



# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
8 April 2013

Original: English

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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry

#### Special session

Geneva, 17-18 June 2013

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

#### Draft Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy

## Draft Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy

### *Summary*

The 70th session of the Committee in October 2012 decided to organize a special session with the European Forestry Commission, to be held in 2013, to complete the Action Plan and the integrated programme of work. A revised version of the Action Plan was circulated on 31 December for consultations among member States and among other Stakeholders who participated in the Stakeholder Meetings.

The present version of the Action Plan includes the inputs received by 31 January 2013. The Committee and the Commission are invited to review the Action Plan and submit it for approval to 'Metsä2013', the joint meeting of the Committee and the Commission, to take place in Rovaniemi, Finland, from 9 to 13 December 2013.

## I. Introduction

### A. Background and mandate

1. The Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy was prepared under the auspices of the UNECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI) and the FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC). Their bureaux developed the idea at their joint meeting in October 2010 (paragraphs 27-28 of the report, for ease of reference please see Annex III), deciding on the process and agreeing that the Action Plan should be at the centre of the joint Committee/Commission meeting in 2011, which focused on the forest sector in a green economy. The Action Plan was developed on the basis of an open

consultation with member States and stakeholders (see list in Annex II), consolidated by the secretariat and reviewed by a first stakeholder meeting in May 2011.

2. At their joint session in Antalya (Turkey) in October 2011, the Commission and the Committee welcomed the Action Plan, made detailed comments, agreed on next steps and requested that the secretariat gather further inputs during a second stakeholder meeting, which took place on 26 March 2012 (ECE/TIM/2011/20 - FO:EFC/2011/20, paragraphs 15 and 16, see Annex III).

3. At the 28<sup>th</sup> session of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe in Baku (Azerbaijan) in April 2012, the European Union fully supported the decisions and recommendations of the European Forestry Commission and noted with satisfaction, that the Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy developed by the UNECE and FAO will serve as reference for action at the national and international levels.

4. The Commission and the Committee also requested that the secretariat present the revised Action Plan at the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development in June 2012. This was done at the side event, "What is YOUR priority action for the forest sector in a green economy?" held in Rio de Janeiro on 22 June 2012. The substantive link between forests as natural resources and a green economy and the role of the Regional Economic Commission have also been laid down in the Rio+20 Outcome Document.

5. The FAO Committee on Forestry in September 2012 "welcomed the ongoing preparation of the UNECE/FAO green economy action plan for the forest sector" (COFO 2012/REP, paragraphs 16 and 17, see Annex III).

6. The 70th session of the Committee in October 2012 decided to organize a special session with the European Forestry Commission, to be held in the first or second quarter of 2013 to complete the Action Plan and the integrated programme of work (ECE/TIM/2012/14, paragraphs 73). The amendments and other editorial changes requested in October 2012 were reflected in a revised version of the Action Plan which was circulated on 31 December for consultations among member States and among other Stakeholders who participated in the Stakeholder Meetings.

7. All collected answers have been compiled in document ECE/TIM/2013/S/Inf.1, along with secretariat responses and explanations for changes. The present version of the Action Plan includes the inputs received by 31 January 2013. This document is also being made available in "track changes" mode (see ECE/TIM/S/2013/Inf.2) so that delegates to the special session can see easily where changes are proposed to the version circulated for consultation.

8. Delegates to the Committee and the Commission are invited to review the Action Plan and submit it for approval to 'Metsä2013', the joint meeting of the Committee and the Commission, to take place in Rovaniemi, Finland, from 9 to 13 December 2013.

## **B. What is the Action Plan?**

9. This Action Plan describes how the forest sector in the UNECE region could lead the way towards the emerging green bio-based economy at the global level. It identifies an overall vision, strategies and a number of areas of activity. For each area of activity, it proposes objectives and specific actions, and identifies potential actors, who might contribute to achieving the stated objectives. It is not a binding work plan, nor does it contain prescriptive recommendations to Governments, international organizations or stakeholders, who are free to adopt, adapt, in full or in part, or not to implement the Action Plan as they wish. How the Action Plan may be implemented is discussed below (Section G).

10. The Action Plan reflects the ideas of participants in the process but does not constitute a binding commitment by any participant.

11. The Action Plan:

- a) Defines how the UNECE region's forest sector could contribute to the development of a green economy and monitors progress in this respect.
- b) Promotes the sharing and implementation of best practices concerning the green economy.
- c) Promotes the development and implementation of policies for the forest sector which are effective in achieving stated objectives, efficient in the use of resources and equitable in their treatment of all actors, both inside and outside the sector.
- d) Communicates the potential of the UNECE region's forest sector to policy makers, the general public and decision makers in other sectors.

### C. Scope and definitions

12. The Action Plan addresses the forest sector in all of the UNECE region – Europe, including Russia, Central Asia, the Caucasus and North America – but does not address the question of how countries of the region can contribute to solving global challenges, notably that of deforestation in the tropical regions.

13. For the purposes of the Action Plan, which is consistent with the pan-European set of criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management, the forest sector includes the management of all forest, taking into account:

- a) The whole range of functions they provide.
- b) The production, consumption and trade of wood and non-wood forest products and services.

14. The green economy, according to UNEP, is a system which results in improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities. In its simplest expression, a green economy can be thought of as one which is low carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive.

15. The forest sector in a green economy is, therefore, a forest sector which contributes to the emerging green economy by improving human well-being and social equity while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities. In every aspect of its activities, it minimises its carbon emissions, uses its resources efficiently and is socially inclusive.

16. Preparing the forest sector for the green economy is fully compatible with making progress towards sustainable forest management. Indeed a forest sector which plays a leading role in a green economy is promoting sustainable development, in the forest sector and outside it.

### D. Vision

17. The Action Plan is based on the following vision<sup>1</sup> of the forest sector in a green economy:

- *In a green economy, the forest sector makes a maximum contribution to human well-being, through the supply of marketed and unmarketed forest goods and services,*

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<sup>1</sup> Finland requested a “shorter and punchier” vision. A suggestion is included in ECE/TIM/2013/S/Inf.1 after the comment by Finland.

*and the creation of revenue and livelihoods, while conserving forest biodiversity, and maintaining and developing forest ecosystem services on a sustainable basis, all within the context of a changing climate.*

- *In a green economy, the forest sector protects the welfare of all stakeholders, including forest dependent indigenous peoples, forest owners, forest industry and the forestry workforce, uses all resources wisely and economically, and contributes to the mitigation of climate change through both sequestration and substitution, while also providing tools for climate change adaptation of societies.*
- *In a green economy, forest sector governance systems take into full account all of the ecosystem services provided by the forest, compensating suppliers for providing them whenever feasible. Progress is monitored in a transparent way, and policies adjusted to reach the goals which will be agreed at the national, regional or local levels. The forest sector learns from other parts of the emerging green economy and shares its own experience with them, to mutual benefit.*

18. The vision and the Action Plan as a whole take into account the commitments made by ECE region Governments in other processes and especially the European Forest 2020 decision adopted at the last Forest Europe Ministerial Conference in June 2011 and the Non-Legally Binding Instrument adopted by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the 7th session of the United Nations Forum on Forests

## **E. Overall Goal of the Action Plan**

19. The forest sector in the UNECE region makes the greatest possible contribution to the emerging green economy.

## **F. Principles for the UNECE region forest sector in the emerging green economy**

20. The Action Plan proposes that by 2020, the UNECE region forest sector be applying the following principles, to achieve its overall goal:

- The forest sector uses all its resources, especially those arising from the forest, wisely and economically, minimising waste, recovering, reusing and recycling as much as possible. It consumes only products from forests which can demonstrate that they are managed sustainably.
- The forest sector contributes to mitigation of climate change by sequestering carbon in forests and forest products, and by substituting renewable wood-based products and fuels for non-renewable products and fuels.
- The forest sector cares for and builds up its workforce, developing the necessary skills and significantly improving the occupational safety and health of workers.
- The forest sector takes all externalities fully into account in policy making, introducing payment for forest ecosystem services when feasible.
- The forest sector bases its governance on evidence-based decision making and the transparent monitoring of progress towards sustainable forest management.
- The forest sector provides products and services of high user/consumer value.
- The forest sector seeks the active participation of civil society and the private sector.

