



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations



Forestry activities of the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia

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Decentralized FAO Offices in the Region

- **Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (REU)**
Budapest, Hungary
- **Subregional Office for Central Asia (SEC)**
Ankara, Turkiya
- **Country offices**
Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia,
Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan
- **Partnership and Liaison offices**
Brussels, Belgium / Geneva, Switzerland /
Moscow, Russian Federation

Europe and Central Asia Region (REU)

	Forest cover (in 2020)	Annual change (2000-2020)	Other wooded land (in 2020)	Growing stock (in 2020)
FAO REU	39.2 %	+0.09 %	4.2 %	112.8 m ³ /ha
REU Europe	46.0 %	+0.07 %	4.5 %	114.4 m ³ /ha
REU Central Asia	7.6 %	+0.47 %	2.5 %	67.3 m ³ /ha

Challenges for Forestry in the region

REU

- Climate change impacts on forests and land resources
- Pest and diseases, invasive species
- Forest fires
- Biodiversity loss
- Forest and Landscape restoration

Challenges for Forestry in the region

SEC

- Forest governance (policy, legal and institutional structures)
- Biodiversity loss and decline
- Forest/tree resources assessment and monitoring system
- Land-tenure security and forest ownership
- Deforestation and degradation of forests (fuelwood, grazing)
- Restoration and sustainable management of mountain and riparian forests
- Climate change impact on forests and land resources

FAO technical assistance to countries

- **Regular programme**
 - Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP/TCPf)
- **Extra-budgetary programme**
 - Government Cooperative Programme (GCP)
 - Unilateral Trust Fund (UTF)
 - Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation (SFERA)
- **Entry point:** Decentralized FAO offices

REUFIS – Forest Invasive Species Network for Europe and Central Asia

- 2022 annual REUFIS network meeting and training on monitoring methods (hybrid event, Sopron, Hungary)
- 2023 annual REUFIS network meeting on digital solutions for better forest health monitoring (Sopron, Hungary)
- Development and publication of a „Pocket guide to monitor important bark and wood boring forest insects in Europe and Central Asia” (2023/24)

Forest health

- Development of a Virtual Learning Course on “Application of biological control for management of chestnut blight” (2023/24)
- Publication of a „Guide for contingency plans for forest pests in Europe and Central Asia” (2023/24)

NWFPs – Non-Wood Forest Products in the selected countries of the Western Balkans

- Analysis report on available information on NWFPs to support decision making on natural resources management (2022)
- NWFPP survey developed and tested in pilot communities of the region to support information collection and sharing and to assess income generation opportunities for rural people (2022/23)
- Development of a publication on the legislative background and collection of NWFPPs (2023/24)

Preparation of an MRV model scheme for the forest sector (2023/24)

Strengthening forestry in Ukraine

FAO priorities and related priority needs in Ukraine

- Priority 1: Protection of forests and enhancing forests resilience, halting deforestation and forest degradation.
- Priority 2: Forest ecosystem restoration, including agroforestry, reforestation and afforestation.
- Priority 3: Conservation and sustainable use of forests to enhance forest-based livelihoods.
- Priority 4: Improvement of forest-related data collection capacities.

Strengthening forestry in Ukraine

- **The FAO Forestry Support Strategy for Ukraine = the FAO program of action to implement forestry activities in Ukraine**
- The Strategy is planned for an initial period of five years

Identification of priority needs according to the Forestry Support Strategy

Damage and loss assessment	Use of sustainable wood for the green reconstruction
Fuelwood for energy	Support country alignment with EU forest policies
Forest demining	Communication on forests and forestry
Landscape restoration through Fast-Growing Trees	Rebuild the forest management plan institute
Sustainable forest management for sustainable forestry	

Strengthening forestry in Ukraine

The international donor conferences

- Two international donor conferences planned by the Government of Ukraine for donor and partner countries (Dec 2023, Mar 2024)
- One national donor conference planned by the Government of Germany (Jan 2024)

FAO REU project assistance

Technical
Cooperation
Programme

TCP - Assistance for establishing the National Forest Monitoring and Assessment System (TCP/ARM/3807)

- Timeframe: Jan 2022 – Dec 2023
- Budget: USD 190,000
- Objective: to increase contribution of forest sector to the national economy and rural development while protecting the environment

FAO REU project assistance

Technical
Cooperation
Programme

TCP - Assistance for effective field-level forest monitoring (TCP/ARM/3904)

- Timeframe: Jun 2023 – Apr 2025
- Budget: USD 177,000
- Objective: sustainable management of forest land and tree resources through continuous forest monitoring at the local and national levels

FAO REU project assistance

Technical
Cooperation
Programme

TCPf: Technical Assistance for strengthening the national capacity of the forest service (TCP/MCD/3903)

