



UNECE



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

**UNECE-FAO
FORESTRY AND TIMBER SECTION**

**Third (32nd) Meeting of the “UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on
Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management”**

In-person in Geneva and online, 30 May 2023

Report of 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. Anssi Pekkarinen (Leader of the FAO Forest Resources Assessment Team) addressed the Team on behalf of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

Mr. Roman Michalak, Secretary to the Team, welcomed the Team on behalf of the Joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section.

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

Item 3. Updates on forest information related developments were given by Mr. Anssi Pekkarinen (FAO)¹. He informed participants about the recent launch of the Global Fire Management Hub by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). In addition, Mr. Anssi Pekkarinen provided information on a meeting of the Global Forest Observation Initiative as well as on extended support to the Open Foris tools of FAO.

Ms. Jingpin Lei (Montréal Process Liaison Office, China) highlighted the forest-information related work of the Montréal Process and informed about the upcoming Montréal Process synthesis report and work on related criteria and indicators.

Mr. Bernhard Wolfslehner (European Forest Institute FOREST EUROPE Support Team) informed participants about forest information related work of FOREST EUROPE and highlighted the work on the future of SFM, ongoing preparations for the Joint UNECE/FAO/FOREST EUROPE Pan-European Data Collection, next steps of the Risk Knowledge Mechanism (FoRISK), as well as other future activities of the process.

Ms. Annemarie Bastrup-Birk (European Environment Agency) informed on current updates and planned extensions of the Forest Information System for Europe (FISE) along with upcoming reports and additional GIS products. Furthermore, Ms. Annemarie Bastrup-Birk informed about the application of FISE as a tool to inform decision makers in the European Union.

Mr. Roman Michalak (Joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section) provided an update on the Joint Section's activities in different work areas, including monitoring forest resources, communication, forest products, circular economy, capacity building, forest landscape restoration, and boreal forests.

Item 4. Mr. Anssi Pekkarinen (FAO) presented the scope, process and current status of the Global Forest Resources Assessment as well as related communication campaigns and updates for the 2025 reporting cycle.

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 the new data collection interface and highlighted further achieved accomplishments.

Mr. Andrzej Talarczyk (Forest and Natural Resources Research Centre / Taxus IT) presented progress made within the project on forest information systems. He

¹ All presentations from the meeting are available at <https://unece.org/info/events/event/377186>

informed about completed tasks and outlined next steps in the project plan.

Mr. Roman Michalak (Joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section) highlighted prior studies of the Joint Section on forest ownership in the ECE region and outlined the possibility to initiate the work on a third reporting cycle to be implemented by 2025. The Team supported the continuation of the reporting on forest ownership in the UNECE region and underlined the importance of the timely initiation of the preparatory work for the third cycle.

Ms. Stefanie Linser (University of Natural Resources and Life Science, Vienna) presented main results of the project on assessing forest damage/disturbance in the ECE region. In particular, Ms. Stefanie Linser outlined key findings of the chapters on conceptual foundations, forest damage/disturbance reporting in the region, FRA reporting on forest damage/disturbance, as well as interpreting forest damage/disturbance data and innovative tools for monitoring and data analysis.

Mr. Michael Köhl (University of Hamburg) summarised the main conclusions of the project on assessing forest damage/disturbance in the ECE region and presented implications towards a refinement of the global and pan-European reporting on forest damage and disturbance.

In the subsequent discussion, the Team discussed the urgent need for more frequent and comprehensive information on forest damage and related challenges of national assessments, data integration, and additional reporting attributes and declared its readiness to continue the work on the refinement of the forest damage reporting in the ECE region. In this regard, participants emphasized the production of two policy briefs, based on the main project publication, to facilitate future steps on possible follow-up activities.

Mr. Michal Synek (Forest Management Institute, Czech Republic) presented results of the questionnaire on wood removal statistics carried out by the Team of Specialists on Forest Products and Wood Energy Statistics. Mr. Michal Synek informed about the usage of definitions and sources of information on wood removals in member States, as well as next steps of consolidating the results. The Team welcomed the presentation and emphasized the topic as a possible area of cooperation with the Team of Specialists on Forest Products and Wood Energy Statistics.