## **G. Follow-up to the Action Plan**

21. The Action Plan proposes a vision, strategies and objectives for the forest sector in the UNECE region, and possible actions to achieve these. These could be implemented, if they wish so, by international organisations, governments of member States, the private sector, civil society and other stakeholders. For each action, possible actors were identified by the stakeholder meetings.

22. This Action Plan is meant to inspire action and provide the basis for plans and activities to focus on the contribution of forests in a green economy. It provides suggestions and is not a work programme for any of the bodies mentioned.

23. The UNECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the FAO European Forestry Commission invite their member governments to consider how they can contribute to the implementation of the Action Plan. Some countries could choose to develop voluntary national action plans or green economy measures for their forest sector based on the Action Plan. UNECE/FAO could assist those countries in developing such plans or measures by facilitating policy dialogues and capacity building activities.

24. It is also suggested that UNECE/FAO draws the attention of other possible actors, in particular the private sector to the Action Plan, and invites them, without any obligation, to make use of the Action Plan, especially by implementing actions for which they have been identified as a possible actor. In this regard, public-private partnerships seem to be an effective way to disseminate the green economy approach within the forest sector.

25. For their part and taking into account available resources, the Committee and the Commission will prioritize and incorporate relevant actions in their area of competence and identified by the Action Plan into their own annual lists of activities, ensuring that the Action Plan and the Integrated Programme of Work are fully consistent with each other. The first list of activities for 2014 will be adopted at their joint session 'Metsä2013' in December 2013.

26. The Action Plan was also developed to be used as a tool for communication with other sectors and for awareness raising. It is therefore proposed that UNECE/FAO monitors progress of the forest sector towards a green economy and prepares, by the end of its next Programme of Work, a report on "the Forest Sector in a Green Economy in the ECE region".

## **H. Title of the Action Plan**

27. Several Governments commented on the title of the Action Plan, and some proposed alternative titles: their comments and suggestions are presented in full in ECE/TIM/2013/S/Inf.1. The special session is invited to decide on the title of the document (although the term "Action Plan" is used for convenience throughout the present document).

28. The secretariat considers it important that the title reflect the true nature of the Plan, while remaining simple and short to have impact. The key ideas underlying the Plan, apart from "forest sector" and "green economy" are that the contents of the document are specific, detailed and action oriented, not a general statement of intentions or principles. The Plan is also open, not the property of any one organisation.

## **II. The Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy**

29. The Action Plan consists of 5 pillars with their respective areas of activity:

### **A. Sustainable production and consumption of forest products**

- Strategies for sustainable production, consumption and trade of forest products including non-wood products
- Certification of sustainable forest management and related labelling as well as other standards for sustainable forest management
- Procurement practices, both public and private
- Wood mobilisation and increasing the potential sustainable wood supply
- Innovation in forest management and in the production and use of forest products
- Life Cycle Assessment (LCA)
- Policies and standards for green building.
- Ensure and monitor legality of forest products

### **B. A low carbon forest sector**

- Strategies for the low carbon forest sector
- Substitution of non-renewable materials and energy
- Efficient production, processing and use of wood: eliminating waste from forest to consumer
- Adaptation of the forest to a changing climate
- Carbon sequestration and storage

### **C. Decent green jobs in the forest sector**

- Strategies for decent green jobs in the forest sector
- A skilled workforce
- Safety and health of the forestry workforce
- Forest operations
- Socio-economic impacts of green economy policies

### **D. Valuation of, and payment for, forest ecosystem services**

- Strategies for valuation of, and payment for, forest ecosystem services
- Valuation of forest ecosystem services
- Payment for forest ecosystem services: moving from theory to practice
- Forests and human health

## E. Monitoring and governance of the forest sector in the green economy

- Strategies for monitoring and governance of the forest sector in the green economy
- Implementation and improvement of criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management
- Assessment of sustainable forest management in the region
- Policy instruments and institutional frameworks for the forest sector in a green economy
- Communication, promotion and raising of awareness of sustainable forest management, the forest sector and their role in a green economy
- Communication and outreach to, and cooperation/coordination with, other parts of the green economy

