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Draft regional urban forestry opportunity plan

Draft Regional Urban Forestry Opportunity Plan

Submitted by the Secretariat

Summary

This document was prepared by the secretariat under the project "Sustainable urban forestry as a cost-effective nature-based solution for green, resilient, and healthy development in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) region" (Switzerland, ECE-E395).

It was presented to the 80th session of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry, which "recommended that the Draft Regional Urban Forestry Opportunity Plan be presented for possible adoption at the next Joint Session of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the European Forestry Commission". In preparation thereof, the Working Party is invited to comment on the plan.

I. Introduction

1.   Forests, trees, and other vegetation in urban areas make important contributions to the creation of resilient, healthy, and vibrant cities. As highlighted in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) policy brief on Sustainable Urban and Peri-urban Forestry (SUPF),[1] urban and peri-urban forests (UPF) provide important nature-based solutions for sustainable and resilient urban development. This includes essential contributions to climate action, public health promotion, biodiversity conservation, food security and economic development (see Figure 1). Indeed, the many contributions of urban forests to greener, healthier, and happier cities for all have received increasing recognition in recent years, such as the "Call for Action" of the 2018 World Forum on Urban Forests.[2]

Figure
The Potential of Urban and Peri-urban Forestry

Source: United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, 2022.

2.   Optimising the ecosystem services and benefits provided by urban and peri-urban forests requires a strategic approach to SUPF, implementing policies and programmes from the local to the international levels. Efforts should be based on long-term planning to manage and expand urban and peri-urban forest cover in a manner that maximizes benefits for all. This depends not only on planting trees, but also ensuring that they are cared for and kept healthy over the long-term. A cross-sectoral approach will be critical for building capacities in urban forestry and engaging with urban planning, public health, tourism, and other sectors. This cross-sectoral approach will contribute to many development challenges and objectives, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Global Forest Goals, climate action, disaster risk reduction, biodiversity conservation, landscape restoration and sustainable cities.

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[1] UNECE, 2022. Sustainable Urban and Peri-urban Forestry. An Integrative and Inclusive Nature-Based Solution for Green Recovery and Sustainable, Healthy and Resilient Cities. Policy Brief. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Geneva.https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-02/Urban%20forest%20policy%20brief_final_0.pdf.

[2] WFUF, 2022. Call for Action. World Forum on Urban Forests. Website. https://www.worldforumonurbanforests.org/take-action/wfuf-call-for-action.html.

3.   In the UNECE region, this includes important contributions to sustainable cities. The UNECE policy brief 'Place and Life in the ECE[3] recommends a three-pronged approach to building more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable cities post-COVID-19, including: 1) tackling inequalities and development deficits; 2) strengthening the capacities of local actors (particularly local governments) and; 3) pursuing a resilient, inclusive and green economic recovery. SUPF has an important role to play in meeting all three components, with focus on the environmental qualities and resources of cities, as also highlighted by the Geneva United Nations Charter on Sustainable Housing.[4] Post-Covid-19 recovery and rebuilding in cities could prioritise green, gender-responsive, and sustainable pathways, including a focus on enhancing local climate resilience using SUPF as a nature-based solution. Equitable access must be provided to urban infrastructure and facilities, including urban and peri urban green space and forests, with a specific focus on vulnerable groups, as also stressed in SDG target 11.7 on sustainable urban communities. Good governance and data-driven approaches for building urban resilience are also called for.

4.   When strengthening the contributions of SUPF to healthier, more resilient, and more liveable cities, it is important to work collaboratively and in a coordinated way, with a wide range of actors and stakeholders at various levels. An important aspect of this are the many different owners of forests, including local governments, national states, sub-national governments, not-for-profits, private owners and community actors. Local authorities throughout the UNECE region own millions of hectares of forests, but much less is known about the trees outside forests under local authority ownership. The frequently fragmented ownership of urban and peri-urban forests is a challenge for cohesive and strategic planning and management.

5.   Due to forest loss and fragmentation in urban areas, there is often an urgent need for forest landscape restoration and tree planting. The National Policy Guiding Principles for Forest Landscape Restoration[5] can assist in this effort. Providing an integrating framework that can be applied across a range of land uses to ensure that key ecosystem goods and services are available for future generations. Principles related to increasing awareness, developing supportive governance and greening non-forest sectors align with identified opportunities for action to strengthen SUPF.

