

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

114th Meeting  
Geneva, 12 February 2021

Item 6

Informal Document No. **2021/5**

**Extrabudgetary project**

**Supporting UNECE member States to integrate the maintenance, protection  
and restoration of urban and peri-urban trees and forests  
in their post COVID-19 recovery plans**

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

<b>Project title:</b> Supporting UNECE member States to integrate the maintenance, protection and restoration of urban and peri-urban trees and forests in their post COVID-19 recovery plans		
<b>Expected timing/ duration:</b> February – December 2021		
<b>Objective and brief summary of the project:</b> The objective of the proposed project is to continue the implementation of the “Trees in Cities Challenge” and further support UNECE member States to integrate the maintenance, protection and restoration of urban and peri-urban trees and forests in their post COVID-19 recovery plans. This project is a continuation of the project “Supporting UNECE member States in building capacity on urban forestry, that was approved in February 2020 (E353). In 2019 and 2020, the UNECE has supported building capacity on urban forestry through the implementation of the “Trees in Cities Challenge” in the UNECE region. “Trees in Cities Challenge” ( <a href="https://treesincities.unece.org/">https://treesincities.unece.org/</a> ) is a global initiative launched by the UNECE Executive Secretary at the Secretary-General’s Climate Action Summit (New York, 21 September 2019) that aims to increase urban green cover and improve municipal management of urban forests and trees. This is done through formal tree-planting pledges submitted by mayors of participating cities. The pledges reached 11 million new trees by the end of 2020. The outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic hit cities particularly hard, with an estimated 90 percent of all cases occurring in urban areas. This health crisis brought to the fore many challenges for cities, including the degradation and over-exploitation of local urban and peri-urban ecosystems, and the lack of accessible green urban spaces. The objective of this project will be implemented through the following activities: A1.1. Preparation and dissemination of at least 1 policy brief on urban and peri-urban forest ecosystems for green recovery to a range of stakeholders, including national and urban policy-makers; A1.2. Organization of 2 webinars and policy events to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and best practices on urban forestry (including a side event that will be organized during the COFFI/EFC Joint Session in 2021); A1.3. Updated of the website with resources on urban trees and forests <a href="https://treesincities.unece.org/">https://treesincities.unece.org/</a> so as to turn it into a depository containing resources for policy-makers on managing urban trees and forests. These activities will be accompanied with collection of pledges under the “Trees in Cities Challenge”, that will be extended until the end of 2022. This project contributes to SDG 3, 5 (information on the role of women in the forest sector), 11, 13 and 15. The project contributes to the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017-2030 ( <a href="E/2017/10-E/CN.18/SS/2017/2">E/2017/10-E/CN.18/SS/2017/2</a> ), in particular global forest goals 1 and thematic areas (g): contribution of forests to climate change mitigation and adaptation and (j): mitigating the impact of air pollution; as well as global forest goal 2, and thematic area (l): forests and trees in the urban context. This project is in line with the Secretary-General’s report “Shared responsibility, global solidarity: responding to the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19”, for countries to keep the sustainable development goals and climate commitments in focus. Cities from non-UNECE member States can also take part in the Trees in Cities Challenge as it has a global coverage, to allow for a more diverse experience-sharing on the management of urban forests.		
<b>Expected results of the project:</b> EA1. Improved awareness of national and local policy makers in the UNECE member States of the potential of urban and peri-urban forest ecosystems for green post COVID recovery.		
<b>Target group and beneficiaries of the project:</b> Target group are local government officials and experts, representatives of the private sector, academia, civil society, etc. Beneficiary countries are UNECE member States.		
<b>Justification of project and its relationship to the programme of work:</b> The project contributes directly to the objective of the of the Subprogramme 7 “Forestry and Timber” of the UNECE proposed programme budget for 2020 “to strengthen sustainable management of forests and enhance the contribution of forests and forest products to sustainable development in the ECE region”. The project is in line with the decision adopted at the 78 <sup>th</sup> session of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI) 6(a) to strengthen resilience in the post-COVID 19 recovery period through urban trees and forests and to include this topic in the next Integrated Programme of Work, and to strengthen the “Trees in Cities Challenge” initiative by connecting it to other relevant processes and initiatives at global, regional and local levels (ECE/TIM/2020/2). In accordance with the Warsaw Integrated Programme of work 2018-2021 (ECE/TIM/2017/2), point 35c, this project enhances the visibility of the work of the Committee and the Commission and supports efforts to promote sustainable forest management within and outside the forest and forest products sector.		
<b>Estimated UN regular budget resources (work months of RB staff/level of Staff):</b> 0.5 month of RB/P5		
<b>Estimated extra budgetary resources:</b>		
<b>Donor</b> Switzerland	<b>Amount (USD)</b> 85,000	
<b>Project Manager:</b> Section Chief (under recruitment) Paola Deda, Director (interim management)	<b>Section/Division:</b> UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section Forests, Land and Housing Division	
<b>Cleared by Programme Management Unit:</b>  Nicolas Dath-Baron Officer-in-charge of PMU  25.01.2021	<b>Approved by EXCOM:</b>	12.02.2021

**Annex**  
**Results-based budget for the extra-budgetary project**

Expected Accomplishments	Planned activities	Estimated costs (US\$)
EA1. Improved awareness of national and local policy makers of the potential of urban and peri-urban forest ecosystems for green post COVID recovery	A1.1. Preparation and dissemination of at least 1 policy brief on urban and peri-urban forest ecosystems for green recovery to a range of stakeholders, including national and urban policymakers 1 international consultant to draft policy briefs and recommendation on the inclusion of urban and peri-urban forest ecosystems into green recovery plans and initiate the collection of new pledges under the Trees in Cities challenge” x 6 months x \$7,000	42,000
	A1.2. Organization of 2 webinars and policy events to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and best practices on urban forestry  1 international consultant to prepare the materials for the website x 1-month x \$5,000 1 international consultant to organize webinars x 2 months x \$7,000 Conference platform and technical support x 2 webinars x \$2,000	5,000 14,000 4,000
	A1.3. Creation of an updated website with resources on urban trees and forests 1 international consultant to update and maintain the website x 2 months x \$5,000	10,000
Budget summary		75,000
13% of Programme Support Costs		9,750
<b>Total (rounded)</b>		<b>85,000</b>