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Review of 2022 activities and planned activities for 2023

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Submitted by the Secretariat

Summary

This document lists the 2022 activities implemented by the joint Economic Commission for Europe/Food and Agriculture Organization (ECE/FAO) Forestry and Timber Section under the 2022-2025 ECE/FAO Integrated Programme of Work. It also presents a tentative list of activities for 2023 (its implementation being subject to availability of funds).

Due consideration is given to provide equal participation opportunities to all gender and people with disabilities in all listed activities.

The Committee is invited to approve the activities for 2023.



I. Review of 2022 activities

A. Work Area 1: Data, monitoring, reporting and assessment

1. Forest resources

(a) Collection, validation and dissemination of statistics on forest resources, functions and services, progress towards Sustainable Forest Management, and the contribution of the forest sector to a sustainable economy:

(i) Reporting on the Global Forest Resource Assessment (FRA) and the Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire (CFRQ): cooperation with the FAO and other CFRQ partners on the preparation of data collection for the 2025 reporting process;

(ii) Joint pan-European reporting on forests: cooperation with Forest Europe and FAO FRA secretariat on the preparation of the next reporting cycle, including monthly coordination meetings of the partner secretariats;

(iii) Cooperation with member States, and other national and international partners on the exchange of information and the development of forest information systems, including national forest databanks;

(iv) Dissemination of the results of the 2020 global and the pan-European reporting on forests and Sustainable Forest Management (SFM), including an update of the Forest Knowledge Platform INForest and the forestry-related component of the ECE Statistical Database.

(b) Analysis and assessment of the state of forests and the sustainability of forest management; and monitoring of the role of the forest sector in a sustainable economy:

(i) Continuation of the implementation of the project “Assessment of forest conditions and the impact of biotic and abiotic disturbances”, including monthly coordination meetings of the project team;

(ii) Development of the thematic study and review of formats for international reporting on forest disturbances;

(iii) Organization of a scientific-technical symposium on forest disturbance and damage in the ECE region on 29-30 September 2022, in Vienna, Austria.

(c) Cooperation and support to international Sustainable Forest Management processes, including regional criteria and indicator processes:

(i) Participation in the FAO FRA Advisory Group;

(ii) Cooperation with, and support to countries, organizations and international processes (e.g. Forest Europe) in the ECE region on monitoring SFM;

(iii) Contribution to capacity-building on forest monitoring in countries of the Caucasus, Central Asia, Eastern and South-East Europe;

(iv) Support to the work of the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management, including monthly coordination meetings of the Team’s core group; organization of the meeting of the Team on 28 September 2022 in Vienna, Austria.

2. Forest products and markets

(a) Collection, validation and dissemination of statistics on production, trade, consumption and prices of forest products:

(i) Preparation of historical data on forest products, species trade and prices;

(ii) Preparation of forecast data on forest products production and trade;

- (iii) Updates to the existing database and expansion of available information;
- (iv) Dissemination through the FAO statistical database (FAOSTAT) and ECE websites.

(b) Analysis of markets for forest products, notably relevant policy aspects, including the Forest Products Annual Market Review and annual Market Discussions:

- (i) Publication of the Forest Products Annual Market Review (FPAMR) 2021-2022;
- (ii) Preparation of data and the statistical annex for the FPAMR 2021-2022;
- (iii) Preparation of tables and graphs for the Market Forecasts 2022-2023;
- (iv) Preparation of the Market Discussion 2022 and the Market Statement 2022;
- (v) Dissemination of analysis at industry meetings.

(c) Support of international processes in forest products:

- (i) Participation in the Intersecretariat Working Group on Forest Sector Statistics and attendance at other international meetings;
- (ii) Organization of meetings of the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Products and Wood Energy Statistics and the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Sustainable Forest Products.

