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Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry

European Forestry Commission

**Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics,
Economics and Management**

Forty-third session

Geneva, 1-3 June 2022

Item 10 of the provisional agenda

Report of the forty-third session of the Joint Economic Commission for Europe and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management

I. Introduction

1. The Joint Economic Commission for Europe and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management (henceforth referred to as Joint Working Party) held its forty-third session from 1 to 3 June 2022. Meeting documents as well as presentations (whose content and conclusions are not part of this report) are available at: <https://unece.org/forests/jwpcfsem2022>.
2. The meeting was opened by Ms. Magdalena Wolicka-Posiadała, Poland, Chair of the Joint Working Party, who welcomed participants to the session.
3. Ms. Paola Deda, Director of Forests, Land and Housing Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), welcomed the delegates on behalf of both UNECE and FAO and highlighted the tasks ahead for the Joint Working Party. She stressed the organization's gratitude to member States for their excellent cooperation. The high number of participants in the meeting attests to the relevance of the Joint Working Party and its work on providing guidance to the Joint ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section (Joint Section) to collect good, timely and relevant information on the forest sector, and the circular economy as well as the sector's role in achieving the relevant United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), 7, 12 and 15.

II. Attendance

4. Delegations from the following member States participated in the meeting: Armenia, Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Montenegro, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Ukraine,

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uzbekistan.

5. The secretariats of the following intergovernmental organizations and processes were also represented: International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO).

6. The following United Nations bodies and agencies participated in the session: United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

7. Representatives of Forest Europe attended the meeting.

8. Representatives of the following non-governmental organizations participated in the session: Chamber of Forest Engineers of Türkiye, European Organization of the Sawmill Industry, European Panel Federation, Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC), Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI).

9. Representatives of the following academic institutions were present: All-Russian Research Institute of Silviculture and Forest Mechanization, Bialystok University of Technology, Chiang Mai University, Forestry Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Moscow State Forest University, Swedish Agriculture University, Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research (WSL), Thünen Institute of Forestry (Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry), Ukraine National University, University of Helsinki, Wageningen University.

10. Representatives of the following private sector companies and associations attended the session: Dovetail Partners, Forliance, Laborelec, Panbern, Quebec Wood Export Bureau, Whatwood.

III. Item 1: Adoption of the agenda

11. The delegates adopted the provisional agenda.

IV. Item 2: Matters arising since the last session

12. The Chief of the Joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section informed delegates of discussions relevant to the Joint Working Party held at the seventy-ninth session of the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the forty-first session of the FAO European Forestry Commission, Rome, from 4 to 7 November 2021. She also highlighted the March 2022 Regional Forum on Sustainable Development and its UNECE/FAO Roundtable on urban forestry, as well as the side event at the May 2022 United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) on the “Past, present and future of forests in the UNECE region and beyond”, organized by the Joint Section.

13. The Joint Working Party was also informed of the decisions adopted by the UNECE at its sixty-ninth session held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 20 to 21 April 2021 that are relevant to the new Integrated Program of Work. In particular, the Joint Working Party was informed of the high-level statement, which requests the relevant Sectoral Committees to consider how to enhance the impact of relevant existing ECE instruments, in order to foster circular and more resource-efficient approaches, including by proposing ways to identify, assess and fill gaps in governance and good practices. She mentioned the lack of an international definition of “circular economy” and the current work undertaken by ECE to address this gap. The Chief of the Joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section invited delegates to take the Commission decisions into account, in particular when planning future activities.

14. She also highlighted staff changes since the previous session, welcoming new staff members and thanking the retired and outgoing staff for their many years of service.

15. The Deputy Chief of the Joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section informed delegates of recent relevant developments from the FAO side, which included outcomes of the thirty-third session of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe (ERC), held in hybrid modality, from 10 to 13 May 2022 in Łódź, Poland; and the XV World Forestry Congress,

held 2-6 May 2022 in Seoul, Republic of Korea. He also informed delegates about the preparations, including draft agenda items, for the twenty-sixth session of the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO 26) scheduled to take place on 3-7 October 2022 in Rome, Italy.

16. The Joint Working Party took note of the information provided and thanked the secretariat. The Joint Working Party also highlighted the Joint Section's contribution to the implementation of the SDGs.

