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Item 6(b) of the provisional agenda

Review of the implementation of the programmes of work 2022 and 2023:

Building urban resilience through action plans,

nature-based solutions, innovative and green financing

Informal Network of Experts on Urban Nature

Note by the Bureau of the Committee

Summary

This document contains information on the Informal Network of Experts on Urban Nature established under the UNECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI) and managed by the UNECE Forestry and Timber Section.

The Committee is invited to engage in activities of the COFFI's Informal Network of Experts.



I. Background

1. The “Place and Life in the ECE – A Regional Action Plan 2030” (ECE/HBP/215)¹, endorsed by the ECE Ministerial Meeting on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management in October 2021, emphasizes the need to accelerate the achievement of SDG 11 and its targets, including 11.7. which aims to provide universal access to safe, inclusive, and accessible, green and public spaces for all (this is also target A3.1.5 under the Regional Action Plan). The Plan also advocates for green spaces around and within housing areas that offer benefits for nature, leisure, sport and urban agriculture (target A3.2.6).
2. To implement the Action Plan targets A3.1.5 and A3.2.6, the CUDHLM established cooperation with the COFFI on greening cities and urban forestry. This involved the Committee secretariat promoting the COFFI’s Trees in Cities Challenge², an initiative that facilitates the exchange of best practices and experiences on urban forestry and greening of cities.
3. After the COVID-19 pandemic, the CUDHLM secretariat received more requests from national and local governments in the ECE region for technical assistance and experience sharing in implementing nature-based solutions, such as planting trees and planning urban green areas.
4. To respond to the increased demand in assistance and building on the existing synergies with COFFI, at its meeting on 16 June 2023, the Committee Bureau discussed ways to expand and intensify cooperation and recommended to Committee and the Real Estate Market Advisory Group (REM) members to engage in the COFFI’s Informal Network of Experts on Urban Nature³. The Committee and REM experts are invited to join the Informal Network through registering their interest at the Network web page and participate in the Network events and other activities.

II. About the Informal Network of Experts on Urban Nature

5. The Informal Network of Experts established under COFFI and managed by the UNECE Forestry and Timber Section provides a forum for knowledge exchange and capacity-building as well as peer to peer learning to strengthen sustainable urban forestry. This includes both horizontal engagement across disciplines and sectors, as well as vertical engagement with various levels of government to provide support to practitioners to identify, share, and adopt best practices and replicable solutions.
6. The Committee is invited to engage in the COFFI’s Informal Network of Experts through participation in the Network events and other activities.

¹ <https://unece.org/housing/regional-action-plan-2030>

² <https://treesincities.unece.org/>

³ <https://treesincities.unece.org/informal-network-experts-sustainable-urban-forestry#sthash.sAwSunkx.dpbs>