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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry

#### Eightieth session

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Item 6 (c) of the provisional agenda

**Programme of work for 2023 and recommendations on key components of the Programme of work 2024**

## **Draft programme of work of the Forests and the Forest Industry subprogramme for 2023**

### **Note by the Secretariat**

#### *Summary*

The present document sets out the draft programme of work of the Forests and the Forest Industry subprogramme for 2023.

The Committee is invited to review and adopt the draft programme of work of the Forests and the Forest Industry subprogramme for 2023 and recommend it to the Executive Committee for approval.



## Introduction

1. This document presents an outline of key components (objective, strategy and deliverables) of the programme of work of the Forests and the Forest Industry subprogramme (“the subprogramme”) for 2023. The Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry Matters (“the Committee”) is invited to adopt it and recommend to the Executive Committee for approval. Any subsequent additional, carried over or terminated deliverables will be reflected in the United Nations Umoja system used by the Secretariat for planning, monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the programme.
2. The draft programme of work applies a results-based management (RBM) approach, a broad management approach which establishes logical relationship between the hierarchical results (deliverables – results - objectives – impact) known as ‘results chain’, the resources (human and financial) known as ‘inputs’ and the external factors (strategic, governance, operational, financial) which can prevent from achieving the objective.
3. The objective, the strategy, the planned results and the deliverables in the draft programme of work correspond to those contained in the United Nations European Commission for Europe (ECE) proposed programme budget for 2023 (A/77/6 (Sect.20)). The work of the subprogramme is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In attaining its objective, the subprogramme builds on cross-sectoral collaboration with other subprogrammes in relevant ECE areas where multiple SDGs converge<sup>1</sup>. This type of collaboration enables the subprogramme to maximize existing synergies, increase the efficiency of its work and have a multiplying effect on the impact of its actions to support countries to implement SDGs. The deliverables of the subprogramme fall into the following main categories: (a) facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies; (b) generation and transfer of knowledge, including technical cooperation projects, training events, seminars, workshops, and publications; (c) other substantive deliverables, and (d) communication deliverables.
4. The details of the proposed publications are provided in Annex I. The overall ECE legislative mandates and those specific for the subprogramme are listed in Annex II.

## I. Objective

5. The **objective**, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to strengthen the sustainable management of forests and enhance the contribution of forests and forest products to sustainable development in the ECE region.

## II. Strategy

6. The **strategy** of the subprogramme is based on the implementation of the core interlinked functions, namely, analytical and normative work, international policy dialogue, capacity-building and communication.
7. To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will:
  - (a) continue to assist and promote cooperation among member States, regional entities and other partners for sustainable forest management, forest landscape restoration, the sustainable use of forest products and services, linkages between sustainable food systems and forests, and urban and peri-urban forestry;
  - (b) The subprogramme will also collect, validate and disseminate information, research and analysis related to sustainable forest management and the sustainable production and consumption of wood products;

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<sup>1</sup> The ECE cross-sectoral collaboration areas are as follows: (a) Digital and green transformations for sustainable development in the ECE region; (b) Circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources; (c) Sustainable and smart cities for all ages; (d) Sustainable mobility and smart connectivity; and (e) Measuring and monitoring progress towards achieving the SDGs.

(c) The subprogramme will further facilitate the exchange of national experiences and best practices and monitor progress on achieving sustainable forest management using indicators for Sustainable Development Goals 12 and 15, which will help member States measure progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and provide an indirect indication of progress under the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030;

(d) The subprogramme will support member States and organize capacity-building seminars and webinars and prepare dedicated publications on the forest sector, including on crisis response and on solutions for more resilient economies.

8. The subprogramme will carry out its work in partnership with The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and other relevant organizations and processes (e.g. the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the World Agroforestry Centre and Forest Europe).

9. The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:

(a) The ability of ECE member States to sustainably manage healthy forest ecosystems in order to provide important ecosystem goods and services to benefit society, including climate mitigation and adaptation;

(b) Increased and more efficient use by ECE member States of sustainable forest products that contribute to the circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources, with increased use of renewable raw materials to replace less-sustainable alternatives;

(c) The integration of forest resources and products into planning and recovery from economic, health and environmental shocks, including COVID-19 recovery, to increase the resilience of member States and their most vulnerable segments of population, such as women, people with disabilities and youth.