- Timeframe: Jul 2023 – Dec 2024
- Budget: USD 100,000
- Objective: to strengthen the capacities to monitor damages on forests and plan forest restoration investments

FAO REU project assistance

Technical
Cooperation
Programme

TCP: Technical assistance for Sustainable Forest Management (TCP/MNE/3902)

- Timeframe: Sep 2023 – Jan 2025
- Budget: USD 175,000
- Objective: to increase the contribution of the forest sector to the national economy and rural development through improved forest management practices and monitoring/control in private forests

FAO REU project assistance

Technical
Cooperation
Programme

TCPf: Enhancing the resilience of Serbian forests and their carbon storage potential (TCP/SRB/3902/C2)

- Timeframe: Jan 2023 – Jan 2024
- Budget: USD 95,000
- Objective: to develop a full GCF Project Proposal on Enhancing the resilience of Serbian forests and their carbon storage potential

FAO REU project assistance

Technical
Cooperation
Programme

Other TCP projects:

- TCPf - Potentials of fast-growing plantation forests (TCP/BIH/3802/C2)
- TCP - Formulation of a GCF project proposal on climate change adaptation and mitigation in forestry (TCP/MOL/3806)
- TCPf - Forest Resilience to climate change and biodiversity loss via mitigation and adaptation investments (TCP/SRB/3801/C1)
- TCP - Strengthening the resilience of pine forest to bark beetle outbreaks and associated dieback (TCP/RER/3801)

FAO REU project assistance

Extra-budgetary

Forest resilience of Armenia, enhancing adaptation and rural green growth via mitigation (GCP/ARM/008/GCF)

- Timeframe: Nov 2021 – Nov 2029
- Budget: USD 18,704,703 (GCF + co-financing from GCP/ARM/012/AUS)
- Objective: by 2028 carbon sinking potential of the Country is increased by at least 10% and forest cover is increased and rehabilitated by 9% of the total national forest cover

FAO REU project assistance

Extra-budgetary

Support to strengthening sustainable and multipurpose forest management to improve rural livelihoods and address climate change in Kosovo (GCP/KOS/007/SWE) and (GCP/KOS/008/EC)

- Timeframe: Sep 2019 - Dec 2025 and Jan 2022 - Dec 2025
- Budget: USD 2,448,731 + USD 1,691,400
- Objective: support to strengthening sustainable and multipurpose forest management to improve rural livelihoods and address climate change in Kosovo

FAO REU project assistance

Extra-budgetary

Enabling environment at policy, field and market levels for Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) in Serbia (MSP) (GCP/SRB/007/GFF)

- Timeframe: Apr 2022 - Mar 2025
- Budget: USD 746,121
- Objective: sustain environmental services and food security through the promotion of FLR and LDN practices for the recovery and restoration of prioritized landscapes and establish support mechanisms for achieving and monitoring LDN at the national level

FAO REU project assistance

Extra-budgetary

Inclusive, competitive and sustainable value chain development in agriculture, fisheries and forestry (GCP/UKR/012/EC)

- Timeframe: Feb 2021 – Jan 2025
- Budget: USD 15,592,895
- Objective: enabling environment for the forestry sector strengthened for securing the long-term sustainability of forest management and improving evidence-based policy-making in the sector

FAO REU project assistance

Extra-budgetary

Other extra-budgetary projects:

- Contribution of Sustainable Forest Management to a Low Emission and Resilient Development in Serbia (GCP/SRB/002/GFF), Feb 2018 - Jun 2023
- Integrated Natural Resources Management in Degraded Landscapes in the Forest-Steppe and Steppe Zones of Ukraine (GCP/UKR/004/GFF), Oct 2017 – Jun 2023

FAO SEC normative work

- Guidelines on forest biodiversity monitoring methodologies in the sub-region and training for different target groups of stakeholders (2022/2023)
- Guidelines on implementation of Nature-based solutions to combat impact of climate change on forestry in the sub-region and associated training for different target groups of stakeholders (2023)

FAO SEC project assistance

Regular programme

Turkiye

Post-Fire Restoration Activities of Forest and Maquis Ecosystems in Mugla Province

- Timeframe: 2022 - 2024
- Budget: USD 50,000
- Objective: to develop guidelines on species restoration, mainly for selected rare flora and fauna elements in forest and maquis ecosystems affected by forest fires in Turkiye

FAO SEC project assistance

Extra-budgetary

Azerbaijan

Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity: Strengthening Azerbaijan's system of protected areas through improved governance and management

- Timeframe: 2021 - 2025
- Budget: USD 2 639 726 from GEF 7
- Objective: to strengthen the effectiveness of Azerbaijan's protected area system to deliver Global Environmental Benefits, using a landscape approach to governance and management

