
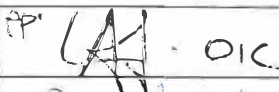



MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

Evaluation Title:	Project Accountability Systems for Sustainable Forest Management in the Caucasus and Central Asia		
Period of Review:	2016-2020		
Date of Evaluation Report:	17/03/2021		
Approved by	Nicolas Dath-Baron Officer in Charge Programme Management Unit	Date	Signature
		18/06/2021	
Cleared by:	Director of Division Paola Deda	18/06/2021	
Prepared by:	Project Manager Roman Michalak	11/06/2021	

Recommendation 1:

It is recommended to continue Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) learning and capacity building assistance involving more countries from the ECE region, with the focus on the Caucasus and Central Asia (CCA) region.

Management Response:

UNECE accepts the recommendation.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

The scope of work in the joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section is mandated/determined by the UNECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC) in their Integrated Programme of Work (IPoW).

Within the context of its current IPoW (2017-2021), the joint Section will continue its work on supporting the countries of the Caucasus and Central Asia in strengthening their forest sectors. This includes a newly initiated project (2021) on “Strengthening policy framework on forest landscape restoration in selected UNECE countries to achieve SDG 15” (in the Caucasus and Central Asia).

The next cycle of the IPoW (2022-2025) to be reviewed and adopted in November 2021 also includes capacity-building. If adopted and upon request by member States, the joint Section will endeavour to develop a follow-up project proposal on strengthening the monitoring of sustainable forest management in the Caucasus and Central Asia.

Responsibility: Chief, Joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber the Section

Recommendation 2:

As UNDA projects have 5% cap on staff resources, it will be desirable for **UNECE to advocate for additional General Temporary Assistance (GTA) resources for the administrative, logistical and coordinating tasks for future capacity building activities funded under the Development Account.**

Management Response:

UNECE accepts the recommendation.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

By December 2021, the Programme Management Unit (PMU) will share with DESA the recommendation to consider increasing staff resources above 5% in UNDA projects to ensure sufficient support for project management and increase the efficiency of implementation of UNDA projects.

Responsibility: Chief, Programme Management Unit

Recommendation 3:

It is important to ensure female involvement in decision-making process, inclusion in the forestry sector management and empowerment of local community females who depend on the forest economy. **Therefore, UNECE/FAO FTS should continue to advocate for gender equality and equal representation of women in the future capacity building projects, activities and events.**

Management Response:

UNECE accepts the recommendation.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

The joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section will continue to advocate for gender equality and equal representation of women in the whole portfolio of its work. It will strive to ensure gender balance among trainers and trainees, speakers and nominated meeting participants. The empowerment of women in beneficiary local communities who depend on the forest economy will also be prioritized in future capacity-building projects.

The joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section will continue to include gender analysis at the development, implementation, and monitoring stages of the capacity-building project “Strengthening policy framework on forest landscape restoration in selected UNECE countries to achieve SDG 15” and collect gender-disaggregated data and indicators on women representation at the major stages of the project implementation.

Responsibility: Chief, Joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber the Section

Timeline: 31 March 2022

Recommendation 4:

UNECE/FAO FTS should proactively sensitize national counterparts on the role that forests can play in poverty alleviation and economic development of vulnerable communities, groups and individuals that depend on forests and forest products.

Management Response:

Management Response, Evaluation, PMU, UNECE

UNECE partially accepts the recommendation.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

The scope of work in the joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section is mandated by the UNECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC) in their IPoW.

The joint Section will sensitize national counterparts on the role that forests can play in poverty alleviation and economic development of vulnerable communities, groups and individuals that depend on forests and forest products, through its general communication work. Any further work on the topic would depend on the outcome of the discussions of the next IPoW 2022-2025 in November 2021.

The joint Section will inform COFFI and EFC of this recommendation in view of their discussions of the IPoW for the cycle 2022-2025.

Responsibility: Chief, Joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber the Section

Recommendation 5:

In order to measure increased knowledge and developed capacity among the beneficiaries, it is recommended to introduce instruments for measuring success of training, knowledge and capacity building activity, like pre-post testing of participants on their knowledge around the activity or topic.

Management Response:

UNECE accepts the recommendation.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

The joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section conducts post-session evaluations on work impact of its national/regional workshops. The joint Section will extend the scope of the evaluation of impact and knowledge and capacity increase among the beneficiaries by adding an additional instrument (pre-testing questionnaire) to monitor the initial level and of knowledge and its change over the period of a implementation of the capacity-building project “Strengthening policy framework on forest landscape restoration in selected UNECE countries to achieve SDG 15”.

Responsibility: Chief, Joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber the Section

Timeline: 31 March 2022