

Sweden's National Report to the Workshop on Policy Consequences of EFSOS

1. In what way are the EFSOS Conclusions and Policy Recommendations relevant for your country?

The question has to be divided into two parts – conclusions and recommendations respectively.

Conclusions

Starting with the four main conclusions, they can all be considered as relevant in a national perspective. However, the second one on policy developments is self-evident. In the third one on sustainable development it is said that “the forest sector in Europe has been a victim of its own success”. It is hard to agree upon that.

The more detailed conclusions are relevant with few exceptions. They are based on the study result.

Recommendations

The recommendations are only partly based on the EFSOS findings. Without going into details, most recommendations are relevant but almost all of them are in one way or another addressed in different national policies. In other words they “break already open doors”. They are also already on the international agendas including EU for co-operation on forest sector issues.

It should be discussed during the workshop whether it is appropriate or not that the secretariat gives recommendations to the addressed target groups.

2. Which of the policy scenario assumptions made in EFSOS fits best to the situation in your country (see Chapter 3)?

The baseline scenario.

3. What kind of significant changes are you expecting with regard to your country's forest sector policy in the next 3-5 years as a (direct

or indirect) result of the EFSOS analysis, conclusions and recommendations?

An important result of EFSOS is the analysis of the potential of the CIS sub-region. The Swedish forest industry is facing a potential wood shortage problem because there is little space for volume expansion. Therefore, it is likely that investments in forest industries in the CIS sub-region will take place provided that the economic, legal and political “climate” is satisfactory. Investments mainly in sawmills have already started and will probably continue. This gives the companies better control over the whole raw material supply. If the “climate” is improving the sawmill investment will probably be followed by investments in the pulp and paper industry.

4. Who uses the information, conclusions and recommendations presented in EFSOS in your country? Who else could potentially benefit from EFSOS?

The answer is a guess and does not, for obvious reasons, include recommendations.

- The government, politicians and their staff at the national level
- National state authorities dealing with forest sector issues
- National NGO's (industry, conservation, labour unions)
- Consultancy firms with customers demanding for strategic advice on forest sector investments.
- Education and research

5. What process is used to make EFSOS known and review it at the national level?

The main activity intended is a seminar in the fall 2005. It might be complemented by articles in newspapers and journals.

6. What are significant information/analysis/ideas to national policy debate (inside and outside sector) added by EFSOS?

This has so far not been considered.

7. Do you have any comments on the EFSOS country profile for your country (see attachment)?

Comments will be given at the workshop

8. What are your suggestions and comments with regard to further UNECE/FAO Forest Sector Outlook activities?

In general, EFSOS is an extremely important study that is carried out in an excellent way. The geographical scope has increased with EFSOS and that is a great progress. An interval of ten years between the studies seems to be appropriate. It would be interesting to try to make updates of the major demand components every five years and use the existing supply data for a an

updated balance. This update could also include a comparison between earlier ETTS and EFSOS “projections” and actual outcome.