3. Wood energy

(a) Collection, validation and dissemination of statistics on wood energy:

- (i) Issuance of a new database on wood energy with 2019 data from the Joint Wood Energy Enquiry (JWEE2019);
- (ii) Preparation and issuance of the Joint Wood Energy Enquiry for collecting data for 2021 (JWEE2021);
- (iii) Dissemination of the JWEE2019 data at relevant international meetings;
- (iv) Increasing the visibility of ECE wood energy data.

B. Work Area 2: Policy dialogue and advice

(a) Contribution to the policy-related components of activities under Work Areas 1, 3 and 4:

- (i) Organization of a National Forest Policy Dialogue (NFPD) workshop in Kyrgyzstan (23-24 June 2022);
- (ii) Organization of a NFPD workshop in Uzbekistan (20-21 September 2022);
- (iii) Monitoring and developments in global and regional forest policy process (United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF); Forest Europe, United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)) and relevant contributions to these processes;
- (iv) Support to the continued implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests through policy dialogues at the regional and national levels (for 2022 – Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, see (i) and (ii)).

(b) The role of the forest sector in a circular bio-economy:

- (i) Analysis of how the circular bio-economy concepts are related to the forest-based sector;
- (ii) Exploration of wood-based value chains in a circular bio-economy;

(iii) Promotion and dissemination of information about the circular bio-economy, including its social dimension e.g., a joint UNECE/FAO/ILO (International Labour Organization) session on “Advancing decent work, green jobs and sustainability in the forest sector” during the World Forestry Congress (3 May 2022), launching of the study “Circularity concepts in forest-based industries” during an online event (30 June 2022).

(c) Forest Sector Outlook:

Presentation of the results of the Forest Sector Outlook Study at relevant international meetings (e.g. 17th session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF 17) side event 9 May 2022) and cooperation with relevant stakeholders at national, regional and international levels.

(d) Monitoring and support of international processes relevant to policymaking for the forest sector:

(i) To support the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and the forest landscape restoration pledges under the Bonn Challenge, organization of a meeting for the Caucasus and Central Asia on Forest Landscape Restoration and implementation of the Strategy for Landscape Restoration and Greening Infrastructure in the Caucasus and Central Asia (22 November 2021);

(ii) Contribution to the World Forestry Congress session on “Partnerships and collaboration for sustainable forest management” (4 May 2022);

(iii) Contribution to the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) panel session “SDGs in Focus: SDG 15 and Interlinkages with Other SDGs – Life on Land” attended by the UNECE Executive Secretary (11 July 2022).

(e) Boreal Forests:

(i) Organization of an online meeting of the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Boreal Forests (2 March 2022);

(ii) Preparation of a policy brief and communication material to promote the importance of boreal forests for climate action and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

(iii) Preparatory work including drafting of an overview and methodology for a possible future study on the state of boreal forests.

(f) Sustainable Urban and Peri-Urban Forestry:

(i) Publication of a policy brief on Sustainable Urban and Peri-Urban Forestry (https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-02/Urban%20forest%20policy%20brief_final_0.pdf);

(ii) Elaboration of a Sustainable Urban and Peri-Urban Forestry Draft Opportunities for Action Plan.

C. Work Area 3: Communication and outreach

(a) Organization of events and campaigns in support of Sustainable Forest Management and forest products and services:

(i) International Day of Forests (IDF) celebrated with an online event on “Forests for sustainable lifestyles and a circular economy” (21 March 2022);

(ii) Communicating the potential of forest landscape restoration in the ECE region through various events, including a virtual side event during the 6th European Forest Week on “Achievements – Challenges – Aspirations for Forest Landscape Restoration in the Caucasus and Central Asia” (22 November 2021);

- (iii) The 6th European Forest Week was held under the theme “Future of Forests”, including seven virtual side events (22-25 November 2021);
- (iv) Regional Forum for Sustainable Development (RFSD) 2022 Roundtable on Urban Forests for Future-Proof Cities (7 April 2022);
- (v) Organization of a virtual side event “Past, present and future of forests in the UNECE region and beyond” at UNFF17 (9 May 2022);
- (vi) Commemorative micro-forest planting event (4 October) on the occasion of the UNECE’s 75th anniversary during the 83rd session of the UNECE Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management, San Marino (3-7 October 2022);
- (vii) Impulse Lab: “Trees – Nature’s technology for climate-proof building” (5 October) as part of the 83rd session of the UNECE Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management (3-7 October 2022);
- (viii) Communication campaigns (e.g., ECCA30, Trees in Cities Challenge, Forests for Fashion initiative) including reels, posts and stories on social media.

