

**Economic and Social Council**

Distr.: General
23 July 2012

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe**Timber Committee****Seventieth session**

Geneva, 16–19 October 2012

Item 11 of the provisional agenda

Draft ECE/FAO Joint Programme of Work 2014-2017

**Draft elements of the joint programme of work of the ECE
Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry
Commission for 2014-2017****Note by the bureaux of the ECE Timber Committee and the FAO
European Forestry Commission***Summary*

This document is the outcome of the 2013 Strategic Review. The review is an assessment of the ECE 'timber and forestry subprogramme' and its ECE/FAO Joint Programme of Work covering all its aspects, including broad direction and objectives, structure and content, resources, methods, partnerships and outputs. This has followed the methodology and timetable as approved at the last joint session of the Timber Committee (TC) and European Forestry Commission (EFC) which took place in Antalya, Turkey, in October 2011, and is contained in document: ECE/TIM/2011/9 –FO:EFC/2011/9.

The present document contains draft elements of the future joint programme of work of the ECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission for the period 2014-2017. It was prepared by the Joint Bureaux of the Committee and the Commission through a series of exchanges and a retreat held in Geneva in June 2012. The document considers suggestions from the assessment phase of the 2013 Strategic Review, including from the survey of the forest work of ECE and FAO in the region. More information on the assessment phase of the review is contained in document ECE/TIM/2012/6.

This document for the seventieth session of the Timber Committee, which is open to Commission delegates, invites feedback, which will be reflected in an updated version to be further discussed in parallel with the next meeting of the ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management in April 2013 and/or during a special session of the Committee and Commission in mid 2013, depending on progress made at this



Committee session.

The Committee is expected to consider and review this document and advise on further steps for its further discussion, including the organization of an extraordinary short joint Committee and Commission session mid 2013 prior to Metsä2013, the joint session to take place in Rovaniemi, Finland, from 9 to 13 December 2013.

Introduction

1. This document contains the draft elements of the Joint Programme of Work of the ECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission for 2014-17 (JPoW). The Committee is invited to discuss these elements and further develop them. A new version of the document will be considered by the Committee and Commission delegates in parallel with the Working Party on Forests Statistics, Economics and Management (WPFSEM) meeting in April 2013 and/or in a special session of the TC and EFC in mid 2013. The final Joint Programme will be adopted at 'Metsä2013', the joint meeting of the Committee and the Commission to be held from 9 to 13 December 2013 in Rovaniemi, Finland.

2. This programme of work will be updated to reflect the activities in the Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy, which is also due to be endorsed at 'Metsä2013' and is an integral part of the ECE/FAO work. The current draft of the Action Plan is contained in document: ECE/TIM/2012/11.

A. Scope

3. The Joint Programme of Work covers all 56 member States of the ECE region, in line with the ECE Timber Committee membership. The FAO European Forestry Commission covers fewer member States; these are listed in the footnote¹. The programme encompasses sustainable forest management as well as the sound and legal use of forest products, for raw material and energy, and forest services, based on appropriate policies and institutions.²

4. The programme of work will continue to cover many traditional topics related to forest products and services (as contained in the previous programme of work ECE/TIM/2008/7 – FO:EFC/08/7). It also introduces new elements to address emerging issues related to sustainable forest management. These new elements include:

- Forest health and disturbance-related issues.
- Linkages between Sustainable Forest Management and a green economy, including the contribution of forest products and services to the green economy, and the issue of decent green jobs and employment in the forest sector.

¹ Albania, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan, and the European Community.

² The scope is unchanged from the period 2008-2013. For ease of reference: see page 4, paragraph 13, of document ECE/TIM/2008/7.

- Innovation in the forest sector, including new forest products and the use of wood in construction.
- Enhanced emphasis on wood energy and payment for ecosystem services.
- Interactions between forest policies and other sectors, such as the effect of wood energy policies on land use and the effect of urbanization on forest extent and character.
- Adaptation to climate change.
- Mainstreaming of biodiversity and environmental issues into the different areas of work.

