

ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Sustainable Forest Products

Reference to the Integrated Programme of Work: Work Area 1, “Data, monitoring, reporting and assessment” and Work Area 4, “Capacity-building”

A. Objectives

1. To advise and support work on the sustainable development of forest products markets and related policies in the region.
2. To raise awareness on the role that sustainable forest products can play in greening economies and in providing sustainable products and livelihoods.

B. Activities and functions

3. Provide guidance and referral to the best available experts and/or sources of information for the organization of:
 - Market Discussions; and
 - Workshop(s) on all topics related to forest products including the role of forest products in a green economy, the use of wood for so-called “green buildings construction”, innovative wood products and other topics in line with the work programme.
4. Provide expertise and outreach to experts for drafting market-related publications and products, including the technical reviews contained in, and the production of, the Forest Products Annual Market Review.
5. Advise the secretariat on the organization of meetings related to the sustainable use of forest products.
6. Advise the secretariat on strategies to carry out the Programme of Work in the forest products marketing area, in particular to assist in strengthening the focus on innovative forest products and on improving knowledge on wood sustainability credentials.
7. Build links with standard/certifying organizations, as well as forest products trade associations, to promote the use of forest products as a sustainable material for construction and other uses.
8. Build linkages with non-forest bodies within the UN, including with the ECE Committee on Housing and Land Management.
9. Build links, both informal and formal, with other Teams of Specialists in areas where cross-cutting issues are shared and where assistance and coordination can be mutually beneficial.
10. Build upon the work of previous capacity-building workshops and consider organizing similar events in association with regional bodies.
11. Organize an annual awareness raising workshop; subject to availability of funds.
12. Work with the secretariat to attract and enhance the involvement of the forest products industry, aiming at:
 - Holding a full day session focusing on market/industry issues;
 - Organizing industry visits; and

- Organizing side events that involve the forest products industry sector.
13. Provide a network of expertise and advice, including on priorities.

C. Expected major outputs and contributions

14. Market Discussions covering forest product market topics that are current and relevant to the region and contribute to the Market Statement.
15. Bi-annual meetings to discuss a list of recommendations on how to improve the content, structure and focus of the forest products marketing Work Area in general and the Forest Products Annual Market Review in particular (typically during the Team of Specialists meeting that is held at the time of Committee, Commission and Working Party meetings).

D. Background

- Established/ Approved by:** Joint sessions of the Committee and the Commission, Warsaw, Poland, 2017.
- Duration:** From January 2018 to December 2019. Renewable to 2021.
- Methods of work:** Annual meeting. Other methods to be determined by the Team.
- Reporting:** Annually, to the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management
- Team leader:** To be elected at first Team meeting.
- Communication:** The Team leader and secretary should ensure close communication and collaboration with the Teams of Specialists on Forest Products Statistics and Wood Energy.