(b) Dissemination of information via social media, policy briefs, press briefs and ad hoc studies:

- (i) Promotion and dissemination of studies and publications via press briefs and social media (Twitter: <https://twitter.com/UNECEForests>, LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/unece-forests> and Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/unecefaoforests/>);
- (ii) Promotion of the web site INForest on forest-statistics: <https://forest-data.unece.org/> in meetings and press releases, translation of available information into Czech, English, French, German, Polish and Russian;
- (iii) Compilation and dissemination of the Forest Information Billboard (<https://unece.org/forests/forest-information-billboard>);
- (iv) Production and launch of a podcast episode: “Forests - One World, Zero Waste? The Circular Economy Explained” as part of a UNECE-wide series (<https://unece.org/circular-economy/podcast-one-world-zero-waste-circular-economy-explained>);
- (v) Production of podcast episodes on wood construction, forest fires, urban forests and climate change and forests;
- (vi) Production of a video on the outcomes of the Ministerial Meeting on Forest Landscape Restoration and the ECCA30/Bonn Challenge in Eastern and South East Europe (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=161G9mm5rpo>);
- (vii) Production of a video on “Urban forests in context” to be published by December 2022.

(c) Press and news releases to present the outcomes of workshops, events and publications; and outreach activities beyond the forest sector, disseminating information that highlights the relevance of forests and forest products to other sectors (e.g. energy events, biodiversity and environment meetings, sustainable construction and building, etc.):

- (i) Press releases published in 2022 (as of 20 July 2022 – all press releases can be found here: <https://unece.org/media/forestry/press>): “UNECE and UNDP support Uzbekistan’s Yashil Makon/Green Nation initiative to fight against climate change” (22 June 2022), “Geneva, Lausanne, Nice and Bordeaux aim to bring the forest to the city” (10 March 2022), “UNECE supports Sustainable Urban and Peri-Urban Forestry for public health, climate resilience and green recovery” (22 February 2022);
- (ii) News releases published in 2022 (as of 20 July 2022 – all news releases can be found here: <https://unece.org/media/news?f%5B0%5D=program%3A342>): “Turning

commitments into reality: restoring forests in Kyrgyzstan in support of the national ‘Zhashyl Muras - Green Heritage’ initiative” (27 June 2022), “Forests can help cut plastic pollution and contribute to the circular economy, say UNECE/FAO” (2 June 2022), “At 2022 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, UNECE calls to build coherent resilience policies and governance and enhance transboundary cooperation to accelerate Sendai Framework implementation” (31 May 2022), “Urban forests can help future-proof cities” (13 April 2022), “Redesigning the future of fashion and packaging through forest-based materials is possible” (29 March 2022), “UNECE to showcase “Forests for sustainable lifestyles and a circular economy” on International Day of Forests 2022” (14 March 2022), “UNECE and FAO support countries of the Caucasus and Central Asia to advance forest landscape restoration” (9 February 2022).

D. Work Area 4: Capacity-building

(a) Improving national capacities of middle-income countries to implement Sustainable Forest Management:

- (i) Communication with countries on their technical cooperation needs;
- (ii) Organization and implementation of technical cooperation activities, raising of extrabudgetary funds as necessary;
- (iii) Coordination of technical cooperation of the sub-programme within ECE and FAO, communication with other international entities (particularly United Nations) and national partners;
- (iv) Organization of a capacity-building event on wood energy data collection for national correspondents (Joint Wood Energy Enquiry 2021).