6.   This document outlines opportunities for action to enhance Sustainable Urban and Peri-urban Forestry throughout the UNECE region, focusing on cross-sectoral and cross-scale collaboration between actors.

A.   Common Terms

7.   For the purposes of this paper, the following definitions are used for commonly used terms:

        (a)   **Sustainable urban and peri-urban forestry (SUPF):** is defined as "*the art, science, and practice of planning, designing, establishing, and managing urban and peri-urban forests to meet current needs and desires of society for the benefits these provide, without compromising the availability of these for future generations*".[6] Although the focus

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[3] UNECE, 2021. Place and Life in the ECE – A Regional Action Plan 2030: Tackling challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic, climate and housing emergencies in region, city, neighbourhood and homes. Regional Action Plan. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Geneva. https://unece.org/hlm/documents/2021/08/session-documents/place-and-life-ece-regional-action-plan-2030-tackling.

[4] UNECE, 2015. The Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Geneva. https://unece.org/DAM/hlm/documents/Publications/EN_Geneva_UN_Charter_on_Sustainable_Housing.pdf.

[5] UNECE, 2022. National Policy Guiding Principles for Forest Landscape Restoration. Policy Guide. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Geneva. https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-08/NPGP-general-version2022%20_0.pdf.

[6] UNECE, 2022. Sustainable Urban and Peri-urban Forestry. An Integrative and Inclusive Nature-

is on forests and trees as determining components, SUPF also links to the wider green and blue infrastructure in urban areas.

(b) **UNECE region:** refers to the region comprised of UNECE member States.

(c) **Local Authority:** refers to authorities with legislative, judicial, and executive authority of local government units, such as cities and towns. This often refers to the smallest geographic areas distinguished for administrative and political purposes,[7] although many cities may be comprised of multiple district or neighbourhood authorities with more limited mandates. Local authorities may refer to communities including, but not limited to, municipalities, cities, towns, townships, and village.

(d) **Sub-national:** refers to the governance level of provinces, cantons, states and so on, excluding the level of local authorities.

(e) **Private sector:** refers to private owners and business entities, private institutions and other private ownership arrangements.

(f) **Civil society:** refers to non-governmental organizations, not-for-profits and similar entities.

(g) **Financial Institution:** includes financial institutions and funding entities that provide access to capital in different forms.

(h) **Urban Area**: comprises a city or town proper and also the suburban fringe or thickly settled territory that may be lying outside, but adjacent to, its boundaries.[8]

B. Overarching Principles

8. Sustainable urban and peri-urban forests are a nature-based solution and form part of the critical infrastructure of sustainable cities. To maximize ecosystem services over time, they should:

(a) Be resilient, sustainable, and multifunctional.

(b) Be properly planned, designed, established and managed over time as part of an interconnected socio-ecological network.

(c) Equitably provide benefits to all segments of urban populations.

9. While afforestation and tree planting are important, proper management and stewardship over time are critical to ensuring that urban trees can grow old and provide the fullest range of ecosystem services.

10. To ensure this, SUPF must adopt the following approaches:

(a) **It is critical to plant the right tree in the right place, for the right reasons.** Urban forests are part of complex socioecological networks. Different designs of urban forests, with different trees, will yield different outcomes and benefits. Strategic long-term planning is critical to ensure that urban forests are designed to deliver on the desired benefits. This is particularly important in the context of climate change, and continuous research is needed to understand climate impacts on urban forests and to identify resilient species and ecosystem structures.

(b) **A strategic and structural approach to the sustainable management of urban and peri urban forests is required.** This includes appropriate and specific governance structures and processes, policies and programs from the UNECE regional level

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Based Solution for Green Recovery and Sustainable, Healthy and Resilient Cities. Policy Brief. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Geneva. https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-02/Urban%20forest%20policy%20brief_final_0.pdf.

[7] UNECE, 2020. Who owns our forests? Forest ownership in the ECE region. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Geneva. https://unece.org/DAM/timber/publications/2008976E_lastWeb.pdf.

[8] UNSD, 2017. Population density and urbanization. United Nations Statistics Division, New York.https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sconcerns/densurb/densurbmethods.htm.

to the local (e.g. city) level. Urban and peri-urban forests are framed in a broad perspective of forests and trees as part of wider green infrastructure and nature-based solutions. The implementation of policies will require masterplans at the city level, but also, for example, policies and legislation at national and sub-national levels.