FAO SEC project assistance

Extra-budgetary

Kyrgyzstan

Carbon Sequestration through Climate Investment in Forests and Rangelands in Kyrgyz Republic

- Timeframe: 2021 - 2029
- Budget: USD 50 000 000 from the GCF
- Objective: to reduce the drivers of land degradation and the emissions this causes by supporting national institutions and promoting the participatory and ecosystem-based sustainable management of natural resources and green growth investments

FAO SEC project assistance

Extra-budgetary

Turkiye

Enhancing the Capacity of the Turkish International Forestry Training Centre

- Timeframe: 2023 - 2026
- Budget: USD 1 000 000 from FTFP
- Objective: to increase the capacity of the existing International Forestry Training Centre by enriching its training curricula, developing its human resources as well as its training infrastructures, to meet the required standards of an international training centre, and piloting some training activities

FAO SEC project assistance

Extra-budgetary

Turkiye

Biodiversity conservation and sustainable forest management in Kaz Daglari

- Timeframe: 2022 - 2027
- Budget: USD 4 657 534 from GEF 7
- Objective: to improve biodiversity conservation and sustainable forest management in the Kaz Daglari region in Turkiye through protected areas and mainstreaming biodiversity conservation into production landscapes for environmental and socio-economic benefits

FAO SEC project assistance

Extra-budgetary

Uzbekistan

Sustainable management of forests in mountain and valley areas

- Timeframe: 2018 - 2025
- Budget: USD 3 187 023 from GEF6
- Objective: to introduce sustainable forest management and improved status of forest and tree resources

FAO SEC project assistance

Extra-budgetary

Sub-regional

Forest Restoration Improvement for Environmental Development and Sustainability in Central Asia – FRIENDS

- Timeframe: 2022 - 2025
- Budget: USD 2 000 000 from FTFP
- Objective: to develop national capacities to successfully conduct large-scale forest and other wooded lands restoration, by enhancing know-how to prevent degradation

FAO SEC project assistance

Extra-budgetary

Sub-regional

Improving Biodiversity and Sustainable Forestry

- Timeframe: 2023 - 2026
- Budget: USD 3 299 962 from FTFP
- Objective: to equip Central Asian countries, through regional cooperation and networking, with the necessary and gender-responsive capacity and knowledge on sustainable biodiversity conservation and sustainable forest management

Points for consideration

The Commission may wish to encourage countries in the region to:

- a) More effectively incorporate integrated landscape approaches amongst various land management agencies responsible for agriculture, forestry, fisheries and livestock management into relevant national planning processes and enhance intersectoral collaboration at the landscape level.

Points for consideration

The Commission may wish to encourage countries in the region to:

- b) Require all formulators of country projects to integrate poverty considerations and conduct poverty analysis when designing projects, take advantage of entry points to address poverty, and ensure interventions are inclusive and Leave No One Behind.

Points for consideration

The Commission may wish to encourage countries in the region to:

- c) Promote the sustainable production and consumption of NWFP by
 - i. securing the conservation and sustainable supply of NWFP;
 - ii. building competitive, equitable and sustainable value chains;
 - iii. improving transparency, data and information flow on NWFP and
 - iv. establishing enabling conditions in policy, financial and innovation terms.

Points for consideration

The Commission may wish to encourage countries in the region to:

- d) Provide financial and/or in-kind contributions to support the FAO regional forestry programmes, in particular on phytosanitary standards in forestry in the region, and FAO project work, in particular with view to providing complementary funding for GEF and GCF projects.

Points for consideration

The Commission may wish to recommend FAO to:

- e) Strengthen the integration of incorporate integrated landscape approaches in operational forestry work in the region, as well as into existing and future REU Regional Initiatives, considering the multi-functional roles of forests;

Points for consideration

The Commission may wish to recommend FAO to:

- f) Integrate poverty considerations into the design and formulation of projects, in particular large project such as GEF and GCF, applying approaches such as poverty measurement, poverty profiles, poverty mapping, and poverty-based targeting;

Points for consideration

The Commission may wish to recommend FAO to:

- g) Continue to support natural resource management including forests through the harmonization and strengthening of national policy, financing, incentives, taxation and governance frameworks and measures, including regulations, standards and monitoring for forest management interventions and practices, and support capacity development in this regard;

Points for consideration

The Commission may wish to recommend FAO to:

- h) Continue supporting countries and other stakeholders, including the private sector, to promote coordinated action enhancing the sustainable production and consumption of NWFP, including capacity building related to the collection and dissemination of statistics on NWFP; and

Points for consideration

The Commission may wish to recommend FAO to:

- i) Continue to support the Forest Invasive Species Network for Europe and Central Asia (REUFIS) and its activities, in particular in organising topical trainings on emerging invasive species.



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Thank you

Peter Pechacek, Forestry Officer, FAO SEC

San Marino, 22-23 November 2023

