

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

130th meeting

Geneva, 9 October 2023

Item 5 of the provisional agenda

Informal Document no. 2023/37

**Extrabudgetary project**

**Enhancing Information, Knowledge and Action  
through Improved Forest Sector Reporting**

**UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE  
TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECT FORM**

<b>Project title:</b> Enhancing Information, Knowledge and Action through Improved Forest Sector Reporting						
<b>Expected timing/ duration:</b> October– December 2023						
<p><b>Objective and brief summary of the project:</b> The project will enhance timely availability and analysis of forests, forest products, and wood energy statistics by improving data collection, processing, validation, storage, exchange and dissemination. This will be done by improving forest sector monitoring and reporting efficiency and reducing reporting burden through the use of a modern, tailored central data platform, with capacity for automated data exchange. The proposed activities are reflected in the approved programme budget for 2023 (<a href="#">A/77/6/Add.1</a>) and in the Proposed Programme budget for 2024 (<a href="#">A/78/6 (Sect.20)</a>), noting that the programme of work of subprogramme 7 was approved by the Committee on Forest and the Forest Industry at its 80<sup>th</sup> session. An initial phase is planned under existing project E416 “Forests and Forest Knowledge for Resilient, Low-Carbon Urban and Rural Communities” (2023-2024). This project will increase the potential of a modern data platform for the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire (JFSQ) for reporting via automated data exchange, and a checking interface used by the secretariat. This project will also fund continued improvement and expanded use of the platform, ensuring its sustainability. The special focus of this proposal will be on more efficient automated reporting of forest data, automated data collection, through an Application Programming Interface (API), as well as on data use. The proposed work includes the streamlining of related functionalities of the central data platform and the initiation of cooperation with countries and international organizations interested in participating in these developments. Future phases of development, outside the scope of the current project, are planned to expand the central data platform to include other forest resources, forest products, and wood energy datasets, and will also enhance features and capabilities. Improved data collection, processing, validation, storage, exchange and dissemination of forest, forest products and wood energy statistics will have multiple benefits. These include strengthened capacity for timely data processing and quality assurance, ability to use automated data exchange, increased flexibility for partial data set submission, updating and publication (as data is available), easier revision of datapoints and historical data, enhanced metadata detail, and enhanced possibility for data analytics. The objective of the project will be achieved in implementation of the following activity:</p> <p>A1.1. Enhance the central data platform for JFSQ data collection, processing, validation, storage, and exchange.</p>						
<p><b>Link to the SDG targets:</b> SDG 7, target 7.2; SDG 12, targets 12.2 and 12.8; SDG 13, targets 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3; SDG 15 targets 15.1, 15.2, 15.3, 15.4, 15.5 and 15.9, and; SDG 17, targets 17.6 and 17.9</p>						
<p><b>Expected results of the project:</b> EA1. Improved data collection, processing, validation, storage, and exchange to enhance the timely availability and ability to analyze quality forest sector statistics.</p>						
<p><b>Target group and beneficiaries of the project:</b> Beneficiary countries are UNECE member States. Target group is national and local government officials from what ministries; private sector; academia</p>						
<p><b>Justification of project and its relationship to the programme of work:</b> The project contributes directly to the objective of the Subprogramme 7 “Forests and the forest industry” of the UNECE programme budget for 2023, to “collect, validate and disseminate information, research and analysis related to sustainable forest management and the sustainable production and consumption of wood products”. Furthermore, in accordance with the integrated programme of work 2022-2025 of the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI) and the FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC) (<a href="#">ECE/TIM/2021/2, FO:EFC/2021/2</a>), adopted on 25 November 2021, this project supports “Collection, validation and dissemination of statistics and other information on: forest resources, forest health, damage and disturbance processes, forest products (wood and non-wood), forest functions and services, progress towards sustainable forest management, forest policies, institutions and instruments, and the contribution of the forest sector to a circular and bioeconomy in the context of broader sustainability and societal goals”. The proposed activities are within the scope of Subprogramme 7, Deliverable C of the approved 2023 programme budget: “Databases and substantive digital materials: UNECE region databases on forest policies and institutions; forest products; production, consumption and trade, including prices; and wood energy for global access.”</p>						
<p><b>Estimated UN regular budget resources (work months of RB staff/level of staff):</b> 0.25 month/P5, 0.5 month/ P3, 0.5 month/P2</p>						
<p><b>Estimated extra budgetary resources:</b></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center; border: none;">Donor</th> <th style="text-align: center; border: none;">Amount (US\$)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; border: none;">Switzerland</td> <td style="text-align: center; border: none;">35,000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Donor	Amount (US\$)	Switzerland	35,000
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Switzerland	35,000					
<p><b>Project Manager:</b> Florian Steierer</p> <p style="text-align: right;">06.09.2023</p>	<p><b>Section/Division:</b> UNECE-FAO Forestry and Timber Section/ Forests, Land and Housing Division</p>					
<p><b>Cleared by Programme Management Unit:</b> Nicolas Dath-Baron</p> <p style="text-align: right;">06.09.2023</p>	<p><b>Approved by EXCOM<sup>1</sup></b></p>	<p><b>09.10.2023</b></p>				

<sup>1</sup> See paragraph 31 (a) of Commission decision A(65).

**Annex**  
**Results-based budget for the extra-budgetary project**

Expected Accomplishments	Planned activities	Estimated costs (US\$)
EA1. Improved data collection, processing, validation, storage, and exchange to enhance the timely availability and ability to analyze quality forest sector statistics.	A1.1. Enhance the central data platform for JFSQ data collection, processing, validation, storage, and exchange.  Contractual services (institutional) x \$21,000 International consultant to update the central data repository x 2 months x \$5,000	31,000  21,000 10,000
Budget summary		31,000
13% of Programme Support Costs		4,000
<b>Total (rounded)</b>		<b>35,000</b>