

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

109th meeting
Geneva, 17 February 2020

Item 11

Informal Document No. **2020/6**

Extrabudgetary project

Supporting UNECE member States in building capacity on urban forestry

**UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECT FORM**

Project title: Supporting UNECE member States in building capacity on urban forestry						
Expected timing/ duration: February– December 2020						
<p>Objective and brief summary of the project: The objective of the proposed project is to support UNECE member States in building capacity on urban forestry through the implementation of the “Trees in Cities Challenge”. The “Trees in Cities Challenge” is a global campaign launched by the UNECE Executive Secretary at the Secretary-General’s Climate Action Summit (New York, 21 September 2019), which aims to support cities to plant an agreed number of urban trees. This will be done through formal tree-planting pledges by mayors of the cities. The “Trees in Cities Challenge” (https://treesincities.unece.org/) is a response to recent developments at the Climate Action Summit: (i) putting climate action at the core of United Nations’ action agenda and (ii) recognizing the increasing importance of the role of cities and local authorities in combating climate change. Nature-based solutions to climate change have been recognized as the most cost-efficient climate change mitigation strategy. Urban forestry is key nature-based solution for cities: by providing natural way of air-cooling and building up urban resilience, enhancing energy efficiency of buildings, cleaning the air from pollutants and particulates, contributing to local biodiversity and having a whole array of benefits for human health and the environment. The “Trees in Cities Challenge” is also in line with the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 (E/2017/10-E/CN.18/SS/2017/2) in particular global forest goals 1, g: contribution of forests to climate change mitigation and adaptation and j: mitigating the impact of air pollution; global forest goal 2, l: forests and trees in the urban context. The results of the “Trees in Cities Challenge” will be presented at the Forum of Mayors (Geneva, October 2020) which will bring together mayors from the UNECE region to discuss concrete strategies for climate action. One of the thematic sessions at the upcoming Forum of Mayors will be on nature-based solutions to climate change, where the mayors of cities participating in the “Trees in Cities Challenge” will present their progress to date and discuss the potential of urban forestry. The objective of this project will be implemented through the following activities: A1.1. Providing organisational support for the implementation of the Trees in Cities Challenge; A1.2. Supporting data collection and maintaining the database on urban forestry.</p> <p>The “Trees in Cities Challenge” contributes to SDG 3, 11, 13 and 15.</p>						
<p>Expected results of the project: EA1. Improved understanding of policy-makers at local and national level of the potential of urban forestry as a nature-based solution to climate change.</p>						
<p>Target group and beneficiaries of the project: Target group local government officials, experts, representatives of the private sector, civil society and academia. Beneficiary countries are UNECE member States.</p>						
<p>Justification of project and its relationship to the programme of work: The project contributes directly to the objective of the of the Subprogramme 7 “Forestry and Timber” of the UNECE programme budget for 2020 “to strengthen sustainable management of forests and enhance the contribution of forests and forest products to sustainable development in the ECE region”. In accordance with the Warsaw Integrated Programme of work 2018-2021 (ECE/TIM/2017/2), point 35c, this project enhances the visibility of the work of the Committee and supports efforts to promote sustainable forest management within and outside the forest and forest products sector.</p>						
<p>Estimated UN regular budget resources (work months of RB staff/level of Staff): 0.5 months of RB/P5</p>						
<p>Estimated extra budgetary resources:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; width: 60%;">Donor</td> <td style="text-align: center; width: 40%;">Amount (USD)</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Switzerland</td> <td style="text-align: center;">70,000</td> </tr> </table>			Donor	Amount (USD)	Switzerland	70,000
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<p>Project Manager: Gianluca Sambucini 22.01.2020</p>	<p>Section/Division: UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section Forests, Land and Housing Division</p>					
<p>Cleared by Programme Management Unit: Catherine Haswell Chief of PMU 22.01.2020</p>	<p>Approved by EXCOM:</p>	<p>17.02.2020</p>				

Annex
Results-based budget for the extra-budgetary project

Expected Accomplishments	Planned activities	Estimated costs (US\$)
EA1. Improved understanding of policy-makers at both local and national level of the potential of nature-based solutions to climate change	A1.1. Providing organisational and substantive support for the implementation of the Trees in Cities Challenge; 1 international consultant x 5 months x \$5,000 Travel of staff x 4 missions x \$2,000 Contractual services (printing promotional materials, brochure, roll ups etc.)	37,000 25,000 8,000 4,000
	A1.2. Supporting data collection and maintaining the database on urban forestry. 1 international consultant x 5 months x \$5,000	25,000
Budget summary		62,000
13% of Programme Support Costs		8,000
Total (rounded)		70,000