

# Green Jobs in the forest(ry) sector

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the Forest Industry

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Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



**UNECE**



International  
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# Content

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- Identified decisive challenges
- Actions and results
- Observed fields of new / known developments
- In search for a reliable basis
- next steps and outlook



# Tasks and context

“Advice and support the secretariat on the implantation of the ECE/FAO Integrated Programme on employment-related issues such as jobs, required competence, education and training for the forest sector in the context in the context of the green economy”

Contributing to:

- *Resource efficient economy* in Europe
- EU Forest Strategy review and other forest related policies in Europe including the *Rovaniemi Action Plan* for the sector in a green economy
- *Sustainable development Goals*



# A Green Forest Job...

- *... complies with the principles of Sustainable Forest Management*
- *... contributes to the green economy,*
- *... and is involved in the value chain of forest products and/or in the performance of forest services.*



# Goals

The general goal of the ToS-activities is stated as follows:

**To Identify and list the existing and specially the potential new Green Forest Jobs in the forest sector.**





# What has been done so far?

- Workshop Threats to sustainability of the Forest Sector Workforce 17th March 2015 in Geneva
- team meetings, workshops and side events at international conferences
- Analysis of existing reports and case studies; evaluation of current situation
- Elaboration draft report: thematic areas & identified fields of action
- Inquiry on Green Forest Jobs (Solsona)

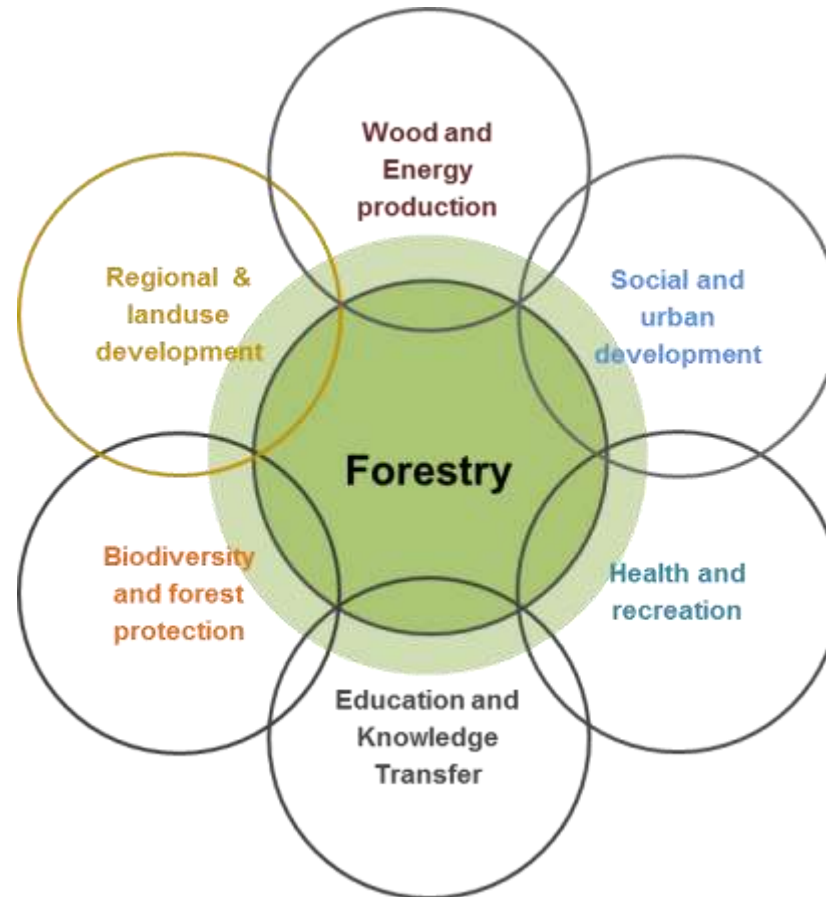


# Identified decisive challenges

- Climate change impacts and adaptation measures
- Globalisation; urbanisation and growth of world population; demographic changes.
- General changes in working conditions i.a. new media/digitalisation, further automatisisation (industry 4.0); global markets
- Shifting societies needs and forest services - growing importance/request on non timber benefits provided by forests and trees in the context of human health, recreation and other areas (ecosystem services)



