

Activities carried out in 2019 and 2020 as part of the Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work 2018-2021.

This document provides an overview of activities implemented in 2019 and 2020 in support of the Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work 2018-2021, which was approved by the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI) and the FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC) at their joint session in Warsaw, October 2017.

This is not an official document and still is a draft version, which will feed into an official reporting document for 78th COFFI Session which is scheduled in Geneva on 4-6 November 2020.

A. Work Area 1: Data, monitoring, reporting and assessment

1. Forest resources

(a) Collection, validation and dissemination of statistics on forest resources, functions and services, Sustainable Forest Management (SFM), and the contribution of the forest sector to a green economy

- 2020 reporting cycle of the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) and the Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire (CFRQ): cooperation with FAO and other CFRQ partners on the completion of the final repository of FRA data;
- Joint 2020 pan-European reporting on forests (jointly with the FAO FRA secretariat and the Forest Europe Liaison Unit Bratislava): production of the interactive database coordinated with the FRA repository;
- Review of the collection process and the national questionnaire on forest ownership in the ECE region;
- Production of the website on forest and forest sector data in the ECE countries.

(b) Analysis and assessment of the state of forests and the sustainability of forest management; and the monitoring of the role of the forest sector in a green economy

- Assessment of forest condition and the impact by biotic and abiotic damage/disturbances and review of formats for international reporting on forest disturbance – development of the project;
- 2020 reporting cycle of the Global FRA and CFRQ: support to the FAO FRA secretariat to the finalization and dissemination of the main outputs;
- Joint 2020 pan-European reporting on forests: support to the Forest Europe Liaison Unit Bratislava and the FAO FRA secretariat to the finalization and dissemination of the main outputs;
- Publication of a study “State of Forests of the Caucasus and Central Asia” in Russian and English;
- Publication of 8 bilingual (English and Russian) electronic studies on state of forests and forest management in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan;
- Publication of a study “Who owns our forests? Forest ownership in the ECE region”;
- Publication of a study “Guidelines for the Development of a Criteria and Indicator Set for Sustainable Forest Management” in English and Russian;
- Publication of a study “National Reporting on Sustainable Forest Management in Caucasus and Central Asia”.

(c) Cooperation with, and support to, international processes in SFM, including regional criteria and indicator (C&I) processes

- Support to the UNFF Secretariat on reporting the implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 and the related Communication Strategy;
- Cooperation with, and support to countries, organizations and international processes (e.g. Forest Europe, European Environment Agency) in the region on monitoring SFM;
- Contribution to capacity building on C&Is under the UNDA project (Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan);
- Organization of the meeting(s) of the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Monitoring SFM.

2. Forest products and markets

(a) Collection, validation and dissemination of statistics on production, trade, consumption and prices of forest products

- Preparation of historical data on forest products, species trade, and prices;
- Preparation of forecast data on forest products production and trade;
- Improvement of the existing database and expansion of available information;
- Dissemination through FAOSTAT and ECE websites.

(b) Analysis of markets for forest products, notably relevant policy aspects, including the Forest Products Annual Market Review (FPAMR) and annual Market Discussions

- Publication of the FPAMR 2018-2019 and 2019-2020;
- Preparation of data and the statistical annex for the FPAMR 2018-2019 and 2019-2020;
- Preparation of tables and graphs for the Market Forecasts 2019-2020 and 2020-2021;
- Preparation of the Market Discussion 2019 and 2020 and the Market Statement 2019 and 2020;
- Dissemination of analysis at industry meetings;
- Assessment of impact of biotic and abiotic disturbances on forest products markets.

(c) Support of international processes in forest products

- Intersecretariat Working Group on Forest Sector Statistics (FAO, ECE, Eurostat, ITTO) was held from 23 to 25 January 2019, in Yokohama, Japan and 15-16th January 2020 in Geneva;
- Review of international classifications, support to the Harmonized System 2022 revision;
- Organization of the meetings of the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Products Statistics and the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Sustainable Forest Products.

3. Wood energy

(a) Collection, validation and dissemination of statistics on wood energy

- Preparation and issuance of 2019 Joint Wood Energy Enquiry;
- Dissemination of the 2017 JWEE data at relevant international meetings;

- Increasing visibility of ECE wood energy data.

(b) Analysis of energy-related issues, including demand for, and supply of, wood energy

- Provide input to the ECE Environmental Performance Reviews on forests;
- Dissemination of the outcomes of previous study on “Wood Energy in the ECE Region” at relevant international meetings.