17. Several delegations noted the absence of presentations from other organizations and stressed the importance of international cooperation and coordination for work in this area. At the request of delegations, the secretariat will add an item on fostering exchanges and cooperation among regional and international organizations to the agenda of the November 2022 session of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI) as well as the 2023 Joint session of COFFI and the European Forestry Commission (EFC).

V. Item 3: Revision of the Rules of Procedure for the Joint Working Party

18. The secretariat recalled that the Joint Working Party was currently operating under the ECE Rules of Procedure. The secretariat outlined the steps taken in response to the request of the last session of the Joint Working Party to develop its own Rules of Procedure and presented the resulting draft text (E/ECE/778/Rev.5). Its rule 20 stipulates that subsidiary bodies shall adopt their own rules of procedure unless otherwise decided by the Commission.

19. The Joint Working Party took note of the draft text presented in ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2022/Inf.1, proposed several amendments to the text and requested the secretariat to upload the revised version to the meeting website as a post-session document.

20. The Joint Working Party deferred the decision on the revision of the Rules of Procedure for the Joint Working Party to its next session. The Joint Working Party requested that the secretariat prepare the background document for the next discussion in all official languages of the ECE.

VI. Item 4: Forests and the circular economy

21. The secretariat informed the Joint Working Party of their work on forests in a circular economy since the previous Joint Working Party session, including current mandates, the progress of work and the planned activities.

22. Poland, Türkiye and Czech Republic presented their experiences and best practice in the implementation of a circular economy in the forest sector to facilitate peer learning among member States. Member States and other forest stakeholders were invited to share further examples and case studies with the secretariat after the session with the aim of creating an online platform featuring best practice in the region.

23. Member States also worked in groups to identify opportunities for the forest sector resulting from the transition to a circular economy, barriers in achieving these opportunities and policy options to overcome these barriers. They also indicated activities that could be launched by the Joint Section to facilitate the further development of the circularity concept within the forest sector in the ECE region. The results of the group work were presented to the plenary and can be found on the meeting website. They will be used to inform future activities of the Joint Section as well as other forums outside the forest sector (including within ECE and FAO) on the needs of and opportunities for the forest sector in the transition towards a circular economy.

24. The Joint Working Party requested the secretariat to:

(a) Proceed with the suggested series of studies and to create a platform for knowledge exchange and advancement of work on the study planned for this year;

(b) Take into consideration the renewable nature of wood as a raw material and the holistic approach of the sustainable carbon cycle, including carbon removal and carbon farming initiatives;

(c) Proceed with the work on a definition of a circular economy in the forest sector and to create a platform for collaborative participation of member States in this work. Some delegations provided concrete suggestions to a draft definition;

(d) Communicate comments on the generic definition of a circular economy to the ECE “Task Force on measuring the circular economy” and to the “Expert group on a new generation of information for a resource-efficient and circular economy” of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

25. The Joint Working Party thanked the secretariat for:

(a) The excellent work on forests and the circular economy done so far;

(b) The organization of the interactive session in working groups as in interesting element in the Joint Working Party session structure.

VII. Item 5: Guidance on Work Areas not already contained in previous items

26. The secretariat presented activities completed in each of the four Work Areas since the Joint Working Party’s 2021 meeting and invited delegates to comment on these and future activities.

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

1. Forest Resources

27. The secretariat presented activities on data, monitoring, reporting and assessment related to forest resources and the plans for work until 2023; the preparation of the 2025 cycle of the Global and Pan-European data collection on forests and sustainable forest management; the development of foundations and methodological approaches for forest disturbance/damage assessment; and the development of tools to improve the data’s availability and use, especially, for external audiences.

28. A leader of the Team of Specialists (ToS) on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management (MSFM) presented an overview of the activities of the Team in the reporting period. He also informed delegates about the 28 September 2022 ToS meeting to be held in Vienna, Austria, (prior to the scientific-technical symposium) as well as other activities and outputs of the Team envisaged for the coming year.

29. A contributing expert of the ongoing project “Improve capacities of the UNECE member States on assessing forest damage/disturbance in the UNECE region”, informed delegates about progress made since the last session. He highlighted the key aspects and main challenges to the coherent and harmonized assessment of forest disturbance and damage in the ECE region, which included: (i) the distinction between forest damage and forest disturbance, (ii) the preferred thresholds for forest damage/disturbance, (iii) the types of forest damage/disturbance to be prioritized, and (iv) the expected frequency of reporting. There is a scientific-technical symposium in Vienna, Austria on 29-30 September 2022 on forest disturbances.