5. The joint work programme will also include actions agreed within the Action Plan for Forests in a Green Economy (ECE/TIM/2012/11). This document is also being developed and will be adopted at Mestä2013. Actions contained in that Plan and attributed to ECE/FAO will eventually be included in the final version of this joint programme of work.

B. Overall goal

6. The overall goal of the UNECE Timber Committee, the FAO European Forestry Commission, their related bodies and the Teams of Specialists is to sustainably manage and use UNECE-region forests so that they provide products and ecosystem services to benefit society.

C. Objective of the Joint Programme of Work

7. The joint programme of work aims to help member countries to achieve the overall goal by providing the best available information, facilitating policy dialogues and communication, and building capacity.

D. Structure and work areas

8. The joint programme of work is structured around four main functions, or work areas (WA), as follows:

- WA 1: Data, monitoring and assessment
- WA 2: Policy dialogue and advice
- WA 3: Communication and outreach
- WA 4: Capacity-building

9. Specific activities and outputs proposed for the four work areas are outlined below:

WA 1: Data, monitoring and assessment

10. ECE/FAO monitors and analyses developments in different forest-related areas. This includes the gathering of comprehensive statistics and data, and developing analysis and assessment on:

- Forest product markets and services in the region.
- All aspects of forest and forest resources, their functions and services, and sustainable forest management.

- Structural developments in the forest sector, long-term supply and demand of wood and other goods and services, as well as policy impacts and implications.
- Use of wood energy and implications for Sustainable Forest Management.

11. Outputs of this work area would include the Forest Products Annual Market Reviews; the State of Europe's Forests (jointly with Forest Europe); the regional input to the Global Forest Resource Assessment; ad hoc sectorial studies such as technical papers; Forest Sector Outlook Studies; Joint Wood Energy Enquiries.

12. Data will be collected in partnership with countries, international organizations and the scientific community, to agreed standards and rules. Work will also improve the quality of information, ensuring international compatibility, storage, dissemination and analysis of the information, and helping countries to strengthen their capacity in this area (see WA 4 on capacity-building).

13. This programme area will also address the monitoring and assessment component of activities identified in the green economy action plan and attributed to ECE/FAO (ECE/TIM/2012/11).

WA 2: Policy dialogue and advice

14. This includes ECE/FAO's contribution to the global (mainly United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO)), regional (ECE/FAO, Forest Europe, European Forestry Institute, European Commission) and national forest dialogues.

15. This component will involve the organization of policy dialogues and specific studies at the UNECE region, and the national level on request from member countries. Subjects to be covered will include:

- Forest and forest-related policy fragmentation
- Governance and policy making
- Interaction with stakeholders and the private sector
- Financing for and investment in the forest sector
- Wood supply and impact on sustainable forest management
- Wood energy and implications for renewable energy policies and land use

16. This programme area will also address the policy-related components of activities identified in the green economy action plan and attributed to ECE/FAO (ECE/TIM/2012/11).

17. Outputs will include guidelines and recommendations in accordance with the green economy action plan, national forest policy dialogues and other policy dialogues and workshops for the ECE region. An important component will also be the policy-related parts of relevant ECE/FAO studies such as outlook studies, reports on the status and trends of forests and sustainable forest management and relevant reviews.

WA 3: Communication and outreach

18. This is seen as an essential part of the joint programme of work. Strengthening the ability of the Committee and the Commission to reach out to relevant constituencies, within and outside the forest sector, is essential to promote sustainable forest management and to allow the dissemination of the information and tools produced, at the national, regional and global levels. This will be achieved through:

- Events and campaigns in support of sustainable forest management and forest products and services (e.g. the European Forest Week, the Forest Information Week).
- Dissemination of information via policy briefs, press briefs and ad hoc studies, whenever results are available and new information released.
- The organization of relevant events in member countries (National Forest Policy Dialogues, capacity building workshops, special PR events, for example) in cooperation with all stakeholders.
- Outreach activities beyond the forest sector disseminating information that highlights the relevance of forests and forest products to other sectors (e.g. energy events, biodiversity and environment meetings, sustainable construction and building, etc).

