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Implementation of the Rovaniemi Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy

Note by the secretariat

Summary

This document provides an overview of activities reported by several member States and the secretariat/organizations supporting the implementation of the Rovaniemi Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy.

Delegates will be invited to take note of these activities and to provide guidance on further work to be undertaken and the format of reporting for monitoring the implementation of the Rovaniemi Action Plan.

I. Introduction

1. The Rovaniemi Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy was adopted on 13 December 2013 at the joint session of the UNECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the FAO European Forestry Commission ("Metsä2013") in Rovaniemi, Finland.

2. The Rovaniemi Action Plan proposes an overall vision, strategies and areas of activity to enhance the transition of the forest sector in the UNECE region towards the emerging green, bio-based economy.

3. The Rovaniemi Action Plan is not an obligatory tool and is only meant to encourage actions based on the specific principles, objectives and activities, grouped under the following five pillars:

- Sustainable production and consumption of forest products;
- A low-carbon forest sector;
- Decent green jobs in the forest sector;
- Long-term provision of Forest Ecosystem Services; and
- Policy development and monitoring of the forest sector in relation to a green economy.

4. The Rovaniemi Action Plan contains recommendations to Governments of Member States, international organizations, private sector and other stakeholders and identifies potential actors involved in the implementation of the Action Plan.

II. Implementation of the Rovaniemi Action Plan

5. This section gives an overview of activities undertaken for the implementation of the Rovaniemi Action Plan, following the structure of its five pillars. Specific activities of the Action Plan are referred to by their number (example: A.1.1 for Pillar A, objective 1, activity 1).

A. Sustainable production and consumption of forest products

1. Activities undertaken by the member States and other stakeholders

Austria

6. In 2012, Austria presented the National Resource Efficiency Action Plan1, which contributes to developing strategies for sustainable production and consumption in the green economy (A.0.1).

7. The Programme of the Austrian Government includes objectives of relevance to forestry and timber management, among them the promotion of sustainable timber use in domestic forests as well as the provision to use renewable energy sources in order to reduce the use of fossil fuels (A.0.3).

8. Action Area 7 of the Austrian Forest Programme concerning "Austria's international responsibility for Sustainable Forest Management" calls for active involvement of Austrian representatives in forest related international activities (A.0.4). Where resource limitations don't allow direct involvement, the forest sector follows national coordination procedures.

9. Upon evaluation of risks and benefits of including genetically modified trees in sustainable forest (A.0.5) a widespread consensus was reached in Austria that genetically modified organisms are politically a no-go area.

10. EU Timber Regulations provide policy framework for harmonised labelling and certification systems for forest products (A.1.2) and further develop standards and

[1] http://www.bmlfuw.gv.at/umwelt/nachhaltigkeit/ressourceneffizienz/aktionsplan_ressourceneffizienz/aktionsplan.html

guidelines at a national and local level followed by all major certification systems, thus simplifying procedures and reducing costs (A.1.3).

11. The National Action Plan for Sustainable Public Procurement includes binding rules for government procurement of wood to promote sustainable procurement policies and use of certified forest products (A.2.2). Both FSC and PEFC are recognized as the guarantor of legal and sustainable timber.

12. The next national forest inventory assessment is planned to start in 2016 as a continuous forest inventory and will generate information and data to support effective forest planning (A.3.1).

13. The "Good practice guidance on sustainable mobilisation of wood in Europe" was taken into consideration when elaborating the new National Rural Development Programme 2014–2020 (A.3.2).

14. Austria is involved in carrying out national studies on opportunities to increase the potential sustainable wood supply (A.3.3). A comprehensive study on the potential availability of wood and biomass was conducted in 2008 (HOBI, BFW).

15. In the framework of the Austrian Climate Research Programme conducted by BFW and BOKU hundreds of small-scale forest owners were asked about their motivation and approach to manage their forests (A.3.4).

16. Austria is investing into the forest sector, including forest infrastructure for wood mobilisation. Subsidies for forest infrastructure are an important measure of the National Rural Development Programme (A.3.5).

17. Austria is committed to creating conditions and approaches to promote innovation (A.4.4) and is conducting 10 research projects under the innovative ERA-NET Wood Wisdom Programme focused on strengthening the European forest-based sectors.

18. FLEGT/EUTR Expert Group meets several times a year in Brussels to exchange national experience with regulations on illegal logging (A.7.1).

Georgia

19. In 2013, Georgia started the forestry sector reform to improve the quantitative and qualitative characteristics of Georgian forests, existing institutional framework and the structure of forest management units (A.0.1):

a) Policy-making function was assigned to the Forest Policy Service under the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia;

b) Management function was assigned to LEPL National Forestry Agency; and

c) Controlling function was assigned to the Department of Environmental Supervision.

20. The National Forest Concept for Georgia was adopted by the Parliament in 2013.

21. The Steering Committee on the Forestry Sector Reform was established and the National Action Plan for the Georgian Forest Sector in Green Economy was drafted in the framework of the joint UNECE/FAO UNDA Project on “Sustainable Forest Management for Greener Economies in the Caucasus and Central Asia”.

22. The development of the National Forest Strategy and the Action Plan for the Forestry Sector Reform was initiated.

23. Wood market study and economic evaluation of forests have been initiated to review challenges and opportunities for sustainable consumption patterns for forest products and related services (A.0.2).

24. Georgia also conducted the forest inventory and developed forest management plan for 45,000 ha (A.0.3).

25. To further develop standards and guidelines at a national and local level, Georgia is preparing the Controlled Wood Assessment for FSC Certification (A.1.3).

26. Amendments have been made to the Technical Regulation No. 46 (regulating the origin and transport of timber) to enhance flexibility and transparency of procurement policies (A.2.1).

27. To generate information and data for effective forest planning, Georgia in 2013–2015 carried out forest inventory and forest management plans for up to 80,000 ha of local forests (A.3.1).

28. Georgia is carrying out national studies on afforestation and reforestation to identify the degree of land degradation and implement afforestation measures or enhance natural regeneration. Georgia is also planning to conduct sustainable forest management projects in the forestry districts (A.3.3).

29. Georgia is investing in the forest sector by forest infrastructure development and road construction. 41 km of new forest roads were built and 60 km of old forest roads were fixed (A.3.5).

30. To review and promote innovation intended to improve efficiency in the use of materials in the manufacturing and processing of forest products, and the competitiveness of the sector, Georgia initiated a research on the potential of Biomass Production and Utilization (A.4.3).

31. Georgia is also carrying out research on wood market and economic evaluation of forests and forest products (A.4.6).

32. To ensure that only legally produced forest products enter the market and to prevent illegal logging, Georgia is establishing an integrated software system for sawmill management (A.7.1).

Germany

33. The National Forest Strategy 2020[2] of the Federal Republic of Germany adopted by the Federal Cabinet in September 2011 is the latest initiative enabling forestry and timber management to meet challenges in a sustainable and, if possible, optimal manner (A.0.1).

34. The Strategy identifies nine main areas of action and related subordinated goals ranging from silvicultural approaches to measures for timber mobilisation, intensification of "cascaded use of wood", increased efficiency of timber use, optimisation of the closed substance cycle, cultivation of fast growing species outside forests and increased timber imports.

35. The National Forest Strategy acknowledges the following approaches to increase stability and vitality of forests and secure future timber supply by increasing eco-friendly forest productivity, tapping additional land potential and using large timber reserves in a sustainable way, particularly in small private forests:

a) Creation of diverse, stable and high yield mixed forests;

b) Risk reduction from unstable density or excessive stocks by means of consistent forest tending (cleaning, thinning);

[2] The National Forest Strategy 2020 http://www.bmel.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/EN/Publications/ForestStrategy2020.pdf?__blob=publicationFile

c) Planting site-adapted species of trees with high level of resistance and high growth rate;

d) Forest planting concepts and production periods, which lead to optimum yields in harmony with nature conservation and environmental protection requirements;

e) Use of high quality, site-adapted, resistant and high yield forest plants;

f) Maintaining the genetic diversity of forest plants.

36. Research and development represent another key element in the implementation of this strategy. Through the Agency for Renewable Resources, the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture provides funding for a large number of projects under the Renewable Resources Funding Programme[3]. These projects are inter alia targeted at the increased timber mobilisation and efficient use of wood (tapping additional potential through fast-growing tree species, pilot plant lignocellulose biorefinery etc.).

37. The National Forest Strategy 2020 also corresponds with the other strategies of the Federal Government, such as the National Sustainability Strategy, the National Biodiversity Strategy, the Biomass Action Plan and measures to mitigate climate change. The Federal Government's Action Plan for Industrial Use of Renewable Resources[4] aims to improve the efficiency of utilising raw materials and reduce energy consumption in the timber sector.

38. On 17 July 2013, the Federal German Government adopted the National Policy Strategy for the Bioeconomy. In doing so, the Federal Government is supporting the shift to a resource-efficient economy based on renewable resources (A.0.1, A.4.3 and A.4.4).

39. The National Policy Strategy on Bioeconomy builds upon the Federal Government's Sustainability Strategy. This dovetails with the "National Research Strategy Bioeconomy 2030 – our route towards a biobased economy", adopted in 2010, providing the foundation for innovations in the bioeconomy by means of research and development. Main fields of action include:

a) Coherent policy framework for sustainable bioeconomy;

b) Information and dialogue with society;

c) Education and apprenticeship;

d) Sustainable production and provision of renewable resources;

e) Growth markets, innovative technologies and products;

f) Processes and value-adding networks;

g) Competition among uses of land;

h) International context.

