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Comments and suggestions from the timber and forestry community are most welcome. Please write to us at: info.timber@unece.org

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United Nations

PLEASE WALK ON THE GRASS

by Paola Deda
new Chief of the Timber Section



Dear Reader,

Several years ago, when I was in Toronto for a conference, I saw a sign in the park that said: 'PLEASE WALK ON THE GRASS'. At the time, I was a student exploring the theoretical meanings and policy implications of sustainable development. That message in the park spoke to me more than any sustainability text or lecture.

No 'DON'Ts' or bans were necessary to prevent Torontonians from enjoying the amenities offered by nature. Sound management of the park enabled visitors to walk around the park unrestricted by designated paths.

Since then, my academic endeavours and subsequently my various professional initiatives at the United Nations led me to search and strive for that balance: how to achieve the sustainable use of natural resources; how to marry profit to sustainable use; how to achieve optimum production and use, while not infringing on the resilience of ecosystems?

In the case of forests, this question finds answers in sustainable forest management: a strategic, yet complex, tool for economic growth, inextricably linked to social and environmental objectives. It is also clear that achieving sustainable timber production requires healthy forests and efficient production systems.

There are still several challenges and obstacles to the full application and implementation of sustainable forest management.

Numerous threats remain for instance in the form of natural disasters, the expected as well as unpredicted impacts of climate change, irresponsible human interventions, and sometimes, inadequate governance.

To assist countries with these challenges, the UNECE/FAO Timber Section has developed and evolved through the years into a diverse

and versatile team, providing a range of skills and services while benefiting from the energy and expertise available through its two hosting organizations.

I am glad to join and lead this team, and to apply my background and experience to the service of the team and member States as well as other forest stakeholders.

I am committed to further strengthening the existing functions of the team and to maintaining the diversity and range of services currently provided to all stakeholders, specifically in areas of advocacy, monitoring and assessment of the forest sector, as well as promotion and guidance on sustainable forestry. At the same time, I will endeavour to provide member States with reinforced support in the areas of capacity building and all the UNECE/FAO priorities reflected in the Integrated Programme of Work on Timber and Forestry. I will also continue to make sure that relevant existing activities are extended to and fully encompass the 56 countries of the UNECE region.

I look forward to working with member States, other international and national organizations, the private sector and civil society in your efforts to maintain productive and healthy forests, use and manage forest products and resources sustainably and support the development of greener economies.

As it may be a while before I get to meet you in person, please feel free to reach me by e-mail at paola.deda@unece.org should you wish to exchange ideas and explore areas for cooperation.

I thank you for the tremendous support you have already granted to the Section and look forward to working closely with you in the future.



Пожалуйста, ходите по траве

Паола Дела

новый Руководитель Секции по лесоматериалам

Дорогой читатель,

Несколько лет назад, когда я была в Торонто на конференции, мне бросилась в глаза табличка в парке, на которой было написано «Пожалуйста, ходите по траве». В то время я была студенткой, изучающей теоретические тезисы и политические последствия устойчивого развития. Табличка в парке явилась же для меня более убедительной, чем все трактаты по вопросам устойчивости или лекции.

Никакие предостережения наподобие «НЕЛЬЗЯ», ни запреты не понадобились жителям Торонто наслаждаться красотами, подаренными природой. Продуманное управление парком дает возможность посетителям ходить по всему парку без всяких ограничений по заранее оборудованным тропинкам.

С тех пор мои научные исследования и соответственно мои различные профессиональные инициативы в Организации Объединенных Наций [1] заставили меня бороться за это равновесие: как добиться устойчивого использования природных ресурсов, как сочетать выгоду и устойчивое использование, как достичь оптимальной продуктивности и использования и в то же время не ставя под угрозу экосистемы?

В том, что касается лесов, данная проблема находит решения путем обеспечения устойчивого управления лесами: стратегический, хотя и сложный инструмент для экономического роста неразрывно связан с задачами в социальной и природоохранной областях. Также очевидно, что обеспечение устойчивой продукции лесоматериалов означает иметь здоровые леса и эффективные жизнеспособные системы их воспроизводства.

Все еще имеется ряд трудностей и препятствий, стоящих на пути к полному применению и осуществлению устойчивого управления лесами.

Многочисленные угрозы возникают также в результате природных бедствий и непредсказуемых последствий изменений климата, а также безответственных вмешательств людей в указанные сферы и, в некоторых случаях, неадекватного руководства.