(c) **Coordination and collaboration across sectors, boundaries and levels of governance must form the roots of SUPF.** To enable and ensure good cooperation, it is critical that mandates and responsibilities of relevant stakeholders be clearly defined. Cross-sectoral collaboration should recognise, consider and enhance the contributions of SUPF to urban development, economics, public health, and other agendas, and vice-versa. Community and forest owner participation is of fundamental importance, and inclusive approaches to planning, design, management and monitoring should be promoted and protected. This should engage private sector and other civil society actors as well.

(d) **Greater awareness about the roles and benefits of SUPF and greater capacity to act will enhance outcomes**, including by helping to facilitate cross-sectoral collaboration. Knowledge also needs to be generated and mobilised in support of SUPF and linked to awareness raising efforts. Dedicated training and capacity building are needed as part of these efforts to ensure that skilled professionals can implement SUPF activities.

C. Vision and Goals

11.   **Vision.** Opportunities for regional actions can be framed under the following overall vision for the UNECE Region:

(a)   Urban and peri-urban forests are developed to deliver multiple essential ecosystem services that benefit local urban and peri-urban communities and contribute to national policy objectives, the SDGs, and global goals for climate action, disaster risk reduction, biodiversity conservation, landscape restoration, and sustainable cities.

(b)   Urban and peri-urban forests are managed sustainably, guided by national, sub-national, and city authority policies, regulations, strategies, and plans that are implemented with adequate resources over time.

12.   **Goals.** The following overall goals would then direct future actions, to be delivered at different levels ranging from the UNECE regional to the local level:

(a)   Raise awareness of the benefits of SUPF and the need for sustainable resource management.

(b)   Strengthen governance, policies, regulatory frameworks, and financing for SUPF at the national, sub-national, and local levels.

(c)   Provide guidance for, and enhance the development and implementation of, masterplans, management plans and good practices in SUPF.

(d)   Strengthen technical and human capacities for the implementation of SUPF programs.

(e)   Build inclusive partnerships and participatory approaches for developing and delivering SUPF programs and initiatives.

13.   Goals can only be realised through the joint efforts of a wide range of stakeholders, from the UNECE regional to the local level (e.g. the city or even city district level).

II. Policy Areas

A. Policy Area A: Awareness of benefits and sustainable management

14.   **Goal A: Raise awareness of the benefits of SUPF and the need for sustainable resource management:**

(a)   Although there has been increasing focus on the importance of greening cities, there is still limited awareness and knowledge about the current benefits of SUPF and its potential amongst many policymakers, local authorities, investors and professionals working in other sectors. There is also a need to raise awareness about SUPF amongst urban residents across the UNECE region.

(b)   Under this goal, the focus is on identifying, assessing, and communicating the many benefits of SUPF. Proper assessment of ecosystem services and benefits provided by SUPF, both in monetary and non-monetary terms, will be an important component of advocating for SUPF. This includes contributions to climate action, public health promotion, food security, sustainable economic development and tourism, biodiversity conservation and disaster risk reduction, among others. Awareness raising is important as cities grow and densify, often placing urban trees and forests under threat.

(c)   The growing interest in the greening of cities has resulted in numerous tree planting and afforestation initiatives. Although it is important to expand urban forests, it is just as essential that trees reach maturity which requires sound selection, establishment, and maintenance. Increasing awareness of long-term and sustainable management approaches is therefore another essential task.

Table 1
Goal A: Raise awareness of the benefits of SUPF and the need for sustainable resource management