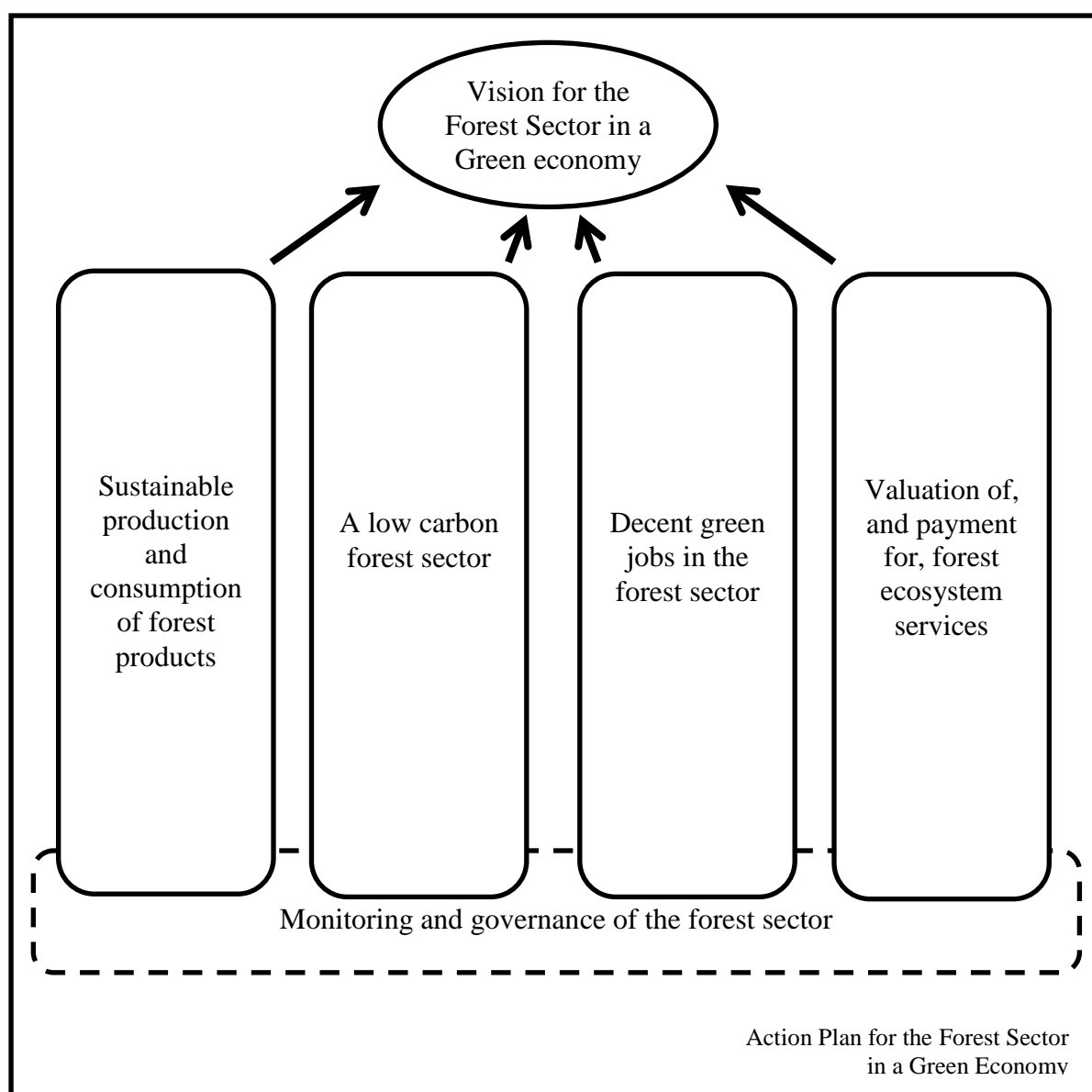


Figure 1: Graphic illustration of the Action Plan

## Pillar A: Sustainable production and consumption of forest products

**Goal: Patterns of production, consumption and trade of forest products are truly sustainable**

	Possible actions	Possible actors
A.0	<i>Objective: To develop and communicate realistic and ambitious strategies for sustainable patterns of production, consumption and trade of forest products and the related services<sup>2</sup></i>	
A.0.1	Develop strategies for sustainable production and consumption in the green economy, including, but not only, forest products and the related services	Governments and private sector, consumer organisations
A.0.2	Review challenges and opportunities for sustainable consumption patterns for forest products and the related services (e.g. through a high level conference)	UNECE/FAO, stakeholders
A.0.3	Promote the use of sustainable forest products (solid, reconstituted, fibre, products of biorefineries) in all sectors	Private sector, stakeholders, Governments, FCN
A.0.4	Ensure that the forest sector is appropriately represented at all international forums on sustainable consumption and production	All forest related international organisations, governments, stakeholders
A.0.5	Evaluate the risks and benefits of including genetically modified trees in sustainable forest management and encourage public dialogue on this question	Science, stakeholders, (including consumer associations, forest owners), governments, UNECE/FAO
A.1	<i>Objective: To ensure that consumers are fully and accurately informed whether the forest products they purchase come from sustainable sources, and that certification and labelling systems encourage the sound and sustainable use of wood and forest products</i>	
A.1.1	Maintain monitoring of developments in certification and labelling, preferably with more analysis of the impact of certification and labelling in the marketplace	UNECE/FAO, EU, certification systems, science
A.1.2	Consider policy frameworks for harmonised labelling and certification systems for forest products	UNECE/FAO, stakeholders, including certification systems, EU, Governments, stakeholders/private sector
A.1.3	Further develop standards and guidelines at a national and local level which may satisfy the requirements of more than one certification system, thus simplifying procedures and reducing costs.	Governments, certification systems, forest owners, all stakeholders
A.1.4	Review experience with certification of forest owners/managers and stakeholders throughout the value chain,: has it changed silvicultural practice? Are the costs	Science, certification systems, forest owners, stakeholders,

<sup>2</sup> Services may be related, e.g., to forest products (maintenance, planning, servicing, monitoring, programming, patents, R&D, education, consulting, etc.), forests (tourism, recreation, inventory and monitoring, forestry services, etc.), and more generally the "Ecosystem services" (climate services, protection services, etc.) For the ecosystem services, see Part D.



	bearable? Has it opened new markets or developed old markets? Has forest certification given a competitive edge to its users throughout the value chain?	UNECE/FAO
A.1.5	Further develop, in a holistic manner, standards that consider 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.	Certification systems, forest owners, all stakeholders
A.2	<i>Objective: To help public and private buyers of forest products to develop and implement procurement rules which encourage sustainable practices and promote demand for certified forest products</i>	
A.2.1	Link the development of procurement policies to existing legislation and practice on sustainable consumption and production, including international standards and policy frameworks (e.g. the Rio Forest Certification Declaration), and internationally agreed SFM criteria and indicators (e.g. those of the Montréal Process and Forest Europe)	EU and other procurement authorities, certification systems
A.2.2	Work to promote procurement policies, public and private, that adequately take into account sustainability considerations, for instance the use of certified forest products, and do not discriminate against forest products	Procurement authorities, UNECE/FAO, EU, Governments, private sector and consumer organisations
A.3	<i>Objective: To ensure that wood supply from the region's forests is sufficient to satisfy, on a sustainable basis, society's needs for renewable raw materials and sources of energy</i>	
A.3.1	Take into consideration the <i>Good practice guidance on sustainable mobilisation of wood in Europe (2009)</i> or equivalent North American guidelines and initiatives when developing wood mobilisation policies and instruments	Governments, private sector, forest owners, stakeholders.
A.3.2	Carry out national studies on opportunities to increase the potential sustainable wood supply.	UNECE/FAO. Governments and relevant stakeholders
A.3.3	Carry out research into the social and economic drivers of wood supply, for instance motives and values of non-traditional forest owners, supply curves for wood removals	IIASA, EFI, Metla
A.3.4	Invest in infrastructure, including forest infrastructure, for wood mobilisation	Governments, private sector, forest owners
A.4	<i>Objective: 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.</i>	
A.4.1	Showcase innovative uses of wood and forests, e.g. by regular forums/market places	Private sector
A.4.2	Assess the potential and impact of biorefineries.	FTP, private sector, UNECE/FAO
A.4.3	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.	UNECE/FAO
A.4.4	Create conditions and approaches which promote innovation (policies, framework conditions and changed attitudes).	Governments, stakeholders, forest industries and relevant