30. In the follow-up discussion, delegates stressed the benefits of the development of online data management systems, including the automatization of the data provision. This could avoid repetition in reporting and open possibilities for the monitoring of usage of the collected data. Online data management systems could also facilitate the frequency of reporting and effectively improve the availability of more recent data. On the other hand, it required additional efforts in data validation and interpretation due to the continuous flow of data and the ever-changing database and reference base.

31. Delegations also highlighted the challenges linked to the availability of comprehensive forest damage and disturbance data, and underlined the potential offered by new monitoring technologies. The delegation of Ukraine raised the issue of forest damage caused by the current situation in Ukraine.

32. The Joint Working Party:

(a) Recommended the further strengthening of work on the application of information technology in managing and sharing information on forests and sustainable management in the ECE region;

(b) Took note of the ongoing project on reporting and assessment of forest damage and disturbance in the ECE region and underlined the existing state of affairs and current significance of the topic;

33. The Joint Working Party thanked the secretariat for their work on forest resources monitoring, reporting and assessment and welcomed:

(a) The ECE, FAO and Forest Europe agreement on the collaborative work and the timely initiation of work on the 2025 reporting cycle and supported plans for the digitalization of the joint 2025 ECE/FAO/Forest Europe data collection on forests and forest management in the pan-European region;

(b) The progress made in the development of tools for sharing forest sector related information, such as the FAO Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) data platform, the Joint ECE/FAO/Forest Europe pan-European database, the ECE/FAO INForest knowledge platform and the ECE Statistical Database;

(c) The continuation of work of the ToS on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management, and its support to the implementation of the Integrated Programme of Work and called-for strengthening its cooperation with relevant actors active in this area.

2. Forest products and wood energy statistics

34. The secretariat presented the results of work on forest products and wood energy statistics since April 2021, as well as plans for work under the new mandate until 2023. This included a presentation of the list of proposals for the 2027 update of the World Customs Organization's (WCO) Harmonized System of Trade Classification (HS 2027) defined at the 35th meeting of the Inter-secretariat Working Group on Forest Sector Statistics (IWG), reflecting input from members of the ECE/FAO ToS on Forest Products and Wood Energy Statistics (FPWES).

35. The secretariat informed delegates that it planned to send the Timber Forecast Questionnaire (TFQ) by 31 August 2022 and that the proposed reporting deadline was 30 September 2022.

36. The leaders of the ToS FPWES, as well as the former ToS on Forests Products and ToS on Wood Energy (which were merged to form the ToS FPWES) presented a report of the activities implemented over the period. The leader of the ToS on FPWES also presented planned work for the coming year.

37. The FAO presented possible updates to the way that FAOSTAT flags aggregate data, based on updates to the Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange initiative and invited member States to comment on the presented options.

38. The Joint Working Party:

(a) Supported the recommendation of the ToS FPWES that trade data supplied through the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire (JFSQ) by national correspondents was important to collect and should be preferred over COMTRADE data, which may be used as a second resort;

(b) Welcomed and supported the secretariat's work to assess the potential to automate, JFSQ data collection, processing, checking, and verification, in consultation with relevant Teams of Specialists, and noted the potential to streamline reporting rounds by national correspondents;

(c) Noted that if data obtained was taken automatically from sources such as COMTRADE, it should be validated by national correspondents;

(d) Supported the secretariat to continue work to submit proposed revisions for the HS 2027 update of Trade Classification to the WCO, in coordination with the IWG;

(e) Referred consultations on proposed revisions to the JFSQ 2023 to the ToS on FPWES, based also on consultations of the secretariat with members of the IWG on Forest Products Statistics;

(f) Referred consultations on Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange to the ToS on FPWES;

(g) Noted the need for mutual support among member States to share experiences on statistical data collection and reporting;

(h) Requested that the TFQ reporting deadline be extended to October 2022, rather than the current proposed date of 30 September 2022, while noting that replies typically needed to be received 4-6 weeks ahead of COFFI to allow for processing by the secretariat;

(i) Thanked Mr. Alex McCusker, who recently retired from the secretariat, for his many years of work on forest product statistics in the region.

3. Forest products markets

39. The secretariat outlined the products and outputs related to forest products markets in 2021 and highlighted the successful publication of the Forest Products Annual Market Review (Annual Market Review), the market discussion at the joint session of COFFI and EFC as well as the event organized during the International Day of Forests on 21 March 2022.

