15 February 2019. The Secretariat presented a draft outline for the final study and accompanying discussion papers, which were discussed with participants. With this input the secretariat prepared a draft outline of the FSOS to be presented to the Joint Working Party at its 41st session.

B. Team of Specialists on Forest Sector Outlook

34. The core group of the ToS contributed significantly to evaluating and making a final decision on different modelling options for the FSOS.
35. In the teleconference on 18 October 2018, ToS members provided valuable feedback on the preliminary modelling results.
36. During the ToS meeting on 15 February 2019 in Koli, Finland, the ToS members provided further valuable advice and recommendations to the Secretariat regarding: the possible improvements to the current modelling set-up, the content and structure of the final FSOS publication, as well as existing research and knowledge that could contribute to answering the prioritized policy questions.

37. The annual report of the Team is in the annex to this document. The mandate of the Team runs from 2018-2019 and is subject to renewal by the ECE Executive Committee at the request of the joint session of the ECE Committee on Forests and Forest Industry (COFFI) and FAO European Forestry Committee (EFC) in November 2019.

C. Key questions for guidance and discussion

38. Forest sector outlook related matters are subject to in-depth discussion under agenda item 6 of the annotated agenda of the forty-first session of the Joint Working Party. Any information on forest sector outlook and the work of the Team of Specialists will be discussed under agenda item 6. The background paper for agenda item 6 (ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2019/Inf.3) will repeat the key questions for guidance and discussion as outlined below.
39. The Working Party is invited to:
- a. Inform the secretariat about current or planned activities in member States regarding outlook studies;*
 - b. Provide feedback to modelling results.*
 - c. Provide guidance regarding structure and content of the final FSOS publication;*
 - d. Consider supporting this Outlook Study through in-kind and financial contributions;*
 - e. Inform the secretariat about capacity building needs;*
 - f. Advise on future work of the Team of Specialists on Forest Sector Outlook, including the extension of its mandate.*
-

III. Annex

A. Report of Team of Specialists on Forest Policy

Items for regular reporting to the JWPFSEM
1. Name:
Team of Specialists on Forest Policy Network Team website www.unece.org/forests/fcp/methodsandprocesses/eastern.html
2. Period covered:
April 2018 – March 2019
3. Leader/Deputies and Secretary:
Leader: Ms Marta GAWORSKA (Poland). Deputies: Mr Tomas KREJZAR (Czech Republic), Mr Stefan KARLSSON (Sweden). Secretary: Mr. Ekrem YAZICI.
4. Members:
38
5. Countries:
20 Countries: Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Sweden, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.
6. Meetings held:
5 th meeting of the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Policy Network was held on 27 th March 2019, in Geneva, Switzerland.
7. Outputs and impacts achieved during last year:
<p>The ToS Members were updated on the most recent global and regional forest policy processes, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The follow-up of the UNFF 13th, in particularly regional implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests for the period 2017-2030 and the Quadrennial programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests for the period 2017-2020; • The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; • Forest Europe. <p>Participants discussed possible impacts of the latest decisions on the forest sector and addressed actions to be taken with regards to a national and/or regional level. The discussion focused on the following issues:</p>

- How can UNECE/FAO contribute to the implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests and how to support member States in their actions for the achievement of the global forest goals and targets.
- How could UNECE/FAO support member States in the implementation of forest-related SDGs and targets?
- how global forest-related SDGs and targets could be translated to the national / regional levels?
- How to strengthen synergies and efficient cooperation with FOREST EUROPE in line with the implementation of work programmes?
- What could be the role of this ToS in these processes?

Policy briefs on the contributions of the forest sector to the implementation of Agenda 2030 was developed and distributed during the HLPF 2018 roundtables considering that it would be difficult to organize specific forest-related roundtables.

The meeting provided for exchange of information on National Forest Policy Dialog, that took place in Ukraine and Azerbaijan in 2018.

8. Outputs and impacts expected for coming year:

- Support to the organisation of two national forest policy dialogue process in Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan;
- Provide inputs and background document to the joint session of EFC/COFFI within the scope of Forests and the Circular Economy – a contribution to the achievement of Global Forest Goal 2;
- Provide inputs regional global forest policy processes including UNFF14 and UNSPF, SGD, RSDF and HLPF 2019 and Forest Europe.

9. Issues for the attention of the Working Party:

- ToS Members addressed the issue of balanced attendance and contribution from all members, including experts from EECCA.
- National Forest Policy Dialog was recommended as efficient way to exchange implementation practices and to better promote a national cooperation.
- Possible ways for restructuring the TOS including merging with ToS Forest outlook in order streamline resources and enhance contributions.