Target	Actions	Scope of Actions
A.1. Awareness of the multiple and essential benefits of SUPF. The many benefits, provided through a series of ecosystem services, of SUPF need to be highlighted and widely communicated amongst stakeholders. A special effort should be made to raise awareness amongst decision-makers in other sectors.	A.1.1. Compile and disseminate information on the essential benefits provided by urban forests, related to, among others, climate action, public health, food security, biodiversity conservation, and economic development	UNECE Regional, National, Sub-national, Local Authority, Academia, Private Sector, Financial Institution, Civil Society
	A.1.2. Implement campaigns and partnerships that promote the role and benefits of SUPF to the public at large, as well as decision-makers at different levels.	National, Local Authority, Private Sector, Civil Society
A.2. The benefits of urban forests are known in monetary and non-monetary terms. Standardised monetary valuation methods, based on e.g., good practices, will be needed for more comprehensive assessments of urban forests, their benefits, and the associated monetary and non-monetary values.	A.2.1. Identify, develop, and disseminate methods to value the economic, environmental, and social benefits of SUPF.	UNECE Regional, National, Academia, Private Sector, Financial Institution
	A.2.2. Identify and communicate emerging market opportunities (e.g., including payments for ecosystem services) provided by SUPF.	UNECE Regional, National, Sub-national, Local Authority, Academia, Private Sector, Financial Institution
	A.2.3. Conduct local, national, and regional evaluations of the economic value of SUPF to guide planning and investment.	UNECE Regional, National, Sub-national, Local Authority, Academia, Private Sector
A.3. The need for sustainable management of urban and peri-urban forests is widely known. Urban trees and forests only start providing their full range of ecosystem services and benefits when they have a chance to mature. Rather than placing too much emphasis on tree planting, the importance of longevity and proper	A.3.1. Awareness raising and information provision that emphasise the importance of successfully establishing trees and managing them over the long-term to ensure ensuring that they reach maturity.	UNECE Regional, National, Sub-national, Local Authority, Academia, Private Sector, Civil Society
	A.3.2. Promotion of successful long-term management of urban	UNECE Regional, National, Sub-national, Local Au-

Target	Actions	Scope of Actions
long-term management needs to be made clear to those involved.	forests which results in healthy and mature trees that provide high levels of ecosystem services.	thority, Academia, Private Sector, Civil Society

B. Policy Area B: Governance, policies, and regulatory frameworks

15.   **Goal B: Strengthen governance, policies, regulatory frameworks, and financing for SUPF at the national, sub-national, and local levels.**

(a)   Appropriate and specific governance structures and coordination processes, policies, and dedicated regulatory frameworks, with clear mandates, long-term goals and strategic directions are needed. These should enable, guide, support and align efforts to sustainably manage and expand urban and peri-urban forests as a nature-based solution and recognized component of the critical infrastructure of sustainable cities. This includes urban forestry policies that set clear visions and goals and have a longer-term focus, as well as the integration of urban forestry objectives in national, sub-national, and local-level policies and strategies related to, among other, climate action, public health, biodiversity conservation, food security, economic development and tourism, urban development, and risk management. Where institutional mandates for SUPF activities are not clearly defined, or where they are dispersed, governance structures may need to be clarified or revised. 2. Management plans are important for organising and directing SUPF activities. Technologies can help, for example, to ensure sufficient below- and above-ground space for trees. Given the challenging growing conditions that trees face in cities, it is essential that SUPF use appropriate technologies and current best practices.

(b)   Financing of SUPF should be longer-term and reliable, with public finance playing a critical role. Private sector involvement and other types of funding are also important. Urban forests and trees should be included in asset management at the local (e.g. city) level.

Table 2
Goal B: Strengthen governance, policies, regulatory frameworks, and financing for SUPF at the national, sub-national, and local levels

Target	Actions	Scope of Actions
B.1. Policies and programs are in place for SUPF with clear visions, aims and objectives, and longer-term perspectives.	B.1.1. Develop and provide guidelines for developing national SUPF policies.	UNECE Regional
These policies and programs should have a cross-sectoral focus and link up	B.1.2. Develop national-level objectives and targets for urban and peri-urban forestry.	National
to, among other, climate action, biodiversity conservation, public health, food security, and urbanisation agendas.	B.1.3. Develop a national SUPF policy and mainstream recommendations in sectoral plans and sub-national coordination mechanisms.	National
B.2. Regulatory frameworks are conducive to sustainable urban and peri-urban forestry.	B.2.1. Ensure that urban and peri-urban forests (UPF) are codified in national and sub-national regulations.	National, Sub-national, Local Authority
The protection of urban and peri-urban forests in high-pressure urban settings is heavily dependent on the presence of appropriate laws, rules, and regulations.	B.2.2. Strengthen protection for UPF through national, sub-national and local legislation and regulations.	National, Sub-national, Local Authority
	B.2.3. Strengthen regulations and incentives to align and coordinate actions of different actors, including those of private owners	National, Local Authority