		stakeholders
A.4.5	Carry out studies on the current status of services related to forest products, and other marketable forest sector services, and their impact in terms of employment and value added	UNECE/FAO, EFI, research organizations
A.4.6	Carry out research into the future social and economic drivers of forest sector services, for example, R&D, globalization and the trade in tasks, instead of trade in goods.]	UNECE/FAO, EFI, research organizations
A.5	<i>Objective: To promote the use of LCA data based on internationally agreed standards for all materials at all stages of manufacturing, use and recycling, to support decision making at all levels</i>	
A.5.1	Present and discuss LCA outcomes, starting from the recommendations of the workshop on LCA “the Green Life of Wood” held in October 2012.	UNECE/FAO, LCA community, stakeholders
A.5.2	Promote the development and use of tools, including LCA to go beyond measuring and reflecting the carbon/energy/pollution footprint of products to include also an assessment of the influence of a product during its life cycle on biodiversity, human health, the workforce and other social aspects.	LCA community, stakeholders, ISO, UNEP/SETAC, EFI
A.5.3	Participate in LCA strategic decision making, for instance by ensuring that the forest sector is represented at UNEP/SETAC Life Cycle Inventory (LCI) Programme.	Governments, private sector
A.5.4	Promote the development and use of environmental product declarations (EPDs) that are impartial between materials and of Type III ecolabels, as per ISO standardised methodologies	Governments, stakeholders
A.5.5	Use LCA tools in accordance with ISO standards to assess options in a comprehensive way, and take this into account in decision making.	Governments, private sector and civil society
A.6	<i>Objective: to contribute to the development of green building standards and promote the equitable treatment of all materials in terms of sustainability.</i>	
A.6.1	Participate actively in strategic thinking on green building, notably by joining the UNEP Sustainable Building and Climate Initiative (SBCI) steering committee and its Technical Advisory Committee on materials.	Private sector, stakeholders
A.6.2	Establish a task force to monitor and analyse developments in green building, in order to bring important trends and issues (e.g. the alleged unfair treatment of forest products) to the attention of policy makers, and monitor whether green building codes, standards and programmes constitute barriers to trade in forest products.	UNECE/FAO, EFI, Governments, private sector organisations
A.6.3	Study the advantages of including in green building standards the carbon footprint of construction materials as well as the characteristics in the use of the building. Promote the conclusions of the study.	Building research institutes (FCBA, etc.)
A.6.4	Inform forest sector stakeholders and stakeholders from other sectors about developments in green building, especially in as much as they affect forest products.	UNECE/FAO, FCN
A.6.5	Promote the development and implementation at a national level of green building standards which treat all materials equitably.	National and sub-national governments and relevant stakeholders
A.7	<i>Objective: To ensure that only legally produced forest products enter the market.</i>	
A.7.1	Exchange national experiences with regulations on illegal logging.	UNECE/FAO, TTF, EFI-FLEGT
A.7.2	Analyse and monitor the effectiveness and long term impacts	EFI, EU, UNECE

	and consequences of the US Lacey Act and EU timber trade regulation on the sector (inside and outside the region), with participation from other regions.	COFFI, ITTO, UNFF, all UNECE member countries
A 7.3	Assess the gap between <i>sustainability</i> and <i>legality</i> in the relevant law of UNECE region countries	Science, EFI_FLEGT, certification bodies

## Pillar B. The low carbon forest sector

**Goal: The forest sector makes the best possible contribution to mitigation (sequestration, storage and substitution) of, and adaptation to, climate change**

	Possible actions	Possible actors
B.0	<i>Objective: to develop and communicate ambitious and realistic strategies for the low carbon forest sector</i>	
B.0.1	Analyse the emerging climate change regime from the viewpoint of the forest sector, to ensure that accounting rules for forests, forest management and wood products are based on scientific facts and that the response of the sector to the new regime is balanced (notably between sequestration and substitution) and compatible with the other dimensions of sustainable forest management.	UNECE/FAO, EFI,
B.0.2	Review consistency of national forest programmes and climate change strategies as regards forest sector contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation with a view to improving intersectoral communication and cooperation	Governments
B.0.3	Carry out a study on the impact of the new carbon accounting scheme on international trade in wood and forest products.	EFI, EU, UNECE COFFI, UNFCCC, all UNECE member countries
B.1	<i>Objective: To encourage the reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases by substituting wood from sustainable sources for non-renewable materials and energy</i>	
B.1.1	Identify, using LCA, markets where the use of forest products instead of competing products would cause a significant reduction in carbon emissions. (For instance low carbon housing) Promote this analysis, in cooperation with the private sector	EFI, FTP, LCA community, private sector, FCN
B.1.2	Continue to monitor developments in wood energy (supply and trade), compare developments with policy targets, put demand for wood energy in the context of overall forest sector trends and potential.	UNECE/FAO (in context of outlook studies)
B.1.3	Provide guidelines and recommendations for developing national action plans for energy efficiency and material efficiency in buildings (not only for forest products). EU members will coordinate this work with implementation of EU legislation on energy efficiency.	EU, UNECE/FAO
B.1.4	Promote the use of wood in construction. Compare national experiences with the use of different benchmarks, policy measures and legal frameworks. Establish targets for the use of wood in construction.	National authorities, architecture and urban planning professional associations, and forest industry. International standardisation bodies.
B.1.5	Incorporate all negative externalities into prices of all products and fuels to encourage increased use of renewable materials and sources of energy, including wood.	Science, policy makers, private sector and market actors.

B.1.6	Develop a communication strategy to promote the use of wood as a contribution to climate change mitigation.	FCN
B.1.7	Promote use of low carbon energy and materials over high-carbon/non-renewable alternatives.	UNEP, UNECE/FAO, FCN
B.1.8	Promote wood mobilization by improving the functioning of the wood energy market.	UNECE/FAO, national forest policy makers, market actors (sellers and buyers)
B.2	<i>Objective: To promote the most efficient production, processing and use of wood raw material-</i>	
B.2.1	Analyse the advantages and disadvantages of the “cascade” approach to wood use.	UNECE/FAO, EFI, LCA community
B.2.2	Develop and/or improve technologies to increase the efficiency and profitability of producing wood-based renewable energy while minimizing environmental impacts.	Private sector in cooperation with research community International funding programmes
B.2.3	Carry out research on the potential and use of bio-based products <sup>3</sup> , including biochar. <sup>4</sup>	IUFRO
B.2.4	Develop productive uses for landscape care wood <sup>5</sup> and recovered wood products, including consideration of the framework conditions necessary for their development.	National actors, including municipal authorities
B.2.5	Avoid wherever possible landfill as a final destination for wood and paper waste.	Environment ministries, private sector
B.2.6	Promote local, decentralised and highly efficient use of wood energy, where appropriate	Energy policy makers, private sector
B.3	<i>Objective: To improve the capacity of the forest sector to adapt to climate change and manage the risks associated with a changing climate</i>	
B.3.1	Bring together science and policy, for instance at a conference on the Adaptation of Forests and Forest Management to Changing Climate in the ECE region, to review progress since the global conference on the same topic in 2008 <sup>6</sup>	IUFRO, UNECE/FAO
B.3.2	Promote international cooperation and experience sharing on the development of specific adaptive management regimes.	UNECE/FAO, FAO, EFI, IUFRO
B.3.3	Commission research into changes in demands on forests goods and services directly or indirectly due to the changing climate.	EFI, EUSTAFOR, CEPF
B.3.4	Improve monitoring and early warning of forest pests and diseases in the region with strengthened international cooperation.	FAO, IUFRO, International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)
B.3.5	Maintain and strengthen wildfire early warning and	FAO, GFMC, EU

<sup>3</sup> Commercial or industrial product (other than food or feed) that is composed, in whole or in significant part, of biological products or renewable domestic agricultural materials (including plant, animal, and marine materials) or forestry materials or an intermediate feedstock. (US Secretary of Agriculture).

<sup>4</sup> Charcoal, when used for specific purposes, notably for soil amendment.

<sup>5</sup> Landscape care wood is wood from non-forest sources, including: maintenance operations; tree-cutting activities in the horticulture industry; other landscape care or arboricultural activity in parks, cemeteries etc.; trees along roadsides and boundary ridges, rail- and waterways and gardens (EUwood). Industrial residues and post-consumer recovered wood are not included.

