

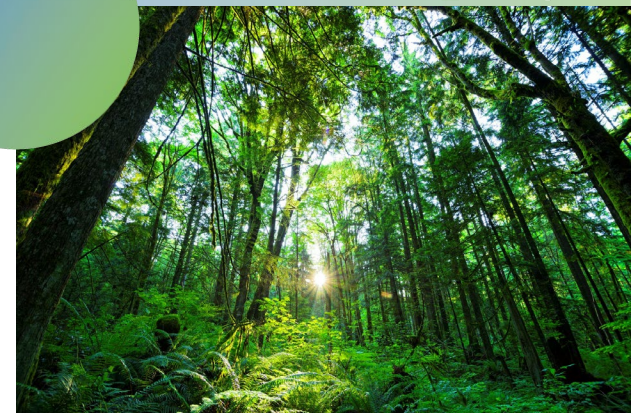


Forests and the Circular Economy

Agenda Item 4



Joint Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics
and Management, 1-3 June 2022



Presentation contents

- **Circularity Concepts in Forest-based Industries**
- **New mandate**
- **Work on CE studies**
- **Work on CE definition**
- **Knowledge sharing**



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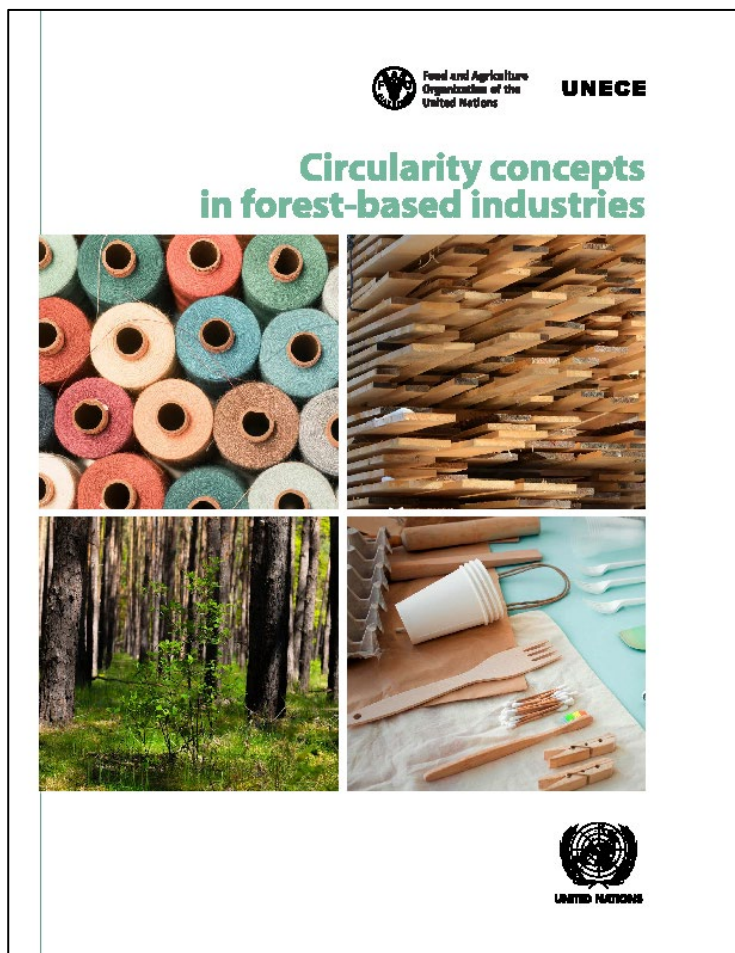
Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

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Circularity concepts in forest-based industries



- Woodworking
- Sawn wood
- Wood in construction
- Bioenergy
- Wood in the furniture sector
- Pulp, paper and paperboard
- Cellulose-based fibers
- Cellulose-based plastics

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69th session of the ECE (April 2021)

- **Held under the theme “Promoting circular economy and sustainable use of natural resources in the ECE region”**
- **Member States committed to “step up efforts to promote circular economy approaches and the sustainable use of natural resources, namely by mainstreaming circularity and the sustainable use of natural resources in the existing relevant ECE sectoral work programmes”**

COFFI/EFC Joint Session (November 2021)

1. “Prepare a series of studies further reviewing the application of circular models in specific forest-based industries, including through identification of case studies and best practice.
2. Take into consideration the whole forest-based value chain and bring attention to the circular nature of wood as a renewable resource and the role of sustainable forest management.
3. Look at existing definitions of a circular economy and present recommendations for adjusting them to the forest sector for consideration of member States during the next Joint Session.
4. Assess member States’ priorities and needs in application of circular models in the forest sector.
5. Provide opportunities for member States to exchange knowledge and best practice on the implementation of circularity principles in the forest sector”*.

*(ECE/TIM/2021/2 FO:EFC/2021/2)

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Work on CE studies

- Three studies are planned:
 - one in 2022
 - two in 2023
- Initial ideas for the content were discussed with
 - ECE/FAO ToS on Sustainable Forest Products
 - FAO HQ
 - ECE Taskforce on the Circular Economy
- Experts from members States are welcome to contribute
 - Drafting, review, providing sources and case studies (please contact the secretariat)

Work on CE studies - content

STUDY 1 Universal preconditions of circularity in forest-based industries

- The study will cover different aspects of forest management such as forest health and regeneration, sustainable provision of all ecosystem services and the optimal use of forest resources, which have an impact on the circularity of forest-based production processes.
- The study aims to link the questions of circularity with the natural carbon cycle. The study will also look at the circularity potential and challenges in the end-of-life management of forest-based products.