(b) Strengthening capacity of policy and decisions makers, and forest service specialists to develop national forest information systems in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia:

- (i) Organization of the work and initiation of the project, advisory missions to selected countries of the project;
- (ii) Drafting guidance for developing forest information systems (FIS);
- (iii) Publication of study “Reporting on Forests and Sustainable Forest Management in the Caucasus and Central Asia” in English.

(c) Forest landscape restoration:

- (i) Technical meeting on the development of the Knowledge Exchange Platform on Forest Landscape Restoration in the Caucasus and Central Asia (3 December 2021);
- (ii) Organization of a “Regional Policy Dialogue on Forest Landscape Restoration” (9 February 2022);
- (iii) Organization of a workshop on “Validating a National Strategy Proposal for Forest Landscape Restoration in Kyrgyzstan” (Bishkek, 23-24 June 2022);
- (iv) Publication of the “National Policy Guiding Principles on Forest Landscape Restoration” in English and Russian;
- (v) Production of the knowledge-sharing platform on forest landscape restoration in the Caucasus and Central Asia, in English and Russian;
- (vi) Preparation of a feasibility study on the production of forest regeneration material in the Republic of Moldova and its development.

(d) Sustainable Urban and Peri-Urban Forestry:

- (i) Second Meeting of the Informal Network of Experts on Sustainable Urban Forestry (8 December 2021);
- (ii) Organization of a workshop on “Scaling up Urban Greening and forests in Cities” (18-19 Mar 2022);
- (iii) Informal meeting on benchmarking collaboration (Informal Network of Experts on Sustainable Urban Forestry) (28 March 2022);
- (iv) “Urban Forests for Future-Proof Cities” roundtable during the Regional Forum for Sustainable Development (RFSD) 2022 and Third Meeting of the Informal Network of Experts on Sustainable Urban Forestry (7 April 2022);
- (v) “Opportunities for Advancing Urban Forestry in the UNECE Region: Policy Roundtable” and Fourth Meeting of the Informal Network of Experts on Sustainable Urban Forestry (11 August 2022).

E. Secretariat services to its governing bodies and their subsidiary body**(a) Intergovernmental meetings:**

- (i) Organization of the 43rd session of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management (1-3 June 2022);
- (ii) Organization of the 80th Session of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (2-4 November 2022).

(b) Bureaux meetings:

Organization of the Joint UNECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI) and FAO Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (EFC) Bureaux meetings upon request of the Chairs of COFFI and EFC.

II. Tentative list of activities for 2023**A. Work Area 1: Data, monitoring, reporting and assessment****1. Forest resources****(a) Collection, validation and dissemination of statistics on forest resources, functions and services, progress toward Sustainable Forest Management, and the contribution of the forest sector to a sustainable economy:**

- (i) Reporting on the FRA and CFRQ: cooperation with the FAO and other CFRQ partners on the data collection for the 2025 reporting process;
- (ii) Joint pan-European data collection on forests: cooperation with Forest Europe and FAO FRA secretariat on the data collection for the 2025 reporting cycle, including development of the online data-collection system;
- (iii) Cooperation with member States, and other national and international partners on the exchange of information and the development of forest information systems, including national forest databanks;
- (iv) Dissemination of the results of the 2020 global and the pan-European reporting on forests and SFM.

(b) Analysis and assessment of the state of forests and the sustainability of forest management; and the monitoring of the role of the forest sector in a green economy:

Assessment of forest conditions and the impact of biotic and abiotic disturbances; publication of the thematic study.

- (c) **Cooperation and support to international Sustainable Forest Management processes, including regional criteria and indicator processes:**
- (i) Participation in the FAO FRA Advisory Group; Support to the UNFF secretariat on reporting on the implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 (if requested);
 - (ii) Cooperation with, and support to countries, organizations and international processes (e.g. Forest Europe) in the ECE region on monitoring SFM;
 - (iii) Contribution to capacity-building on forest monitoring in countries of the Caucasus, Central Asia, Eastern and South-East Europe;
 - (iv) Organization of the meeting(s) of the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Monitoring SFM.