40. The Energy Concept for an Environmentally Sound, Reliable and Affordable Energy Supply (2010), the Raw Materials Strategy (2010), the German Resource Efficiency Programme (2012), the Biorefineries Roadmap (2012), in addition to other strategies and concepts formulated by the Federal German Government, describe further sources of policy orientation and conclusions related to bioeconomy.

41. Timber Trade Safeguard Act of 15 July 2011 (Thünen Centre of Competence on the Origin of Timber) contributes to different objectives related to legality of wood origin, in

[3] Renewable Resources Funding Programme http://international.fnr.de/index.php?id=152
[4] Action Plan for the Industrial Use of Renewable Resources http://www.bmelv.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/Broschueren/AktionsplanNaWaRo.pdf?__blob=publicationFile

particular, to developing and communicating realistic and ambitious strategies for sustainable patterns of production, consumption and trade of forest products and related services (A.0) and to ensuring that only legally produced forest products enter the market (A.7).

42. German certification of sustainable sources of wood and wood products also ensures that consumers are informed whether the forest products they purchase come from sustainable sources, thus encouraging sound and sustainable use of wood and forest products (A.1).

43. To ensure that wood supply from the forests in the region is sufficient to satisfy on a sustainable basis society's needs for renewable raw materials and sources of energy (A.3) Germany is committed to forest protection (e.g. against fires, storms, pests, beetles), sustainable wood mobilisation, maintenance of forest genetic resources, breeding of fast growing tree species, etc.

44. In order to promote innovation in forest management and in the production and use of forest products and the related services so that the forest sector is a competitive supplier of renewable and sustainably produced goods and services (A.4), Germany is:

a) Carrying out research and development activities (e.g. http://www.fnr.de/, http://www.woodwisdom.net/) (A.4.6);

b) Encouraging product innovations (A.4.2, A.4.3) and sustainable green building practices (A.4.6) (e.g. wood-polymer composites, sustainable building movement, lignocellulose biorefineries, etc.);

c) Fostering wood power generation, including combined heat and power generation (A.4.3).

45. Furthermore, Germany is conducting forest inventories (A.3.1) and life-cycle-assessments (A.5.2), incorporating the whole value-added-chain from forests to timber products and recycling.

Lithuania

46. In 2015 Lithuania started mid-term review process of the National Forestry Development Programme for 2012–2020 (National Forest Programme) adopted by the Government in 2012. Independent evaluation of the implementation has been completed and proposed amendments will be discussed and elaborated further by the end of 2015 – beginning of 2016. Those amendments will also reflect recommendations from the Rovaniemi Action Plan (A.0.1).

47. 50 % of Lithuania's forests are certified according to the FSC system (all state forests). The Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania allocated financial resources for developing national standards for forest certification and creating better conditions for certification of private forests. Development of national standards for forest certification will start in 2016 (A.1.3).

48. Lithuania conducted a study in 2014 on wood biofuel potential in the Lithuanian forests for additional mobilisation. The main findings of the study show that without subsidies there is a potential to increase production of wood biofuel from forests by 20 %, particularly bearing in mind biodiversity conservation and needs of forest industry (A.3.3).

49. In 2015, a new system for general maintenance and improvement of forest roads was established. According to the Forest Law (amendment of 2015), State Forest Enterprises are responsible for general maintenance and improvement of forest roads in all (state and private) forests of Lithuania. The System will be launched at the end of 2015 – beginning of 2016 and will be funded from the special programme under the state budget, obliging all

forest holders (including private forest owners and State Forest Enterprises) to pay a special 5% tax on the income earned from selling wood (A.3.5).

50. Lithuanian Rural Development Programme 2014–2020 sets the priorities for investments into the innovative forestry (i.e. machinery for preparation of wood biofuel) and allocates funding for innovative processes (i.e. cooperation of private forest owners for forest management and wood production in small-scale holdings) (A.4.4).

Luxembourg

51. The National Forest Programme of Luxembourg contributes to:

a) Developing strategies for sustainable production and consumption in the green economy (A.0.1);

b) Evaluating risks and benefits of including genetically modified trees in sustainable forest management and encouraging public dialogue on this question (A.0.5); and

c) Carrying out national studies on the opportunities to increase potential sustainable wood supply (A.3.3).

52. Luxembourg is promoting the use of sustainable forest products in all sectors and conducting information campaigns (A.0.3).

53. Luxembourg also ensures that the forest sector is appropriately represented by the relevant government bodies at all international fora on sustainable consumption and production (A.0.4).

54. The revision of national PEFC schemes and preparation to revision of national FSC standards contributes to:

a) Further development of certification standards and guidelines at a national and local level, thus simplifying procedures and reducing costs (A.1.3);

b) Reviewing the experience with certification of forest owners/managers and stakeholders throughout the value chain (A.1.4);

c) Further development of holistic standards considering forestry in the context of other land uses, making forest certification relevant to non-traditional forest users, and adaptable to the needs of those that are not yet certified and for whom forest certification may currently be a barrier, in order to further encourage the sound and sustainable use of wood and forest products (A.1.5).

55. The National Public Procurement Policy links the development of procurement policies to existing legislation and practice on sustainable consumption and production (A.2.1). Encouraging the implementation of this policy promotes procurement policies based on sustainability and non-discriminative approach to forest products (A.2.2).

56. To generate information and data for effective forest planning, Luxembourg is conducting forest inventories for public forest owners and the second national forest inventory (A.3.1).

57. Luxembourg is also implementing a study on the potential of wood supply (A.3.4) and investing into the forest sector by further developing forest infrastructure for wood mobilisation (A.3.5).

58. By complying with the EU Timber Regulations, Luxembourg is committed to exchanging national experiences on regulations related to illegal logging (A.7.1).

59. Luxembourg is also participating in the EU surveys to analyse and monitor the effectiveness and long term impacts and consequences of the EU timber trade regulations on the sector (A.7.2).

Poland

60. In 2014, Poland adopted the Strategy for Environment and Energy Safety focusing on sustainable use of natural resources, including forests (A.0.1). The State Forests Development Strategy for 2014–2030 (adopted in 2013) also promotes the development of timber industry sector and integration of forestry in the development of rural areas in line with the concept of green economy. Furthermore, sustainable production and consumption in green economy, as well as the concept of green economy as such, are core elements of the National Forest Programme process, which is being developed since 2012. The process is organized in a form of several discussion panels focusing on the main areas related to forests and forest management. The conclusions and recommendations of the process will be completed in autumn 2015. The panels are open to general public and constitute fora for exchanging views and opinions of different social and professional groups.

61. The use of sustainable forest products in all sectors of economy (A.0.3) are among the most significant topics discussed during the panels within the National Forest Programme process and are reflected in the conclusions and recommendations. In addition, the Poznań International Fair MEBLE POLSKA (Furniture Poland), HOME DECOR, DREMA (International Trade Fair of Machines and Tools for Wood and Furniture Industries) and BUDMA (International Construction and Architecture Fair) were organized to promote the use of sustainable forest products.

62. In Poland the use of genetically modified trees is prohibited by law; there is a strict regulation that promotes the regionalization of seeds and seedlings (A.0.5).

63. Poland is actively participating in the certification process – FSC standard at Social Chamber of FSC Poland (A.1.1). Mr. Zbigniew Karaszewski from the Wood Technology Institute is a member in FSC International Generic Indicators (IGI) Group since December 2013.

64. Both FSC and PEFC certification schemes are widely recognised in Poland. Nearly all (98%) forests under the management of the State Forests are certified under the internationally recognised Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) programme, making Poland the fifth largest FSC-certified area in the world (FSC, 2014). The Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) was introduced in Poland in 2003. The Polish PEFC standards were accredited in 2008. Currently PEFC is present in all Regional Directorate of the State Forests (A.0.1).

65. The second cycle of the (large-scale) national forest inventory was concluded in 2014 and the third cycle is being developed since 2015 (A.3.1).

66. To increase the potential sustainable wood supply, Poland published the following research works (A.0.1):

a) Resources of post-consumer wood waste originating from the construction sector in Poland (Resources, Conservation and Recycling 2015 no. 97);

b) Potential supply of wood biomass for energy purposes in Poland by 2015 (Intercathedra 2014 no. 30/1);

c) Sustainable management of wood raw material in Poland (Konsumpcja i Rozwój / Consumption and Development 2014 no. 2(7));

d) Protection of wood against fungi, Polish Association of Building Mycologists, 2015;

e) Changes in the forest and wood sector after 25 years of market economy;

f) Studies of ecological fungicides of natural origin in terms of their influence on wood.

67. Innovative use of woods and forest are among the important issues discussed within the National Forest Programme process and part of the final recommendations to the National Forest Programme (A.4.1, A.4.4).

68. The studies on the current status of services related to forest products and other marketable forest sector services (A.4.5) are periodically carried out by the Polish research institutions (e.g. Forest Research Institute) and cover:

a) The development of the evidence base for the strategic research program in the area of "Environment, Agriculture and Forestry" BIOSTRATEG (part of the National Centre for Research and Development) and participation in coordinating programme implementation;

b) Initiation, participation in the preparation and submission of a proposal to create a sectoral programme for research and implementation of such services in the furniture sector and related industries (INNOMEBLE).