Для того, чтобы оказать содействие странам в решении этих проблем, Секцией по лесоматериалам ЕЭК ООН и ФАО была создана команда, которая с течением лет превратилась в группу сотрудников с разносторонними способностями и талантами, которые обладают обширными знаниями и предоставляют широкий спектр услуг, одновременно используя потенциал и имеющуюся в двух указанных руководящих организациях экспертизу.

Я рада вступить в члены этой команды и взять на себя руководящие функции ею, и буду использовать все мои знания и опыт во имя дела, как в интересах группы, так и в интересах стран-участниц и всех заинтересованных лиц.

Я подтверждаю свою приверженность дальнейшему укреплению существующих функций группы и буду поддерживать как ее разнообразие, так и широкий спектр услуг, которые в настоящее время предоставляются всем

заинтересованным участникам этого процесса, особенно в областях охраны, мониторинга и оценки состояния лесного хозяйства, а также буду работать над повышением руководящей роли, направленное на придание лесному сектору устойчивого характера. В то же самое время, я приложу свои силы к тому, чтобы предоставить странам-членам усиленную поддержку в областях по наращиванию потенциала и во всех приоритетных задачах, стоящих перед ЕЭК ООН и ФАО, которые отражены в Совместной программе работы лесоматериалам и лесному хозяйству. Я также продолжу работу с тем, чтобы гарантировать то, что все соответствующие мероприятия были реализованы и полностью охватывали все 56 стран региона ЕЭК ООН.

Я с нетерпением жду работы со странами-членами, другими международными и национальными организациями, представителями частного сектора и гражданского общества в ваших усилиях сохранить здоровые леса, использовать и управлять лесной продукцией и ресурсами устойчиво и поддерживать развитие экономических курсов, учитывающих экологический фактор.

Поскольку данная заметка вероятно выйдет немного раньше моей личной встречи с Вами, и если Вы захотите обменяться мнениями или обсудить пути сотрудничества, прошу Вас знать, что я всегда в Вашем распоряжении по электронной почте по адресу paola.deda@unece.org.

Благодарю Вас за огромную поддержку, которую Вы уже оказали Секции, и с нетерпением жду начала нашей совместной работы с Вами.

TIMBER COMMITTEE AND EUROPEAN FORESTRY COMMISSION BUREAUX MEET WITH WORKING PARTY ON MANAGEMENT OF MOUNTAIN WATERSHEDS BUREAU

These Bureaux met in Geneva on 24-25 February 2010 to discuss:

- Implementation of their Integrated Programme of Work
- European Forestry Commission session, 27-30 April 2010
- Timber Committee and Society of Wood Science and Technology session, 11-15 October 2010
- Other major international events in 2010 and 2011
- Cross-sectoral activities
- Programme evaluations
- Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe in 2011
- Activities in eastern Europe and central Asia
- Working Party on Management of Mountain Watersheds

This was the first time in recent history that the Bureau of the EFC and the Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds has met. The meeting was an opportunity to form closer coordination, especially in preparing the "Forest and water" session during the forthcoming EFC.

The full report is available at:

<http://timber.unece.org/index.php?id=279>



UNECE



WTO OMC

OUTCOME OF THE WORKSHOP ON TRADE MEASURES AND TIMBER MARKETS 23 MARCH 2010

“Regulations affecting the trade of timber products are evolving quickly, and this evolution should be closely monitored because of the impacts on the entire forest sector.” So concluded the workshop on “Emerging Trade Measures in Timber Markets”, organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) jointly with the Economic Research and Statistics Division of the World Trade Organization (WTO), on 23 March 2010 in Geneva.

The workshop was a unique opportunity to get a comprehensive overview of the increasingly complex regulatory framework impacting trade in wood and wood products. More than 100 stakeholders participated from government, industry, trade associations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and academia. There is currently considerable concern and debate about the entire range of trade and trade-related measures that are impacting the timber markets.

World trade in wood and paper products, including value-added products, has doubled over the last 10 years. This has occurred notwithstanding various policies and measures affecting the timber trade. China is the motor of the global timber trade, having become a major importer of roundwood and the major exporter of value-added wood products such as wooden furniture. China's wood products exports expanded 5-fold from 2000 to 2008.

Tariff reduction is one of the objectives of the Doha Development Agenda negotiations currently taking place under WTO. Different proposals and views are currently under consideration.

Export taxes, such as those currently in place in Russia, act unequally between different forest industry sectors and between countries. As these taxes occurred during the global economic crisis, it is impossible to accurately measure their economic effects.

Some trade measures designed to improve domestic forest sector development, in both temperate and tropical countries, have not yet achieved their objectives.