Target	Actions	Scope of Actions
	with national and sub-national SUPF objectives and targets.	
B.3. Clear governance structures, institutional mandates and coordination mechanisms are in place for urban forestry. Urban forestry is a cross-sectoral activity and it is not always clear who is in charge or involved. Sustainable and effective programs need to be based on clear mandates and strong coordination mechanisms	B.3.1. Identify key actors in urban forest governance and clarify institutional mandates and responsibilities – including mandates and responsibilities at the level of specific institutions.	UNECE Regional, National, Sub-national, Local Authority, Private Sector, Civil Society
	B.3.2. Integrate sustainable urban and peri-urban forestry objectives into existing and relevant policies and coordination mechanisms (cross-sectoral, across levels of governance, and both state and non-state) For example, related to climate change adaptation and mitigation, disaster risk reduction, water management, public health promotion, tourism, biodiversity conservation, food security, and economic development.	UNECE Regional, National, Sub-national, Local Authority, Private Sector, Civil Society
	B.3.3. Where needed, develop new coordination mechanisms for urban forest governance at the national, sub-national, and local level of governance, as well as for transboundary collaboration.	UNECE Regional, National, Sub-national, Local Authority, Private Sector, Civil Society
B.4. Sustainable funding programs are set up for SUPF. Funding programs should include, where feasible, both public and private funds and focus on both urban forest expansion and the management of existing SUPF.	B.4.1. Provide guidance on budgeting and financing SUPF.	UNECE Regional, National, Private Sector, Financial Institution
	B.4.2 Ensure SUPF is integrated into existing public budgets, aligning expenditures across sectors where relevant. Budget allocations for SUPF should predictable over time.	National, Sub-national, Local Authority
	B.4.3. Develop and replicate SUPF financing instruments to mobilize additional finance and meet specific needs.	UNECE Regional, National, Sub-national, Financial Institution, Civil Society
	B.4.4. Align cross-sectoral efforts and action at the sub-national level with national policy objectives through national or sub-national financing mechanisms for SUPF.	National, Sub-national, Local Authority

C. Policy Area C: Planning and management

16. **Goal C: Provide guidance for, and enhance the development and implementation of, masterplans, management plans and good practices in SUPF.**

(a) Urban forests can provide many benefits, but only if the right tree is planted in the right place for the right reasons, which requires careful long-term planning. Furthermore, urban forests will only provide the intended benefits if planted trees survive and grow to maturity. Management should ensure the longevity of urban trees, shifting the focus from planting to establishing and maintaining healthy mature trees.

(b)   Management plans are important for organising and directing SUPF activities. Technologies can help, for example, to ensure sufficient below- and above-ground space for trees. Given the challenging growing conditions that trees face in cities, it is essential that SUPF use appropriate technologies and current best practices.

(c)   Management should be adaptive as conditions are rapidly changing. It is important to develop an urban forest that is resilient and constituted of a mix of tree species that are adapted to climate change. Urban trees and forests should be supported by management standards developed by industry and government.

(d)   Joint research should be promoted to support the above, creating important synergies and exchanging new knowledge.

Table 3
Goal C: Provide guidance for, and enhance the development and implementation of, masterplans, management plans and good practices in SUPF

Target	Actions	Scope of Actions
C.1. Planning and management can be based on sound understanding of the urban forest resource. An important first step is to assess the current state of the urban forest, followed by regular monitoring of change. Also important is to consider the local context and current SUPF uses. Developing standardised metrics for urban forest inventories and monitoring will be important.	C.1.1. Develop guidelines and tools for conducting urban forest inventories and monitoring. This may include guidelines and tools for integration into national forest inventories	UNECE Regional, National, Sub-national, Local Authority, Academia, Private Sector, Financial Institution, Civil Society
	C.1.2. With input of cities, implement and coordinate data collection and monitoring of urban forests at the national (and sub-national) level, where possible, for scale efficiencies and in support of local authorities.	National, Sub-national, Local Authority, Academia, Private Sector, Civil Society
	C.1.3. Integrate urban forests in national (and sub-national) forest inventories.	National, Sub-national
	C.1.4. Conduct urban forest inventories and monitoring, in coordination with activities under C.1.2.	Local Authority, Private Sector, Civil Society
C.2. Strategic approaches drive the management of urban forests. Urban master planning and strategic management approaches are called for, based on clear guidance. This also requires developing sets of metrics and performance indicators to monitor program success.	C.2.1. Develop guidelines for preparing urban forest master plans at the local (e.g. city) level.	UNECE Regional, Local Authority, Academia
	C.2.2. Develop standardised national metrics and performance indicators for urban forestry.	UNECE Regional, National, Sub-national, Local Authority, Academia, Private Sector, Financial Institution
	C.2.3. Develop urban forest master plans to provide strategic direction and cross-sectoral collaboration for SUPF.	National, Sub-national, Local Authority, Private Sector, Civil Society
	C2.4. Enhance the development of management plans that structure and guide SUPF activities.	National, Sub-national, Local Authority, Private Sector
C.3. Good practices and suitable technologies in urban forestry are widely used. Urban trees face very difficult growing conditions in cities, resulting in short	C.3.1. Carry out joint research activities that support urban forest planning and management.	UNECE Regional, National, Sub-national, Local Authority, Academia, Private Sector, Civil Society