### III. Planned results for 2023

#### **Result 1: political commitment for ecosystem restoration in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe<sup>2</sup>**

##### **Programme performance in 2021 and target for 2023**

10. The subprogramme's work contributed to a cumulative total of 7 million hectares of commitments to ECCA30, which did not meet the planned target of 10 million hectares committed in 2021 under the Bonn Challenge in the Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia region. The target was not met because the ministerial meeting, originally planned for 2020, was postponed to 2021 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The entire process was thus delayed by a year.

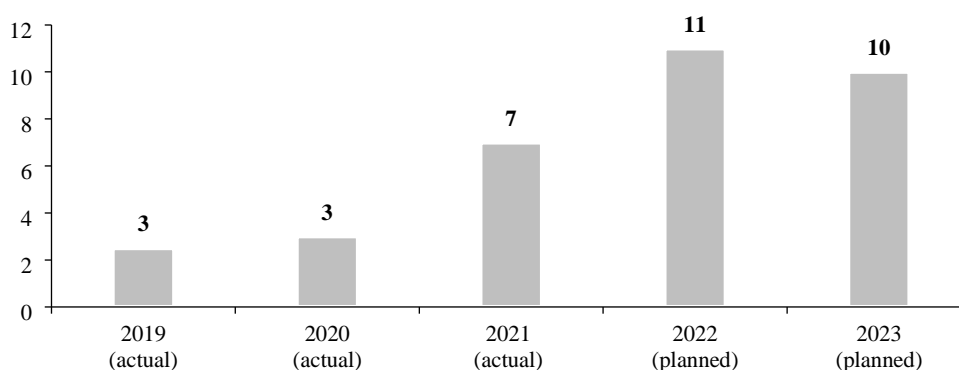
11. The progress towards the objective and the target for 2023 are presented in the performance measure below (see figure 1).

Figure 1

**Performance measure: commitments to ECCA30 (cumulative)**

<sup>2</sup> As reflected in the proposed programme budget for 2023 (A/77/6(Sect.20)).

(Millions of hectares)



## Result 2: increased access to forest product information to support evidence-led policymaking for the sustainable production and consumption of forest products<sup>3</sup>

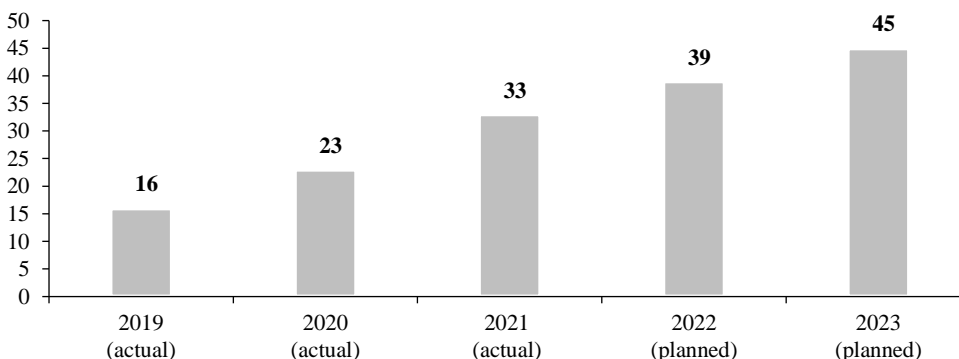
### Programme performance in 2021 and target for 2023

12. The subprogramme's work contributed to updated information on a cumulative total of 33 key forest product commodities, which exceeded the planned target of 31 wood-based commodities that are assessed with regard to their production, trade and consumption.

13. The progress towards the objective and the target for 2023 are presented in the performance measure below (see figure 2).

Figure 2

**Performance measure: number of wood-based commodities assessments available to member States with specific information regarding their production, trade and consumption (cumulative)**



## Result 3: enhanced accessibility and timeliness of sustainable forest management information and improved monitoring of the impact of increased wood use in a circular economy<sup>4</sup>

### Proposed programme plan for 2023

14. In the ECE region today, forests are managed sustainably, and many wood products are used, reused and recycled before being utilized in heat and power production at the final stage of their life cycle. The subprogramme has been working with member States on monitoring the sustainable use of wood resources for decades and has collected a wealth of regionally comparable data. Sustainably produced wood is expected to significantly contribute to the circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources by reducing the greenhouse gas and environmental footprint of various industries and activities. A strong surge in the demand for wood in the coming decades will likely increase the pressure on forests.

<sup>3</sup> As reflected in the proposed programme budget for 2023 (A/77/6(Sect.20)).

<sup>4</sup> As reflected in the proposed programme budget for 2023 (A/77/6(Sect.20)).