40. The leader of the ToS on Sustainable Forest Products reviewed the last team meeting, highlighting possible improvements to the Annual Market Review and re-iterated the need for quicker data collection in the future.

41. The Joint Working Party congratulated the secretariat for the successful publication of the Annual Market Review and provided feedback on the improvements proposed by the ToS.

42. Member States stated that they were in favour of an exclusively online, machine readable version. No print or PDF version of the Annual Market Review were required in as of 2022. The Joint Working Party requested the secretariat to redirect its resources used for layout and print in the past to develop an electronic publication similar to the one published in 2020.

43. France stated that the Joint Section may consider to fully automate the publication process of statistical information. France offered to provide a webinar to the ToS and the secretariat about advancements at their national level.

44. The Joint Working Party took note of the need for a longer-term perspective to produce the Annual Market Review on a sound financial basis for the expert contributions to the various chapters.

4. Wood Energy

45. The secretariat noted that six years had passed since the launch of the video “More heat with less wood” during the Joint Working Party 2016. The video has since been watched 210 thousand times and has been translated into Albanian (8,000 views), Georgian (39,000 views) and Turkish (1,400 views). On the occasion of its sixth anniversary, the Polish version had been made available on the website on 2022.

46. The secretariat briefly presented the past and planned future work on wood energy and highlighted the importance and success of the Joint Wood Energy Enquiry (JWEE). A representative from the German Thünen Institute of Forestry presented the results of the JWEE for the reference year 2019 as well as data from previous reporting rounds. The presentation highlighted the unique information contained in the JWEE and the thoroughness

and improved quality of data collected during the last round. The speaker also indicated the decreased response rate.

47. The Joint Working Party congratulated the secretariat for its work on wood energy data collection and dissemination and invited the secretariat to conduct another round of data collection via the JWEE. Some member States stated that over time the data in the time series may not be fully comparable with their current data as to improvements in data availability and quality. The Joint Working Party invited the secretariat to consider the possibility of revising previous datasets in the future.

48. The Joint Working Party invited countries to consider whether the JWEE could be made an annual questionnaire and requested the secretariat to discuss this at its next session.

49. The Joint Working Party took note of the need for capacity-building events in order to improve the response rate and quality to the JWEE. The secretariat highlighted its intention to conduct a capacity-building event on wood energy data collection in late 2022 and invited countries to consider hosting such an event which would bring together experts from forestry and energy sectors.

50. The FAO presented a brief summary of ongoing work to revise the statistical model of wood fuel production when countries were unable to provide a national estimate, noting that new estimates were likely to be higher than what the previous model would have estimated. Estimates should be available for comments in late 2022.

51. The Joint Working Party confirmed the continued need to further improve cross-sectoral cooperation on wood energy matters and invited the secretariat to reach out to Eurostat and its recently launched Biomass reporting questionnaire.

B. Work Area 2: Policy dialogue and advice

1. Forest Policy

52. The secretariat presented activities on Policy Dialogue and Advice.

53. The Joint Working Party:

(a) Welcomed the information provided;

(b) Expressed appreciation for the work done;

(c) Requested the secretariat to further promote good cases at global and regional levels;

(d) Requested the secretariat to continue supporting the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the accelerated action and delivery of the scope of the Integrated Programme of Work 2022-2025 and the implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan on Forests highlighting the example of the side event organized by the Joint Section during the seventeenth session of UNFF (May 2021).

2. Boreal Forests

54. The leader of the Team of Specialists on Boreal Forests informed the Joint Working Party about past activities, including several events that took place during the 2021 International Boreal Forest Research Association Conference (IBFRA). He also highlighted planned outputs and activities for the upcoming year, including a webinar series and several fact sheets and policy briefs.

55. The secretariat informed the Joint Working Party about the decision by the COFFI bureau to postpone the Ministerial Meeting on Boreal Forests, which was originally planned to take place in November 2022 during the COFFI session.

3. Forest Sector Outlook

56. The secretariat informed the Joint Working Party that the Forest Sector Outlook Study 2020-2040 had been successfully published and was now available online and in print

(<https://unece.org/info/Forests/pub/362308>). The secretariat highlighted its promotion of the study during the Joint session of COFFI and EFC “Foresta2021” as well as UNFF17.

57. A representative from the United States Forest Service, one of the main authors, presented the key findings of the Forest Sector Outlook Study.