19. This programme area will also address the communications and outreach component of activities identified in the green economy action plan and attributed to ECE/FAO (ECE/TIM/2012/11).

WA 4: Capacity-building

20. While all countries benefit from international cooperation through the joint work programme, special attention will be paid to countries in eastern Europe, southeast Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and the Mediterranean region. This work will focus on capacity-building to encourage sustainable forest management, as well as promoting engagement with international activities in the region, covering the following:

- Forest policies development, governance and institutions.
- Developing national systems for forest monitoring
- Forest products marketing.
- Wood energy, including collection of wood energy data.
- Green economy measures.

21. This programme relies mainly on extrabudgetary support. This area will also address the capacity building component of activities identified in the green economy action plan and attributed to ECE/FAO (ECE/TIM/2012/11).

22. This programme area would also benefit from the implementation of the United Nations Development Account project on Sustainable Forest Management for Greener Economies in the Caucasus and Central Asia (2013-14).

E. Principles guiding implementation

23. Implementation should be guided by the following principles:

- **Partnership:** There will be a strong focus on working in partnerships with international and regional actors, as the most effective way of minimizing overlap and optimizing benefits. The Committee and the Commission will seek and welcome cooperation for any of the relevant outputs under the four work areas.
- **Outreach to other constituencies:** The Committee and the Commission will look beyond the traditional forest constituency to make sure its relevance and contribution to other sectors is well recognized and understood and that relevant action will be coordinated with, for example, the environment, energy, construction and building sectors.

- **Expert advice:** Teams of Specialists will have to be fully aligned with the Joint Programme of Work and its objectives, and specifically support one of the areas of work.
- **Involvement of the private sector.** The Joint Programme of Work recognizes the private sector as a key actor for developing sustainable forest management, sustainable forest products and services and the transition towards a green economy. The participation of the private sector in the work of the Committee and the Commission will be actively sought.

F. Activities in support of the Joint Programme of Work and related resources

24. Specific activities will be agreed on an annual basis, based on proposals from the Joint Bureaux and endorsed at the next joint meetings. Implementation will depend on funding levels. For some activities, extrabudgetary funding will be needed (e.g. capacity-building) and the JPoW will show clearly the areas of work or activities where this is the case.

G. Governance

25. Formal governance is undertaken by the two parent bodies, the ECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission, which have ultimate responsibility for the conduct of the JPoW. The UNECE Timber Committee meets annually, while the FAO EFC meets every second year. The two bodies hold a joint meeting every second year. The Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics meets annually.

26. The Joint Bureaux of the Committee and the Commission³ are entrusted with overseeing the implementation of the programme of work and with providing guidance as needed. They have the authority to take decisions on operational matters between sessions of the parent bodies. The Joint Bureaux should meet at least twice annually.

H. Expert support

27. In Teams of Specialists, experts in particular fields contribute advice or undertake activities that support the implementation of the programme of work. Teams may also provide guidance to the secretariat on their work areas, and help with outreach activities to country-level experts, as well as having team-specific outputs in support of the JPoW. Guidance on the working of teams of specialists can be found in the Guidelines for the establishment and functioning of teams of specialists within UNECE (ECE/EX/2). Teams of Specialists are mandated by the Committee and Commission, which approve their terms of reference. Teams report annually to the WPFSEM.

³ See document ECE/TIM/2008/7 – FO:EFC/08/7.