# Green Forest Jobs and its landscape







# Thematic area: Health & Recreation

## Example / Field of activity Forest Ecotherapy

➤ **Healing by  $\alpha$ -Pinene and Limonene**  
(volatile organic compounds within forests)

➤ **44 accredited „Forest Bathing“ areas in Japan**  
(they are spreading all over the world)

❖ ***Forest Ecotherapists are promoting non-timber forest health benefits by combining new forest health research with a basic knowledge of medical issues.***

### Forest Ecotherapy

#### *Skills, Expertise and Green Forest Professions*

- Research and dissemination of knowledge about forest healing effects.
- Forest Ecotherapists
- Medical Doctors working in forest therapy centres
- Sports professionals, forest health coaches
- Forest Educators and guided walks leaders...





# Thematic area: Social & Urban development

## Example / Field of activity Urban Forestry

➤ **The > 70,000 trees of Melbourne city are valued at \$650 million.**

(incl. health, amenity and microclimate effects)

➤ **Melbourne`s trees receive letters of love.**

(instead of those reporting damages)

❖ ***Urban foresters have to handle the special needs & demands of urban society as well as the special needs of urban trees associated with harsh and extreme growing conditions.***

### Urban forestry

#### *Skills, Expertise and Green Forest Professions*

- Urban Foresters
- Forest landscape gardeners
- Urban Forest Planners / Green urban Infrastructure Managers





# Inquiry on Green Forest Jobs (Solsona)

- Online-Inquiry in June 2016 (participants at the Solsona Conference)
- 70% of participants see a big potential
- Majority of participants see an essential contribution for the rural development in the future.



# Green Jobs in the Forest Sector: **Outlook**

Meeting UNECE in Geneva

Josef Herkendell / 18 October 2016





# Contribution of **Green Forest Jobs** for **Fullfilling the SDG**



## **3 Good Health and Well-Being**

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

...promote the huge physical and physiological health benefits of forests and provide appropriate offers for society.



## **11 Sustainable Cities and Communities**

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

...promote and manage green infrastructures and urban forests within cities for a better live quality.

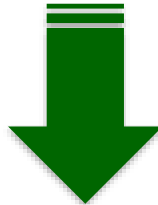


# Trends in the forest sector



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Reported employment of  
traditional forestry jobs



- Forest sector employment decreased throughout the ECE-regions by 21% from 2000 – 2010 (*UNECE and FAO 2015*)
- The contribution of the forest sector to GDP (gross domestic product) decreased from 1.2% to 0.8% from 2000 – 2011 (374 Bill. \$ to 286 Bill. \$) in ECE (*UNECE and FAO 2015*)
- The number of forest-related public employees reported in 2014 is around 14% lower than that reported in 2010. (*FOREST EUROPE 2015*)



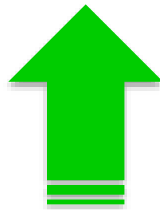


# Towards a green economy



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Estimated Potential of  
green economy in  
related sectors



- Employment in the EU in the “Environmental goods and service sectors” increased from 3 to 4.2 million between 2002 - 2011, including by 20% during the recession years
- eg. Natura 2000 sites supports ~ 8 Mill. new jobs due to tourism and recreation (= 6% of the total employment in the EU).
- Further green jobs will be created in the future.

*(European Commission 2014).*

- The importance of forests for recreation, cultural values and energy production is increasing (*FOREST EUROPE, UNECE and FAO 2011*).



# In search for a reliable basis – next steps

- Joining efforts with Forest Europe
- Enhancing the European Think Tank on future Green Jobs

With that we are aiming at:

- Identifying and listing the existing and specially the potential new Green Forest Jobs in the forest sector.

By the end of 2016: the different areas will be identified and described

By the end of 2017: first recommendations will be presented to the Member States (End of the mandate)

Beyond the Mandate

- Developing indicators or a statistical foundation for new Green Jobs in the forest sector?





# **Green Forest Jobs have the potential to link green economy with Sustainable Forest Management in a modern globalized world of continuous changes!**

- Recommendations: Oct 2017 (Poland)!!
- Green Forest Jobs Implementation 2018ff?

**Thank you for your attention!**

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