58. The Joint Working Party thanked the Joint Section and the ToS on Forest Sector Outlook for the successful completion of the Forest Sector Outlook Study 2020–2040. The Joint Working Party requested the secretariat to publish the remaining information, including detailed data, in 2022. The following member States informed the secretariat on use of the study at the national level: Switzerland uses the outcomes for updating the forest national strategy. The Outlook Study is an important effort that helps set the stage for important domestic projections in the United States, like the Resource Planning Act Assessment. The Outlook study is a key document in Ireland for its roundwood forecast and the soon to be finalized demand outlook until 2040. Finland is updating its national forest strategy and will utilize the study in that context. The Study is a very valuable framework for Germany.

59. Member States took note of the invitation by the secretariat to hold possible events and share opportunities to further publicize the Forest Sector Outlook Study 2020-2024. Member States advised the secretariat to further integrate the outcomes of the Outlook Study in the communication programme of the Joint ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section and to further promote the outcome of the study. It was also proposed to update the Outlook study in sufficient time.

C. Work Area 3: Communication and outreach

60. The Chief of the Joint Section updated the Joint Working Party on the Joint Section’s ongoing and future communication and outreach work and planned activities for 2023, highlighting the “Trees in Cities Challenge” and the topic’s upscaling into a regular work item. She also noted the adoption of the Joint Section’s communication strategy and the launch of its dedicated social media channels. Her presentation was followed by the screening of a video produced on the occasion of the October 2021 Ministerial meeting on Forest Landscape Restoration and the ECCA30/Bonn Challenge in Eastern and South-East Europe (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=161G9mm5rpo>).

61. The deputy leader of the ToS on Forest Communication presented forest- and forest-product related communication activities as well as social media campaigns supported by the FAO secretariat and the ToS. She highlighted trainings held by the ToS on marketing and advocacy in forestry and forest jobs, including at the May 2022 World Forestry Congress. She also highlighted the recent meetings of the forest communicators’ network and announced that the next meeting of the ToS would be held in Slovenia in June 2022.

62. The Joint Working Party:

(a) Agreed to efforts to amplify the outreach of the Joint Section’s work by actively engaging on social media channels and continuing the Forest Information Billboard, including, if possible, in other languages leveraging on national and possibly also academic distribution points. Ukraine requested equal treatment of information provided to the Forest Information Billboard;

(b) Highlighted the importance of shifting the image of forests and raising awareness also among the non-forest sector audience as well as end-users leveraging on a wide range of communication tools;

(c) Welcomed the example of the Joint Section’s successful urban forestry campaign contributing to bringing a topic to the forefront of international discussions;

(d) Thanked the Joint ECE/FAO Section and the FAO secretariat for their excellent work, which had hugely increased media outreach and visibility.

D. Work Area 4: Capacity-building

63. The secretariat informed the Joint Working Party about capacity-building activities undertaken as part of Work Area 4. These activities focused on urban forestry and forest landscape restoration, forest products and forest monitoring. The secretariat also highlighted the main outcomes of the project “Strengthening policy framework on forest landscape restoration in selected UNECE countries to achieve SDG 15”.

64. In response to a request by several member States to focus capacity-building efforts on the Caucasus and Central Asia and Eastern and South-East Europe, the secretariat clarified that any capacity-building efforts were subject to additional, extrabudgetary funding, and that there were currently not enough funds to support countries beyond the scope of ongoing work.

65. The Joint Working Party:

(a) Took note of the report, emphasized the importance of activities within this work area and expressed support for the continuation of capacity-building efforts;

(b) Thanked leaders, deputy leaders and members of the various current and past ToS as well as external experts for their excellent work and availability to present and discuss with the Joint Working Party.

VIII. Item 6: Overview on forest and forest sector related work by the Economic Commission for Europe and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and a draft list of Integrated Programme of Work activities that are planned for 2023

A. Activities on forests and forest products in the region that are not covered by the Integrated Programme of work

66. ECE and FAO, in line with their governance structures, presented an overview of their forest-related work in the region in order to facilitate the review of the proposed list of activities for 2023. For the ECE, the following presentations were delivered.