Participants discussed the emergence of non-tariff measures aimed at curbing illegal logging and trade in illegally produced forest products and other trade measures favouring the use of timber harvested from sustainably managed forests, e.g. certification systems and public procurement policies. Such measures are desirable as the issue of illegal logging and trade in illegal timber products remains critical for the global forest sector.

The approaches to this question vary from one country to the other and the regulatory framework is still evolving. For example, under the European action plan for forest law enforcement governance and trade, Voluntary Partnership Agreements are in the process of being negotiated with partner countries. Internally, discussions on the draft due diligence European Union regulation continue between EU institutions.

However, some participants cautioned against the possible negative impacts on trade and undesired collateral effects on some forest resources, notably in some developing countries. They discussed the respective roles of measures designed to fight against illegal logging and certification schemes. Stakeholders agreed that these measures must be recognized and coordinated internationally to promote fair competition and efficiencies in forest products production and trade.

Subsidies, notably those that encourage renewable energy consumption based on woody biomass, are an important issue having either positive or negative impacts on different stakeholders within the forest sector.

There are many different ways to subsidize an industry, e.g. upstream subsidies, support to intermediate consumption or support to final consumption. There are also difficulties linked with the measurement of subsidies and the subsequent analysis of their market effects taking into account externalities and possible market failures.

Finally, participants recognized the importance of phytosanitary measures required in the face of new risks of pests. The International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures number 15 (ISPM 15) concerning wood packaging material was presented, in connection with the WTO agreement on the application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures. The global escalation of trade in all goods, often using wood packaging and/or pallets, necessitates ensuring against introduction and spread of harmful insects or diseases.

Participants noted that the economic and trade impact of measures like subsidies, export taxes or non-tariff measures merits more attention and research in the future.

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SEMINAR ON "ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE TOWARDS GREEN ECONOMY" 15-17 FEBRUARY 2010

The UNECE/FAO Timber Section, in cooperation with the UNECE Environment, Housing and Land Management Division, and with the active support of UNCTAD and UNEP, organized on **16-17 February 2010** a **Seminar on "Environmental Governance towards Green Economy"**, in the context of the annual tour of the students from the MSc. Environmental Governance, of the University of Freiburg, Germany.

Several presentations and roundtables were organized with various speakers from a large spectrum of organizations. The key concepts of Green economy were presented by representatives of UNECE, UNEP and the International Institute for Sustainable development (IISD). Different sectoral and cross-sectoral issues of relevance to a green economy were discussed: The Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions on chemicals and the Basel Convention on Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal were described by representatives from their secretariats. The International Labor Organization explained the concepts of "social dialogue" and "green jobs" and the World Trade Organization on the links between trade and environment.

Two roundtables were organized, the first one on governance and financing of the green economy, and the second one comparing different examples of governance of natural resources. These discussions notably involved representatives from the CITES and RAMSAR conventions, the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification scheme (PEFC), the UNECE Aarhus convention Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to

Justice in Environmental Matters, the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD), the World Conservation Union (IUCN), the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM).

UNEP presented on biodiversity followed by the UN Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing countries (UN-REDD) and the Environment & security initiative (ENVSEC). Lots of discussion was evoked during the day

Mr. Arthur Dahl discussed with students the ethical aspects of environmental governance at the end of an intensive 2 ½ days intensive session of questions and answers and a very active, interested and engaged group of students.

Presentations made available by the speakers at this occasion can be found on the UNECE/FAO Timber section study tour website at:

<http://timber.unece.org/index.php?id=273>

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FORTHCOMING WORKSHOP IN SOUTHEAST EUROPE, BELGRADE, SERBIA CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY IN THE FOREST SECTOR ON 13-14 APRIL 2010

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) has grown in significance in recent years. Once considered to be the preserve of very large organizations, the concept has been adopted by small and medium enterprises, as well as by their trade associations. The 2009 Timber Committee meeting endorsed the idea that there should be a workshop in south east Europe in 2010, "to share experiences and to build awareness of the attributes of CSR for the sustainable development of the forest sector."

This is what lies behind the "Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in the forest sector in south east Europe" workshop that will be held in Belgrade on 13 & 14 April 2010. Organized jointly by the UNECE/FAO Timber Section, the State University of Belgrade, Faculty of

Forestry with input from the UNIDO-supported CSR competence regional project, the workshop will introduce the concept and raise awareness of CSR. Speakers from the region and beyond will outline their experience of CSR and how it has benefited their companies or organizations.