Target	Actions	Scope of Actions
life spans and a lower provision of ecosystem services. Good practices and well-tested and novel technologies can help enhance the longevity and performative life of trees, and with that the sustainability of urban forestry. Research can help identify those practices and technologies that work, also under the new reality of climate change. This can relate, for example, to establishment and management practices, but also developing a resilient urban forest with a mix of suitable tree species.	C.3.2. Compile and disseminate examples of good practices and technologies in urban forestry.	UNECE Regional, National, Local Authority, Academia, Private Sector, Financial Institution, Civil Society
	C.3.3. Foster the implementation of good practices and technologies in urban forestry.	UNECE Regional, National, Sub-national, Local Authority, Academia, Private Sector, Financial Institution, Civil Society
	C.3.4. Support the testing of good practices and technologies in urban forestry.	National, Sub-national, Local Authority, Academia, Private Sector, Financial Institution, Civil Society.

D.   Policy Area D: Technical and human capacities

17.   **Goal D: Strengthen technical and human capacities for the implementation of SUPF programs.**

(a)   SUPF is an interdisciplinary and highly complex field that integrates knowledge and skills on the interactions between cities and forests, trees, and people from a wide range of fields. Growing trees in often harsh urban environments requires professionals that have been educated and trained in dedicated urban forestry programs. Although there are university, vocational, and technical education and training opportunities in fields such as arboriculture, horticulture, forestry, and landscape design, comprehensive urban forestry programs are lacking. Where stand-alone programs are difficult to set up, urban forestry aspects need to be integrated into existing programs.

(b)   SUPF also needs people who can provide 'green leadership' within public sector agencies, businesses, not-for-profits, and community groups.

Table 4
Goal D: Strengthen technical and human capacities for the implementation of SUPF programs

Target	Actions	Scope of Actions
D.1. Dedicated urban forestry training and education in place in most UNECE countries. Building capacities (technical and human), including a well-educated urban forestry workforce will support the implementation of SUPF programs. Urban forestry should become regarded as a recognised profession that attracts talent.	D.1.1. Support the development of training materials (including curricula) and the organisation of training (including vocational and academic).	National, Local Authority, Academia, Private Sector, Civil Society
	D.1.2. Develop formal education and training of SUPF professionals.	National, Sub-national, Academia, Private Sector, Civil Society
D.2. Strong networks for SUPF present at the regional and national level promote knowledge sharing and collaboration. Collaborative networks of urban foresters and affiliated professions, as well as other stakeholders, can promote shared learning, knowledge exchange, and collaboration. Communities of knowledge and	D.2.1. Initiate and strengthen networks of SUPF experts and affiliated professionals at the regional and national level that support knowledge exchange, collaboration, and capacity building.	UNECE Regional, National, Academia, Private Sector, Civil Society
	D.2.2. Promote the development of professional associations specifically for SUPF.	National, Academia, Private Sector, Civil Society

Target	Actions	Scope of Actions
practice will strengthen SUPF across the UNECE region.	D.2.3. Organise conferences and events that help build communities of practice and knowledge.	UNECE Regional, National, Academia, Private Sector, Civil Society

E. Policy Area E: Inclusive partnerships and participatory approaches.

18. **Goal E: Build inclusive partnerships for the development and delivery of SUPF programs at different levels.**

(a) To integrate urban and peri-urban forestry into other relevant policy domains and thereby maximize its potential as a nature-based solution, SUPF should be a cross-sectoral undertaking, involving government, private sector, and civil society stakeholders. SUPF is seldom the domain of urban forestry professionals alone: urban green spaces and trees can make essential contributions to climate, public health, biodiversity, urban planning, disaster management, tourism, and other policy domains. Affiliated professions such as architecture, landscape architecture, and ecology play essential roles, as do professions such as engineering, healthcare, and urban planning. Partnership and collaboration are needed across the urban forestry life cycle, starting with the growing of trees and other plants in nurseries.

