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Joint Committee/Commission matters: Integrated**Programme of Work 2022-2025****Food and Agriculture Organization
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Draft Integrated Programme of Work 2022-2025 (Part I)**Note by the Secretariat***Summary*

This document contains part one of the draft Integrated Programme of Work (IPoW) (Scope; Overall Goal; Objective; Structure and Work Areas; Principles guiding implementation, Support and Resources; and Expert Support) for COFFI and EFC, and was developed as a result of the Strategic Review process, which started in 2019. More information about the Strategic Review process can be found in the information document ECE/TIM/2021/Inf.2-FO/EFC/2021/Inf.2.

The Terms of Reference of the ECE/FAO Teams of Specialists and of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management are contained in document ECE/TIM/2021/7-FO-EFC/2021/7.

The Committee and the Commission are invited to review and adopt the programme, including the relevant Terms of Reference of the subsidiary bodies.



I. Draft Integrated Programme of Work (Part I)

1. The oversight responsibility for the implementation of the Integrated Programme of Work (IPoW) of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the European Forestry Commission remains with the members of the Committee and the Commission.
2. The implementation and coordination responsibilities for the IPoW of the Committee and the Commission rests primarily with ECE and FAO through the ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section. The implementation is supported by the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management, the ECE/FAO Teams of Specialists, as well as relevant units of the ECE and FAO. The Programme is also implemented with the support of member States, regional economic integration organizations in close cooperation with relevant organizations and processes at all levels and other relevant stakeholders participating in the Committee and Commission intergovernmental processes. The IPoW encompasses a broad range of work and is designed to be comprehensive and flexible. Over the course of implementation, member States and regional economic integration organizations may engage with specific IPoW components according to their interest and capacity. IPoW components will be implemented in different ways and degrees, depending in part on member country interest and engagement.
3. The IPoW 2022-2025 may contribute to the follow-up to or implementation of: (i) the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs, (ii) the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 and declared Global Forest Goals, (iii) the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) Quadrennial Programme of Work 2021-2024, (iv) the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the post-2020 biodiversity framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity, (v) the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and (vi) other international and regional objectives and initiatives relevant to forests, including the Bonn Challenge/ECCA30; (vii) sustainable and resilient recovery of the forest sector following the COVID-19 pandemic, including through a circular economy and broader sustainability approaches and nature-based solutions.

A. Scope

4. The IPoW covers all fifty-six member States of the ECE region, in line with the Committee's membership¹. Forty member States, which are all ECE member States, and the European Union, are members of the Commission².
5. The Programme encompasses the following main topics related to forests, sustainable forest management, and the forest sector:
 - (a) The state of forests and sustainable forest management
 - (b) The role of forests in climate change mitigation and adaptation;
 - (c) The implementation and promotion of sustainable forest management, according to the seven thematic elements of the United Nations Forest Instrument as well as Global Forest Goals;
 - (d) Forest landscape restoration;

¹ Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States and Uzbekistan.

² 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, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan and the European Union.

(e) Forest related industries and the use of forest products throughout the value chains they comprise (notably construction and energy) with emphasis on innovative products and applications;

(f) Forest and forest sector policies, institutions and instruments, including the linkages between forests and rules and regulations on wood harvesting, transformation, reuse and recycling of wood products; climate change policies, and other policies;

(g) The contribution of the forest sector in the transition towards a circular and bio-economy in the context of broader sustainability and societal goals, sustainable forest management and the role of forests as nature-based solutions; in the post-COVID-19 recovery to increase the resilience of society;

(h) Forest products and ecosystem services, employment and other socio-economic aspects; including economic vitality of the sector; and

(i) To contribute to the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of the forest-related Sustainable Development Goals, United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration as well as the implementation of United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030,³ within the existing mandates of ECE and FAO.

B. Overall goal

6. The overall goal of the Integrated Programme of Work 2022-2025 of the Committee and the Commission is to support member States and regional economic integration organizations in their efforts to sustainably manage forests so that they provide goods and services to benefit society.

