



# Phased Approaches to Certification: What role for the UNECE/FAO Timber Branch?

Ed Pepke

Forest Products Marketing Specialist  
UNECE/FAO Timber Branch  
UN Economic Commission for Europe  
Food and Agricultural Organization  
Geneva, Switzerland



# Content of presentation

- Who is the UNECE/FAO Timber Branch?
- What is our *present* certification work?
- What *future* certification work?
- Discussion





# Who is the UNECE/FAO Timber Branch?



ITTO International Workshop on Phased Approaches to Certification  
19-21 April 2005, Bern, Switzerland



# UNECE/FAO Timber Branch

Timber Committee

**UNECE**



European  
Forestry  
Commission





# Timber Branch objective

Contribute to achieving SFM,  
including the sound and legal use of wood,  
and other forest products and services,  
throughout the UNECE region,  
and to measure progress.



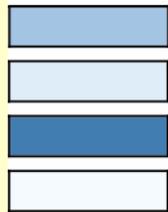
# Timber Branch resources

- 4 professionals
- 4½ support staff
- +Interns, loaned professionals, contributors

➔ Financed through UNECE, FAO and UNECE member countries



# UNECE region (55 countries)

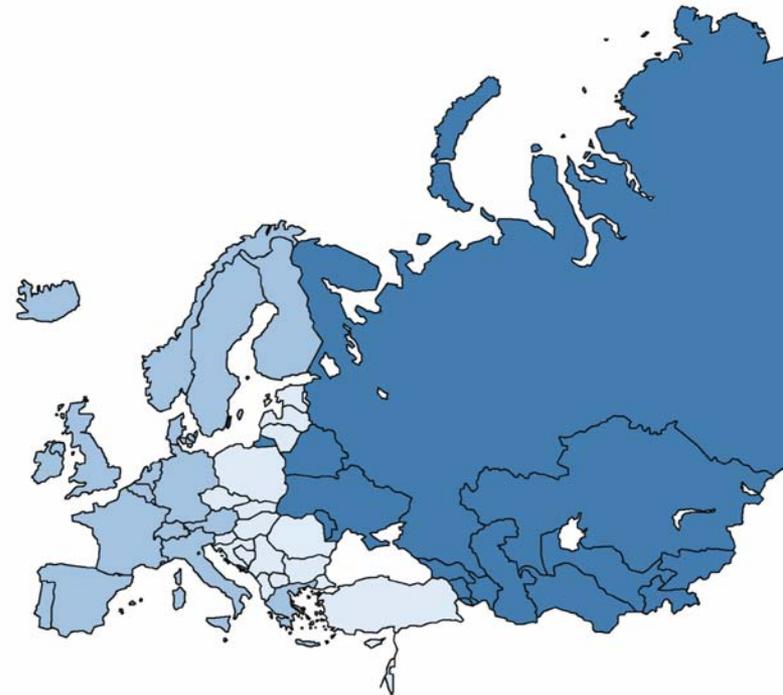


EU/EFTA = western Europe

"Other Europe" = central & eastern Europe

Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)

North America





# Five areas of work

1. Markets and statistics
2. Forest resource assessment
3. European forest sector outlook studies
4. Social and cultural aspects of forestry
5. Policy and cross sectoral issues



# UNECE/FAO outputs

- Forum for discussion for UNECE member countries and other stakeholders (e.g. trade organisations, ENGOs, experts,...)
- Publications: statistics, market analyses, forest resources, outlook studies,...(available on website and as hard copies)
- Website





# Timber Branch work on certification



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# Position towards certification

Main principal is neutrality.

Certification is a communication tool to promote SFM and the sound use of wood.

No scheme is favored over another.



# Certification outputs

1. UNECE/FAO *Forest Products Annual Market Review*. Chapter on certified forest products.
2. Timber Committee Market Discussions.
3. Forest certification update for the UNECE region
4. Workshops
5. Website



