

TIMBER BRANCH

Trade Development and Timber Division

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE



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Comments and suggestions from the timber and forestry community are most welcome, please write to us at:
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Joint UNECE/FAO Workshop on illegal logging and trade of illegally-derived forest products in the UNECE Region

16-17 September 2004, Geneva

UNECE and FAO will convene a Workshop on Illegal Logging and Trade of Illegally-derived Forest Products in the UNECE Region to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, from 16 to 17 September 2004.

In its market statement, the UNECE Timber Committee stated:

"Forest law enforcement, governance and trade (FLEGT) is at present the main issue in the forest sector and the Committee's annual Market Discussions provided a forum for a multi-stakeholder discussion. Illegal logging denies revenues to governments, industries and forest owners, puts downward pressure on forest products prices, negatively affects workers and compromises sustainable forest management. The Committee wants to work together with other organizations to determine the extent and causes of illegal logging and trade."

The objectives of the workshop are to provide a forum for discussion on forest law enforcement, governance and trade, illegal logging and trade of illegally-sourced forest products in the UNECE region, and in particular:

- identify the main types and causes of illegal logging in the region;
- try to estimate the extent of the problem, on the basis of national reports;
- give preliminary consideration to what international activity,

What is illegal logging?

Much of the discussion on illegal logging tends to be imprecise because of a certain ambiguity about the concept of illegal logging. For the purposes of the questionnaire circulated for the preparation of country reports for the Joint UNECE/FAO Workshop, illegal logging refers to timber harvesting activities that fail to respect national and sub-national laws and norms that regulate such harvesting operations. Acts such as tax evasion or acquiring timber concessions through corrupt deals, or timber smuggling, although clearly criminal acts, are considered different illegal acts and therefore excluded from this definition.

Did you know -

how effective are forests in improving air quality?

"The air we breathe contains about 22 % of oxygen... It has been largely formed by the photosynthetic process of plants, so forests contribute to the quality of our lives by improving air quality. Absorbed dust may exceed the crown weight of trees showing the filtering capacity of forests."



if any, is desirable to combat illegal logging and trade in the UNECE region; and

- report the workshop's proposals for follow-up to the joint session of the Timber Committee (TC) and the European Forestry Commission (EFC) in October 2004.

Participants are sought from countries within the UNECE region (Europe, Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and North America), nominated by heads of delegations to either the UNECE Timber Committee or the FAO European Forestry Commission. Participants are requested to present national report at the workshop.

Representatives from other international organizations, non-governmental organizations, and trade organizations are also expected to participate. A maximum of two experts per delegation is foreseen to maintain a manageable number of participants.

All information on the workshop will be posted on the UNECE/FAO Timber Branch Website (<http://www.unece.org/trade/timber>). Please refer questions and information on illegal logging which you wish to contribute to: ed.pepke@unece.org

New UNECE/FAO Publications

Modelling and Projections of Forest Products Demand, Supply and Trade in Europe by Kari Kangas, Anders Baudin

This Discussion Paper describes the econometric modelling approach developed by Brooks et al (1995) and applied in the study for modelling forest products demand, supply and trade. It provides a country specific outlook for a baseline scenario, based on estimated elasticities and long-term forecast of economic growth (NOBE, 2001). Alternative scenarios are forecasted as well, based on the outcome of a special policy analysis carried out by UNECE/FAO (see below).

The Policy Context of the European Forest Sector by Carsten Thoroe, Tim Peck, Helena Guarin Corredor, Franz Schmithüsen

The Discussion Paper describes the activities, methods and outcomes of a project, which identifies policy and market scenarios with major impacts on the European forest sector. It is based on an intensive literature search and an inquiry addressed to major stakeholder groups in the forest sector. The study develops major scenarios in qualitative terms, and identifies quantitative links between the policy and market scenarios and the steering parameters of outlook modelling for forest resources and forest products markets.

Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training

The Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training will hold its 25th session, from 9 to 12 September in Groningen, the Netherlands. In 2004 the Joint Committee will commemorate its 50th anniversary by holding a special topic on the achievements since its establishment and the presentation of a publication on the same topic.

The session will be followed by a seminar on building bridges between people and forests; changing roles of State Forest Services, from 12 to 16 September.

The seminar is aimed at all those involved in forestry, in particular forest policy makers, forest service officials, forest managers, environmental and other non-governmental organizations, representatives of local governments and of research institutions.