10. Other comments:

...

B. Report of Team of Specialist on Forest Sector Outlook

Items for regular reporting to the JWPFSEM	
1. Name:	
	Team of Specialists on Forest Sector Outlook Team website http://www.unece.org/forests/areas-of-work/policy-dialogue-and-advice/forest-sector-outlook/methods-and-processes/team-of-specialists-on-forest-sector-outlook.html
2. Period covered:	
	April 2018 – March 2019
3. Leader/Deputies and Secretary:	
Leader:	Ms. Tuula PACKALEN
Deputies:	Mr. Jeffrey PRESTEMON, Mr. Paolo CAMIN (until 15.02.2019)
Secretary:	Ms. Birgit Lia FAIN
4. Members:	
	45
5. Countries: (List separated by comma)	
	19 countries: Austria, Azerbaijan, Croatia, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.
6. Meetings held:	
	ToS meeting via WEBEX on 18 October 2018 (http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=50524) Exchange of Experiences in Forest Sector Outlook Studies and Related Work on 14 February 2019, Koli, Finland (https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=50527) ToS meeting on 15 February 2019, Koli, Finland (http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=50529)
7. Outputs and impacts achieved during last year:	
	Forest Sector Outlook Studies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> During its 40th session, the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management (JWP) agreed that 2040 would be a reasonable projection year for the next FSOS and communicated a preference for having a singly study covering the whole ECE region, ideally with an integrated modelling for all sub-regions. Therefore, a single global forest sector modelling platform was selected to model scenarios in the ECE region and all countries globally. This modelling was offered to be carried out as in-kind contribution by experts from the United States (later to be referred to as the US modelling team) subject to contributions and reviews by all ToS member states. The US modelling team, including Prakash Nepal and Jeff Prestemon, developed preliminary reference and policy scenarios based on input from ToS members and the JWP. Thereafter, forest sector projections corresponding to the defined scenarios, were calculated using a modified version of the Global Forest Product Model (GFPM) based on projections of population and income and Shared

Socioeconomic Pathways (SSPs) developed as an adjunct to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) Fifth Assessment. The revised GFPM provides country-level projections by year for natural and planted forest area; timber stocks; primary product consumption, production, trade, and prices; secondary product consumption, production, trade, and prices; forest carbon; and harvested wood products carbon.

- On 18 October 2018, a WebEx meeting was held for all interested ToS members to assess and evaluate preliminary results of the reference and policy scenarios, thus supporting the development of the set of policy scenarios for the Outlook.
- Mr. Nepal was contracted by UNECE to write a background document on the modelling methods, scenarios, and preliminary GFPM results. This document was provided as a draft to the Secretary of the ToS on 23 January 2019.
- An FSOS meeting, "Exchange of Experiences in Forest Sector Outlook Studies and Related Work", was held in Koli, Finland, 14 February 2019. This meeting was a venue for forest sector modelling experts from across the ECE region to discuss the next Outlook study, the GFPM results and other scenario modelling and foresight studies relevant for the Outlook. On the following day, a ToS meeting was held at the same location continuing the discussion on the scenarios, additional research needed as well as the outline of the final study.
- Between the 14-15 February 2019 meeting in Koli and the 27-29 March meeting of the JWP in Geneva, the leadership of the ToS prepared an outline of the current Outlook study document for the review by the JWP.
- The ToS leadership team (Secretary, Leader, Deputy Leaders) had several conference/Skype calls to discuss scenarios and modeling progress.

8. Outputs and impacts expected for coming year:

- Background document for the current Outlook study, available at the 41st Meeting of the Joint Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management, 27-29 March 2019, in Geneva.
- Presentation of preliminary modelling results as well as the draft outline of the FSOS to the JWP at the meeting 27-29 March 2019.
- Continuation of the work toward the final Forest Sector Outlook Study.

9. Issues for the attention of the Working Party: (if significant issues, how do we stimulate WP discussion

- What recommendations are there from the JWP on the draft outline of the current Outlook? For example:
 - Need and potential to cover issues that are outside GFPM modelling capabilities within the given timeframe such as modelling more complex effects of climate change or measures to mitigate climate change (e.g. development of bioenergy sector) or adaptation to climate change.
- With additional resources further research and modelling could be undertaken.

10. Other comments: (e.g. collaboration with other ToS, justification for not holding a meeting, etc.)

- Potential for foresight collaboration between Outlook and ToS on Forest Policy has been discussed.