# Certification outputs 1

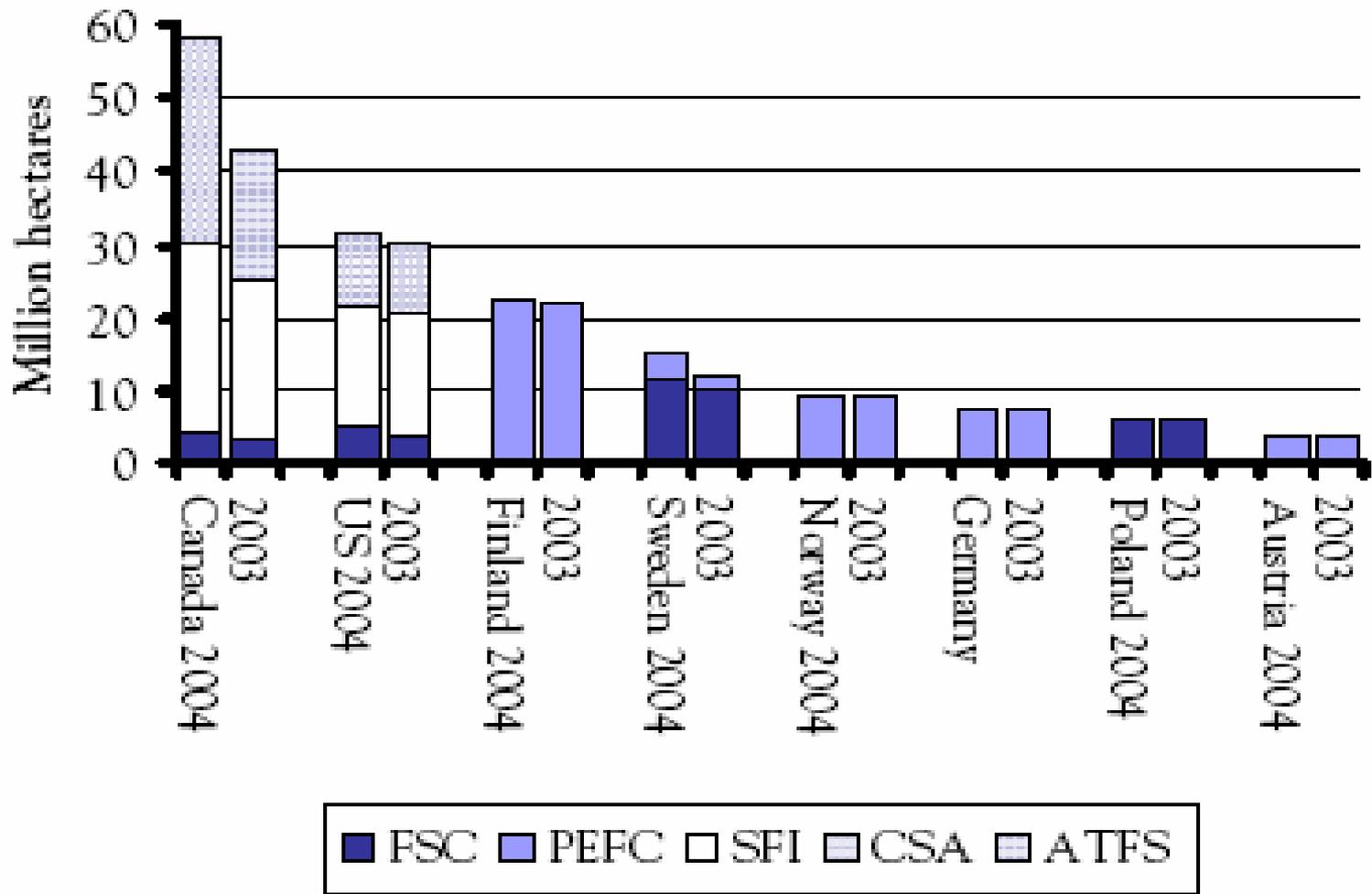
Chapter on certified forest products (CFP) marketplace in *Forest Products Annual Market Review* about **Demand, Supply and Policy Developments.**

Sample findings 2004:

- Worldwide, the area of certified forest increased by 17% in 2004.
- Over half the world's certified forest area is in North America, another 40% in western Europe.
- Illegal logging dominates governmental political discussions related to forest products—voluntary certification systems cannot guarantee legality.
- Public procurement policies driving certification and important source of demand for CFPs.