69. To exchange national experience on regulations on illegal logging, State Forests, following the European Union (hereinafter referred to as the EU) standards, EU Timber Regulation and FLEGT requirements, hosted the EUSTAFOR Experience-Sharing Workshop on the Implementation of the EU Timber Regulation in State Forest Organizations in Warsaw on 16–17 June 2015 (A.7.1).

Russian Federation

70. The Russian Federal Law on Round Wood 415-FZ approved on 28 December 2013 is used as a tool to combat illegal logging and trace round wood from its harvesting site to transport, sales and finally to its processing site or point of export. This is to ensure that only legally produced forest products enter the market (A.7).

Turkey

71. Turkey is involved in developing “National Forest Standards” with a certification target set to 3.2 million ha of forests in 2015, which covers 15% of total forested area of the country (A.1.3).

72. Furthermore, Turkey is preparing “National Green Building Standards” to promote sustainability, resource-, energy- and water- efficiency and mitigate the impact on the environment (A.6.5).

Ukraine

73. In order to generate information and data to support effective forest planning, including through national forest inventories (A.3.1), forest management planning was made obligatory for all forest users and is executed in due course. National forest inventory has been concluded for three regions in Ukraine.

74. Starting from 2007, the State Forest Resources Agency of Ukraine has been advancing in construction of forest roads, hence investing into the forest sector and forest infrastructure for wood mobilisation (A.3.5). 500–600 km of forest roads are built and maintained every year.

75. To ensure that only legally produced forest products enter the market (A.7), in 2014, the State Forest Resources Agency of Ukraine conducted a Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (TAIEX) mission to examine existing timber regulations in the European Union and Ukraine.

76. Furthermore, Ukraine also participated in the Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG) programme, which supports governments, civil society, and the private sector in the development of sound and sustainable forest management practices, including reducing the incidence of illegal forestry activities. This programme helped analyse how existing forest management policies in Ukraine correspond with the effective sustainable forest management principles.

77. Ukraine is also working on improving the existing system of electronic wood tracking and introducing it to all forest users in Ukraine.

2. Activities undertaken by UNECE and FAO

Joint UNECE / FAO Forestry and Timber Section

78. The work of the joint UNECE / FAO Forestry and Timber Section (hereinafter referred to as the Joint Section) on Forest Products Markets and their annual review contribute to different objectives of this pillar. In particular, this work reviews challenges and opportunities for sustainable consumption patterns for forest products (A.0.2) and monitors developments in certification and labelling (A.1.1). Innovative ways to use wood and forest products are also presented in the Forest Products Annual Market Reviews produced by the Joint Section on the yearly basis (A.4.1).

79. Furthermore, the Joint Section organises annual celebrations of the International Day of Forests on 21 March to demonstrate the contribution of the forest sector to green economy, to promote sustainable forest management practices and to showcase innovative use of wood and forest products (A.4.1).

80. Thus, the Forests for Fashion – Fashion for Forests initiative and the related events organized on the occasion of the International Day of Forests in 2014 introduced the innovative developments in the wood-derived fabric industry and presented wood as a preeminent sustainable source of fibre for the world's clothing.

81. Cellulose fibres, such as lyocell/tencel rayon and acetate, are used in the fashion industry due to their valuable properties. They are natural, smooth, and strong and can be produced in a more sustainable way, unlike synthetic textiles. Hence, they are an excellent alternative to other natural textiles, such as cotton and wool. Their manufacturing process is more environmentally friendly and the products are easy-to-recycle.

82. Currently, wood-derived viscose in its various forms accounts for 6% of the global fibre market and occupies the third place in this market after synthetics and cotton preceding wool. Certain designers and clothing companies are increasingly committing to sustainability and extensively using these materials.

83. The celebration of the International Day of Forests 2015 organized by the Joint Section was dedicated to a special theme of "Forests for Food – Food for Forests". This event emphasized to the general public the importance of being mindful of our eating habits and raised awareness that incorporating sustainable business principles and innovative practices into forest-related food production can generate socio-economic benefits, jobs and profits.

84. With a growing global population, forest ecosystems are particularly affected by agricultural expansion. The exponential increase of such practices not only leads to a decline in the global forested area, but has detrimental and far-reaching consequences. It has a direct impact on soils, air, water cycle, biodiversity and finally on the CO2 sequestration potential, thus decreasing the mitigating effect on climate change. Furthermore, the expansion of cultivated areas reduces forests and tree-based agricultural systems that contribute to the livelihoods of a large part of the world population.

85. At the same time forests play a fundamental role contributing to a food secure and nutrition-sensitive world through their abundant supply of berries, forest fruits, mushrooms, nuts, honey, herbs, leaves, saps, oils, syrups, fish, wild game, etc. They also provide enormous benefits by protecting soils, mitigating floods, purifying water and conserving biodiversity. Forests also serve as a source of inspiration for the world-renowned chefs and the gastronomic industry.

86. Many players from the food industry have already adopted sustainable business practices committing themselves to reversing deforestation, using forest products in a sustainable way, while enhancing food security and generating economic benefits. The gastronomic sector is also shifting its focus to more traditional and natural flavours and products.

87. In addition, through the work on Forest Resource Assessment, the Joint Section contributes to generating information and data required for effective forest planning and national forest inventories (A.3.1).

88. Furthermore, the study on "Promoting sustainable building materials and the implications on the use of wood in buildings" produced by the Joint Section monitored and analysed the developments in green building (A.6.2), encouraged innovative and traditional wood use in construction and provided an overview on the new developments in green building and how those affect forest products (A.6.4).

89. The study also presented the existing policy and regulatory environment for sustainable construction materials in the UNECE region and discussed the contribution of wood products to achieving sustainable building goals.

90. The draft study was presented at the 75th session of the UNECE Committee on Housing and Land Management (Geneva, Switzerland, 8–9 October 2014) and to the UNECE/FAO Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (Kazan, Russian Federation, 18–21 November 2014). An earlier version of the document was also presented to the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Policy for comments.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

91. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (hereinafter referred to as FAO) is involved in developing a methodology to assess the sustainability of forest management (A.3.1).

92. In this framework, FAO is developing a full size GEF project on "Russian Forests: Enabling the conservation and enhancement of forest carbon stocks and forest biodiversity conservation through sustainable forest management". The project is covering boreal forests in Russia and aiming, among others, to build the capacity of stakeholders to mitigate climate change, to protect forest biodiversity and improve land condition and productivity by adopting climate smart forest inventory, monitoring, and forest zoning/management promoting sustainable forest management policies and practices.

93. Furthermore, FAO continues to introduce landscape approach to forests and other lands through the implementation of full size GEF projects on:

a) Sustainable management of mountainous forest and land resources under climate change conditions in Kyrgyzstan (GCP/KYR/010/GFF, ongoing project)". This project is funded by GEF with a budget of USD 6.1 million and contributes to the sustainable management and enhanced productivity of mountainous silvo-agro-pastoral ecosystems. It is aimed to improve mountain livelihoods with sustained flow of ecosystem services and enhanced carbon stocks at landscape level;

b) Sustainable Land Management and Climate Friendly Agriculture in Turkey (GCP/TUR/055/GFF, ongoing project). This project is funded by GEF with a budget of USD 6.4 million and contributes to improving sustainability of agriculture and forest land-use management at landscape level through low-carbon technologies with positive effect on land degradation, climate change, biodiversity conservation and forest productivity;

c) Integrated Natural Resources Management in Drought-Prone and Salt-Affected Agricultural Production Systems in Central Asia and Turkey (CACILM2). This pipeline project will be funded by GEF with a budget of up to USD 10.7 million;

d) Land Degradation Neutrality under Climate Change Conditions in Turkey. This project is aiming to increase soil organic carbon and improve reporting on adaptation to climate change. It will be funded by GEF with a total budget of up to USD 4.5 million;

e) Forest Biodiversity through Integrated Conservation and Sustainable Management in Turkey. This project is aiming to increase effectiveness of protected area systems and promote conservation of carbon stocks in forests. It will be funded by GEF with a total budget of up to USD 5.5 million.

B. The low carbon forest sector

1. Activities undertaken by the member States and other stakeholders

Austria

94. Austria reviews consistency of national forest programmes and climate change strategies in regards to the contribution of the forest sector to climate change mitigation and adaptation. Austrian National Forest Programme is focused on climate change adaptation and mitigation. A separate chapter following the Forest Europe criteria on forest and climate protection outlines different targets and measures. Austrian Forest Strategy 2020+ as a successor of Austrian Forest Programme is also dealing with adaptation to and mitigation of climate change in line with the Austrian Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change and its Action Plan (B.0.2).

95. Austrian private sector (e.g. proHolz) is using their Strategic Framework to promote the use of wood as a contribution to climate change mitigation (B.1.6). The extent of the strategic framework used is not known.

96. Austria is promoting international cooperation and sharing experience on the development of specific adaptive management regimes through the platform on natural hazards of the Alpine Convention (PLANALP), the brochures on "Persistence of Alpine natural hazard protection: Meeting multiple demands by applying systems engineering and life cycle management principles in natural hazard protection systems in the perimeter of the Alpine Convention (PLANALP, 2014)" and through the "Alpine strategy for adaptation to climate change in the field of natural hazards (PLANALP, 2013)" (B.3.2).