Work on CE studies - content

STUDY 2 Circularity concepts in the wood construction sector as an example of long-lived products value chain

- The study will analyze how circularity concepts can be applied in the construction industry at different stages of the value chain and in different construction methods.
- It will also look at the circularity aspects of the retrofitting and demolition of existing buildings.
- The study will present the industry context as of today and will point out opportunities and challenges in transition towards a more circular practice. The analysis will be supported examples of good practice (re-use, re-purpose, re-cycle, urban mining, modularity, etc.).

Work on CE studies - content

STUDY 3 Circularity concepts in pulp and paper industry as an example of a group of commodities with short life span

- The study will analyze how circularity concepts can be applied in the pulp and paper industry at different stages of the value chain and in different industries using pulp and paper, such as printing or packaging.
- The study will present the industry context as of today and will point out opportunities and challenges in transition towards a more circular practice.
- The analysis will be supported examples of good practice (re-use, re-purpose, re-cycle, urban mining, etc.).

Other ideas/components

- Account of technical information/context vs development of recommendations
- Impact of the CE transition on policies and development of policy recommendations
- Review of policies enabling the transition to a CE
- Covering the UNECE region or beyond
- Analysis of economic environment & the impact of transition to CE on SMEs in the forest sector
- Guidelines for the sector on how to embrace transition to CE

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Work on CE definition

- The Joint Section participates in the joint work of the ECE “Task Force on measuring the circular economy” and the OECD “Expert group on a new generation of information for a resource-efficient and circular economy” on a definition of the circular economy for a conceptual monitoring framework.
- Building on this ongoing work, the Joint Section has prepared a draft definition of a circular economy in for the forest sector for the consideration of member States.
- The draft can serve as a starting point for discussions on the development of a definition for consideration of the next Joint Session.
 - Next consultation during the JWP session in 2023
 - Final consultation during the Joint COFFI/EFC Session

Work on CE definition

- A circular economy aims to
 - minimize globally the input of natural resources and
 - the generation of residuals
 - by maintaining the value of goods and materials for as long as possible and
 - by returning materials into the product cycle at the end of their use.

- A circular economy in the forest sector aims to
 - use forest-based natural resources in a most effective way globally and
 - minimize the generation of residuals
 - by maintaining the value of forest-based goods and materials for as long as possible and
 - by returning materials into the technical or biological product cycle at the end of their use.

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CE knowledge sharing and promotion

- “Circularity concepts in forest-based industries” - promotion campaign will be developed jointly with FAO
- IDF 2022 focused on “Forests for sustainable lifestyles and a circular economy” in forest fashion and wood-based packaging value chains.
- For the World Forestry Congress, the Joint Section prepared jointly with FAO and ILO a session on “Advancing decent work, green jobs and sustainability in the forest sector”
- Agenda item 4(b) “Updates and examples from member States” provides opportunity for member States to present their experience and best practice in the implementation of a circular economy in the forest sector.
- Agenda item 4(c) “Review of the circular economy approach for the forest sector” provides opportunity for member States to work in groups to identify opportunities and challenges for the forest sector resulting from the transition to a circular economy.

Key points for guidance and discussion

The Joint Working Party is invited to:

1. Advise the Joint Section on the content of the planned series of studies on circularity concepts in forest-based industries, as presented by the secretariat.
2. Comment on the draft generic definition of a circular economy suggested by the Taskforce on Measuring Circular Economy and the terms used.
3. Provide the Joint Section with guidance on the presented draft definition of a circular economy in the forest sector and the terms used.
4. Inform the Joint Section about member States' priorities and needs in application of circular models in the forest sector and the tools that ECE and FAO could develop to support them.

Group work

- The groups will be organized around the five “universal circular economy policy goals” identified by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation
- **Goal 1** Stimulate design for the circular economy (i.e., eco-design).
- **Goal 2** Manage resources to preserve value (i.e., sustainable forest management).
- **Goal 3** Make the economics work (i.e., EPR, public procurement, transparency requirements).
- **Goal 4** Invest in innovation, infrastructure and skills (i.e., interdisciplinary research, training, capacity-building etc.).
- **Goal 5** Collaborate for system change (i.e., mainstreaming circular economy principles into national and international policies, cross-value chain collaboration etc.).

Group work

Goal 1 Stimulate design for the circular economy (i.e., eco-design)						
Circular economy opportunities and needs related to design (e.g., regulations imposing furniture design that allows for dismantling and reparability) 10 min	Priority/highest impact on transition (Please rate the ideas on the left and continue the exercise with max 3 of them) 5 min	How ECE/FAO can help promote these opportunities 5 min	Barriers limiting realization of these opportunities 5 min	How ECE/FAO can support MS in addressing these barriers – what tools are needed 5 min	National policy options to overcome these barriers 5 min	How ECE/FAO can support MS in developing these policies – through tools, capacity building etc. 10 min
1.						
2.						
3.						

Group work

- Each group will have a moderator and a note taker - members of the secretariat.
- Moderator will be in the meeting room in Geneva and will use a laptop/ five groups will be formed in the meeting room
- Group work will take **45 minutes**.
- After that, the moderator and the rapporteur will have **15 minutes** for finalizing the notes.

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THANK YOU

Alicja Kacprzak
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UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section
Geneva, 1 June 2022

Joint Working Party on Forest Statistics,
Economics and Management, 1-3 June 2022