# Top 8 countries certified forest area, 2003 and 2004



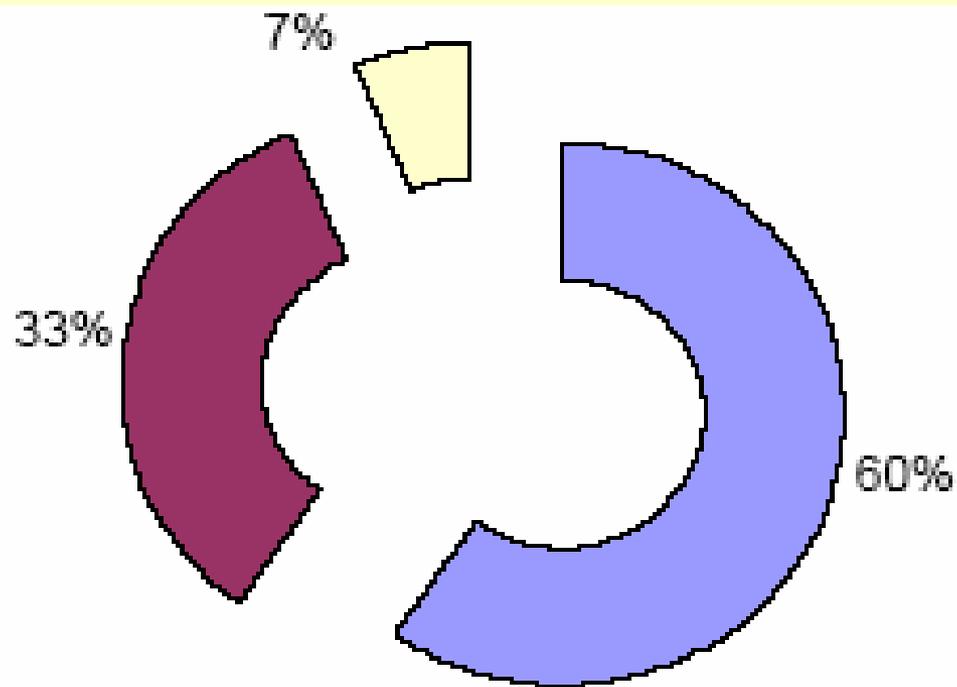
# Certification outputs 2

Update on forest certification in the UNECE region on **policy issues, change in certified forest area, changes in demand and chain of custody certificates.** Sample findings 2004:

- Main sources of CFPs are Sweden, Finland and Germany.
- Most important export markets for CFPs are UK, Germany and the Netherlands.
- Public procurement supports certification in the UNECE region.
- Supply and demand of certified timber is moving towards a balance the UNECE region.