97. Many national research programmes and projects were carried out in Austria to address the issue of climate change and forestry and to research how mountain forests can adapt to climate change (B.3.3).

98. Austria is developing strategies to use forests as a tool for the adaptation of society and the environment to climate change and implementing risk management and adaptation strategies (B.3.7, B.3.8). The Austrian Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change and its Action Plan was adopted in 2012. One of 14 areas for action is focusing on forestry. The Action Plan contains eight recommendations for actions5.

99. Austria's commitment to developing and implementing risk management and adaptation strategies (B.3.8) is reflected in:

a) The action measures 3.2 (Forestry) and 3.7 (Natural hazards) of the Austrian Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change and its Action Plan;

[5] www.klimawandelanpassung.at

b) The action programme “Natural hazard-proof Austria” (Aktionsprogramm “Naturgefahrensicheres Österreich”) submitted to the Council of Ministers in January 2014;

c) The Project on mapping all object-protecting forests (work in progress).

100. Starting from 2016, Austria will switch to continuous national forest inventory to improve national forest inventories and monitoring carbon stocks in forests and harvested wood products (B.4.2).

Georgia

101. The Program on Wood Energy for 2015–2016 has been approved (B.1.2).

102. Georgia is promoting wood mobilization by improving the functioning of the wood energy market (B.1.8). The methodology for research on demand and delivery of firewood to citizens has been approved.

103. To promote local, decentralised and highly efficient use of wood energy, Georgia is testing various energy efficient stoves and disseminating relevant information and brochures (B.2.6).

104. Georgia developed a Wildfire Policy document and is establishing guidelines for developing the Forest Fire Management Plan to maintain and strengthen wildfire early warning and monitoring capacities and promote integrated fire management approaches (B.3.5). The Forest Fire Management Plan is being developed for one forestry district (45 000 ha).

105. To improve monitoring of carbon stocks in forests (B.4.2), 21 additional sampling plots have been created in Borjomi-Bakuriani forestry district in Georgia (45 000 ha).

Germany

106. German Bundestag made a decision in 2013 to establish the Forest Climate Fund (as part of the programme associated with the Energy and Climate Fund) under the joint responsibility of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture and the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety.

107. German forestry and forest industries play an important role in combating climate change due to carbon storage, built-up carbon stocks in forests and decreasing emissions caused by growing demand for timber, recycling and energy recovery.

108. The Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture and the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety therefore regard it as a necessity to promote measures aimed at tapping the potential of forests and timber for CO2 reduction (B.1.7), energy generation (B.2.6) and climate change adaptation (B.3.7), thus supporting the Federal Government in achieving climate goals.

109. The funding for these measures is targeting the following priority areas:

a) Adaptation of forests to climate change;

b) Safeguarding carbon storage and increasing CO_2 sequestration of forests;

c) Increasing carbon storage in wood products and reducing/substituting CO_2 with wood products;

d) Research and monitoring;

e) Information and communication.

110. To encourage the reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases (B.1), Germany is monitoring emissions of harmful substances and carrying out emission control activities.

111. To promote the most efficient production, processing and use of wood raw material (B.2) Germany is supporting wood-cascading, energy efficiency and waste avoidance.

Lithuania

112. The mid-term review process of the National Forestry Development Programme for 2012–2020 also includes issues related to the contribution of the forest sector to climate change mitigation and adaptation (i.e. revised afforestation targets). Furthermore, concrete support measures for afforestation and funds allocated for their implementation are outlined in the Lithuanian Rural Development Programme 2014–2020 (B.0.2).

113. BALTPOOL, an internet based exchange platform for trade in biofuel products (such as pellets, chips etc.), was launched in Lithuania in 2012. Further development and improvement of this exchange platform is envisaged to better meet the needs of potential users of this platform (B.1.8).

114. In Lithuania the State Forest Service carries out national forest inventory and monitoring of carbon stock in the forests and in other wooded land. Further developments and improvements of the system are in preparation (B.4.2).

Luxembourg

115. As a follow-up to the National Forest Programme Luxembourg is reviewing consistency of national forest programmes and climate change strategies in regards to the contribution of the forest sector to climate change mitigation and adaptation with a view to improving intersectoral communication and cooperation (B.0.2).

116. Luxembourg is promoting wood construction (B.1.4), wood energy (B.1.8) and use of recycled paper in the public sector (B.2.5).

117. Luxembourg is also developing a Wildfire Plan to enhance wildfire early warning and monitoring capacities and promote integrated fire management approaches (B.3.5).

118. The Climate Action Plan on Forests "Pacte climat" helps to:

a) Develop strategies to use forests as a tool for the adaptation of society and the environment to climate change (B.3.7);

b) Develop and implement risk management and adaptation strategies for forests at a national level and by forest region (B.3.8);

c) Develop a climate change regime which provides appropriate incentives to maintain or increase carbon stocks in the forest ecosystem and harvested wood products while preventing adverse environmental impacts (B.4.1).

119. To improve national forest inventories and monitoring of carbon stocks in forests and harvested wood products Luxembourg is conducting a study on the current situation in forests and the forest sector and forest inventories for the public forest owners (B.4.2).

120. Implementing National Forest Programme and promoting forest certification contribute to improving forest management in order to optimise carbon sequestration and storage while ensuring the sustainability and multifunctionality of forests at all levels (B.4.8).

Poland

121. Climate change, its possible impacts on forests, as well as adaptation options are key issues in the National Forest Programme process (B.0.2). The contribution of the forest sector to climate change mitigation via reduction in greenhouse gas emission can be achieved mainly by:

a) Increasing forest area;

b) Afforestation of post-agricultural land;

c) Using fast growing species in forest renewal;

d) Employing silvicultural methods aimed at increasing standing volume; and

e) Extending the life of wood products and their recycling.

122. Polish State Forests supports conducting a number of studies in the area of carbon accounting in forestry from the Forestry Funds6 (B.0.3).

123. Promoting the use of wood as sustainably produced and natural material is part of educational activities carried out by the State Forests (B.1.4). The State Forest Information Centre published two books in 2014 and 2015 to wider disseminate information on possible use of wood.

124. To develop technologies for increasing the efficiency and profitability of producing wood-based renewable energy while minimizing environmental impacts (B.2.2), research work financed through the Wood Technology Institute funds for statutory activities has been carried out in the following areas:

a) The combustion of fuel mixtures produced from wood and other plant biomass in an environmentally safe way (unpublished), Wood Technology Institute, Poznań 2013;

b) The possibilities for obtaining solid biofuels from wood biomass derived from the care of fruit crops (unpublished), Wood Technology Institute, Poznań 2013;

c) Obtaining of solid biofuels from fruit biomass (unpublished), Wood Technology Institute, Poznań 2015;

d) Obtaining of solid biofuels from modified woody biomass (unpublished), Wood Technology Institute, Poznań 2015.

125. The following research work has been financed on the potential use of bio-based products (B.2.3):

a) Solid biofuels from modified wood and other lignocellulosic materials (unpublished), Wood Technology Institute, Poznań 2015;

b) Step II Thermal modification of the lignocellulosic particles to obtain solid biofuels with improved properties (unpublished), Wood Technology Institute, Poznań 2015.

126. To avoid wherever possible landfill as a final destination for wood and paper waste (B.2.5), the ReGaP Project “Recycling of used wood in Germany and Poland” was created. The project is financed by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education in Poland and the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research. The Publications issued under the project include:

a) A broader view of wood waste recycling, Wood Industry Journal no. 6 (197), 2013, p.30;

b) Problems with the terminology used in the recycling of recovered wood in Poland and Germany, Manczarski P. Comprehensive waste management / Polish Association of Sanitary Engineers and Technicians, Greater Poland branch, Poznań 2015, ISBN 978-83-89696-87-8, p.413–434;

c) Recycling of used wood presentation of the Polish-German project (Proceedings of the 11th Meeting of the Northern European Network for Wood Sciences and Engineering), September 14–15, 2015, Poznań, p. 240–245.

[6] http://tbr.zilp.lasy.gov.pl/apex/f?p=102:2:0::NO:::

127. Science-policy forum at the national level is created within the National Forest Programme process. The meetings are open to public bringing together various stakeholders and constituting fora to exchange views and opinions on different social and professional groups. Adaptation to climate change and managing related risks are important topics discussed during the process (B.3.1).

128. FAO together with the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Poland and the General Directorate of the State Forests of Poland held a workshop on Forest Management and Climate Change in Europe on 21–23 April 2015 in Białowieża (B.3.2). The purpose of the workshop was to identify opportunities for applying guidelines in the European context. The workshop was attended by representatives from nine countries and two regional bodies – the European Forest Institute and the European State Forest Association. Following presentations on the state of forests and climate change in Europe and the policy and management trends governing forests and climate change in the region, FAO presented their activities and approaches to Forests and Climate Change, including two sets of guidelines for forest policy makers and forest managers.

129. Climate change, its possible impacts on forests, as well as adaptation options are key issues in the National Forest Programme process (B.3.7).