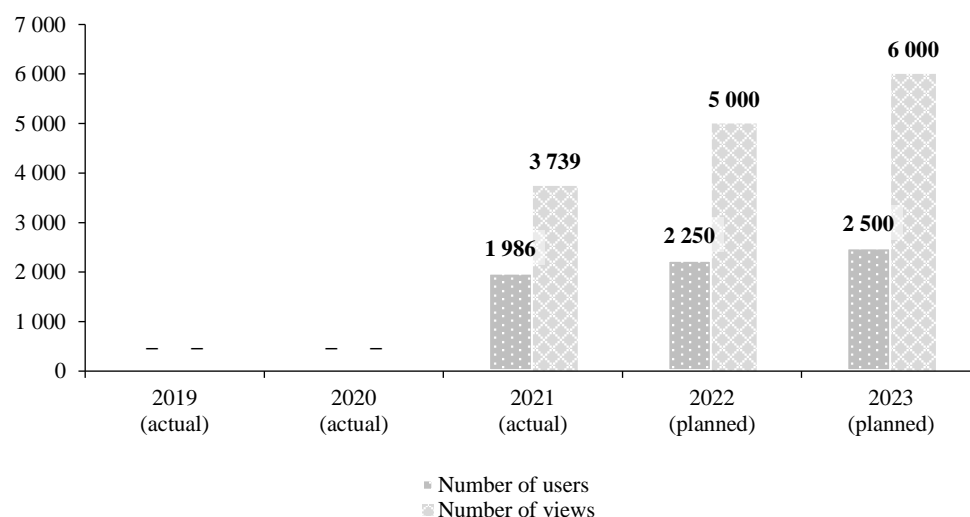
*Lessons learned and planned change*

15. The lesson for the subprogramme was that it needed to improve access to the wealth of data that has been systematically collected, which remained difficult. Data was dispersed over various online platforms and publications, was difficult to access and interpret, was not available in national languages and was often available only after significant delays. In applying the lesson, the subprogramme will promote its new tool that consolidates the collected data in an online platform, “INForest”. The platform presents information on forests and the forest-based sector in the ECE region, allowing decision makers to monitor market trends and policy measures related to the circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources as well as climate change and trade restrictions, among other things. Its dashboards improve the accessibility and timeliness of information on sustainable forest management. The subprogramme will support member States in adapting the platform to their national needs and expand its use and content.

16. The expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see figure 3).

Figure 3

**Performance measure: number of public users and number of views of up-to-date data on sustainable forest management from the INForest platform that is accessible to persons with disabilities (cumulative)**



#### IV. External factors

17. The subprogramme is expected to achieve its objective on the assumption that there is continued:

- (a) active country and stakeholder participation;
- (b) partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, including the provision of staff and non-staff resources, to implement the integrated ECE/FAO programme in this field; and
- (c) in kind and voluntary contributions from member States to support the implementation of planned activities.

#### V. Deliverables to be implemented in 2023

18. The below table lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for 2023 that are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2023 planned</i>
<b>A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies</b>	
<b>Parliamentary documentation</b> (number of documents)	<b>24</b>
1. Documentation for the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry/European Forestry Commission	18
2. Documentation for the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management	6
<b>Substantive services for meetings</b> (number of three-hour meetings)	<b>24</b>
Meetings of:	
3. The Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry/European Forestry Commission	8
4. The Bureau of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry	2
5. The Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management and of Teams of Specialists	14
<b>B. Generation and transfer of knowledge</b>	
<b>Seminars, workshops and training events</b> (number of days)	<b>12</b>
6. Training events for policymakers, experts and relevant stakeholders from countries in the ECE region on topics related to the ECE/FAO integrated programme	12
<b>Publications</b> (number of publications)	<b>7</b>
7. <i>Forest Products Annual Market Review</i>	1
8. On sustainable forest management and forest products	6
<b>C. Substantive deliverables</b>	
<b>Consultation, advice and advocacy:</b> forest policy dialogues at the request of countries and support for forest policy issues, for up to 3 member States.	
<b>Databases and substantive digital materials:</b> ECE region databases on forest policies and institutions; forest products; production, consumption and trade, including prices; and wood energy for global access. ECE region databases on forest resources and forest ownership (hosted by the ECE Statistical Division).	
<b>D. Communication deliverables</b>	
<b>Outreach programmes, special events and information materials:</b> events celebrating the International Day of Forests; brochures and information materials on various forest-related topics; presentations at round tables and international forest-related events.	
<b>External and media relations:</b> press releases for the subprogramme; Forest Information Billboard newsletter for approximately 4,000 subscribers.	
<b>Digital platforms and multimedia content:</b> website of the subprogramme; social media accounts; videos on forest-related topics.	