The workshop is expected to attract between 50 - 70 participants drawn from the forest and wood processing/manufacturing sectors throughout the western Balkans. As well as expert presentations from Italy and Finland, participants will have the chance to explore in working groups which aspects of CSR are of most relevance to their sector in the western Balkans as well as what companies may already be doing.

EUROPEAN FOREST TYPES

The new European forest types are organised according to a hierarchical classification system structured into 14 first level classes (categories) and 75 second level classes (types). In the previous newsletters the first five categories were presented.

(1. Boreal forests 2. Hemiboreal forest and nemoral coniferous and mixed broadleaved-coniferous forest 3. Alpine coniferous forest 4. Acidophilous oak and oak-birch forest and 5. Mesophytic deciduous forest)

Here you find the next three categories:

6. Beech forest



Beech forests are characterised by the dominance of European beech *Fagus sylvatica* L. or its transitional hybrids. Important additional tree species include *Acer platanoides*, *Acer pseudoplatanus*, *Betula pendula*, *Carpinus betulus*, *Castanea sativa*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Populus tremula*, *Prunus avium*, *Quercus petraea*, *Quercus robur*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Tilia cordata*, *Tilia platyphyllos*, and *Ulmus glabra*. Beech grows in a wide range of soils and climates, which explains its wide geographic distribution, ranging from southern Norway to Sicily and from Southern England to the lowlands in north-eastern Poland, east of the Carpathians in Moldova.

Beech forests occur on almost all kinds of soils with the exceptions of extreme acid and waterlogged ones.

7. Mountainous beech forest



Mountainous beech forests are defined by the altitudinal range of distribution, by the dominance of *Fagus* and, in most cases, by the presence of coniferous species (*Abies alba* and/or *Picea abies*). Additional, locally important components of this category include tree species listed under category 6 (Beech forest) that occur depending on site conditions and/or succession phase. The centre of distribution of mountainous beech forests is in central European mountains, but they also occur in higher mountains in the Pyrenees, Alps, Carpathians, central Balkans and the Apennines, and as far south as Sicily, where they grow to 2,100 m on Mount Etna. In general, as one moves further south, beech forests occupy a higher and higher mountain zone, their upper limit is at 1,200m in the northern Alps, 1,500m in the Pyrenees, 1,550m in the Tyrol, and 1,850m in the Apennines.

8. Thermophilous deciduous forest



Forest dominated by deciduous or semideciduous thermophilous species, mainly *Quercus pubescens*; other oaks associate with or replace *Q. pubescens* in submediterranean woods: *Quercus faginea*, *Q. pyrenaica* and *Q. canariensis* (Spain), *Q. cerris* (Italy), *Q. frainetto*, *Q. trojana* (Greece). The species typically associated in these oak woods are maples (*Acer monspessulanus*, *Acer opalus*, *Acer obtusatum*) and, in eastern areas, *Ostrya carpinifolia*, *Fraxinus ornus*, *Carpinus orientalis*. The deciduous forests under this category mainly occur in the supra-Mediterranean vegetation belt, the altitudinal belt of Mediterranean mountains corresponding to the mountainous level of middle European mountains. Thermophilous deciduous forests are limited to the north (or upslope) by temperature and to the south (or downslope) by drought.

Materials and pictures from EEA Technical report No 9/2006: European forest types, were used, the electronic version of the report is available at: http://reports.eea.europa.eu/technical_report_2006_9/e

NOW ONLINE GLOBAL DATABASE ON NATIONAL FOREST POLICIES & INSTITUTIONS

An online database compiling information on national forest policies and institutions has just been released and is accessible at the FAO forestry country profiles: www.fao.org/forestry/country/18315. The UNECE/FAO Timber Section developed this information repository jointly with FAO to facilitate access to data on forest policies and institutions, which is reported through various processes and was until now very scattered. The database is mainly based on information collected through the FAO global Forest Resources Assessment (www.fao.org/forestry/fra) and, for the pan-European region, through the 2007 enquiry on the qualitative indicators for Sustainable Forest Management adopted by the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (<http://timber.unece.org/index.php?id=275>). The database is structured according to the following sections: *Policy* – including policy formulation and implementation as well as national forest programmes, *Legislation* and *Institutions* – including both public and non-governmental ones. Data from FRA 2010 will be included once it is officially released, which is expected by Fall 2010.

UNECE LAUNCHES DATA COLLECTION ON PAN-EUROPEAN FORESTS

The UNECE/FAO Timber Section has just launched its periodic enquiry on the state of forests and forest management in Europe.

National correspondents from 46 countries in the pan-European region were invited to provide information on the status of and changes in forests, their management and applied policies. The results will be presented in the *State of Europe's Forests* report, which will be released at the 6th Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (Forest Europe), to be held in 2011 in Norway.