130. To contribute to the development of a climate change regime with appropriate incentives to maintain or increase carbon stocks in the forest ecosystem and harvested wood products while preventing adverse environmental impacts (B.4.1), Poland is involved in discussions and work carried out in the EU and under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (hereinafter referred to as the UNFCCC).

131. The project on “Water Retention in the Polish State Forests” contributed to enhancing the capacity of forest lands to capture water and to significantly increasing carbon absorption while protecting land from such natural disasters as floods (B.4.8).

Russian Federation

132. The Decree of the President of the Russian Federation No. 752 “On Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions” of 30 September 2013 aims to reduce emission by 25% by 2020, equating it to the level of 1990 (B.1).

Turkey

133. Turkey adopted policies promoting wood energy and established energy forests to encourage reduction of emissions of greenhouse gasses by substituting wood from sustainable sources for non-renewable materials and energy (B.1).

134. Furthermore, Turkey developed “National Afforestation Campaign”, “National Action Programme to Combat Desertification” and “National Erosion Control Action Plan” in order to improve the capacity of the forest sector to adapt to climate change (B.3).

2. Activities undertaken by UNECE and FAO

Joint UNECE / FAO Forestry and Timber Section

135. The Joint Section in collaboration with the International Energy Agency, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the European Commission has been collecting data on the wood energy through the "Joint Wood Energy Enquiry” since 2006.

136. The "Joint Wood Energy Enquiry” aims at improving knowledge and understanding of wood energy sources and consumption and tries to shed light on the potential and future perspective of wood energy in the region. It is instrumental for monitoring the developments in wood energy, comparing them with the policy targets and incorporating

the demand for wood energy into the trends and potential of the forest sector (B.1.2). It also promotes cooperation between the energy sector and the forest sectors and provides a comprehensive overview on the role of wood energy in the member States.

137. Collection of data for 2013 started in January 2015; the results will be available by the end of 2015. The next Joint Wood Energy Enquiry will provide updated figures on the developments in wood energy supply and trade.

138. A study, conducted by the Joint Section and presented at the meeting of the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Sector Outlook in June 2014 compared the developments in wood energy as projected by the EUWood study7 with the implementation of policy targets at the EU level as described in the progress reports of the National Renewable Energy Action Plans8.

139. The study on "Promoting sustainable building materials and the implications on the use of wood in buildings" produced by the Joint Section encouraged and promoted innovative and traditional use of wood in construction (B.1.4).

140. The Forests for Fashion – Fashion for Forests initiative and the related events organized on the occasion of the International Day of Forests in 2014 are an example of the Joint Section's work in promoting the use of low carbon materials over their high-carbon/non-renewable alternatives (B.1.7).

141. The UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Fire was mandated to provide guidance to the UNECE member States on forest fire management and forest fire policies, including governance in bilateral and international cooperation, thus maintaining and strengthening wildfire early warning and monitoring capacities and promoting integrated fire management approaches (B.3.5).

142. The Joint Section in cooperation with the Global Fire Monitoring Centre prepared and facilitated the "UNECE/FAO Regional Forum on Cross-boundary Fire Management" (November, 2013) and followed-up on the recommendations of the Forum in 2014. The recommendations addressed the issues of national and international governance in fire management.

143. The "Study on the contemporary and expected future forest fire issues in the UNECE region" and the "White Paper on the State of Wildfires and Fire Management in Forests and other Vegetation Resources in the UNECE Region" were developed based on the UNECE-wide survey.

144. The Global Fire Monitoring Centre, supported by the international advisory group, prepared and encouraged to implement the "International Fire Aviation Guidelines" and the "International Wildfire Preparedness Mechanism".

145. Furthermore, the work of the Joint Section on Forest Resource Assessment helps to improve national forest inventories and monitor carbon stocks in the forests (B.4.2).

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

146. FAO is supporting improvements in monitoring and early warning of forest pests and diseases in the region with strengthened international cooperation (B.3.4) by implementing the following projects and activities:

[7] The EUWood report is available at: http://ec.europa.eu/energy/renewables/bioenergy/bioenergy_en.htm

[8] For more information, please visit: http://ec.europa.eu/energy/renewables/action_plan_en.htm

a) The capacity building project on Management of Chestnut Blight and Increased Capacity for Improving Forest Health and Vitality in Turkey (TCP/TUR/3401, project implemented) offered staff training and enhanced international cooperation between Turkey and the Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research (WSL);

b) The project on Assessment and Preparation of a Programme to Prevent the Damages of Pine Processionary in Albania (TCP/ALB/3502, project implemented);

c) The project on Revolving Fund Component to Address Outbreak of High Risk Pine Processionary Moth in Albania (SFER/GLO/101/MUL, ongoing project);

d) The project in the pipeline on International Technical Assistance to Control Gall Wasp (Dryocosmus kuriphilus) in Turkey's Chestnut Forests under TCP facility started in October 2015 and will facilitate knowledge transfer on breeding and releasing the torymid wasp (torymus sinensis) as predator to affected forests;

e) Regional workshop on the Implementation of Phytosanitary Standards in Forestry was held in June 2015 in Nyíregyháza, Hungary. This capacity development workshop for REU countries and Turkey was conducted to enhance cooperation between National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) and forestry agencies responsible for forest protection. It also helped to identify common approaches to efficiently implement phytosanitary standards in the forest sector.

147. FAO is providing strong support to forest resources assessment and monitoring, including forest inventories in the region (B.4.2) by conducting the following projects:

a. Ongoing project on National Forest Monitoring and Information System for a Transparent and Truthful REDD-plus (GCP/GLO/456/GER). This project, funded by IKI with a budget of USD 5.2 million, supports the UNFCCC REDD+ readiness process and develops free tools for forest monitoring;

b. Pipeline project for the Russian Federation on Enabling the Conservation and Enhancement of Forests, Forest Carbon Stocks and Forest Biodiversity through Sustainable Forest Management. The objective of this project is to enhance and conserve forests, increase forest carbon stocks and conserve biodiversity through sustainable forest management. This project is prepared for submission to the GEF secretariat with an estimated budget of USD 26.25 million;

c. Pipeline project on Contribution of Sustainable Forest Management to a Low Emission and Resilient Development in Serbia will be funded by GEF with a budget of USD 3.5 million;

d. Pipeline project on Forest Resources Assessment and Monitoring in Azerbaijan aims to support forest resources information management system, ensure sustainability, upscale sustainable forest management and facilitate multifunctional forest management leading to carbon sequestration, improvement in forest and tree resources and their contribution to local livelihoods. The project will be funded by GEF with a budget of up to USD 4.5 million;

e. Pipeline project on Sustainable Management of Forests in Mountain and Valley Areas in Uzbekistan aims to support the development of information systems for sustainable forest management and multifunctional forest management leading to carbon sequestration, improvement in forest and tree resources and other benefits. To project will be funded by GEF with a budget of up to USD 4 million;

f. Pipeline project on National Forest and Tree Resources Assessment and Monitoring in Uzbekistan under FAO Technical Cooperation Programme is in line with the full size GEF project aiming to support national capacity for forest assessment and monitoring.

C. Decent green jobs in the forest sector

1. Activities undertaken by the member States and other stakeholders

Austria

148. Austria is increasing investment in the education and training of contractors, forest workers and forest owners as well as key personnel along the processing stages (C.1.5). The curricula of the different forestry education branches is continuously adjusted to new developments and challenges, e.g. the duration of the education for "Forstwarte" will be extended from one year to two years. A new Forest Education Centre is currently under construction in Traunkirchen, Oberösterreich.

149. Local Forestry Training Centres are collaborating with Austrian association of contractors to encourage participation of contractors in the training courses (C.1.6). Educational materials are available in different languages.

150. Austria is enforcing relevant legislation and developing regulations in view of changing technology and changing social conditions. The Austrian “Workers Protection Act” introduces occupational safety and health principles for forestry workforce enforced to prevent accidents, occupational diseases, work-related illnesses and permanent damage to health (C.2.4).

151. Austria conducted a research project in agriculture and forestry to identify new technologies for preventing accidents at work in close proximity to vehicles, machines and devices. The findings were included in the catalogues of measures for working in close proximity to vehicles, machines and devices. The objective of the project was to identify technologies for developing equipment (especially using new information and communication technologies), to recognize safety gaps, to improve working safety conditions and to reduce life-long expenses caused by accidents.

152. Another research project is focussing on vibration exposure of forest equipment and machinery and evaluation of vibration stress (hand-arm-vibrations and whole-body-vibrations) induced by timber harvesting and construction machinery and equipment widely used in Austrian forestry. Based on measurement results, the project will suggest ergonomic and organizational actions to reduce stress caused by vibration exposure. The studies will also reveal the vibration magnitude for each working element.

153. Furthermore, Austria established two federal Forestry Training Centres in Ort and Ossiach to offer extensive professional education to forest workers along with technical and manual skills (C.2.5). Austria is also offering special courses for mountain farmers and junior forestry staff and multiple certified courses with emphasis on occupational safety and health.

154. The agenda of all Austrian Forestry Training Centres includes developing and sharing best practice for environmentally efficient, productive, safe and sustainable forest operations (C.3.1).

155. Austria is regularly reviewing and assessing existing curricula and study courses for forestry professionals to bring them in line with the present and emerging needs of the sector (C.5.1).