## Annex I

### Details of proposed publications and promotional material for 2023

#### A. Recurrent publications

<i>Item no.</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Mandate (to be adopted in November 2022)</i>	<i>Print and/or electronic</i>	<i>Trim size</i>	<i>No. of pages</i>	<i>Original language(s)</i>	<i>Translated language(s) and Source of funding (RB or XB)</i>	<i>No. of copies and language(s)</i>
1	Forest Products Annual Market Review 2022-2023	ECE/TIM/2022/2	Print	A4	206	E	F, R (all RB)	600E, 50F, 150R

#### B. Non-recurrent publications

<i>Item no.</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Mandate (to be adopted in November 2022)</i>	<i>Print and/or electronic</i>	<i>Trim size</i>	<i>No. of pages</i>	<i>Original language(s)</i>	<i>Translated language(s) and Source of funding (RB or XB)</i>	<i>No. of copies and language(s)</i>
2	COFFI Forecast for Forest Products Markets (2023) 129	ECE/TIM/2022/2	Electronic		44	E		
3	Forestry and Timber Publication 130	ECE/TIM/2022/2	Print	A4	147	E	R, F (all RB)	600E, 200F, 200R
4	Forestry and Timber Publication 131	ECE/TIM/2022/2	Print	A4	110	E	R	600E, 150R
5	Forestry and Timber Publication 132	ECE/TIM/2022/2	Print	A4	118	E		600E
6	Forestry and Timber Publication 133	ECE/TIM/2022/2	Electronic		118	E		
7	Forestry and Timber Publication 134	ECE/TIM/2022/2	Electronic		118	E		

## Annex II

### Legislative mandates

#### A. Overall Economic Commission for Europe legislative mandates

##### 1. Resolutions of the General Assembly

<i>Res No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
66/288	The future we want
67/10	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Eurasian Economic Community
67/290	Format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development
69/277	Political declaration on strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations
69/283	Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030
69/313	Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda)
70/1	Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
71/16	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization
71/256	New Urban Agenda
72/279	Repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
73/10	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Central European Initiative
73/195	Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
74/122	Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly
74/128	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly
74/144	Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto: accessibility
74/216	Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of



<i>Res No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
	the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development
74/231; 76/215	Development cooperation with middle-income countries
74/235	Women in Development
74/271	Progress towards an accountability system in the United Nations Secretariat
74/297	Progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 71/243 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
74/306	Comprehensive and coordinated response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic
75/8	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development – GUAM
75/9	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Commonwealth of Independent States
75/12	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization
75/216; 76/204	Disaster risk reduction
75/221	Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
75/233	Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
75/290 B	Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 72/305 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council  Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 67/290 on the format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and 70/299 on the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level  High-level political forum on sustainable development
75/324	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization
76/221	South-South cooperation

## 2. Resolutions of the Economic and Social Council

<i>Res No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
1998/46	Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields

2006/38	Workplan on reform of the Economic Commission for Europe and revised terms of reference of the Commission
2013/1	Outcome of the review of the 2005 Reform of the Economic Commission for Europe

### 3. Economic Commission for Europe decisions

<i>Res No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
A (64)	The Work of the Economic Commission for Europe
A (65)	Outcome of the review of the 2005 reform of ECE
A (66)	Endorsement of the High-level statement on the post-2015 development agenda and expected sustainable development goals in the ECE region
A (69)	High-level statement
B (69)	Circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources
C (69)	Extension of the mandate of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

## B. Legislative mandates specific to the subprogramme

### 1. Resolutions of the General Assembly

<i>Res No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
62/98	Non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests
67/200	International Day of Forests
71/285	United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030
71/286	United Nations Forest Instrument
73/284	United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030)
75/213	Promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, building on Agenda 21
75/219	Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development
76/210	Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
76/222	Agriculture development, food security and nutrition
76/223	Natural plant fibres and sustainable development

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**2. Resolutions of the Economic and Social Council**

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<i>Res No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
2015/33	International arrangement on forests beyond 2015
2017/4	United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 and quadrennial programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests for the period 2017–2020
2020/14	Outcome of the fifteenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests
2021/6	Programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests for the period 2022–2024

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