(c) Support of international processes in wood energy

- Organization of the fifth meeting of the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Wood Energy from 3 - 4 June 2019 in Sweden, Umea;
- First webinar on the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Wood Energy on "The Drax Biomass Carbon Calculator - background, scope and functionalities" on 11 June 2020;
- Presentation of the wood energy work at relevant international meetings and cooperation with relevant processes (e.g. International Energy Agency, International Renewable Energy Agency, Wood Energy Days etc.).

B. Work Area 2: Policy dialogue and advice

(a) National Forest Policy Dialogues

- Organization of the National Forest Policy Dialogue “National Forestry Plan revision and modernization of the forest management system” in cooperation with the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan, in Baku, Azerbaijan on 21 February 2019;
- Preparatory meeting for the National Forest Policy Dialogue for Kazakhstan to provide policy advice on the structure and outline of the National Forest Strategy (Master Plan) and agree on the roadmap for development of the document in cooperation with the Committee of Forestry and Wildlife of the Ministry of Agriculture of Kazakhstan (now Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources), Nur Sultan, Kazakhstan, 1-3 April 2019;
- Organization of the National Forest Policy Dialogue for Kazakhstan to review the “Master Plan for the development of the Forest Sector of the Republic of Kazakhstan until 2030” and action plan for its implementation, Nur-Sultan, 4 March 2020;
- Monitoring of developments in global and regional forest policy process (UNFF; Forest Europe, SDG) and contributions, as relevant, to these processes;
- Support the continued implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests by providing policy dialogues at the regional and national level;
- Support the development and implementation of the Strategy for Landscape Restoration and Greening Infrastructure in the Caucasus and Central Asia.

(b) The role of the forest sector in a circular bio-economy

- Preparing a stock-taking document on how the circular bio-economy concepts are related to the forest-based sector;
- Exploring the issue of wood-based value chains in a circular bio-economy;
- Promotion and dissemination of findings on the social dimension of the circular and bio-economy:
 - Study on the “Forest Sector Workforce in the UNECE region”;
 - “Guidelines on the promotion of green jobs in forestry”;

- A joint ECE-ILO-FAO publication on “Transformations in the future of work and their implications on occupational safety and health in forestry.

(c) Contribution to the policy-related components of activities under Work Areas 1, 3 and 4

(d) Forest Sector Outlook

- Organization of the workshop “Exchange of Experiences in Forest Sector Outlook Studies and Related Work” in Koli, Finland, February 2019, during which the preliminary results of the prioritized scenarios were presented and discussed among experts;
- Organization of the meeting of the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Sector Outlook, Koli, Finland, February 2019 to continue the technical discussion of scenarios and plan the next steps;
- Organization of an interactive session during the 41st session of the Joint Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management to present the results to member States and receive further guidance;
- Organization of the meeting(s) of the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Sector Outlook;
- Publishing and disseminating the Forest Sector Outlook Study in the ECE region planned for late 2020;
- Organization of capacity building in the area of forest sector outlook modelling.

(e) Monitoring and support of international processes relevant to policymaking for the forest sector

- Organization of the 5th meeting of the Forest Policy Network, 27 March 2019, Geneva, Switzerland;
- Organization of one day event on Forest Landscape Restoration during the Forest Congress for the Caucasus and Central Asia, 30 May 2019, Kyrgyzstan, which followed-up on the pledges under the Bonn Challenge which were made during a 2018 Ministerial Roundtable for the region;
- Organization of a preparatory meeting on Forest Landscape Restoration and the Bonn Challenge in Eastern and South-East Europe, 16-17 December 2019, Belgrade, Serbia.

(f) Boreal Forests

- Organization of a preparatory meeting for first official meeting of the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Boreal Forests in Geneva, Switzerland (23 April 2020);

(g) Tools for policymaking - studies and publications

- Publication and dissemination of the study paper on “Forest Landscape Restoration in Eastern and South-East Europe” to support the preparation of restoration pledges in eighteen countries of Eastern and South-East Europe region in the run up to the Ministerial Roundtable on Forest Landscape Restoration and the Bonn Challenge in Eastern and South-East Europe, which will take place in March 2021.