67. A secretariat member from the UNECE Environment Division provided a short update on the latest Environmental Performance Reviews (EPRs) which focused on countries in the Caucasus and Central Asia and the Western Balkans in the previous three rounds and highlighted the fourth round of EPR’s launched in 2022. He also noted that EPRs used the following inputs from the Joint Section: FRA data, wood harvesting (JFSQ data), wood energy (UNECE/FAO JWEE data and FAO WISDOM data), forest products production and trade (JFSQ), contribution of the forest sector to national economy (FAO study), INForest.

68. Two representatives from the UNECE Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP) informed the Joint Working Party about recent developments under the Air Convention with an emphasis on effects of air pollution on forests (ICP Forests) and the adoption of guidance documents related to wood burning. They presented the code of good practice for wood-burning and small combustion installations. This document was developed because domestic wood heating was a major source of particulate matter (including black carbon) and organic pollutants in the UNECE region. The document covers good practices and best available techniques for small, domestic wood heating installations.

69. A secretariat member from the UNECE Sustainable Energy Division, updated the Joint Working Party on the work of the Group on Renewable Energy Experts, its main activities and outputs, including the REN21 Renewable Energy Status Report. He highlighted the “Hard Talks”, a multi-stakeholder dialogue, including ministries, parliaments and the private sector, NGOs, media, financial actors, the international community and other major stakeholders. He also presented the forest-related activities of the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) and United Nations Resource Management System

(UNRSMS) and invited interested experts to attend the tenth session of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy (GERE) on 6-7 October 2022 (venue to be determined).

70. A secretariat member from the UNECE Environment Division presented the water-food-energy-ecosystem nexus and emphasized the importance of wood energy in this context. The Convention's programme of work (2022-2024) was adopted by the 9th Meeting of the Parties and also supports the implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017–2030. She highlighted the significance of transboundary cooperation and provided details about their projects in the Alazani/Ganykh river Basin, the Drin River Basin and the Drina River Basin. She also stressed the good cooperation with the Joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section.

71. A secretariat member from the Housing Unit of the UNECE Housing and Land Management Section informed the Joint Working Party about the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management. She outlined the work on access to affordable, decent, energy-efficient housing, sustainable urban development and land administration. She also highlighted various initiatives, activities and possible areas of cooperation with the Joint Section. The cooperation with the Joint Section will be further strengthened during an event on low carbon construction during the eighty-third session of the Urban Development Committee, 3-6 October 2022 (San Marino).

72. A representative of the FAO Subregional Office for Central Asia and FAO Representation in Türkiye provided an overview of FAO's regional forestry work, outside of the Integrated Programme of Work. The presentation included both normative and operational project forestry works and the regional and subregional challenges and priorities. Delegations requested FAO to make available sufficient resources to the Joint Section for the implementation of the Integrated Programme of Work.

73. The Joint Working Party took note of the forest and wood related activities of ECE subprogrammes outside the scope of the Integrated Programme of Work. The Joint Working Party took note of FAO's work, outside of the Integrated Programme of Work, on forests in the ECE Region.

B. Initial list of activities for 2023

74. The Joint Working Party took note and supported the draft list of activities for 2023. The Joint Working Party adopted the preliminary list of activities planned for 2023, annexed to this report and noted that more activities would depend on the availability of additional funds. Activities on data collection were highlighted as an important area to continue in 2023. Since many of the activities in the plan were underfunded, delegations raised the need to prioritize and focus on areas under Work Area 1.

C. Feedback on Nexus work

75. A secretariat member reviewed UNECE's nexus areas and their work. The coordinator of the ECE nexus report on Measuring and Monitoring Progress towards the SDGs from the UNECE Environment Division coordinated the presentation, its main findings and recommendations.

76. The Joint Working Party took note of the information and recommendations provided and encouraged its members to review and possibly apply the recommendations of the report nationally.

IX. Item 7: Election of officers

77. The meeting re-elected Ms. Magdalena Wolicka-Posiadała, Poland, as Chair, and Mr. Matthias Dieter, Germany, and Mr. Michal Synek, Czech Republic, as Vice-Chairs until the end of the forty-fourth session.

X. Item 8: Date and place of next meeting

78. The forty-fourth session of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management is scheduled to be held in Geneva, Switzerland on 31 May - 2 June 2023 as an in-person meeting.