C. Objective of the Integrated Programme of Work

7. The IPoW aims to assist member States and regional economic integration organizations in achieving the overall goal described above by: providing the best available information; facilitating policy dialogues and communication; and building capacity.

D. Structure and Work Areas

8. The IPoW remains structured around four main functions, or work areas, as follows:

- **Work Area 1: Data, monitoring, reporting and assessment**
- **Work Area 2: Policy dialogue and advice**
- **Work Area 3: Communication and outreach**
- **Work Area 4: Capacity-building**

9. While work is formally organized within these areas it should be recognized that considerable attention is to be devoted to cross-cutting issues and communication between the areas.

10. Specific activities and outputs proposed for the four Work Areas are outlined below. Work in each area is supported by dedicated Teams of Specialists (ToS).

Work Area 1: Data, monitoring, reporting and assessment

11. The data collection and reporting work in the region consists of the following:

(a) Collection, validation and dissemination of statistics and other information on: forest resources, forest health, damage and disturbance processes, forest products (wood and

³ For more information about the Strategy for landscape restoration and greening infrastructure in the Caucasus and Central Asia please refer to ECE/TIM/2020/3

non-wood), forest functions and services, progress toward sustainable forest management, forest policies, institutions and instruments, and the contribution of the forest sector to a circular and bio-economy in the context of broader sustainability and societal goals;

(b) Analysis and assessment of the state of forests in regard to items identified in (a) above; and

(c) Cooperation with and contribution to international organizations and processes on sustainable forest management, including the support to the UNFF Secretariat in the production of the UNFF flagship publication, the support to the FAO FRA Secretariat in the preparation of the Global Forest Resources Assessment report, the development and use of regional Criteria and Indicators, and the support to Forest Europe in the preparation of the report on the State of Europe's Forests.

12. The monitoring and analysis of developments in various forest-related areas and cooperation with other relevant organizations working in these areas, while avoiding duplication. This includes the gathering of comprehensive statistics and data (quantitative and qualitative), and developing methodologies for data collection, analysis and assessments on:

(a) Forest product markets;

(b) Forest health, damage and disturbance processes, sustainable forest management, and the functions and services forests provide;

(c) Long-term supply of and demand for wood and other forest goods and services;

(d) Use of wood energy and its implications for sustainable forest management; and

(e) Jobs, employment and working conditions.

13. Data are collected based on agreed standards and rules in partnership with member States, regional economic integration organizations, international organizations and processes, and the scientific community. The Teams of Specialists working in this area will emphasize integration and consolidation of reporting activities with other processes in the region (e.g. Forest Europe, FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment process). Activities under Work Area 1 are also expected to improve the quality of information, ensure international compatibility, provide data storage dissemination and analysis of the information, and assist member States and regional economic integration organizations in strengthening their capacity in these areas (see Work Area 4 on capacity-building).

14. Specific outputs from this Work Area include amongst others:

(a) The Forest Products Annual Market Review;

(b) Joint Pan-European data collection on forests and sustainable forest management (in collaboration with FAO FRA Secretariat and Forest Europe); support to Forest Europe in the preparation of the report on the State of Europe's Forests;

(c) Reporting on forest products and wood energy, through the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire; the Timber Forecast Questionnaire; the Joint Wood Energy Enquiry;

(d) Regional input to the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment in cooperation with Forest Europe; including the participation in its Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire;

(e) Associated databases of the previously mentioned outputs;

(f) Forest products market statements and forest products forecast tables;

(g) Reporting on regional progress towards implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and achievement of forest-related SDGs, and the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030;

(h) Study on forest health, damage and disturbance in the region;

(i) Studies on forest employment and working conditions;

(j) Assessment of the contribution of the forest sector to a green, circular and bio-economy, in the context of broader sustainability and societal goals; and ad hoc enquiries and studies contributing to areas mentioned above upon decision by the Committee and the Commission.