C. Work Area 3: Communication and outreach

(a) Organization of events and campaigns in support of SFM and forest products and services

- Organization of an exhibition on “Forests for Fashion” at the 4th UN Environment Assembly in Nairobi, Kenya from 10-15 March 2019;

- The International Day of Forests (IDF) was celebrated on 21 March 2019 with several events. A Forest Breakfast and handicraft workshops were organized with the support of State Forests, Poland. An exhibition on innovative wood and cellulose products was organized in a paper cave with the Confederation of European Paper Industries (CEPI). Under the auspices of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development a side event “Forest Quiz Time!” was organized in cooperation with the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes (PEFC). The Joint Section also contributed a speaker on forest education and pedagogy to the Roundtable “The Power of Knowledge for Change”;
 - Organization of a side event to launch the study “State of Forests of the Caucasus and Central Asia” at the fourteenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF14), 7 May 2019, New York, United States;
 - Organization of event to present the studies: “State of Forests of the Caucasus and Central Asia”, “Forests Landscape Restoration in the Caucasus and Central Asia” and “Guidelines for the Development of a Criteria and Indicator Set for Sustainable Forest Management”, including an Ambassadors’ Roundtable, 29 May 2019, Geneva, Switzerland;
 - Organization of the annual meeting of the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Communication –the Forest Communicators’ Network, 20-22 May 2019 in Oslo, Norway;
 - Organization and coordination of the 5th European Forest Week on “Forests and the Circular Economy”, including side events during the joint session and a communications campaign;
 - Co-organizing event with IUCN, World Bank, World Resources Institute to launch ECCA30, UN Climate Action Week, New York, 22 September 2019.
- (b) Dissemination of information via policy briefs, press briefs and ad hoc studies, whenever results are available and new information is released**
- For a full list of releases published in 2019 and 2020, visit:
<http://www.unece.org/forests/press-releases.html>

D. Work Area 4: Capacity-building

(a) Forest landscape restoration and the Bonn Challenge

- One day event to follow-up on the implementation of commitments under the Bonn Challenge in the Caucasus and Central Asia, during the Forest Congress for the Caucasus and Central Asia, 30 May 2019, Kyrgyzstan
- Organization of a preparatory meeting on Forest Landscape Restoration and the Bonn Challenge in Eastern and South-East Europe, 16-17 December 2019, Belgrade, Serbia.
- Virtual meetings to share knowledge and exchange experience on Forest Landscape Restoration and the Bonn Challenge with representatives from Eastern and South-East Europe.
- Virtual regional meeting to follow-up on the implementation of commitments under the Bonn Challenge in the Caucasus and Central Asia (Planned for September 2020);

(b) Organization of capacity-building workshops

- Capacity building workshop for national correspondents on wood energy (Joint Wood Energy Enquiry 2019);
- Capacity building workshop for national correspondents on forest products statistics (JFSQ) in coordination with FAO. Planned for November 2020 in Belgrade.

- Capacity building event on national forest sector modelling for experts from CIS countries. Further capacity building events related to forest sector outlook if resources allow.

(c) UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Green Jobs in the Forest Sector

- Organization of the meeting(s) of the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Green Jobs in the Forest Sector.

(d) Implementation of the UN Development Account (UNDA) project: Accountability systems for SFM in the Caucasus and Central Asia (2016-2019, with extension until September 2020):

- The 2nd national Workshop on “Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management for Armenia” was held 20-22 February 2019, in Yerevan, Armenia;
- The Forest Congress for the Caucasus and Central Asia was held 28-30 May 2019 in Kyrgyzstan. This was the concluding regional workshop under the UNECE/FAO, UNDA project “Accountability Systems for Sustainable Forest Management in the Caucasus and Central Asia”.
- Regional meeting for the Caucasus and Central Asia to strengthen capacity on data collection for indicators on Sustainable Forest Management (planned to be held in November 2020);
- Virtual meetings to follow-up on the development of country-specific methodologies for data collection for national sets of Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management (April-September 2020).
- The “Guidelines for the Development of a Criteria and Indicator Set for Sustainable Forest Management”, were published and printed in 2019 in English and Russian.
- The final publication “National Reporting on Sustainable Forest Management in Caucasus and Central Asia”, including main results, is will be produced by the end of 2020 and the project will be externally evaluated.

E. Monitoring and management of the Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work

(a) Intergovernmental Meetings

- Organization of the meeting of the 41st session of the Joint UNECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management in Geneva, Switzerland (27 - 29 March 2019);
- Organization of “Forêt2019”, the joint 77th session of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the 40th session of the European Forestry Commission in Geneva, Switzerland (4 -7 November 2019).
- Organization of the seventy-eighth session of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry in Geneva, Switzerland (4-6 November 2020).

(b) Bureaux Meetings

- Organization of Bureaux meetings (26 March 2019 in Geneva, 22 April 2020, virtual, 20 May 2020, virtual).

(c) Strategic review 2020

- Dissemination and analysis of Strategic Review Questionnaire completed;
- Assessment of work and outputs by the Secretariat;
- Informal consultation about a preliminary analysis of survey results with Joint Bureaux and member States;

- Secretariat's first draft of the new IPoW and summary of survey results shared with Joint Bureaux and member States.

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