<sup>6</sup> See <http://www.fao.org/docrep/010/k2985e/k2985e00.htm>

	monitoring capacities, and promotion of integrated fire management approaches , i.e. the targeted extraction of biomass for both renewable energy provision and reduction of wildfire hazard; and the integration of communities / private forest users in the achieving these goals at local level.	(JRC), UNISDR, national fire management bodies
B.3.6	Commission research on forest resilience in relation to the impacts of climate change on “events” such as pest outbreaks, storms and fires.	IUFRO, EFI, research community
B.3.7	Develop strategies for the use of forests as a tool for the adaptation of society and the environment to climate change.	Governments, research
B.3.8	Develop and implement risk management and adaptation strategies for forests at a national level and by forest region.	Governments, Forest authority, private forest owners and research institutes, insurance sector
B.4	<i>Objective: To promote the sequestration and storage of carbon in forest ecosystems and harvested wood products</i>	
B.4.1	Contribute to the development of a climate change regime which provides appropriate incentives to maintain or increase carbon stocks in the forest ecosystem (including soil carbon) and harvested wood products, while preventing adverse environmental impacts.	Climate change negotiators, private sector, forest sector analysts and policy makers
B.4.2	Improve monitoring of carbon stocks in forests and harvested wood products, for instance by developing and/or improving national greenhouse gas inventories, combined with forest inventories.	UNFCCC, FRA, UNECE/FAO, national forest inventories
B.4.3	Analyse how chain of custody systems for forest products can contribute to the monitoring of carbon flows in harvested wood products, and create incentives to develop this approach possibly with the cooperation of certification bodies.	UNECE/FAO, FAO acting as conveners of private sector actors with policymakers, certification systems.
B.4.4	Improve the understanding of consumer perceptions and requirements regarding the increased use of long-lived wood products.	Science
B.4.5	Improve the understanding of carbon in wood products (accounting, flows, consequences of the new climate change regime).	EFI, VTT, vTI Hamburg
B.4.6	Construct national legal and institutional frameworks which make it possible for forest owners and industries to be rewarded for carbon sequestration and storage	Sector policy makers
B.4.7	Incorporate incentives for carbon sequestration and storage into planning and operations (for forest owners and industries).	Climate change and forest sector policy makers
B.4.8	Analyse the influence on national and local harvest levels and silvicultural objectives of present and possible future climate change regimes.	IUFRO, EFI
B.4.9	Improve forest management in order to optimise carbon sequestration and storage while ensuring the sustainability and multifunctionality of forests at all levels.	National/regional forest authorities, landowners and researchers.

## Pillar C. Decent green jobs in the forest sector

**Goal: The workforce is able to implement sustainable forest management, and the forest sector contributes to achieving the social goals of the green economy by providing decent jobs**

	Possible actions	Possible actors
C.0	<i>Objective: to develop and communicate ambitious and realistic strategies for decent green jobs in the forest sector</i>	
C.0.1	Review forest sector workforce issues in order to recommend priorities and communicate their importance including through wide stakeholder consultation.	UNECE/FAO, ILO, social partners, NGOs and researchers
C.1	<i>Objective: To ensure that the workforce has the necessary skills at all levels to carry out the increasingly complex tasks associated with sustainable forest management</i>	
C.1.1	Improve monitoring and analysis of the forest-sector workforce, including gender aspects, starting by updating the earlier ECE/FAO/ILO study of professional skills and training <sup>7</sup> .	UNECE/FAO, ILO, Joint Expert Network to implement SFM with stakeholders (ENFE)
C.1.2	Review and discuss at policy level the main threats to sustainability of the workforce), and possible countermeasures. Include regular sessions on “new forest jobs in the green economy” at high level forest sector meetings. The review should also include gender aspects.	UNECE/FAO, ILO, ENFE, EUSTAFOR, CEPF, other stakeholders
C.1.3	Develop tripartite (government/unions/employers) approaches to green jobs in the forest sector, using tools such as regulations, minimum standards, certification etc.	Governments), ILO, stakeholders
C.1.4	Increase investment in the education and training of contractors, forest workers and forest owners as well as key personnel along the processing stages (operators, engineers, designers, developers, architects etc.)	Governments (labour/training ministries), Joint Expert Network, EFESC, ENFE, EFI
C.1.5	Encourage associations, such as contractors associations, as a means to improve access to training.	Governments, ENFE
C.2	<i>Objective: To reduce the levels of illness and injury experienced at present by the forestry workforce, taking into account the changes in technology and their implications for occupational health and safety due to the transition to the green economy.</i>	
C.2.1	Raise the level of political will to improve the safety and health of the workforce, by studying workforce status and trends, with national comparisons, and analysis of the differences.	ILO, national occupational safety and health organisations, stakeholders
C.2.2	Radically improve the monitoring of occupational safety and health of the forestry workforce, to enable meaningful analysis and preventive action, notably by improving monitoring coverage of contractors, farmers, migrant labour, etc. and by putting in place capacity building for improved reporting on social indicators.	UNECE/FAO, ILO, national forest and occupational safety institutions

<sup>7</sup> *Skills and Training in Forestry-Results of a Survey of ECE Member Countries*. Geneva: FAO/ECE/ILO Joint Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training, 1996.

C.2.3	Promote and monitor implementation of the FAO code of practice on forest contractors	ENFE, ILO
C.2.4	Enforce relevant legislation and develop regulations, if necessary, to take account of changing technology (vibration hazard) and changing social conditions (self-employed contractors, migrant workers).	Governments with relevant stakeholders
C.2.5	Fund extension work to make employers and workers sensitive to safety and health issues, and implement campaigns to promote a culture of preventative occupational safety and health.	Governments with relevant stakeholders
C.3	<i>Objective: To review the work methods used for harvesting and silviculture, determine whether they need to be improved and to ensure that best practice is applied everywhere</i>	
C.3.1	Develop and share best practice for environmentally efficient, productive, safe and sustainable forest operations.	Governments with relevant stakeholders, Joint Expert Network, ENFE
C.3.2	Identify changes in forest operations which might be necessary for sustainable forest management (workshop).	Joint Expert Network, with ENFE, ILO, national operations research institutions
C.3.3	Review challenges and dilemmas connected to forest operations (reconciling different management goals, mobilising sufficient operational capacity for sustainable forest management).	UNECE/FAO, ILO, Joint Expert network, stakeholders
C.4	<i>Objective: To promote the use of tools to assess the socio-economic impacts of green economy policies on the forest sector</i>	
C.4.1	Monitor and analyse at the policy level the impact of green economy policy on employment in the forest sector, possibly with a cross-sectoral approach.	ILO, UNECE/FAO, FOREST EUROPE, UNEP

#### **Pillar D. Valuation of, and payment for, forest ecosystem services**

**Objective: to identify and value forest functions and to establish payment for ecosystem services (PES), encouraging sustainable production and consumption patterns.**

	Possible actions	Possible actors
D.0	<i>Objective: to develop and communicate ambitious and realistic strategies for the valuation of and payment for forest ecosystem services</i>	
D.0.1	Review and develop approaches to the valuation of and payment for different forest ecosystem services, in the UNECE region, and involve both research and policy bodies in this work.	UNECE/FAO, EFI, IUFRO, Forest Europe, UNEP
D.1	<i>Objective: To support the assigning of economic value to non-marketed forest goods and services and to enhance the understanding and recognition of the public goods provided by forests.</i>	
D.1.1	Intensify research on the valuation of forest goods and services, notably as regards policy objectives, possible funding sources, and the incorporation of values of forest ecosystems into national accounting frameworks. Build databases and online platforms for exchange, cooperation and data dissemination. Develop guidance for the valuation of forest ecosystem services.	Science, IUFRO, EFI, EEA, UNECE/FAO
D.1.2	Organize a policy forum, based on survey and analysis, leading to concrete recommendations on the valuation of the	Forest Europe, science, EFI, UNECE/FAO.