Work Area 2: Policy dialogue and advice

15. This component involves the organization of regional policy dialogues and specific studies and the facilitation of national dialogues on request from member States and regional economic integration organizations. The subjects to be covered will address issues mentioned in the scope of the IPoW. This work will contribute to various regional and international efforts including:

(a) The implementation of the 2030 Agenda and forest related SDGs, the Paris Climate Agreement, the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030, United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, regional initiative ECCA30, and the United Nations Forum on Forests;

(b) Quadrennial Programme of Work 2021-2024, and to the relevant global (mainly the United Nations Forum on Forests and the FAO Committee on Forestry), regional and national forest dialogues;

(c) Activities in this Work Area also contribute to efforts to promote cross-sectoral cooperation.

16. Specific outputs from this Work Area include:

(a) Analyses, guidelines and recommendations to support member States and regional economic integration organizations in implementing the initiatives and plans listed in 15 (a) through (c);

(b) Implementation of commitments under the Bonn Challenge/ECCA30;

(c) Contributions to the Forest Europe work programme;

(d) Policy dialogues and workshops for the region;

(e) Dissemination of the results of the Forest Sector Outlook Study; and

(f) Policy-related sections of ECE and FAO joint work/studies, such as relevant reviews and reports on the status and trends of forests and sustainable forest management.

Work Area 3: Communication and outreach

17. Communicating effectively within and outside the forest and forest products sector is essential to promote sustainable forest management. Enhancing the efforts of the Committee and the Commission to reach out to relevant constituencies to draw attention to the regional priorities in the forest sector and to increase the dissemination of information, tools, and practices, at the national, regional and global levels, will make an important contribution to this end. A particular focus will be placed on promoting the wider dissemination of information and results through effective communication and enhanced use of information technology. This will be achieved through:

(a) Enhancing dissemination of information resulting from the implementation of Work Area 1, Work Area 2 and Work Area 4, including through policy briefs, press briefs, the Forest Information Billboard, social media/networks, videos, ad hoc studies and use of new technologies;

(b) Organizing events and campaigns in support of: sustainable forest management, forest landscape restoration, forest products and services, and promoting the results of the Joint Section's work (e.g. the International Day of Forests, the European and Global Forest Weeks);

(c) Maintaining and improving the ECE/FAO website, especially regarding user-friendliness and design;

(d) Contributing to relevant events in member States, regional economic integration organizations and assist them with the dissemination of their forest-related announcements (e.g. capacity-building workshops, special public relations events) in cooperation with member States, regional economic integration organizations and other stakeholders, also across sectors and disciplines (e.g. food; fashion; constructions sector; agriculture, etc);

(e) Carrying out outreach activities beyond the forest sector, highlighting the relevance of healthy forests and forest products, forest landscape restoration and services to other sectors (e.g. biodiversity and environment meetings, sustainable construction and buildings, textiles, circular and bio-economy); and

(f) Communicating relevant news on the work of other forest-related international fora.

18. Specific outputs from this Work Area include:

(a) Events and campaigns) (e.g. contribution to the organization of International Forest Day events, contribution to the organization of the European Forest Week, raising awareness on ECCA30 etc.);

(b) Policy briefs;

(c) Press briefs;

(d) Contribution to the Forest Information Billboard;

(e) Contribution to, and dissemination of, ad hoc studies through communication channels and enhanced use of information technology;

(f) Inputs to the website;

(g) Improvement of databases for delivery of forest and forest sector information to the public.

Work Area 4: Capacity-building

19. While all member States and regional economic integration organizations benefit from international cooperation through the IPoW, technical cooperation and capacity building work is directed primarily to countries in Eastern and South-East Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. This work aims at encouraging sustainable forest management, data collection, monitoring and analysis, as well as engaging national experts from the region in activities relevant to the region. This work area addresses the following themes within the scope of this IPoW, including:

(a) National systems for forest monitoring and statistical reporting;

(b) Forest communication strategies;

(c) Nature-based solutions, including mitigation and adaptation to climate change;

(d) Forest landscape restoration and the Bonn Challenge/ECCA30;

(e) Implementation of forest sector outlook modelling at the national level;

(f) Agroforestry products and their trade

(g) The implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 and countries' voluntary national contributions; and

(h) The contribution of the forest sector to:

(i) A circular and bio-economy in the context of broader sustainability and societal goals (including the sustainable use of natural resources);

(ii) The implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of forest-related SDGs;

(iii) The implementation of the Paris Agreement.