2. Forest products and markets

- (a) **Collection, validation and dissemination of statistics on production, trade, consumption and prices of forest products:**
- (i) Preparation of historical data on forest products, species trade and prices;
 - (ii) Preparation of forecast data on forest products production and trade;
 - (iii) Improvement of the existing database and expansion of available information;
 - (iv) Dissemination through FAO and ECE statistical databases and websites.
- (b) **Analysis of markets for forest products, notably relevant policy aspects, including the Forest Products Annual Market Review and annual market discussions:**
- (i) Preparation of the FPAMR 2022-2023;
 - (ii) Preparation of data and the statistical annex for the FPAMR 2022–2023;
 - (iii) Preparation of tables and graphs for the market forecasts 2022–2023;
 - (iv) Publication of the FPAMR 2022–2023;
 - (v) Preparation of the market discussion 2023 and the Market Statement 2023;
 - (vi) Dissemination of analysis at industry meetings.
- (c) **Support of international processes in forest products:**
- (i) Participation in the Intersecretariat Working Group on Forest Sector Statistics and attendance at other international meetings;
 - (ii) Organization of meetings of the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Products and Wood Energy Statistics and the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Sustainable Forest Products.

3. Wood energy

- (a) **Collection, validation and dissemination of statistics on wood energy:**
- (i) Validation of wood energy data for the reference year 2021 collected via the JWEE;
 - (ii) Analysis of results of the JWEE2021;
 - (iii) Issuance of a new database on wood energy with 2021 data (JWEE2021);
 - (iv) Dissemination of the 2021 JWEE data at relevant international meetings;

(b) Analysis of energy-related issues, including demand for, and supply of, wood energy:

- (i) Preparation of new information material on wood energy, e.g. policy brief, short studies on various topics such as wood energy and the SDGs, wood energy and climate change, wood energy and air quality or another demand-driven topic;
- (ii) Upon request, provide input on forests to the ECE Environmental Performance Reviews.

(c) Support of international processes in wood energy:

Presentation of the wood energy work at relevant international meetings and cooperation with relevant processes (e.g. International Energy Agency, International Renewable Energy Agency, World Sustainable Energy Days).

B. Work Area 2: Policy dialogue and advice

(a) Contribution to the policy-related components of activities under Work Areas 1, 3 and 4:

- (i) Organization of national forest policy dialogues workshops in interested countries, possibly Tajikistan and Georgia;
- (ii) Monitoring and developments in global and regional forest policy processes (UNFF, Forest Europe, SDGs) and contributions, as relevant, to those processes;
- (iii) Support to the continued implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests by providing policy dialogues at the regional and national levels.

(b) The role of the forest sector in a circular economy:

- (i) Analysing how the circular economy concepts are related to the forest-based sector – continue the work on a definition of a circular economy in the forest sector;
- (ii) Exploration of wood-based value chains in a circular economy – work on a series of three studies;
- (iii) Promotion and dissemination of information on the circular economy, including its social dimensions.

(c) Forest Sector Outlook:

- (i) Dissemination of the Forest Sector Outlook Study in the ECE region;
- (ii) Presentation of the results of the Forest Sector Outlook Study at relevant international meetings and cooperation with relevant stakeholders at national, regional and international levels.

(d) Monitoring and support of international processes relevant to policymaking for the forest sector:

Organization of follow-up meetings for the Caucasus and Central Asia on Forest Landscape Restoration and the implementation of the Strategy for Landscape Restoration and Greening Infrastructure in the Caucasus and Central Asia.

(e) Boreal Forests:

- (i) Organization of meeting(s) of the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Boreal Forests;
- (ii) Preparation of policy briefs and communication material about boreal forest policy and science;
- (iii) Organization of webinar(s) on sustainable management of boreal forests;

(iv) Data collection on and analysis of common challenges, gaps, and best practices on boreal forest management.

