

Acknowledgements

This fourth, 2015 edition of the State of Europe's Forests report is the product of the concerted efforts of a huge number of National Correspondents, national experts, (see Annexes 5 and 6), authors and reviewers (see Annex 7). We would also like to express our gratitude to those involved in the compilation of the national inventories; their efforts made possible to obtain the data required to provide detailed information about pan-European forests since the first edition of the "State of Europe's Forest" report (SoEF).

The following main tasks and experts were involved in the compilation of the "State of Europe's Forests 2015".

Coordination and guidance

The report was coordinated and compiled by Myriam Martín Vallejo at FOREST EUROPE's Liaison Unit Madrid (LUM). The entire process was guided by the Advisory Group on the compilation of the State of Europe's Forests 2015 (see Annex 1). The latter's guidance and in-depth knowledge proved invaluable enabling the fulfilment of the wide-ranging tasks involved in the production of the final document.

Development of the questionnaires

The collection of information on **quantitative indicators** was split into two parts.

The first one comprised information on the 28 indicators that will be reported or verified by the National Correspondents through the FOREST EUROPE/UNECE/FAO Questionnaire on quantitative indicators. That Questionnaire was developed and launched by the Forestry and Timber Section of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)/Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). This task was led by Roman Michalak and supported by the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management. We would like to acknowledge the contribution of the team's leaders, Kari Korhonen and Stein Tomter, during this reporting cycle. Specific input was provided by (in alphabetical order): Simon Gillam, Johannes Hangler, Orjan Jonsson, Kari Korhonen, Andrius Kuliesis, Jan Oldenburger, Jari Parviainen, Kit Prins, Andreas Schuck, Stein Tomter and Alexander Kretov. In order to facilitate and reduce the reporting burden the questionnaire was partially pre-filled.

The second one and for the first time, the 2015 edition of the State of Europe's Forests was produced simultaneously to the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA 2015). A joint data collection process involving the FAO's FRA 2015 and other regional processes (Montréal Process, the International Tropical Timber Organization, the Observatoire des Forêts de l'Afrique Centrale and the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section) was developed with a view to enhancing the quality and harmonization of the data collection and reporting. The result of this process

was the Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire (CFRQ), which was led by Kenneth MacDicken (FAO). The CFRQ was included in the "Forest Data Reporting Package for 2015", which was distributed by the FAO.

Related to the **qualitative indicators**, the LUM developed an improved questionnaire on Qualitative Indicators compared to the 2011 version by learning from previous experience in accordance with the recommendations and suggestions made by the Advisory Group on the preparation of the State of Europe's Forest 2015, and working in close collaboration with FAO and the European Forest Institute (EFI). The aim was to reduce the reporting burden on the countries and increase the comprehensibility and readability of the questionnaire. This process was led by Ewald Rametsteiner and Glòria Domínguez. Tanya Baycheva-Merger also provided significant input into the structure of the survey and summarised the information provided by the countries. Tanya Baycheva-Merger and Metodi Sotirov (UNIQUE forestry and Land use) were responsible for the analysis of an enormous volume of information.

Data collection

The most part of the information fulfilling the above mentioned questionnaires was provided by the National Correspondents and the national experts. Our gratitude to all of them

The information for the remaining 7 Quantitative Indicators was provided by the State of Europe's Forests 2015 International Data Providers (IDPs) listed in Annex 2. These included Csaba Mozes and Marilise Wolf-Crowther (Eurostat), Alexander McCusker (UNECE/FAO) and Arvydas Lebedys and Yanshu Li from FAO's Forest Economics and Statistics Team. Valuable information was also provided by Michael Köhl and Walter Seidling from the International Cooperative Programme on Forests under the ECE Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (ICP Forests). Important data were also contributed by Bioversity International (see Annex 7, List of Authors) and Jesús San-Miguel from the Institute for Environment and Sustainability (JRC-IES) of the European Commission Joint Research Centre at Ispra (see also Annex 7, List of Authors).

Data review, compilation and analysis

For the Quantitative Indicators, the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section "State of Europe's Forests 2015" collected and reviewed the National Reports with the close support of a team of experts consisting of Karl Duvemo, Alexander Kretov, Andrius Kuliesis, Ivana Pesut, Stein Tomter and Mati Valgepea.

The LUM was responsible for collecting the National Reports on the pan-European Qualitative Indicators. The associated review and analysis process was carried out by Tanya Baycheva-Merger and Metodi Sotirov.

Writing and reviewing processes

A team of 60 authors drafted the current report. The team was led by Michael Köhl, Jesús San-Miguel Ayanz, Ewald Rametsteiner and Glòria Domínguez, who ensured the internal consistency of each part of the SoEF2015. The team of reviewers consisted of (in alphabetical order): Andy Moffat, Jan Oldenburger, Hans Verkerk, Gerhard Weiss, Christoph Wildburger and Andreas Zingg. The complete list of authors, lead authors, coordinating lead authors and reviewers is provided in Annex 7.

Editing and on-line tools

Ready Translations provided an important contribution by editing the entire report.

Gdos Internet collaboration on the design and development of the on-line pan-European Qualitative Indicators Questionnaire and the associated tools was invaluable.

Special thanks

The European Forest Institute played a substantive role in the compilation of this report. The Natural Resources Institute Finland (LUKE) made the services of Jari Parviainen, Markus Lier and Kari Korhonen available for the process.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all of the organizations, institutions and governments who supported the contributions of the vast number of national correspondents, experts and authors involved in the compilation of this report.

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María Tourné Whyte
Head of the Liaison Unit Madrid