156. To monitor the situation of forestry education and stimulate exchange between member States on this matter (C.5.2) Austria conducted the General Assembly Meeting of the European Forestry and Environmental Skills Council (EFESC) in Vienna in November 2014.

157. The Forestry Training Centre in Ossiach is also involved in the implementation of the European Chainsaw Certification at the national level and in coordinating all national institutions involved.

Georgia

158. New forest related job opportunities have been identified and will be included in the Green Economy Section of the Forestry Reform Strategy and Action Plan (C.1.3).

159. Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG) II Program provides a framework for sharing best practice on sustainable forest management and other silvicultural activities with the member states during the regional workshops (C.3.1).

160. The National Forestry Education Strategy is being developed to monitor the situation in the forestry education (C.5.2).

Germany

161. Germany is improving harvesting techniques while also encouraging cost reduction practises thus contributing to objective C.3 of the Rovaniemi Action Plan.

Lithuania

162. Training courses for private forest owners were reintroduced in the advisory system for private forest owners in Lithuania and additional financing allocated in 2015 from the aforementioned special programme of the state budget (C.1.5).

Luxembourg

163. The National Forest Programme of Luxembourg reviews the main threats to sustainability of the forestry workforce and possible countermeasures (C.1.2).

164. New approaches to green jobs in the forest sector are developed through a project on providing work experience to the unemployed by engaging them in the nature protection and forest sector (C.1.2).

165. Luxembourg created a special Unit for raising public awareness in the Nature and Forest Administration and is involved in managing four regional information centres and establishing partnerships with research institutions in Germany and Belgium. Luxembourg also allocates financial resources required to generate and disseminate forest-related information and provide professional forestry education and training (C.1.5).

166. Luxembourg encourages associations and public aid to improve access to training (C.1.6).

167. Luxembourg also enforces relevant legislation and develops regulations reflecting changing social conditions (C.2.4) by introducing collective contracts for forest workers.

168. Promoting forest certification helps to make forestry workforce sensitive to occupational safety and health issues (C.2.5).

169. Luxembourg is developing and sharing best practices for environmentally efficient, productive, safe and sustainable forest operations (C.3.1) through:

a) Promoting forest certification;

b) Allocating a budget for safety clothing for the public forestry workers and special forest machinery;

c) Introducing collective contracts for forest workers.

170. To monitor the situation of forestry education and stimulate exchange between member States (C.5.2), Luxembourg established four regional information centres and partnerships with research institutions in Germany and Belgium.

Poland

171. Poland is involved in developing national gender strategies for the forest sector and including gender aspects into the National Forest Programme process (C.0.2). Many gender-related aspects are addressed by the "Stowarzyszenie Kobiet Lasu", the Association of Women in Forestry, aiming to enhance cooperation and integration among women working in the State Forests and the forest sector. The State Forests supports the organisation of annual conference of the Association. Furthermore, in 2015, Poland hosted the international IUFRO (International Union of Forest Research Organizations) Conference on "Competence for the Future: Challenging gendered notions of learning forest and forestry"9. The conference addressed the ongoing transition towards sustainable forest management creating a need for new knowledge and skills on forest and forestry with the prospect of a bio-based economy.

172. The development of new forest jobs and rural entrepreneurship in the green economy are included into the work plan and discussions under the National Forest Programme process (C.1.3).

173. To develop and share best practice for environmentally efficient, productive, safe and sustainable forest operations (C.3.1) Poland conducted research projects financed by the Directorate General of the State Forest in the following areas:

a) Possibilities and limits of harvesting in deciduous forests (birch, oak, beech, black alder stands) in terms of efficiency, forest environment protection and wood quality;

b) Expertise on damages to round wood due to mechanised harvesting for both softwood and hardwood.

174. The following changes in forest operations necessary for sustainable forest management were identified by Poland (C.3.2):

a) Increasing number of heavy machines in harvesting;

b) Better efficiency of the process, ergonomic advantages; and

c) Allocating sufficient space to harvesters and forwarders to carry out harvesting activities.

175. Poland also identified challenges and dilemmas connected to forest operations (C.3.3), which include:

a) The impact from harvesting on the environment, as it relates to soils and the residual stand;

b) Marginal forest areas, (low stocking and quality of trees), particularly for privately owned forestlands;

c) The complexity of managing the mosaic of site conditions and the related issue of mixed species composition and deciduous stands.

[9] http://www.lff2015.pl/

Russian Federation

176. The developments of the Russian Federation in the area of decent green jobs in the forest sector are targeted mainly at improving the situation of forestry education and identifying present and future requirements for forestry professionals in the region in order to get well prepared for future and emerging challenges for the sector (C.5) and include:

a) Promoting the profession and decent green jobs in the forest sector;

b) Establishing in 2013 the National Forest Knowledge Day on the International Day of Forests;

c) Introducing a contest on "The Best School Forestry Unit", which covers 59 regions of the Russian Federation;

d) Conducting the International Junior Forest Contest "Podrost" to encourage international youth cooperation and environmental awareness and to disseminate knowledge on current tendencies, problems and prospects of global forestry;

e) Offering professional forestry training programmes to students at 47 universities in the Russian Federation.

Turkey

177. Turkey is establishing professional standards for the forest sector and translating into Turkish the ILO publication on "Safety and health in forestry work", 2008 (C.2 and C.3).

178. Seven million "forest villagers" in Turkey are entitled to privileges by law and 500,000 families are employed annually.

Ukraine

179. Each year Ukraine is advancing in applying environmentally efficient and sustainable practices and methodologies in the forest sector and is strongly committed disseminating the experience gained in the process (C.3.1).

180. Ukraine is also continuously reviewing and assessing existing curricula and study courses for forestry professionals to bring them in line with the present and emerging needs of the sector (C.5.1).

2.Activities undertaken by UNECE and FAO

Joint UNECE / FAO Forestry and Timber Section

181. Several activities of the Rovaniemi Action Plan related to forest-sector workforce were included in the Terms of Reference for the Team of Specialists on Green Jobs (C.1.1, C.1.2, C.3.1, C.3.2 and C.3.3). The Team was established in June 2014 and is preparing its work plan.

182. The Joint Section also actively contributed to the FOREST EUROPE work on green economy and social aspects of sustainable forest management and, in particular, its workshop held in Santander, Spain in April 2014. This covered a number of the Rovaniemi Action Plan activities (C.0.1, C.0.2, C.1.1, C.1.2, C.2.1, C.2.2).

183. The Joint Section with the support of the Team of Specialists on Green Jobs organized a workshop on "Threats to sustainability of the Forest Sector Workforce" on 17 March 2015 in Geneva, Switzerland.

184. The workshop brought together the International Labour Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization, Union of European Foresters, Finnish Forestry Experts Association, International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea, European State Forest

Organization, European Organization of the Sawmill Industry, ILO/UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Green Jobs in the Forest Sector and the European Network of Forest Entrepreneurs and the participants from the UNECE member States to discuss the challenges of the forest sector workforce and seek solutions and possible countermeasures (C.1.2).

185. Moreover, on-going consultancy work is expected to provide recommendations on how to improve monitoring of occupational safety and health of forestry workforce (C.2.2).

186. Preparatory work for the improvement of the situation in forestry education started in December 2013 at Metsä2013 with a side-event organized jointly by the International Union of Forestry Research Organizations and the International Forestry Student Association (C.5.1 and C.5.2).

D. Long term provision of Forest Ecosystem Services

1. Activities undertaken by the member States and other stakeholders

Austria

187. Austria is conducting national and regional reviews of forest ecosystem services, assessing their values and disclosing it at the corporate level (D.1.4, D.1.5). An extensive inventory of forest ecosystem services was conducted in 2015 (Report "Ökosystemleistungen des Waldes", Umweltbundesamt)10. Furthermore, the project "Werte der Natur – Bewertung der Ökosystemleistungen der Österreichischen Bundesforste" was launched by the Austrian Federal Forests in 2013 with first results expected at the end of 201511.

188. Payment for Ecosystem Services is reflected in the Austrian Forest Programme, the Austrian Rural Development Programme and the forthcoming Austrian Forest Strategy 2020+ (D.2.2).

189. To empower forest owners and promote partnerships in developing and providing ecosystem services, the Forestry Training Centre in Ort/Gmunden is offering a Certificate Course on "Forest and Culture". Moreover, the Network "Forest and Culture Austria" is supporting business-oriented utilisation of cultural values and potential of forests, with grant possibilities available under the Rural Development Programme (D.2.4).

Georgia

190. Georgia is developing Guidelines for Eco-compensation Standards and the System of Payment for Ecosystem Services applicable mostly to "forests used for special purposes" other than timber (D.0.1) and is preparing draft legislation on the Utilization of Non-timber Forest Products (initiated in 2014) (D.1.1).