	public goods provided by forests such as human health and well-being, as well as on emerging dilemmas and trade-offs for managers and policy makers.	This could also be a country-led initiative
D.1.3	Cooperate with other communities such as health, biodiversity, climate change, energy, agriculture and business, including the insurance sector, to exchange knowledge on valuation methodologies.	UNEP, TEEB
D.1.4	Undertake national and regional reviews of forest ecosystem services and assess their values, with the participation of forest managers, researchers and consumers of forest ecosystem services with a view to improve enabling conditions for forest investments	Governments, science, stakeholders, UNECE/FAO team on monitoring SFM
D.1.5	Promote the disclosure of the values of forest ecosystem services (supplied or consumed/impaired) at the corporate level.	Private sector, Governments, stakeholders
D.2	<i>Objective: To promote best practice in the development and implementation of Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) in order to ensure the continued provision of forest environmental services.</i>	
D.2.1	Review and share experience on payment for forest ecosystem services, notably enabling conditions for PES and monitor progress, taking into account existing material (e.g. SoEF 2011) and identifying implications for PES design and implementation.	UNECE/FAO; EFI; Research community; EU: multi-level FP7 consortium and Regional Funds
D.2.2	Build capacity at the national level for PES development and implementation and incorporate PES into existing strategies on the basis of experience.	Governments, stakeholders.
D.2.3	Develop guidelines for policies and instruments that will provide a framework for PES and identify potential PES funding options.	UNEP, UNECE/FAO
D.2.4	Empower forest owners and promote partnerships between forest owners and other actors/stakeholders in developing and providing ecosystem services, for instance forest tourism/ecotourism services	Forest owner associations, state forest organisations, governments
D.2.5	Identify, review and communicate success stories for PES in the forest sector and use them to raise public awareness	FCN, stakeholders
D.2.6	Undertake a comparison between the value of marketed and non-marketed forest goods and services, and develop recommendations as to how academic valuation methods could be transformed into payment systems.	Science, private forest owners, financial services sector
D.3	<i>To review ways in which forests contribute to or endanger human health and well-being, and ascertain whether this information is properly incorporated into policies and practices</i>	
D.3.1	Organise a regional forum on forests and human health to review the situation, opportunities and challenges including the specific hazards and risks (e.g., air pollution from forest and other vegetation fires affecting human health and security), as well as benefits to human health from forests, and make recommendations for future work, at the international and national level.	WHO, IUFRO, ministries of health, medical schools, forest owners, GFMC, UNISDR
D.3.2	Study on wellbeing in wooden buildings vs. buildings with other structures.	Building research organisations
D.3.3	Undertake a comprehensive evaluation of the health and recreational services provided by forests (capturing positive and negative aspects) and communicate findings and conclusions of this exercise.	WHO, IUFRO, ministries of health, medical schools, forest owners



## Pillar E. Monitoring and governance of the forest sector

**Objective: To ensure that the forest sector in the region has policies and institutions which promote sustainable forest management, that policy making is evidence-based, policy instruments are effective, efficient and equitable, and that monitoring is adequate in order to mainstream the green economy in forest sector policies.**

	Possible actions	Possible actors
E.0	<i>Objective: to develop and communicate ambitious and realistic strategies for monitoring and governance of the forest sector</i>	
E.0.1	Carry out national forest sector policy reviews, in an international context, with peer review, along the lines of the environmental performance reviews carried out by UNECE.	UNECE/FAO
E.0.2	Review national forest sector governance and the adequacy of available supporting information (when such a review has not been undertaken recently).	Governments with relevant stakeholders
E.0.3	Analyse the conditions under which policies affecting the forest sector 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	Science, UNECE/FAO, EFI
E.0.4	Develop the capacities (skills, information, institutions, etc.) of all stakeholders (workforce, private sector, administrations, etc.) to implement sustainable forest management, and forest protection and monitor progress in its implementation.	Governments, stakeholders, public private partnerships
E.0.5	Review gender aspects of the forest sector in the green economy, starting from the conclusions and recommendations of <i>Time for action: changing the gender situation in forestry</i> by the ECE/FAO team of specialists on women in forestry, 2006 <sup>8</sup> , and develop further actions as appropriate	UNECE/FAO, FAO, governments, civil society
E.1	<i>Objective: To ensure that the forest information available is comprehensive and comparable, structured according to the regional criteria and indicators sets, at the appropriate spatial resolution for decision making, that analysis of the outlook makes it possible to assess the consequences of policy choices, and that policy makers make use of the best available information and analysis</i>	
E.1.1	Maintain and develop present inter-organisation cooperation on forest resource assessment (CFRQ), State of Europe's Forests) and forest sector outlook studies, set up appropriate task forces to address the challenges in measuring particular indicators.	UNECE/FAO (notably teams on Monitoring of SFM and on Outlook), FOREST EUROPE, Montréal Process, partners for SoEF and EFSOS/NAFSOS
E.1.2	Develop the capacity of all countries so that they can make available usable data for all indicators for sustainable forest management.	Governments, UNECE/FAO, international Criteria and Indicators partners
E.1.3	Develop the forest sector's contribution to broader green economy indicator data sets: - explore how "forest sector" indicators can be used to report on the green economy - discuss with other sectors how they want to report on their contribution to a green economy	UNECE/FAO, FOREST EUROPE, Montréal Process EFI, UNEP

<sup>8</sup>Available from <http://www.fao.org/forestry/10952-0dc39dc097e544f4dbe8167fb9b62ea99.pdf>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- adjust current criteria and indicators and/or develop new ones (in dialogue with other sectors).</li> <li>- ensure that forest sector indicators for green economy monitoring are consistent with other forest sector indicators, notably those for sustainable forest management.</li> </ul>	
E.1.4	Produce regular fact based reports on sustainable forest management in countries, based on international and national criteria and indicators.	Governments, stakeholders, EFI, UNECE/FAO
E.2	<i>Objective: To develop an agreed method for assessing sustainable forest management at the international level, based on criteria and indicator sets, and apply this method, to provide policy makers, particularly in the forest sector, with clear information on whether forest are being sustainably managed or not</i>	
E.2.1	Develop an agreed methodology to assess the sustainability of forest management, possibly building on SOEF 2011 experience, as well as the experience of other processes, and implement it.	UNECE/FAO, science, SoEF partners, Montréal Process
E.2.2	Encourage cooperation between FOREST EUROPE and the Montréal Process.	FOREST EUROPE, Montréal Process, UNECE/FAO, FAO/FRA, Governments
E.2.3	Assess the sustainability of forest management at the national level.	Governments, with relevant stakeholders
E.2.4	Develop capacity for reporting on indicators of sustainable forest management, at national and international level, taking into account that the negotiations for a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe might imply a revision of the criteria and indicators.	UNECE/FAO, FOREST EUROPE, EFI (incl. its project on implementation of criteria and indicators)
E.3	<i>To review existing forest sector policy instruments in the light of the requirements of a green economy, and, if necessary, make proposals for a new approach, while improving synergies at the international level</i>	
E.3.1	Prepare detailed and objective study at the regional level of policy instruments in place and whether they are appropriate for a green economy, leading, if appropriate to proposals for improvement.	UNECE/FAO, FOREST EUROPE, EFI, ILO with other IGO
E.3.2	Include the green economy as one of the main topics of programmes of work.	Relevant forest sector organisations and institutions
E.3.3	Create European forest partnership on a voluntary basis to improve coordination and cooperation between international organisations in Europe.	UNECE/FAO, FOREST EUROPE, EU agencies, EFI, with other agencies
E.3.4	Prepare detailed and objective study at the national level of policy instruments in place and whether they are appropriate for a green economy, leading, if appropriate to proposals for improvement.	Governments, science, EFI
E.3.5	Promote sustainable forestry in rural communities including forest-based entrepreneurship, capacity building and innovation.	Governments
E.4	<i>To improve communication with the public and policy makers about the forest sector's actual and potential role in the green economy and facilitate public participation in the debate on the green economy</i>	
E.4.1	Improve the sector's capacity to communicate, by developing national and international communications, capacities and funding, and sharing experience.	UNECE/FAO, FCN, FOREST EUROPE, Montréal Process with other agencies