20. Specific outputs from this Work Area include:

- (a) Publications;
- (b) Capacity-building workshops (virtual and physical);
- (c) Training material and recommendations;
- (d) Technical assistance, including targeted expertise and;
- (e) Assisting with developing networks for cooperation and development

E. Principles guiding implementation of the IPoW

21. Implementation should be guided by the following principles:

Partnership

22. There will be a strong focus on working in partnerships with international and regional actors, as the most effective way of optimizing benefits and avoiding potential duplication of activities. The Committee and the Commission will seek and welcome cooperation on any of the relevant outputs under the four Work Areas.

Outreach to other constituencies

23. In the implementation of the IPoW, the Committee and the Commission will look beyond the traditional forest constituency to ensure the relevance of the forest sector and its contribution to other sectors is well recognized and understood. They will coordinate relevant actions with, for example, the environment, biodiversity, energy, water, agriculture, construction and textile sectors, using the potentials offered by the ECE (including a nexus on sustainable use of natural resources) and FAO.

Expert advice

24. The work and expected outputs of the Teams of Specialists will be fully aligned with the IPoW and its objectives, and will support the related areas of work, recognizing the importance of the involvement of the scientific community and forest practitioners. In this context, the Forest Communicators Network ToS should support the other ToSs on outreach and dissemination. Due regard should be given to the Committee and Commission official languages when organizing meetings and issuing publications and documents. In case of resource constraints limiting the translation of full publications, efforts should be undertaken to translate executive summaries.

Involvement of the private sector

25. The IPoW recognizes the private sector as one of the key actors for developing sustainable forest management, sustainable forest products and services and the transition towards a circular and bio-economy economy in the context of broader sustainability and societal goals. The participation of the private sector in the work of the Committee and the Commission, including in the annual market discussions, will be actively sought, in line with the ECE and FAO organizational policies. Increased participation from various relevant stakeholders should be encouraged.

Gender mainstreaming and respect of the rights of people with disabilities

26. The IPoW gives due consideration to making the concerns and experiences of women, men and people with disabilities an integral part of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of its activities, so that women and men and people with disabilities benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated (UN ECOSOC, 1997). Gender mainstreaming and respecting the rights of disabled people is a central part of ECE and FAO's strategic frameworks and their policies and programmes.

F. Support to the Integrated Programme of Work and related resources

27. IPoW implementation progress will be reported annually. Implementation will depend on regular programme funding levels and to a large extent on extrabudgetary resources, as well as available human resources. Member States, regional economic integration organizations and other donors are encouraged to support such activities in kind and/or with the necessary level of financial resources. The annual list of activities, which is submitted every year to the Working Party and subsequently to the Committee and the Commission for their approval, will show clearly the areas of work (e.g. capacity-building) or activities where extrabudgetary funding will be needed.

28. A broader engagement by member States and regional economic integration organizations should be sought. In particular, resources should be identified to finance the participation of delegates from eligible countries with economies in transition. In addition, online and hybrid meeting formats should be used as appropriate wherever convenient to allow for broader participation.

29. The IPoW should have the flexibility to address emerging issues of relevance to member countries and the forestry community at large.

G. Expert support

30. The Teams of Specialists provide advice and undertake activities that support the implementation of the IPoW. Teams of Specialists may also provide guidance to the ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section on relevant Work Areas, help with outreach activities to country-level experts, and produce team-specific outputs in support of the IPoW. The Teams of Specialists are established by the ECE Executive Committee, with secretariat services provided by both ECE and FAO through their separate budgetary processes. Their terms of reference are approved by the Committee and the Commission. The Teams of Specialists report annually to the Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management.

31. Guidelines for the Teams of Specialists, mandates and procedures, and the responsibilities of Team leaders, members and the secretariat can be found in the Draft Integrated Programme of Work Part II (ECE/TIM/2021/7-FO:EFC/2021/7).