Luxembourg

191. The National Forest Programme of Luxembourg contributes to:

a) Organising a policy forum on valuation of public goods provided by forests (D.1.2);

b) Undertaking national and regional reviews of forest ecosystem services and assessing their values with a view to enabling forest investments (D.1.4);

[10] http://www.umweltbundesamt.at/fileadmin/site/publikationen/REP0544.pdf
[11] http://www.bundesforste.at/natur-erlebnis/natur-schutz/biodiversitaet/werte-der-natur.html

c) Promoting the disclosure of the values of forest ecosystem services at the corporate level (D.1.5);

d) Reviewing and sharing experience on payment for forest ecosystem services, notably enabling conditions for payments for ecosystem services and monitor progress (D.2.1);

e) Building capacity at the national level for developing and implementing payment for ecosystem services and incorporating it into existing strategies (D.2.2);

f) Developing guidelines for policies and instruments that will provide a framework for payments for ecosystem services and identifying potential funding options (D.2.3);

g) Empowering forest owners and promoting partnerships between forest owners and other actors/stakeholders in developing and providing ecosystem services, for instance forest tourism/ecotourism services (D.2.4).

Poland

192. Valuation of forest services and forest-related public goods are key issues in the National Forest Programme process (D.1.2).

193. National and regional reviews of forest ecosystem services and assessments of their values with a view to enable forest investments (D.1.4) are periodically carried out by the Polish research institutions (e.g. Forest Research Institute).

194. Payments for Ecosystem Services are discussed within the National Forest Programme process and incorporated into the final recommendations of the process (D.2.2).

195. The studies on comparing the value of marketed and non-marketed forest goods and services and developing recommendations as to how academic valuation methods could be transformed into payment systems (D.2.6) are carried out by the Polish research institutions (e.g. Forest Research Institute).

196. The topics of forests and human health, including opportunities, challenges, hazards, risks and benefits to human health, are discussed under the National Forest Programme process (D.3.1).

197. The project on “Water Retention in the Polish State Forests” contributed to enhancing the capacity of forest lands to capture water and increase carbon absorption while protecting land from such natural disasters as floods (D.3.3).

Turkey

198. The advancements of Turkey in the area of Long term provisions of Forest Ecosystem Services include:

a) Developing the “Honey Production Forests Action Plan” (D.1.5);

b) Integrating nature conservation into the economic system (D.1.5);

c) Introducing the “Urban Forests Action Plan” and mapping ecosystem services and bio-valuation studies (D.2.2);

d) Conducting ecotourism activities (D.2.4).

199. 40–82 % of income acquired from hunting tourism in Turkey is shared with the village legal entities.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

200. To review and develop approaches to the valuation of and payment for different forest ecosystem services (D.0.1) the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern

Ireland (hereinafter referred to as the UK) published a set of experimental Natural Capital Accounts for forestry in March 2015.

201. The Forestry Commission has commissioned the University of Exeter (Prof. Ian Bateman) to review evidence on valuing the benefits of forestry in the UK and to recommend priorities for future research and methodological improvements. The Study will be completed in November 2015.

202. To promote the disclosure of the values of forest ecosystem services at the corporate level (D.1.5) the UK has began to develop corporate natural capital accounts for the Public Forest Estate in England (the initial accounts completed in spring 2015).

203. The Woodland Carbon Code has been further developed, including the launch of a small woods scheme to encourage farmers and others to enter the scheme (D.2.2).

2. Activities undertaken by UNECE and FAO

Joint UNECE / FAO Forestry and Timber Section

204. In March 2014, the Joint Section, jointly with UNEP, published a study paper number 34: "The Value of Forests, Payments for Ecosystem Services in a Green Economy"12 based on their knowledge on forest ecosystem services and cooperation with other partners (D.0.1).

205. This study paper was used by FOREST EUROPE in their work on the valuation of Forest Ecosystem Services, which covers a number of activities in the Rovaniemi Action Plan (D.1.2 and D.1.4).

E. Policy development and monitoring of the forest sector in relation to a green economy

1. Activities undertaken by the member States and other stakeholders

Austria

206. Austrian forest sector was assessed by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in the context of the OECD Environment Performance (E.0.1).

207. The national forest sector governance review is executed by the Austrian Forest Dialogue jointly with the scientific assessment on specific areas (E.0.2).

208. Information development and dissemination is the key component of forest governance and is administered through the research and educational institutions (E.0.4).

209. To contribute to objective E.1.4 of the Rovaniemi Action Plan, a comprehensive evaluation of the Austrian Forest Dialogue (the main policy formulation and governance instrument) was undertaken with a focus on a broader perspective and not restricted exclusively by green economy.

210. Austria is promoting sustainable forestry in rural communities through the National Rural Development Programme 2014–2020 and encouraging forest-based entrepreneurship, capacity building and innovation (E.1.5).

[12] Available at http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/timber/publications/SP-34Xsmall.pdf

211. The Working Group on Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management was established in the framework of the Austrian Forest Dialogue (E.2.2).

212. Austria encouraged the FOREST EUROPE process to work with all relevant indicator processes, e.g. EU, Montreal Process, etc. (E.3.2).

213. The latest report on "Sustainable Forest Management in Austria – Austrian Forest Report 2015" provides an assessment of sustainability of forest management at the national level (E.3.3).

214. To ensure participation of forest stakeholders in cross-sectoral processes and initiatives related to green economy, Austrian Forest Dialogue jointly with the International Union of Forest Research Organizations organised an international symposium in April 2015 on the role of forests in bioeconomy13 (E.5.3).

Germany

215. Germany is conducting cluster and market analyses of the forest and timber sector, which is instrumental in developing ambitious and realistic strategies for governance and monitoring of the forest sector (E.0).

216. By communicating the benefits of forests and timber for the society through media Germany is providing clear, comprehensive and comparable forest information to the general public, making it possible to assess the consequences of policy choices and ensuring that policy makers make use of the best available information and analysis (E.2).

217. Furthermore, Germany is also improving communication with the public and policy makers about the forest sector's actual and potential role in the green economy and facilitating public participation in the debate on the green economy (E.4) by conducting environmental competitions and giving awards for the best wooden construction.

Lithuania

218. Forest related measures were incorporated into the Lithuanian Rural Development Programme 2014–2020, including support to small businesses investing into forest machinery with priority given to innovative technologies (E.1.5).

219. Lithuania recently published a comprehensive and periodic Statistical Yearbook on Forestry in 2014 (available also via internet) (E.2.4).

Luxembourg

220. Luxembourg is conducting a study on the current situation of forests and the forest sector to review national forest sector governance and the adequacy of available supporting information (E.0.2).

221. The National Forest Programme helps to develop the capacities to implement sustainable forest management and forest protection and monitor progress in its implementation (E.0.4).

222. To promote sustainable forestry in rural communities (E.1.5) Luxembourg is:

a) Conducting an information campaign by government bodies;

b) Implementing a pilot project in agroforestry; and

c) Promoting fire wood.

[13] http://www.iufro.org/news/article/2015/04/15/building-up-the-bio-economy-the-forest-sector-has-to-take-the-lead/

223. Luxembourg is also developing a geographical information system to make available usable data for all indicators for sustainable forest management (E.2.2).

224. Luxembourg is conducting the second national forest inventory and a study on the current situation of forests and the forest sector to produce regular fact based reports on sustainable forest management in countries, based on international and national criteria and indicators (E.2.4).

225. As a follow-up to the National Forest Programme Luxembourg is assessing the sustainability of forest management at the national level (E.3.3).

Poland

226. The National Forest Programme

227. are set, to better understand why policies are formulated as they are and to investigate where improvement may be made in order to overcome limitations (E.0.3).

228. The State Forests regularly updates guidelines and provides trainings to advance practical implementation of sustainable forest management and forest protection at the different levels of forest management (E.0.4).

229. Gender aspects of the forest sector in the green economy are also included into the topics discussed in the National Forest Programme process (E.0.5).

230. The recently published book “The forestry and wood sector in the green economy” by E. Ratajczak (ITD Publishing, Poznań 2013) was a detailed and objective study of policy instruments in place and whether they are appropriate for a green economy (E.1.1). It is the first book in Poland to introduce the concept of green economy and to highlight the role of forestry and wood-based industries in building green economy.

231. The principles of the green economy have been included into the recommendations for the National Forest Programme process (E.1.2).

232. Promoting sustainable forestry is an essential element of the existing National Forest Policy and the National Forest Programme process (E.1.5).

233. 25 Promotional Forest Complexes were established in the context of the State Forest policy promoting sustainable forest management. Besides their educational value, they also provide an excellent ground for pursuing and promoting the principles of forest management, which integrate goals such as nature protection, sustainable utilisation of forest resources and participatory management of forests as a public resource (E.3.3).

234. Poland also contributed to the FOREST EUROPE Working Group on updating the criteria and indicators (E.3.4).

235. Furthermore, Poland was actively involved in the preparation of the International Day of Forests 2015 by organising the exhibition on “Learning from Forests” from 20 March to 16 April 2015 at the United Nations Palace of Nations in Geneva, Switzerland (E.4.2).

236. One of the key principles of the National Forest Programme process is to create a forum for forest stakeholders and representatives of other sectors of the economy for sharing experience and exchanging opinions on the cross-sectoral processes and initiatives related to green economy (E.5.3).

Turkey

237. The forest sector is the first sector in Turkey to benefit from a comprehensive National Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy based on the structure and content of the Rovaniemi Action Plan (E.1.2).

238. The Action Plan was harmonized with the national regulations as national targets from the National Development Agenda were incorporated into the National Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy in Turkey.

239. Specific governmental departments were assigned to coordinate the implementation of activities under each pillar of the Action Plan.

240. Turkey started the process of disseminating the National Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy and monitoring its implementation.