XI. Item 9: Any other business

79. None.

XII. Item 10: Adoption of the report

80. The Joint Working Party adopted the report of its session.

I. Tentative list of activities for 2023

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, progress toward Sustainable Forest Management (SFM), and the contribution of the forest sector to a sustainable economy:

(i) Reporting on the Global Forest Resource Assessment (FRA) and the Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire (CFRQ): cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and other CFRQ partners on the data collection for the 2025 reporting process;

(ii) Joint pan-European data collection on forests: cooperation with Forest Europe and FAO FRA secretariat on the data collection for the 2025 reporting cycle, including development of the online data-collection system;^{*1}

(iii) Cooperation with member States, and other national and international partners on the exchange of information and the development of forest information systems, including national forest data banks;

(iv) Dissemination of the results of the 2020 global and the pan-European reporting on forests and SFM.

(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 conditions and the impact of biotic and abiotic disturbances; publication of the thematic study.

(c) Cooperation and support to international Sustainable Forest Management processes, including regional criteria and indicator processes:

(i) Participation in the FAO FRA Advisory Group;

(ii) Support to the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) secretariat on reporting on the implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030;

(iii) Cooperation with, and support to countries, organizations and international processes (e.g. Forest Europe) in the ECE region on monitoring SFM;

(iv) Contribution to capacity building on forest monitoring in countries of the Caucasus, Central Asia, Eastern and South-East Europe;

(v) Organization of the meeting(s) of the ECE/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:

(i) Preparation of historical data on forest products, species trade, and prices;

(ii) Preparation of forecast data on forest products production and trade;

(iii) Improvement of the existing database and expansion of available information;^{*}

¹ The list also indicates currently underfunded activities (marked with an asterisk(*)) (ECE/TIM/2021/2 Annex II, para 27).

- (iv) Dissemination through FAO and ECE statistical databases and websites.
- (b) Analysis of markets for forest products, notably relevant policy aspects, including the Forest Products Annual Market Review (FPAMR) and annual Market Discussions:
 - (i) Preparation of the FPAMR 2022-2023;*
 - (ii) Preparation of data and the statistical annex for the FPAMR 2022–2023;
 - (iii) Preparation of tables and graphs for the Market Forecasts 2022–2023;
 - (iv) Publication of the FPAMR 2022–2023;
 - (v) Preparation of the Market Discussion 2023 and the Market Statement 2023;*
 - (vi) Dissemination of analysis at industry meetings.
- (c) Support of international processes in forest products:
 - (i) Participation in the Intersecretariat Working Group on Forest Sector Statistics and attendance at other international meetings;*
 - (ii) Organization of meetings of the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Products and Wood Energy Statistics and the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Sustainable Forest Products.*

3. Wood energy

- (a) Collection, validation and dissemination of statistics on wood energy:
 - (i) Collection and validation of wood energy data for the reference year 2021 via the Joint Wood Energy Enquiry (JWEE) 2021;*
 - (ii) Analysis of results of the JWEE 2021;*
 - (iii) Issuance of a new database on wood energy with 2021 data (JWEE2021);*
 - (iv) Dissemination of the JWEE data at relevant international meetings.*
- (b) Analysis of energy-related issues, including demand for, and supply of, wood energy:
 - (i) Preparation of new information material on wood energy, e.g. policy brief, short studies on various topics such as wood energy and United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), wood energy and climate change, wood energy and air quality or another demand-driven topic;*
 - (ii) Upon request provide input on forests to the ECE Environmental Performance Reviews.
 - (c) Support of international processes in wood energy:

Presentation of the wood energy work at relevant international meetings and cooperation with relevant processes (e.g. International Energy Agency, International Renewable Energy Agency, World Sustainable Energy Days).*

B. Work Area 2: Policy dialogue and advice

- (a) Contribution to the policy-related components of activities under Work Areas 1, 3 and 4:
 - (i) Organization of national forest policy dialogues workshops in interested countries;
 - (ii) Monitoring and developments in global and regional forest policy processes (United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF); Forest Europe, SDGs) and contributions, as relevant, to those processes;

- (iii) Support to the continued implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests by providing policy dialogues at the regional and national level.
- (b) The role of the forest sector in a circular economy:
 - (i) Analysing how the circular economy concepts are related to the forest-based sector – continue to work on a definition of a circular economy in the forest sector;
 - (ii) Exploration of wood-based value chains in a circular economy – work on a series of three studies;
 - (iii) Promotion and dissemination of information on the circular economy, including its social dimensions.
- (c) Forest Sector Outlook:
 - (i) Dissemination of the Forest Sector Outlook Study in the ECE region;
 - (ii) Presentation of the results of the Forest Sector Outlook Study at relevant international meetings and cooperation with relevant stakeholders at national, regional and international levels.*
- (d) Monitoring and support of international processes relevant to policymaking for the forest sector:

Organization of follow-up meetings for the Caucasus and Central Asia on Forest Landscape Restoration and the implementation of the Strategy for Landscape Restoration and Greening Infrastructure in the Caucasus and Central Asia.*
- (e) Boreal Forests:
 - (i) Organization of meeting(s) of the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Boreal Forests;
 - (ii) Preparation of policy briefs and communication material about boreal forest policy and science;
 - (iii) Organization of webinar(s) on sustainable management of boreal forests;
 - (iv) Data collection on and analysis of common challenges, gaps, and best practices on boreal forest management.

C. Work Area 3: Communication and outreach

- (a) Organization of events and campaigns in support of Sustainable Forest Management and forest products and services:
 - (i) Regional celebration of the International Day of Forests (IDF) on 21 March 2023, Geneva, Switzerland;
 - (ii) Side event at the eighteenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF18), 2023, New York, United States of America;*
 - (iii) Communication on forest landscape restoration in the ECE region through various events;*
 - (iv) Communication on sustainable wood products in contributing to SDG12 through various events and exhibitions;*
 - (v) Various communication campaigns (e.g. ECCA30, Trees in Cities Challenge, Forests for Fashion initiative);*
 - (vi) Organisation of the 7th European Forest Week in parallel with the joint session of the FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC) and the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI).
- (b) Dissemination of information via policy briefs, press briefs and ad hoc studies, whenever results are available and new information is released:

- (i) Promotion and dissemination of studies and publications;
- (ii) Promotion of the INForest platform on forest statistics: <https://forest-data.unece.org/> in meetings and press releases;
- (iii) Dissemination of the Forest Information Billboard.

(c) Press releases and targeted social media articles will be published to present the outcomes of workshops, events and publications. Outreach activities beyond the forest sector, disseminating information that highlights the relevance of forests and forest products to other sectors (e.g. energy events, biodiversity and environment meetings, sustainable construction and building):

Events organized on the margins of main forest-related and cross-sectoral meetings.

D. Work Area 4: Capacity-building

(a) Improving national capacities of middle-income countries to implement Sustainable Forest Management:

- (i) Review of countries' technical cooperation and capacity-building needs;
- (ii) Organization and implementation of technical cooperation activities;
- (iii) Raising of extrabudgetary funds as necessary;
- (iv) Coordination of technical cooperation of the sub-programme within ECE and FAO, collaboration with international entities (particularly other United Nations' agencies/programmes), United Nations' country offices as well as national partners.

(b) Strengthening capacity of policy and decisions makers, and forest service specialists to develop national forest policy and management support information systems (FPMSIS) in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia:

- (i) Analysis of the current situations, needs, requirements and opportunities for building information systems in pilot countries on e.g. forest policy and management support;
- (ii) Drafting guidelines for developing national forest policy and management support information systems.
- (c) Organization of capacity-building workshops on:
 - (i) Forest policy and management support information systems (two national workshops);
 - (ii) Global and pan-European data collection on forests and sustainable forest management;*
 - (iii) Forest products statistics for national correspondents to the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire;
 - (iv) Sustainable Forest Management focused on non-wood forest products and services, if requested;*
 - (v) Urban and peri-urban trees and forests;*
 - (vi) Forest landscape restoration in the ECE region in support of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.*

E. Secretariat services to its governing bodies and their subsidiary body

- (a) Intergovernmental meetings:
 - (i) Forty-fourth session of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management (2023);

(ii) Joint session of the eighty-first session of the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI) and the forty-second session of the FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC) (2023).

(b) Bureaux meetings:

Joint COFFI and EFC Bureaux meetings upon request.

II. List of publications for 2023

<i>Title</i>	<i>English</i>	<i>French</i>	<i>Russian</i>
Forest Products Annual Market Review 2022-2023	E-600	F-50	R-150
COFFI Forecast for Forest Products	English only, online publications		
Forestry and Timber publication (2023)	E-600	F-200	R-200
Forestry and Timber publication (2023)	E-600		R-150
Forestry and Timber publication (2023)	E-600		
Forestry and Timber publication (2023)	English only, online publications		
Forestry and Timber publication (2023)	English only, online publications		