# Government policies in support of forest certification in the UNECE region



■ Government policy exist

■ No Government policy exist

■ No response



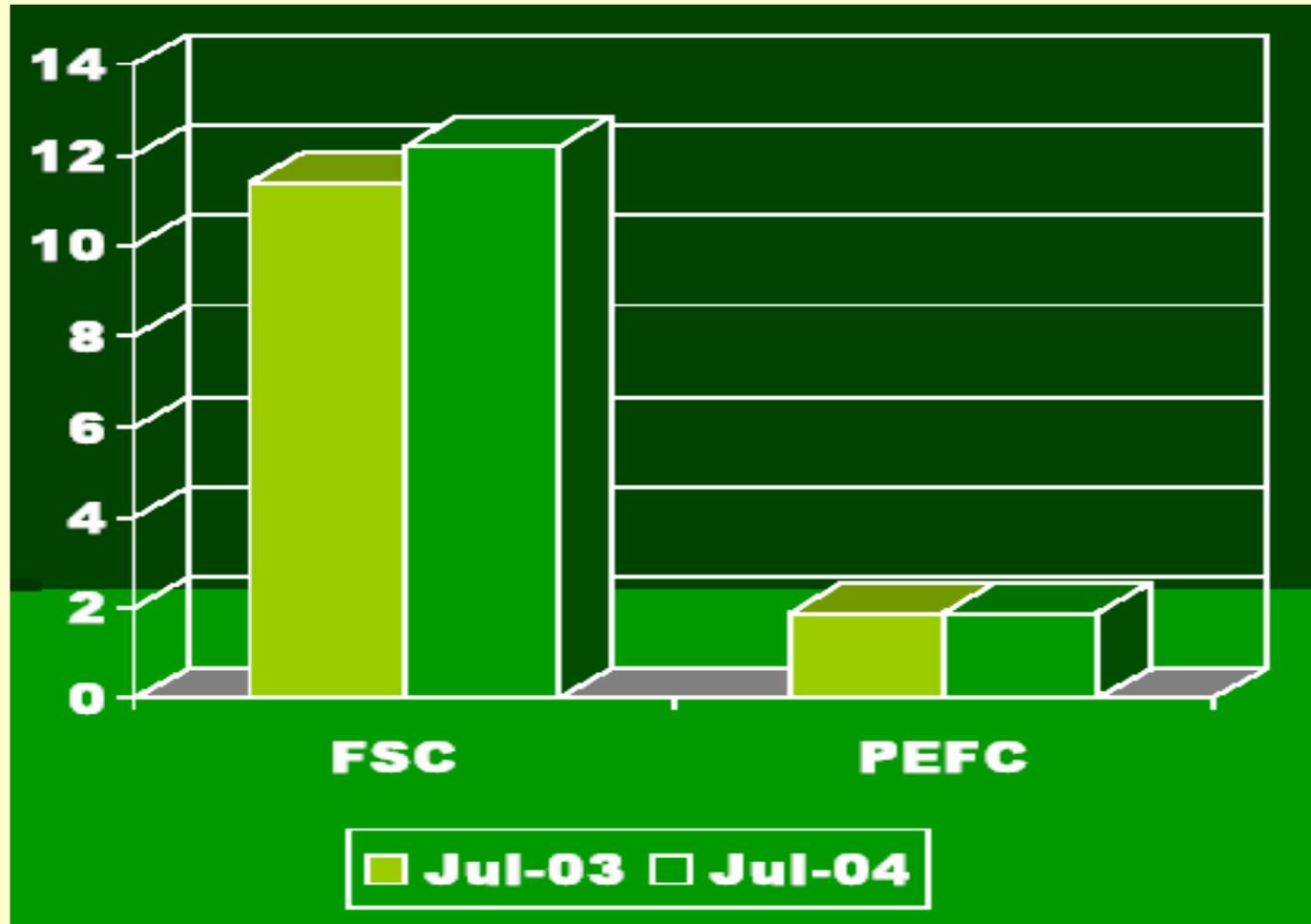
# Certification outputs 3

## Annual Timber Committee Market Discussions

- Expert presentations on supply of and demand in CFPs in UNECE region
- Discussion between experts and delegates from government and industry
- Findings from 2004:
  - Public procurement policies market driver for CFPs, specifications must be careful not to preclude wood use and thereby favour substitutes.
  - CFPs markets driven at the business-to-business level, not yet from final consumers.



# Eastern European certification, 2003 and 2004 (million ha)



# Certification outputs 4

## Workshops

- Illegal logging (causes and extent) workshop in September 2004 touched certification issues.
- Sample findings and recommendations:



# Illegal logging workshop outputs

- Finding: High number of national standards and schemes make it difficult for the customs officials to control imports.
- Finding: Public procurement policies can encourage a phased approach to legal and sustainable timber production.
- Recommendation: Improve traceability of wood.
- Recommendation: Involve civil society in the fight against illegal logging.



# Certification info sources

- Network of country correspondents on certification of sustainable forest management and certified forest products markets
- Experts consultants
- Country market statements





# Planned Workshop, autumn 2005

“Forest certification –  
What role for governments?”



Global scope,  
not just UNECE region





## 4 Suggested key issues

### 1. Forest certification:

A soft-policy instrument for governments?

Or purely a market-based instrument for stakeholders?





## 4 Suggested key issues

### 2. Forest certification:

The right tool for governments to promote SFM, complementing national regulations?

Should state/federal-owned forests be certified?



## 4 Suggested key issues

### 3. Government policies:

How to prevent unnecessary trade obstacles?

How to comply with standardisation and technical regulation policies?





## 4 Suggested key issues

4. Should public procurement policies address forest certification?

If yes, is there a need for a common approach?



# Status of workshop planning

- Build on applicable ITTO workshop outcomes
- Key issues being finalized
- Funding being sought
- No formal announcement yet
- Participation limited by scope, invitation
- Decision by Timber Committee and European Forestry Commission officeholders next week



# Phased approaches to certification: What role for the Timber Branch?

We welcome your comments!

Possibly a forum on this issue for UNECE  
member countries

- Issue for workshop in autumn?
- Subject for Timber Committee?
- Include in “Forest certification update”  
discussion paper?



# *Discussion*

UNECE/FAO Timber Branch  
[www.unece.org/trade/timber](http://www.unece.org/trade/timber)



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