28. The following Teams of Specialists⁴ are proposed to be active during the period 2014-2017:

Name of the team	Contribution to the JPoW
ToS on Sustainable Forest Products	WA1: to focus on forest products and markets, market statements and support to the Committee
ToS on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management	WA1: to focus on SFM monitoring for different ECE/FAO studies and reviews, SFM assessment and work on criteria and indicators
ToS on Forest Policy ⁵	WA2 and WA4: to focus on the development of forest policies in the region and provide capacity building.
ToS on the Forest Sector Outlook	WA1 and WA2: to support the development of Outlook Studies
Forest Communicators Network	WA3: to support the organization of relevant ECE/FAO events, campaigns and Public Relations efforts, support the dissemination of results of other ToS
Joint ECE/FAO Expert Network to Implement Sustainable Forest Management	To be refocused on capacity-building activities in support of SFM
<i>New: ToS on Wood Energy</i>	WA1 and WA2: to support the development of data and relevant policy advice on wood energy in the region.
<i>New: ToS on Forest Statistics</i>	To replace the work on statistics in the Working Party, in order for the Working Party to focus on its coordinating function for ToS work.

I. Recommendations in support of the implementation of the Joint Programme of Work

29. The following recommendations are also submitted to the Committee at its session of 2012, for consideration and forwarding to Metsä2013 for a final decision.

Institutional structure

30. Foster stronger cooperation between the Commission and the North American Forestry Commission (NAFC), including possibly the production of one Outlook study for the ECE region. Bring the Committee and the Commission as close together as possible and organize joint meetings every second year (the meeting should have the same name for each session – “forest” in the language of the country hosting the meeting- and then the year of the meeting).

⁴ The final version of the Joint Programme of Work will include the new or updated version of the Teams of Specialists Terms of Reference.

⁵ This ToS previously focused on Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Now it is proposed to refocus it and extend it to the entire region.

31. Continue and maintain the tradition of joint meetings, the JPoW, the joint secretariat, Joint Bureaux, joint publications and a joint profile.
32. Strengthen coordination between the Committee and Commission delegates at the national level by e.g. appointing the same Head of Delegation for both.
33. Discontinue the ToS on Forest Fires, as the issue of fires is no longer addressed by the ECE/FAO programme of work and is better addressed at the global level and through other channels.
34. Establish a ToS on wood energy to support the development of data and relevant policy advice on wood energy in the region.
35. Consider also the establishment of a ToS on forest statistics, to undertake the statistical work currently done by the Joint Working Party, in order for the Working Party to focus on its coordinating function for ToS work and statistical work to be addressed by experts in a ToS.
36. Develop clear Terms of References for the leaders of the Teams of Specialists.

Private sector

37. Increase the involvement of the private sector, given its relevance to the work undertaken by the Committee and the Commission, also through setting up of a regional Advisory Group (it could be a subgroup of the one established by FAO), and link it with the bureau and other meetings.
38. Engage Committee members in linking the work of the Committee and the Commission to the national level, also to ensure feedback on the JPoW.

Funding

39. The list of activities prepared every year should contain a related budget (pricing of activities) to help member States recognize funding needs and understand the feasibility of activities. The first of such lists should be prepared for the year 2014 and submitted to Metsä2013 for consideration (and should include both human and financial resource needs).

Outreach

40. More attention should be paid to communications activities to increase the impact and visibility of work. This might include organizing a high level segment in key meetings (like Metsä2013), which would bring together ministers and CEOs of private companies, and heads of other organizations.
41. The programme of work should also allow addressing new and emerging issues of high political value and interest.

Partnerships

42. Partnerships should be established with other sectors, in particular through the work of other ECE Committees. This should serve to demonstrate the value of forests for other sectors (energy, environment, housing, etc).
43. Good examples of cross-sectoral cooperation should be highlighted and showcased whenever possible.

Name of the Section and the Committee

44. The name of the Committee and the joint secretariat should be changed to better reflect the width and focus of the issues currently addressed, that go well beyond timber (i.e. forest products and services).

Outlook

45. The next outlook should be ECE-wide, based on common methodologies, and developed in cooperation with relevant partners, combining the North American and European Outlook Studies, and possibly also including the Russian one.

46. The Committee is expected to consider and review this document and advise on further steps for developing and finalizing it, including holding an extraordinary short joint Committee/Commission session mid 2013 prior to Metsä2013, the joint session to take place in Rovaniemi, Finland, in December 2013.