Ukraine

241. The FAO TCP project on "Consolidation of Forest Policy in Ukraine" being implemented in Ukraine contributes to developing the capacities of all stakeholders to implement sustainable forest management and forest protection measures, to monitor progress in its implementation and discuss problems in the forest sector (E.0.4).

2. Activities undertaken by UNECE and FAO

Joint UNECE / FAO Forestry and Timber Section

242. In 2013, the Joint Section launched a two-year capacity-building project on “Sustainable Forest Management for Greener Economies in the Caucasus and Central Asia” to enhance the contribution of the forestry sector to greener economies through sustainable forest management (E.0.4). The project is based on the Rovaniemi Action Plan and its training modules are directly inspired by its content. The project is funded by the United Nations Development Account and covers seven countries of the Caucasus and Central Asia, including Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

243. The project provides training and advisory services to government officials responsible for the forestry sector, to NGOs, academia, private sector and other stakeholders from forest-related sectors by:

a) Developing training materials on sustainable forest management for greener economy, wood energy, data collection (criteria and indicators) and policy / strategy development;

b) Conducting capacity building activities (46 in total), including:

- 2 regional workshops;
- 7 national workshops;
- 28 local workshops;
- 9 coaching seminars in 3 pilot countries (Georgia, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan);
- Sharing lessons learned and making recommendations;

c) Developing National Action Plans / National Forest Strategies for 3 pilot countries to enhance the contribution of the forestry sector to a green economy;

d) Creating a web-based hub for knowledge management on forest-related issues.

244. The Joint Section developed and maintained inter-organisational cooperation on forest resource assessment through the preparation of the Collaborative Forest Resource Questionnaire and the pan-European reporting process (E.2.1).

245. The development of the green economy indicator data sets in order to demonstrate the contribution of the forest sector to a green economy was launched at Mestä2013 with a round table (E.2.3).

246. The Joint Section in collaboration with Kit Prins, an independent expert, prepared a background paper (including some proposals of approaches) to measure progress of the forest sector towards a green economy.

247. The paper showed that some useful and relevant indicators already exist, which makes it possible to measure the contribution of the forest sector towards green economy. However, other green economy indicators, such as efficiency of resource use, integration of externalities and social balance, are not taken into account when measuring sustainable forest management. Hence, some, but not all approaches and data can be used to measure the progress towards green economy.

248. Two approaches were presented to measure the progress of the forest sector towards green economy:

a) Approach 1 is based on the Rovaniemi Action Plan and focuses on identifying the aspects/actions in the Plan that can be measured and building a measurement system on them;

b) Approach 2 is based on broader green economy indicator sets and concepts in order to understand, to what extent they could be applied by the forest sector.

249. The Joint Section also launched a publication on "Forests in the ECE region: Trends and Challenges in Achieving the Global Objectives on Forests" as a regional contribution to the session of the United Nations Forum on Forests held in May 2015 in New York (E.2.4).

250. Since 2011, UNECE and FAO together with the national and international experts and the Team of Specialists on Sustainable Forest Management have been developing a new methodology to assess the sustainability of forest management in the UNECE region (E.3.1). It is currently in the phase of pilot implementation and is based on the data collected through the current UNECE/FAO/Forest Europe reporting process 2015.

251. The System for the Evaluation of the Management of Forests (hereinafter referred to as SEMAFOR) builds on the Joint Section's experience developed over the last 15 years in the area of monitoring and evaluation of forest functions and sustainable forest management. It is a transparent monitoring system with interactive reporting on sustainability of forest management at the pan-European level.

252. SEMAFOR is designed to report on the sustainability of forest management at the national or subnational level by answering the following questions:

a) What are the main areas of concern with regards to sustainability in a given country?

b) How are those areas of concern being addressed?

253. SEMAFOR is developed to objectively identify the countries' strengths and weaknesses in the area of sustainable forest management and to assist national policy makers in evaluating the progress achieved and corrective measures required.

254. Activities undertaken by the Forest Communicators' Network contribute directly to improving the ability of the sector to effectively communicate by developing national and international communication capacities and sharing experience (E.4.1).

255. Communication activities organized by the Joint Section, including the celebration of the International Day of Forests on 21 March ("Forests for Fashion – Fashion for Forests" in 2014 and "Forests for Food – Food for Forests" in 2015) also contribute to improving the sector's communication capacity.

256. The results of the study on "Promoting sustainable building materials and the implications on the use of wood in buildings" contribute to forming the opinion of the legislators and general public on wood being "ecologically, economically and technically preferred" construction material (E.4.2).

257. The Joint Section's capacity-building activities on Forests, Forest Products and Wood Energy data are intended, inter alia, to develop the capacities of all stakeholders to provide usable data for indicators for sustainable management and use of forests in the UNECE region (E.0.4, E.2.2, E.3.4).

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

258. FAO is developing the capacities of all stakeholders to implement sustainable forest management and forest protection practices and monitoring the implementation progress (E.0.4) through the following projects and capacity building activities:

a) The project WISDOM - Montenegro on Woodfuel Integrated Supply and Demand Overview Mapping in Montenegro (GCP/MNE/001/LUX, project implemented) was funded by the government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg with a budget of USD 195,000 and implemented after the adoption of the Rovaniemi Action Plan;

b) The project on Forest Sector in Bosnia and Herzegovina – IPARD forest sector review was funded by the European Union and implemented after the adoption of the Rovaniemi Action Plan;

c) The project on Technical assistance for using wood energy to improve sustainable economic rural development and meet the 2020 renewable energy targets for the Western Balkans (regional: Albania, TFYR of Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina) (TCP/RER/3502, ongoing project) with a budget of USD 475,000;

d) The project on Support to Implementation of the Forest Policy and Strategy in Kosovo (GCP/KOS/005/FIN, ongoing project) is funded by the Finnish government with a budget of USD 5.2 million;

e) The project on Assistance for the development of forest infrastructure planning and construction in Serbia (TCP/SRB/3401, ongoing project) with a budget of USD 260,000;

f) The project on Forest Policy Consolidation in Ukraine (TCP/UKR/3401, ongoing project) with a budget of USD 315,000;

g) Regional Workshop on "Ecology, economics of sustainable wildlife management", Prague, funded by the Czech Trust Fund;

h) The project on Capacity Building for Sustainable Management of Mountain Watersheds in Central Asia and the Caucasus (Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey & Uzbekistan) (GCP/SEC/002/TUR, ongoing project) is funded under the FAO-Turkey Partnership Programme (FTPP) with a budget of USD 300,000. The project was launched in January 2012 and is envisaged to increase public awareness and capacity building on the implementation, rehabilitation and sustainable management of mountain watersheds;

i) The project on Support to the development of a National Forestry Programme in Kazakhstan as TCP facility was implemented in December 2014;

j) The project on Support to the development of a National Forestry Programme in Tajikistan as TCP facility was implemented in April 2015;

k) The Central Asian Desert Initiative (CADI) pipeline project on Conservation and sustainable use of cold winter deserts in Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan). The formulation and application for funding is prepared by IKI under the ongoing project: CADI - Subregional Stakeholder Consultation for Project Formulation (TCP facility);

l) Regional workshop on Hazard Zone Mapping and Event Documentation was held in Brčko, Bosnia and Herzegovina in October 2014. It was organised as capacity

building on standards in event documentation under the Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds of the European Forestry Commission;

m) Sub-regional workshop on Forest Policy and Institutions Development in Central Asia was held in Trabzon, Turkey in February 2014. The workshop was on sharing best practices on linkages between policy development and institutional adaptation/reform in support of the forest sector and identifying elements of a road map for policy review and enhancement of institutional performance;

n) Regional workshop on Impacts of Forest Policy Development on the Condition of the Local Population and Forests was held in Istanbul, Turkey in March 2015. The workshop was assessing information on regional potentials to develop a plan of action for capacity building initiatives in forest policy and institutional development.

259. FAO also contributed to carrying out a comparative analysis of the concept of "sustainable forest management" (E.5.2) through their commitment to the Forest Resources Assessment 2015, to the indicators for the sustainable development goals and specific socio-economic and governance aspects (as part of sustainable forest management).

III. Activities in support of the implementation of the Rovaniemi Action Plan

260. The second meeting of the joint UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Policy was held on 7–9 October 2015 in Prague, Czech Republic. For the Team of Specialists, the Joint Section prepared a detailed presentation on the implementation of the Rovaniemi Action Plan by several member States, the Joint Section and the Food and Agriculture Organization. Based on the practical experience acquired in the process of implementing the activities of the Rovaniemi Action Plan, the Team of Specialists suggested reviewing and improving the list of potential actors specified in the Action Plan.

261. The Joint Meeting of the Executive Committee of the FAO European Forestry Commission and the Bureau of the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry was held in Geneva, Switzerland on 28 September 2015. Members of the Bureau were concerned about the future way of reporting on the implementation of the Rovaniemi Action Plan. It was agreed that the format of reporting will be discussed during the joint session of the UNECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the FAO European Forestry Commission in Engelberg, Switzerland.

IV. Points for consideration

262. Given the above, the Commission and the Committee are invited to take note of the activities mentioned in this document, report on their national approach to green economy in the forest sector, provide guidance on further work to be undertaken and on the format of reporting for monitoring the implementation of the Rovaniemi Action Plan.