Item 5. The Team leader, Mr. Friedrich Schmitz (Germany) informed the Team Members that the Team will hold an in-person meeting in spring 2024 in Cyprus, and thanked the Government of Cyprus for extending its kind invitation.

Item 6. The Third (32nd) Meeting of the "UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management" was closed at 14:56 on 30 May 2023.

Annex I

Third (32nd) Meeting of the “UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management”

In-person in Geneva and online, 30 May 2023

Agenda

Tuesday, 30 May 2023

Meeting started at 10am CEST

- Item 1. Opening and welcome.
- Item 2. Adoption of the Agenda.
- Item 3. Updates by organizations on forest information related developments.
- Item 4. Ongoing activities of the Team and the Secretariat.
 - a. Update on the progress of work on the Global FAO FRA and the UNECE/FAO/FOREST EUROPE Joint Pan-European Data Collection.
 - b. Update on the progress of work on the project on forest information systems.
 - c. Forest ownership reporting.
 - d. Assessing forest damage/disturbance in the UNECE region.
 - i. Main results of the project.
 - ii. Conclusions of the project.
 - iii. Discussion on results, conclusions, and possible follow-up activities.
 - e. Results of the questionnaire on wood removal statistics.
- Item 5. AOB
- Item 6. Date and place of the next meeting.
- Item 7. Closure of the meeting.

Format: Hybrid

Meeting hours: 10:00-15:00

Annex II

List of participants

Name	First Name	Organization	Country
Alberdi Asensio	Icár	Instituto Nacional de Investigación y Tecnología Agraria y Alimentaria INIA	Spain
Arslan	Alper Tolga	General Directorate of Forestry	Türkiye
Bastrup-Birk	Annemarie	European Environment Agency	
Bobeva	Albena	Ministry of Agriculture and Forests	Bulgaria
Colin	Antoine	IGN - institut national de l'information géographique et forestière	France
Hangler	Johannes	Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management	Austria
Hermans	Pierre	Sylva Nova	
Iugov	Andrey	All-Russian Research Institute of Silviculture & Forest Mechanization (ARISFM/VNIILM)	Russian Federation
Jędrychowski	Maciej	Ministry of Climate and Environment	Poland
Jonas	Paulsson	Swedish Forest Agency	Sweden
Koch	Frank	U.S. Forest Service	United States
Koehl	Michael	University of Hamburg	
Kořakowski	Bartłomiej	Directorate General of the State Forests,	Poland
Korhonen	Kari	Natural Resources Institute Finland	Finland
Lei	Jingpin	Montreal Process	
Lier	Markus	European Commission	
Linser	Stefanie	University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna	
Lukic	Lidija	Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Makeev	Talaibek	ECE	
Marchetti	Marco	University of Molise	
Martirosyan	Vahe	Armeniatree	
Michalak	Roman	ECE-FAO	
Moravčík	Martin	National Forest Centre	Slovakia
Neroj	Bozydar	Bureau for Forest Management and Geodesy	Poland
Onida	Marco	European Commission	
Pasadolos	Maria	Ministry for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge	Spain
Paulsson	Jonas	Swedish Forest Agency	Sweden
Pekkarinen	Anssi	FAO	
Piloni	Sara	Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry Policies	Italy
Rémond-Tiedrez	Isabelle	European Commission	
Robla González	Elena	Ministry for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge	Spain

Rukhadze	Aleksandre	Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia	Georgia
Savvas	Andrea	Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment	Cyprus
Schmitz	Friedrich	Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture	Germany
Sokolenko	Maria	Federal Forestry Agency	Russian Federation
Stahl	Bastian	ECE-FAO	
Synek	Michal	Forest Management Institute (FMI)	Czech Republic
Talarczyk	Andrzej	Expert	Poland
Teeuwen	Sander	Probos Foundation	Netherlands
Torchinava	Paata	Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia	Georgia
Valgepea	Mati	Ministry of the Environment	Estonia
Wolfslehner	Bernhard	University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, Austria (BOKU) and FOREST EUROPE EFI Support Team	