



UNECE



**Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations**

**UNECE-FAO
FORESTRY AND TIMBER SECTION**

**2nd (31st) Meeting of the "UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on
Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management"**

Online, 08 February 2023

Report from the meeting

Item 1. The meeting was opened and chaired by Mr. Friedrich Schmitz (Germany), the leader of the Team of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management. He welcomed the participants and presented the objectives of the meeting. Mr. Schmitz informed the Team about the discontinuity of the deputy leadership of Mr. Markus Lier (Finland). Mr. Lier will continue a regular membership in the Team of Specialist on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management.

Item 2. The Team adopted the agenda of the meeting without further changes.

Item 3. Mr. Roman Michalak (Joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section) provided updates and information on the 2025 Joint UNECE/FAO/Forest Europe pan-European Data Collection (JPEDC) cycle. He presented achieved accomplishments and highlighted the current work on the new data collection system.

Item 4. Mr. Roman Michalak highlighted, in regard of the 2025 Joint pan-European Data Collection questionnaire, data sources and the data collection processes of national and international reporting in cooperation with International Data Providers (IDPs) for related qualitative and quantitative indicators.

Item 5. The current reporting modalities of indicator 2.4 on forest damage and indicator 2.5 on trends in forest land degradation, under Criterion 2, Maintenance of Forest Ecosystem Health and Vitality, were outlined by Mr. Roman Michalak. In addition, he presented the proposed changes of variables in the reporting tables to pursue harmonization with related categories in the Global Forest Resource Assessment (FRA) 2025 of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

In the follow-up discussion moderated by Mr. Michael Koehl (University of Hamburg) the Team commented the proposed changes.

The suggested changes for indicator 2.4 (forest damage) to establish annual reference year reporting in the regular periodical data collection cycle, were well received and accepted by the Members of the ToS. Additional remarks indicated the importance of the actualness of the reported data, while due to the nature of these indicators, the forecasting of damaged forest area cannot be applied.

To follow the approach of FRA 2025 in reporting modalities, it was proposed to invite countries to report on forest degradation (indicator 2.5) according to national definitions and reporting systems. In this context, the Secretariat informed the Team that the 2025 Questionnaire does not propose any definition of forest degradation.

Proposed changes in reporting modalities for indicator 2.5 found agreement among the Members of the ToS. Furthermore, the Team discussed challenges of definitions and reporting around forest degradation, provided advice on shaping reporting on this indicator, and emphasized the need for future internationally agreed reporting modalities in this regard.

The Secretariat to the ToS expressed its gratitude to the Members for their active discussion and informed that the proposed changes will be shared with the Forest Europe Liaison Office Bonn and FAO.

Item 6. Mr. Roman Michalak provided an overview of the 2025 JPEDC criterion for supplementary remarks on reporting modalities of related indicators.

The Team discussed reporting modalities on forest fires to FRA and the JPEDC.

In order to harmonize these reporting, and to avoid overlap among the reported damage, it was proposed to separate reporting of forest fire from other types of damage in both (Global and the Pan-European) reporting processes.

- Item 7. The Team leader, Mr. Friedrich Schmitz (Germany) informed the Team Members that the next (hybrid) meeting of the Team will be held back-to-back to the Joint Working Party on 30th of May 2023 in Geneva. Members of the Team are encouraged to participate in both, the Joint Working Party and the ToS meeting.*
- Item 8. The Second (31st) Meeting of the "UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management" was closed at 15:56 on 08 February 2023.*

Annex I

Second (31st) Meeting of the "UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management"

Online, 08 February 2023

Agenda

Wednesday, 08 February 2023

Meeting started at 2pm

- Item 1. Opening and welcome.
- Item 2. Adoption of the agenda
- Item 3. Update on the 2025 Joint FAO/UNECE/FOREST EUROPE pan-European Data Collection cycle.
- Item 4. Short overview on the questionnaire.
- Item 5. Review and discussion of reporting modalities for:
 - a. Indicator 2.4 – forest damage
 - b. Indicator 2.5 – forest degradation
- Item 6. Reporting issues related to other pan-European indicators.
- Item 7. AOB
- Item 8. Closure of the meeting.

Format: Online

Meeting hours: 14:00-16:00

Annex II

List of participants

Name	First Name	Organization	Country
Abegg	Meinrad	Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research	Switzerland
Alberdi Asensio	Icár	Instituto Nacional de Investigación y Tecnología Agraria y Alimentaria INIA	Spain
Bobeva	Albena	Ministry of Agriculture and Forests	Bulgaria
Filipchuk	Andrey	VNILM	Russian Federation
Iugov	Andrey	VNILM	Russian Federation
Jabłoński	Marek	Forest Research Institute	Poland
Jędrzychowski	Maciej	Ministry of Climate and Environment, Department of Forestry and Hunting, International Cooperation	Poland
Jonas	Paulsson	Swedish Forest Agency	Sweden
Jonsson	Orjan	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	
Koch	Frank	U.S. Forest Service	United States
Koehl	Michael	University of Hamburg	
Kotakowski	Bartłomiej	Directorate General of the State Forests, International Cooperation Unit	Poland
Kovač	Goran	Ministry of Agriculture	Croatia
Lei	Jingpin	Montreal Process	
Michalak	Roman	ECE-FAO	
Neroj	Bozydar	Bureau for Forest Management and Geodesy	Poland
Nord-Larsen	Thomas	University of Copenhagen	Denmark
Oldenburger	Jan	Probos Foundation	Netherlands
Pasadolos	Maria	Ministry for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge. DG Forests and Biodiversity	Spain
Piloni	Sara	General Directorate of Forests, Ministry of agriculture, food and forestry policies	Italy
Robla González	Elena	Ministry for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge	Spain
Zamarrón	Roldán	Ministry for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge	Spain
Schmitz	Friedrich	Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture	Germany
Stahl	Bastian	ECE-FAO	
Synek	Michal	Forest Management Institute (FMI)	Czech Republic
Talarczyk	Andrzej	Expert	Poland
Teeuwen	Sander	Probos Foundation	Netherlands
Tistan	Adrian	European Commission	

Torchinava	Paata	Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia	Georgia
Tskhovrebadze	Tina	National Forestry Agency, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture	Georgia
Valgepea	Mati	Ministry of the Environment	Estonia
van Maaren	Gino	Probos Foundation	Netherlands
Vižlenskas	Darius	State Forestry Service	Latvia
Vysna	Veronika	European Commission	
Zubieta de Piquer	Belén	Ministry for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge	Spain