E.4.2	Implement communications that will result in public opinion and legislators considering wood to be an “ecologically preferred” construction material.	UNECE/FAO, FCN, FOREST EUROPE, Montréal Process relevant national actors
E.5	<i>Objective: To communicate lessons learned in the forest sector to other sectors, and to learn from other sector's experience</i>	
E.5.1	Monitor green economy developments in the ECE region forest sector and ensure that organisations active on global green economy issues, such as UNEP, are aware of them.	UNECE/FAO, UNEP
E.5.2	Carry out a comparative analysis of the concept of “sustainable forest management” as it appears in work from different backgrounds such as LULUCF, forest sector, criteria for bio-energy, etc.	EFI, IUFRO with relevant partners (UNFF, FAO, UNFCCC, EU etc.) FOREST EUROPE, Montréal Process
E.5.3	Ensure the participation of forest stakeholders in cross-sectoral processes and initiatives related to green economy.	Governments, science, stakeholders
E.5.4	Establish cross-sectoral working groups, develop contacts with other green economy sectors, and share experience (also international) and identify success factors.	UNECE/FAO
E.5.5	Add “forests and the green economy” to the educational curriculum.	Forestry faculties, education ministries

**ANNEX I: LIST OF ACCRONYMS/ABBREVIATIONS**

CEPF	Confederation of European Forest Owners
CFRQ	Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire
COFFI	Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry
EEA	European Environment Agency
EFC	European Forestry Commission
EFESC	European Forest and Environmental Skills Council
EFI	European Forest Institute
EFSOS	European Forest Sector Outlook Study
ENFE	European Network of Forest Entrepreneurs
EU	European Union
EUSTAFOR	European State Forest Association
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCBA	Institut Technologique Foret Cellulose Bois-construction Ameublement
FCN	Forest Communicators Network
FLEGT	Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade
FOREST EUROPE	the Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests in Europe
FRA	Global Forest Resources Assessment
FTP	Forest-based Sector Technology Platform
GFMC	Global Fire Monitoring Center
IIASA	International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis
IPPC	International Plant Protection Convention
ISDR	International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
ILO	International Labour Organization
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
IUFRO	International Union of Forestry Research Organizations
JRC	Joint Research Centre, European Commission, Ispra
LCA	Life Cycle Assessment
Metla	Finnish Forest Research Institute
NAFSOS	North American Forest Sector Outlook Study
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
SoEF	State of Europe's Forests
TEEB	The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity

TTF	Timber Trade Federation (UK)
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP/SETAC	United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Society for Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC)
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFF	United Nations Forum on Forests
UNISDR	United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
vTI	Johann Heinrich von Thünen Institut, Germany
VTT	Technical Research Centre of Finland
WHO	World Health Organization

## **ANNEX II: LIST OF THE STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ACTION PLAN**

### **Governmental Organizations and Bodies**

Agency for Statistics, Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Canadian Forest Service, Canada  
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Ireland  
Federal Forestry Agency, Russian Federation  
Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, Austria  
Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection, Germany  
Forest Management Institute, Czech Republic  
Forestry Commission, United Kingdom  
Kazakh Research Institute of Forestry, Kazakhstan  
Ministry of Agriculture, Agrifood and Forestry, France  
Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forest Policies, Italy  
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland  
Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment, Cyprus  
Ministry for Climate Protection North Rhein-Westphalen, Germany  
Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation, Netherlands  
Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources, Georgia  
Ministry of Environment, Estonia  
Ministry of Environment and Forests, Romania  
Ministry of Environment, Poland  
Ministry of Forestry, Belarus  
Ministry of Forestry and Water, Turkey  
Ministry of Regional Development, Forestry and Water Management, Croatia  
National Forest Administration – ROMSILVA, Romania  
National Forest Centre, Slovakia  
Natural Resources Canada  
Swedish Forest Agency, Sweden  
Swiss Federal Office for the Environment, Switzerland  
USDA Forest Service, United States of America

## Stakeholder Organizations

Agriforest S.A., Switzerland

Alpine Convention, Austria

Alterra, Netherlands

Antoine de La Rochefordière, International Consultant, Switzerland

APA - The Engineered Wood Association, United States of America

Association of the Austrian Wood Industries, Austria

International Technical Tropical Wood Association, France

Belgrade State University, Serbia

Bern University of Applied Sciences, Switzerland

Bureau of Nordic Family Forestry, Brussels

Building and Wood Workers' International, Switzerland

Canadian Wood Council, Canada

Carey Research and Consulting, Switzerland

Christopher Prins, International Consultant, Switzerland

European Confederation of Woodworking Industries, Belgium

Confederation of European Private Forest Owners, Belgium

Client Earth, Belgium

Duzce University, Turkey

Dublin University College, Ireland

Edinburgh Napier University, United Kingdom

European Commission, Belgium

European Academy Research, Italy

European Environment Agency, Denmark

European Forest Institute, Finland

European State Forest Association, Belgium

European Union, Belgium

Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea, Kazakhstan

European Panel Federation, Belgium

EXP GLOBAL INC, Canada

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome

Forestry Training Centre of the region Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, France

Johann Heinrich von Thunen Institut - Federal Research Institute for Rural Areas, Forestry and Fisheries, Germany

FederlegnoArredo, Italy

Finnish Forest Association, Finland  
Finnish Forest Industries Federation, Finland  
FOREST EUROPE, Spain  
Foundation for International Education, Norway  
Forest Stewardship Council, Germany  
Forest Industries Intelligence Ltd, United Kingdom  
French Development Agency, France  
French Timber Trade Association (Le Commerce du Bois), France  
FPInnovations, Canada  
Green Eco-Land, Switzerland  
International Forestry Students Association, Germany  
International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, Austria  
International Labour Organization, Switzerland  
Institute for Timber Plants and the Environment, Italy  
International Union for the Conservation of Nature, Switzerland  
Louisiana State University, Agricultural Center, United States of America  
Metsähallitus, Finland  
Mondi AG, Finland  
National Association of Forestry and Timber Engineers and Experts (CNIEFEB), France  
Natural Forest Resources Management, Mongolia  
Natural Resources Development Project, Albania  
Narat-K, Timber Industry Company, Russian Federation  
Network for Global Environmental Citizens (NGEC)  
Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners, Finland  
PAN BERN, Switzerland  
Paneco Foundation, Switzerland  
Probos Foundation, Netherlands  
Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes, Switzerland  
Pictet Asset Management, Switzerland  
Poyry Forest Industry Consulting, Germany  
Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations Organization in Geneva, Switzerland  
Quebec Wood Export Bureau (Q-WEB), Canada  
SGS Forestry Monitoring Programme, France  
State Forestry University, Russian Federation  
State Technological University of Plant Polimers, Russian Federation  
University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), Sweden