Accelerating changes in international relations, standards, communication and policy-making processes and the growing imbalance between economic activities and conservation of nature and the environment have strong impacts on how people see and value nature, including forests, and the way national governments and society feel and take responsibility on forest policy and management. The challenge is to identify which modifications in land use and forest policy are required to cope with these changes. How do regions or countries adapt their forest policy? To what extent do changes in policy have an impact on the tasks and organisation of forest services? The seminar aims to provide answers to these and other questions, and will review the role of forests as an element of the development of the global society. For more information, contact: jorge.najera@unece.org

The Development Of European Forest Resources, 1950 To 2000: A Better Information Base, by Stefan Gold

The Discussion Paper deals with the challenge of adjusting inconsistencies in the historical data series for the main forest resources parameters based on the UNECE/FAO Forest Resources Assessments (FRA) source data. It describes the methods used to improve the quality of long-term series based on national inventory data and assesses trends for a number of European countries. It attempts to identify driving forces behind major long-term changes in key forest resource parameters.

All the above publications are available for downloading on the UNECE/FAO Timber Branch website: <http://www.unece.org/trade/timber/>.

Regional outlook for the FRA-related work beyond the global FRA 2005 update

The recently completed Strategic Review of the UNECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission Integrated programme of work on forests and timber has come up with a number of important new proposals. One of these is the more accurate focusing of activities in the work area named “*Forest resource assessment and indicators of sustainable forest management in the region*”.

The main focus of the regional FRA-related activities in 2004-2008 will be the contribution to the implementation of the global FRA programme, work relating to the regional indicators for SFM and the support to the development of national systems for forest monitoring. The extended Bureau meeting of the UNECE Timber Committee and FAO European Forestry Commission, held in April 2004, proposed establishing a new Team of Specialists on “*Monitoring Forest Resources for Sustainable Forest Management in the UNECE region*”, which is expected to be a successor of the current regional UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Resources Assessment.

The agenda of the final meeting of the present regional FRA team, to be held in Washington DC, USA, on 15-17 September 2004, will mainly be devoted to the cooperation between Montreal and the pan-European (MCPFE) processes, especially on the aspects of reporting country data on Criteria and Indicators (C&I) for Sustainable Forest management (SFM). Among the agenda items are the following:

- Overview and analysis of the common “core” indicators/variables for C&I reporting in the MCPFE and Montreal processes
- Countries’ C&I reporting procedures: possibilities and ways of harmonisation and streamlining;
- Timing & specific requirements of reporting in the two C&I processes;
- Regional UNECE/FAO Forest Resources Assessment as a “structured tool” for reporting on C&I: experience and potential;
- Analysis of specific indicators in the MCPFE and Montreal processes;
- Terms and Definitions aspect in C&I reporting: how to overcome differences in the national, regional and global FRA definitions, and others

The opportunity will be used to overview the status of the implementation of the global FRA 2005 update and its implication on MCPFE, Montreal, and regional UNECE FRA-related processes. The role of the future UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists in supporting and contributing to the C&I country reports will also be addressed.

All these vital issues are expected to be covered in the open discussion, at plenary, and also in the working groups. The background document with “*Analysis of Scope, Coverage and Methodological Approaches for the Regional UNECE/FAO Work on Forest Resources*

Assessment in the Global FRA Context” is being prepared in consultation with some leading experts in this area.

The participants of the ToS meeting were invited to take part in the big International Symposium on monitoring aspects of ecosystem sustainability to be held in Denver (Colorado), just after the Washington DC meeting. The relevance and importance of the two events will help the ToS members in planning their long-distance travel.

For more information about the ToS meeting, contact A. Korotkov (alexander.korotkov@unece.org).

Forest Products Trade Flow Data, 2001-2002

contains data on world flows of 22 forest products, in volume and value terms, by origin and destination (25 largest importers, 15 largest exporters, plus developed and developing countries for each product) in 2001 and 2002. They have been derived from the UN COMTRADE database, verified and supplemented by a procedure developed by the FAO Forestry Department. The products include industrial roundwood, sawnwood, wood-based panels, wood pulp, recovered paper and paper and paperboard. The bilingual (English/French) PDF format file can be downloaded at http://www.unece.org/trade/timber/mis/fp-stats.htm#Trade_Flow.



UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Products Markets and Marketing Meet in Geneva

The Team meets on 4 October 2004 at the Palais des Nations. The following day the team will participate in the annual Timber Committee market discussions.

The team’s agenda focuses on accomplishment and progress for their new mandate which will be presented for approval at the joint session by the parent bodies, i.e. the TC and the European Forestry Commission.

Specifically the team will address:

- Forest products market developments
- UNECE/FAO forest products marketing programme
- Survey of UNECE/FAO market-related outputs
- Studies on marketing issues and emerging markets
- Marketing capacity building in central and eastern European countries

More information on the Team and its meeting may be obtained from the website: www.unece.org/trade/timber/mis/tos/specialists.htm, or by contacting E. Pepke (Ed.Pepke@unece.org).

Joint session UNECE Timber Committee, 62nd session and FAO European Forestry Commission, 32nd session 5-9 October 2004, Palais des Nations, Geneva

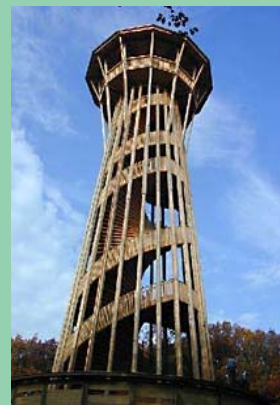
The joint session of the UNECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission will be held from 5 to 9 October at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

The policy forum during the event will be devoted to the discussion of the following topics: (1) Forest products market developments and prospects; (2) Long term challenges for forest and timber policies and institutions in a wider Europe; (3) Forest law enforcement and governance; (4) the role of the Timber Committee and the European Forestry Commission in the international forest policy dialogue, under this item, governments would have the opportunity to evaluate and monitor progress in the global and regional forest dialogue and to say clearly where they think UNECE/FAO fits in. The joint session will finally approve the strategy emerging from the Strategic Review process undertaken in 2003 and 2004.

Other agenda items for discussion are the following: (a) FAO forestry activities in the region - review of FAO Regular and Field programmes in Europe, including follow-up to requests and recommendations of the 31st session of EFC; (b) Forest fires: regional agreements for mutual assistance; (c) AFWC/EFC/NEFC Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions; (d) Working

Party on Management of Mountain Watersheds; (e) Regional issues identified by the Commission for the attention of the Committee on Forestry; (f) Matters arising from the 59th session of the UNECE; and (g) UNECE/FAO strategic review and integrated programme of work for 2005-2008.

The Swiss Government is organizing a half-day excursion on Saturday morning 9 October following the joint session, to visit the Tower of Sauvabelin in Lausanne. The Tower has been open to the public in December 2003, it is a construction made entirely of wood from the forests of Lausanne. Prof. Julius Natterer (EPF-Lausanne) designed this high-tech and aesthetic wood construction. Perched on the heights of the city, the 151 steps of the tower lead out on to a platform situated more than 30 metres above ground-level, from which one enjoys a splendid view of the City of Lausanne, the Lake of Geneva, the Jura Mountains and the Alps. For further information, contact C. De Castro (cynthia.de.castro@unece.org).



Current and Upcoming events

- 9-12 September, **Joint/FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training, 25th session**, Groningen, the Netherlands
- 12-16 September, **Joint/FAO/ECE/ILO Seminar on building bridges between people and forests; changing roles of State Forest Services**, Groningen, the Netherlands
- 15-18 September, **Meeting of the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Resources Assessment**, Washington, DC,
- 16-17 September, **Workshop on extent and causes of illegal logging in the UNECE region**, Geneva
- 4 October, **Meeting of the UNECE/FAO team of specialists on forest products markets and marketing**, Geneva
- 5-9 October, **Joint session UNECE TIMBER COMMITTEE, 62nd session and FAO European Forestry Commission, thirty-second session**, Geneva
- 11-15 October, **FAO/ECE/ILO Workshop on the role of forests in torrent control and watershed management**, Zidlochovice, South Moravia, Czech Republic
- 27-29 October, **FAO/ECE/ILO Seminar on Disaster preparedness in forestry (tentative title) in cooperation with EU concerted action STODAFOR**, Freiburg, Germany
- (Date to be decided) **Workshop on policy conclusions and options arising from European Forest Sector Outlook Study (EFSOS)**, Geneva