(f) Urban Forestry:

(i) Promote sustainable urban forestry through outreach to engage cities to make a pledge to the Trees in Cities Challenge to expand urban forest cover and strengthen management and policy;

(ii) Organization of meeting(s) of the Informal Network of Experts on Sustainable Urban Forestry;

(iii) Preparation of a draft Sustainable Urban Forestry Action Plan for the UNECE Region.

C. Work Area 3: Communication and outreach

(a) Organization of events and campaigns in support of Sustainable Forest Management and forest products and services:

(i) Regional celebration of the IDF on 21 March 2023, Geneva, Switzerland;

(ii) Side event at the eighteenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF18), 2023;

(iii) Communication on forest landscape restoration in the ECE region through various events;

(iv) Communication on sustainable wood products in contributing to SDG 12 through various events and exhibitions;

(v) Various communication campaigns (e.g. ECCA30, Trees in Cities Challenge, Forests for Fashion initiative);

(vi) Organization of the 7th European Forest Week in parallel with the EFC/COFFI joint session.

(b) Dissemination of information via policy briefs, press briefs and ad hoc studies, whenever results are available and new information is released:

(i) Promotion and dissemination of studies and publications;

(ii) Promotion of the INForest platform on forest statistics: <https://forest-data.unece.org/> in meetings and press releases;

(iii) Compilation and dissemination of the Forest Information Billboard.

(c) Press and news releases and targeted social media articles to present the outcomes of workshops, events and publications; Outreach activities beyond the forest sector, disseminating information that highlights the relevance of forests and forest products to other sectors (e.g. energy events, biodiversity and environment meetings, sustainable construction and building):

Events organized on the margins of main forest-related and cross-sectoral meetings.

D. Work Area 4: Capacity-building

(a) Improving national capacities of middle-income countries to implement Sustainable Forest Management:

(i) Review of countries' technical cooperation and capacity-building needs;

(ii) Organization and implementation of technical cooperation activities;

(iii) Raising of extrabudgetary funds as necessary;

(iv) Coordination of technical cooperation of the sub-programme within ECE and FAO, collaboration with international entities (particularly other United Nations agencies/programmes), United Nations country offices as well as national partners.

(b) Strengthening capacity of policy and decisions makers, and forest service specialists to develop national forest information systems in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia:

(i) Analysis of the current situations, needs, requirements and opportunities for building forest information systems in pilot countries on e.g. forest policy and management support;

(ii) Drafting guidelines for developing national information systems.

(c) Organization of capacity-building workshops on:

(i) Forest policy and management support information systems (one sub-regional and two national workshops);

(ii) Global and pan-European data collection on forests and SFM;

(iii) Forest products statistics for national correspondents to the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire;

(iv) SFM focused on non-wood forest products and services, if requested;

(v) Urban and peri-urban trees and forests;

(vi) Forest landscape restoration in the ECE region in support of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

E. Secretariat services to its governing bodies and their subsidiary body

(a) Intergovernmental meetings:

(i) Forty-fourth session of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management (2023);

(ii) Joint session of the eighty-first session of the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI) and the forty-second session of the FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC) (2023).

(b) Bureaux meetings:

Joint COFFI and EFC Bureaux meetings upon request.

III. List of publications for 2023

<i>Title</i>	<i>English</i>	<i>French</i>	<i>Russian</i>
Forest Products Annual Market Review 2022-2023	E-600	[F-50]	R-150
COFFI Forecast for Forest Products	English only, online publications		
Forestry and Timber publication (2023)	E-600	[F-200]	R-200
Forestry and Timber publication (2023)	E-600		R-150
Forestry and Timber publication (2023)	E-600		
Forestry and Timber publication (2023)	English only, online publications		
Forestry and Timber publication (2023)	English only, online publications		