This assessment is prepared together with Forest Europe's Liaison Unit Oslo and in close cooperation with the FAO Forestry Department.

For further information, please contact:

Mr. Roman Michalak (roman.michalak@unece.org)
or Ms. Marion Briens (marion.briens@unece.org)

UNECE/FAO TIMBER STAFF

Ms. Paola Deda has been appointed the new Chief of the Timber Section. She will start her duties on 6 April 2010.



Paola Deda, a PhD in territorial/environmental planning, held different positions and responsibilities within the United Nations, including at: the United Nations Department of Economic Affairs in New York (Division for Sustainable Development); the Secretariats of two UNEP Biodiversity

Conventions in Montreal and Bonn; the UNEP Environment Management Group and UNECE in Geneva. She has published several articles on the sustainable use of natural resources, and has participated as contributing author to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. Prior to joining the United Nations, Paola worked as researcher at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver and the University of California at Berkeley. Paola has a 10 year-old daughter, Georgia.



David Ellul has joined the Timber Section as an Associate Economic Affairs Officer. After completing his studies in Applied Environmental Geosciences and Diplomacy, David joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Malta as a Second (later First) Secretary. He spent 2 years in Valletta as desk officer on international

environmental issues followed by an assignment as Climate Change Attaché within the Permanent Representation of Malta to the EU in Brussels in the build up towards the Copenhagen conference. David will be covering policy and cross-sectoral issues focussing on climate change related matters.

Stein Michael Tomter, Norwegian expert on national forest inventory and forest assessment has been working with the secretariat on preparations for national reporting for the State of Europe's Forests 2011 report.

Stein contributed to finalization of the national enquiry on quantitative indicators and related documents and supported pre-filling national enquiries with data from international data providers. Stein participated in preparing and running the 2nd meeting of the Team of Specialist on Monitoring SFM. Stein has completed his consultancy period in the UNECE; however, he will continue his cooperation with Section as a seconded Forest Europe expert.

Госпожа Паола Деда назначена новым Руководителем Секции по лесоматериалам. Она приступит к своим обязанностям 6 апреля 2010 года.

Паола Деда, имеет степень PhD в области территориального и экологического планирования, занимала различные посты и имела различные обязанности в системе Организации Объединенных Наций, включая работу в Департаменте по экономическим делам в Нью-Йорке: (в Отделе по устойчивому развитию); в Секретариатах двух Конвенций по биологическому разнообразию ЮНЕП в Монреале и в Бонне, в Группе ЮНЕП по управлению в области экологии и в ЕЭК ООН в Женеве. Ею опубликован ряд статей по устойчивому использованию природных ресурсов, она также явилась соавтором в разработку исследования «Millennium Ecosystem Assessment». До работы в Организации Объединенных Наций Паола находилась на научной работе в Ванкуверском Университете (University of British Columbia) и в Калифорнийский Университет Беркли. Имеет 10-летнюю дочь по имени Джорджия

Felix Seidel is working as a short term consultant for the FAO/UNECE timber section. He is providing research support to the section while Eve Charles is on maternity leave. Felix Seidel has worked in the past as consultant for the European Commission providing technical expert advice for timber tracking systems soon in use in Ghana and Democratic Republic of Congo. These timber tracking systems are one important measure in the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) action plan which is trying to reduce illegal logging activities.

TECHNICAL WORKSHOP ON FOREST TYPES, BORDEAUX, FRANCE, 19-21 MAY 2010

The UNECE/FAO Timber Section, Forest Europe, the European Environment Agency, and several other organizations are working together with countries on the pilot application of a new forest type classification. Preparations for the pilot reporting include organization of a workshop to examine challenges and propose solutions for the implementation of the new classification.

The workshop, which will be co-organized and hosted by France, and will take place on 19-21 May 2010 in Bordeaux, France.

National experts dealing with forest site typology, forest inventory and reporting are encouraged to participate in the workshop.

For more information please contact:
Mr. Roman Michalak (UNECE/FAO Timber Section)
or Ms. Camille Bonhomme (IFN)

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS IN 2010

- 13-14 April, Belgrade, Corporate Social Responsibility in the Forest Sector
- 27-30 April, Lisbon, European Forestry Commission
- 19-21 May, Technical Workshop on Forest Types, Bordeaux, France
- 4-8 October, Rome, Committee on Forestry (COFO)
- 11-15 October, Geneva, UNECE Timber Committee, held jointly with the Society of Wood Science Technology

More information and updates at: www.unece.org/timber