University of Washington, United States of America

The Forest Trust, Switzerland

United States Permanent Mission to the United Nations Organization in Geneva,  
Switzerland

Umea University, Sweden

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Switzerland

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Switzerland

United Nations Environment Programme, Switzerland

Union of Foresters of Southern Europe, Spain

University of Camerino, Italy

University of Oregon, United States of America

University of Utrecht, Netherland

All-Russia Institute of Continuous Education and Training of Forestry Managers, Russian  
Federation

Wood Technology Institute, Poland

Wood Focus, Norway

## ANNEX III: REFERENCES

### TC (COFFI) and EFC mandates

According to ECE/TIM/2008/7 - FO: EFC/08/7, the FAO European Forestry Commission is mandated, *'To advise on the formulation of forest policy and to review and coordinate its implementation at the regional level; to exchange information and, generally through special subsidiary bodies, advise on suitable practices and action with regard to technical and economic problems, and to make appropriate recommendations in relation to the foregoing.*

The same document states that the UNECE Timber Committee (now Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry) is expected to *'... provide member countries with the information and services which they need for policy and decision making as regards their forest and forest industry sector... and, when appropriate, formulate the recommendations addressed to member Government and interested organizations.'*

The Action Plan fully responds to those tasks. It provides Member States and organizations with recommendations and advice on action on how to enhance the contribution of the forest sector to a green economy. These recommendations are not binding, and countries and organizations can decide whether to implement them or not.

### TC and EFC joint bureaux Meeting, October 2010

Excerpt from the meeting report

*"27. The bureaux considered a note prepared by the secretariat on the proposed theme for the next joint session of the Committee and the Commission. As a main theme of the joint session during the IYF, the secretariat proposed "Forests in a Green Economy". The meeting would consider an Action Plan addressing themes ranging from forest products to wood energy to the policy and institutional framework.*

*28. "Member States would be invited to contribute to preparing the Plan. This would be done through a consultation via e-mail and a meeting to discuss the draft text, foreseen for the first quarter of 2011. The Plan would be part of the secretariat's contribution to the Rio +20 Conference and the next cycle of the Commission on Sustainable Development sessions, thereby increasing the relevance and visibility of the forest sector. The bureaux strongly supported the choice of theme for the joint session and the proposed way forward, and recalled the need for involving other organizations in preparing this document, for example the ILO. Mr. Degg proposed the addition of the closed cycle value of the timber industry in the discussion themes set out in the background document. The bureaux asked for the preliminary draft of the Action Plan to be discussed at the next bureau meeting."*

### TC and EFC joint session, October 2011

Excerpt from the meeting report (ECE/TIM/2011/20 - FO:EFC/2011/20)

*15. "The Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy was presented. It had been prepared under the auspices of UNECE/FAO on the basis of an open consultation with member States and stakeholders, consolidated by the secretariat and reviewed by a stakeholder meeting in May 2011. Mr. Heikki Granholm (Finland) and Mr. Christoph Duerr (Switzerland) presented the Plan and its five*

areas of activity, which would serve as the basis for the five thematic roundtables during the special green economy segment of this meeting:

- Sustainable production and consumption of forest products
- The low-carbon forest sector
- Decent green jobs in the forest sector
- Valuation of and payment for forest ecosystem services
- Monitoring and governance of the forest sector.

16. The Commission and the Committee:

- a) Welcomed the Action Plan as the basis for discussion at the session and as a reference for action at the national and international levels;
- b) Requested the secretariat to organize a one-day stakeholder meeting in the margins of the next session of the Joint Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics, in March 2012, in order to further develop the plan and in particular, to identify actions and related actors;
- c) Requested that the secretariat submit the Action Plan to the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs as a contribution to the Rio+20 preparatory process and present the Action Plan during the Conference on Sustainable Development to be held in Rio de Janeiro in 2012 and gather further inputs from stakeholders participating in that meeting;
- d) Decided to continue to refine the Action Plan in the margins of relevant ECE/FAO meetings in 2012 and 2013 in order to present a final Action Plan ready for adoption at the joint TC-EFC joint session in 2013;
- e) Recommended that member States and international organizations use the Action Plan as one of the bases for identifying relevant topics to be covered by the Joint ECE/FAO Timber and Forestry Programme of Work during the review process;
- f) Requested that the secretariat develop an online database of relevant case studies and experiences in the ECE region on the forest sector in a green economy to be collected from member States and relevant organizations.”

## **“The Future we want”, outcome Document of the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development in June 2012**

*[III. Green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication]*

60. We acknowledge that green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication will enhance our ability to manage natural resources sustainably and with lower negative environmental impacts, increase resource efficiency and reduce waste.

61. We recognize that urgent action on unsustainable patterns of production and consumption where they occur remains fundamental in addressing environmental sustainability, and promoting conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems, regeneration of natural resources, and the promotion of sustained, inclusive and equitable global growth.

*[...]*

68. We invite relevant stakeholders, including the UN Regional Commissions, UN organizations and bodies, other relevant intergovernmental and regional

organizations, international financial institutions and major groups involved in sustainable development, according to their respective mandates, to support developing countries upon request to achieve sustainable development, including through, inter alia, green economy policies in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, in particular in least developed countries.

*[IV. Institutional framework for sustainable development*

*E. Regional, national, sub-national, local]*

97. We acknowledge the importance of the regional dimension of sustainable development. Regional frameworks can complement and facilitate effective translation of sustainable development policies into concrete action at national level.

98. We encourage regional, national, sub-national and local authorities as appropriate to develop and utilize sustainable development strategies as key instruments for guiding decision-making and implementation of sustainable development at all levels, and in this regard we recognize that integrated social, economic, and environmental data and information, as well as effective analysis and assessment of implementation, is important to decision-making processes.

100. We emphasize that regional and sub-regional organizations, including the UN regional commissions and their sub-regional offices, have a significant role to play in promoting a balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in their respective regions. We underscore the need to support these institutions, including through the UN system, in the effective operationalization and implementation of sustainable development, and to facilitate institutional coherence and harmonization of relevant development policies, plans and programmes. In this regard, we urge these institutions to prioritize sustainable development through, inter alia, more efficient and effective capacity building, development and implementation of regional agreements and arrangements as appropriate, and exchange of information, best practices, and lessons learnt. We also welcome regional and cross-regional initiatives for sustainable development. We furthermore recognize the need to ensure effective linkage among global, regional, subregional and national processes to advance sustainable development. We encourage the enhancement of the UN regional commissions and their sub-regional offices in their respective capacities to support Member States in implementing sustainable development.

## **FAO Committee on Forestry, September 2012**

Excerpt from the meeting report (COFO 2012/REP)

16. “The Committee invited countries to emphasise and promote the contribution of forests to the green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, as part of national and international policy debates and national implementation.

17. The Committee requested FAO to seek ways to maximize forests’ contribution to greening the economy, noting that the green economy approach is not a rigid set of rules and is one of several approaches to sustainable development and poverty eradication. The Committee also requested FAO to work on cross-sectoral communication and collaboration, including with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), regional economic organizations, and others. The Committee welcomed the ongoing preparation of the UNECE/FAO green economy action plan for the forest sector. “