

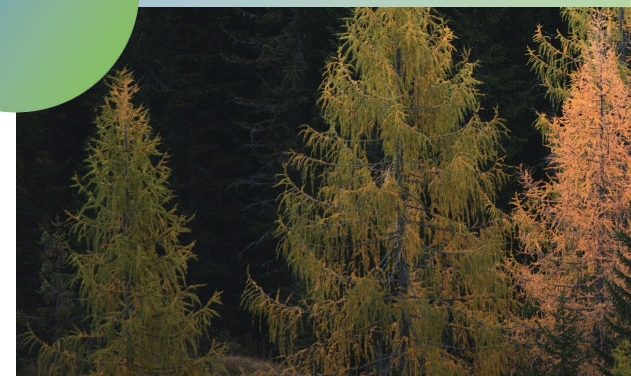


**Report by Mr. Peter Blombäck**

**Chair of the Committee on Forests  
and the Forest Industry (COFFI)**

**to the Executive Committee  
(EXCOM)**

30 November 2022



# Our work in 2022 in numbers

## More than 37 meetings including:

- 2 Intergovernmental meetings
  - 80th Session of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (2-4 November 2022) in-person (140 participants)
  - 43rd session of the Joint Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management (1-3 – June 2022) hybrid (over 110 participants)
- 7 ECE Teams of Specialists meetings
- 26 thematic events, capacity-building and webinars
- 1 Roundtable held at 2022 Regional Forum on Sustainable Development
- Contribution to the 2022 World Forestry Congress
- 1 side event held at UN Forum on Forests (UNFF17)
- UNECE tiny forest planted in San Marino
- 8 publications and policy briefs

# Achievements 2022 – Work Area 1: data, monitoring and assessment

Output

- **Scientific-technical symposium on forest disturbance and damage in the ECE region** held in Vienna, Austria, September 2022
- **Study:** “*Forest Products Annual Market Review 2021-2022*”
- **Updated set of wood energy data** published; **forestry** module added to ECE Statistical Database
- Workshops and technical meetings on reporting on forests, SFM and forest products (incl. Meetings of Teams of Specialists)

Impact

- Improved knowledge of the status of forests and sustainable forest management; refined monitoring, reporting and assessment of forest damage/disturbance;
- Improved comprehensive analysis of forest products in international markets, main market trends and drivers and current economic situation on forest product markets and wood energy

# Achievements 2022 – Work Area 2: policy dialogue and advice

Output

- **Two National Forest Policy Dialogue workshops: Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan**
- **Two Policy briefs on Sustainable Urban and Peri-Urban Forestry and Boreal Forest**
- Contributions to **World Forestry Congress on "Partnerships and collaboration for sustainable forest management"** and **United Nations Forum on Forests, New York, with side event on "Every tree counts"**
- **Study "Circularity concepts in forest-based industries"** published (sectoral study on construction forthcoming)

Impact

- Improved awareness of sustainable urban and peri-urban forestry and improved understanding of opportunities for actions in the UNECE region;
- Improved awareness of the importance of partnerships to achieve meaningful forest management (Forests 4 Fashion presented as a successful collaboration between the forest and fashion communities);
- Improved multi-partner cooperation (e.g. to support Uzbekistan's afforestation);
- Improved understanding of circular opportunities in the forest-based value chains

# Achievements 2022 – Work Area 3: communication and outreach

Output

- **International Day of Forests 2022 on "Forests for sustainable lifestyles and a circular economy"**
- **New podcast "Forest - One World, Zero Waste? The Circular Economy Explained" – 4 more forthcoming**
- **Trees and Cities Challenge grew to 67 participating cities from 30 countries**
- **UNECE tiny forest planted in San Marino to commemorate UNECE's 75th anniversary**
- **Established dedicated social media channels with weekly campaigns**
- **Quarterly ECE/FAO Forest Information Billboard**
- **Videos on the outcomes of the Forest Landscape Restoration UNECE FAO Ministerial Meeting and urban forestry produced**
- **3 CBD events on "Forests in cities and biodiversity"**

Impact

- Increased uptake of forest topics by media
- Under the UNECE Trees in Cities Challenge, cities pledged to plant over 12 million trees to date;
- On social media, the Joint Section has reached an estimated audience of 270,000.

# Achievements 2022 – Work Area 4: capacity-building

Output

- **Workshops:** "Validating a National Strategy Proposal for Forest Landscape Restoration" (Kyrgyzstan), "Scaling up urban greening and forests in cities" (Uzbekistan), "Afforestation Master Plan and Financing" (Uzbekistan) and "Future-proof green cities make future-proof countries - building urban and peri-urban tree and forest resilience" (Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan).
- **Support to Uzbekistan on developing Master Plan for Forest Landscape Restoration (Joint UNDP-UNECE-UNHCR and Uzbekistan State Committee for Ecology project) and to Moldova on developing strategy for forest nursery sector.**
- **5 capacity building meetings** on sustainable urban forestry
- **Regional Policy Dialogue on Forest Landscape Restoration** for Caucasus and Central Asia
- **"National Policy Guiding Principles on Forest Landscape Restoration"** and **"Reporting on Forests and Sustainable Forest Management in the Caucasus and Central Asia"** published
- **Forest landscape restoration knowledge-sharing platform** launched

Impact

- Improved capacity of member States to create favourable policy environments for successful FLR activities;
- Strengthened information exchange on FLR and accelerated regional forest restoration efforts;
- Strengthened capacity of member States to advance urban forestry in the UNECE region.
- Improved coordinated interventions among development partners through joint projects

# Major activities planned for 2023

**Joint UNECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management June 2023,**

**Joint UNECE/FAO COFFI 81st Session in November 2023 and 42nd Session of the FAO European Forestry Commission. (Meetings of Teams of Specialists throughout the year)**

**National capacity-building (e.g.):** Non-wood forest supply chains; urban and peri-urban trees and forests; forest information systems; forest landscape restoration

**Studies (e.g.):** wood-based value chains in a circular economy; Forest Information Systems; boreal forest management; Regional Sustainable Urban Forestry Opportunities Plan

**Reporting:** 2025 cycle of data collection on forests and sustainable forest management; forest products statistics;

**Events:** International Day of Forests (21 March 2023); Side event at UNFF18; 7<sup>th</sup> European Forest Week.

**Publications and Policy briefs**

# Decisions for EXCOM

## **The Executive Committee is invited to approve:**

- (a) The programme of work of the Forests and the Forest Industry Subprogramme for 2023, as contained in document ECE/TIM/2022/6;
- (b) The renewal of the mandate of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management, as contained in document ECE/TIM/2022/2, for the period 2022–2026.





# THANK YOU

Chair  
UNECE Committee on Forests and the Forest  
Industry  
30 November 2022