(b) Participatory approaches to urban forestry will contribute to successful programs as well. More inclusive place making within SUPF will build community buy-in, support, and engagement over the long term. Inclusive planning can also help to promote a more equitable distribution of urban forests and their benefits, including providing essential benefits to vulnerable groups.

Table 5
Goal E: Strengthen technical and human capacities for the implementation of SUPF programs

Target	Actions	Scope of Actions
E.1. Cross-sectoral and multistakeholder partnerships for the development and implementation of urban forestry programs are widespread.	E.1.1. Foster the development of cross-sectoral partnerships and collaboration between governance levels for urban forestry.	UNECE Regional, National, Sub-national, Local Authority, Private Sector, Civil Society
Urban forestry involves a wide range of sectors, disciplines, and stakeholders, and strong partnerships are needed as a foundation for successful programs.	E.1.2. Strengthen public-private partnerships and collaboration for urban forestry, including the engagement of businesses and landowners.	UNECE Regional, National, Sub-national, Local Authority, Private Sector, Civil Society
	E.1.3. Strengthen collaboration among the many stakeholders in the urban forestry life cycle, including various affiliated and other professions (e.g., architects, planners, engineers, health professionals) and nurseries to support the provision of sufficient supplies of climate-adapted species.	National, Sub-national, Local Authority, Academia, Private Sector, Financial Institution, Civil Society
E.2. Inclusive and participatory approaches are common in urban forestry.	E.2.1. Ensure that urban forestry programs address and prioritise environmental equity aspects and that their	UNECE Regional, National, Sub-national, Local Au-thority, Private

Target	Actions	Scope of Actions
It is important to address the environmental equity aspects of urban forestry, ensuring that everybody can benefit from urban forests and has a chance to participate in urban forestry decision-making and activities.	benefits are inclusive also of the most vulnerable groups in society (such as low-income groups, people with disabilities).	Sector, Financial Institution, Civil Society
	E.2.2. Foster inclusive partnerships and opportunities for participation in urban forestry decision-making and activities.	UNECE Regional, National, Sub-national, Local Authority, Private Sector, Civil Society
	E.2.3. Enhance community management and place making of urban forests, by promoting direct involvement of residents in urban forestry planning and management.	Local Authority, Private Sector, Civil Society

III. References
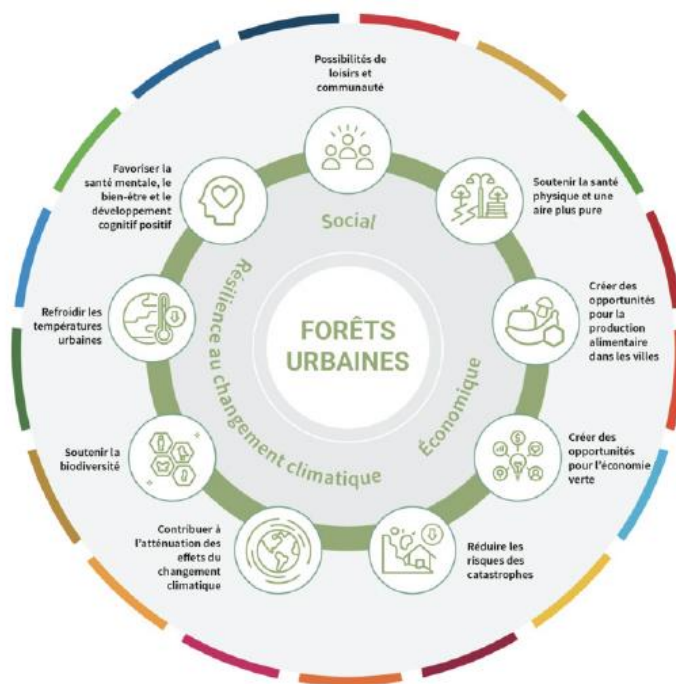
Figure
The Potential of Urban and Peri-urban Forestry (French)

Figure
The Potential of Urban and Peri-urban Forestry (Russian)