

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Geneva, 26 January 2022

Item 10

Informal Document No. **2022/7**

Extrabudgetary project

**Sustainable urban forestry as a cost-effective nature-based solution
for green, resilient, and healthy development in the UNECE region**

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

Project title: Sustainable urban forestry as a cost-effective nature-based solution for green, resilient, and healthy development in the UNECE region		
Expected timing/ duration: February 2022 - December 2022		
<p>Objective and brief summary of the project: The project will strengthen knowledge and capacity for sustainable urban and peri-urban forestry management and policy in the UNECE region. Activities will also seek to foster enhanced implementation of sustainable urban forestry that recognizes its contribution to sustainable development, climate action and resilient cities. This builds on work and results achieved as part of the “Trees in Cities Challenge” (TICC) under two previous projects (Supporting UNECE member States in building capacity on urban forestry, E353, February - December 2020, and 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, E373, February - December 2021). Two-third of humanity will live in cities by 2050. Achieving national sustainable development objectives and the SDGs depends on healthy and resilient cities and their surroundings. Responsible for around 75% of global CO₂ emissions, cities in the UNECE region and beyond are key to fighting climate change and are also highly vulnerable to its impacts. Trees and forests in urban and peri-urban areas are simple and cost-effective nature-based solutions to these challenges. They provide vital tree and forest ecosystem services for health, biodiversity, and climate adaptation and mitigation. Unlocking the full potential of urban and peri-urban trees and forests as powerful nature-based solutions depends on the quality and sustainability of urban forestry. This requires appropriate policies and careful long-term planning that bridges traditional silos between stakeholders from various sectors, and the local and national level, and moving from a focus on planting to growing trees in cities, recognizing them as green assets that increase in value over time. The project aims to spur city-level capacity and knowledge that enables and fosters action to implement sustainable urban and peri-urban forestry as a nature-based solution and delivery mechanism for sustainable, climate-smart development in the UNECE region. It will foster sustainable urban forestry based on interdisciplinary approaches, planning and actions, such as urban agroforestry, gardening or food forests for combating urban food deserts and insecurity, engaging the community and private owners, and linking city action with national objectives and international agendas. The objective of the project will be achieved through implementation of the following activities:</p> <p>A1.1. Engaging cities to submit pledges to strengthen sustainable urban forestry management, set tree planting targets and participate in project activities as part of UNECE’s “Trees in Cities Challenge” (TICC).</p> <p>A1.2. Drafting a region-wide Action Plan for Urban and Peri-urban Forestry and the related implementation scheme in selected cities for potential future financing.</p> <p>A1.3. Developing at least one (1) tool or guideline to assist stakeholders in tackling key challenges on sustainable urban forestry and unleashing its full potential.</p> <p>A2.1. Organising at least four (4) meetings of the “Informal Network of Experts on Sustainable Urban Forestry.”</p> <p>A2.2. Organising one (1) side event at one (1) regional meeting and one (1) side event at one (1) international meeting on the contributions of sustainable urban forestry to national objectives and global agendas for sustainable development and climate action.</p>		
Expected results of the project:		
EA1. Increased knowledge and capacity for sustainable urban forestry planning and management techniques and uses by cities, policymakers, and other stakeholders in the UNECE region.		
EA2. Strengthened networking, dialogue and exchange across sectors, institutions and levels of government to enable and foster sustainable urban forestry in the UNECE region.		
Target group and beneficiaries of the project:		
National and local government officials, and private sector, academic, and civil society experts. Beneficiary countries are UNECE member States.		
Justification of project and its relationship to the programme of work:		
The project contributes directly to the objective of the Subprogramme 7 “Forests and the forest industry” of the UNECE proposed program budget for 2022 “to strengthen the sustainable management of forests and enhance the contribution of forests and forest products to sustainable development in the ECE region, including urban forestry”. In accordance with the integrated program of work 2022-2025 of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the European Forestry Commission, adopted on 25 November 2021, this project supports efforts to promote sustainable forest management and urban forestry (ECE/TIM/2021/2, FO:EFC/2021/2 Annex II, paragraph 19).		
Estimated UN regular budget resources (work months of RB staff/level of staff):		
0.5 month of RB/P5		
Estimated extra budgetary resources:		
Donor	Amount (US\$)	
Switzerland	76,000	
Project Manager: Liliana Annovazzi-Jakab 22.12.2021	Section/Division: UNECE-FAO Forestry and Timber Section/ Forests, Land and Housing Division	
Cleared by Programme Management Unit: Nicolas Dath-Baron Chief, ai 22.12.2021	Approved by EXCOM¹	26.01.2022

¹ See paragraph 31 (a) of Commission decision A(65).

Annex
Results-based budget for the extra-budgetary project

Expected Accomplishments	Planned activities	Estimated costs (US\$)
EA1. Increased knowledge and capacity for sustainable urban forestry planning and management techniques and uses by cities, policy-makers, and other stakeholders in the UNECE region	A1.1. Engaging cities to submit pledges to strengthen sustainable urban forestry management, set tree planting targets and participate in project activities as part of UNECE's "Trees in Cities Challenge" (TICC)	5,000
	Consultant for outreach to support at least 5 cities to submit TICC pledges and engage in project activities x 1 month x \$5,000	5,000
	A1.2. Drafting a region-wide Action Plan for Urban and Peri-urban Forestry (and the related implementation scheme in selected cities for potential future financing)	10,000
	Consultant for drafting the Action Plan x 2 months x \$5,000	10,000
	A1.3. Developing at least one (1) tool (handbook, checklist, guidelines) to assist stakeholders in tackling key challenges on sustainable urban forestry and unleash its full potential	7,500
	Consultant to develop at least one tool x 1.5 months x \$5,000	7,500
EA2. Strengthened networking, dialogue and exchange across sectors, institutions and levels of government to enable and foster sustainable urban forestry in the UNECE region	A2.1. Organising at least four (4) meetings of the "Informal Network of Experts on Sustainable Urban Forestry"	24,500
	Staff (P2) to plan and organize at least 4 meetings of the informal network and facilitate collaborative activities x 2 months x \$12,250	24,500
	A2.2. Organizing one (1) side event at one (1) regional meeting and one (1) side event at one (1) international meeting on the contributions of sustainable urban forestry to national objectives and global agendas for sustainable development and climate action	19,650
	Staff (P2) to organize the 2 side events x 1 month x \$12,250 Contractual services for 2 side events x \$3,700 per event	12,250 7,400
Budget summary		66,650
13% of Programme Support Costs		8,665
1% Levy		667
Total (rounded)		76,000