

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

133rd meeting
Geneva, 25 March 2024

Item 6 of the provisional agenda

Informal Document No. **2024/10**

Extrabudgetary project
Urban Tree Policy Action for Climate and SDGs
(for approval)

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

Project title: Urban Tree Policy Action for Climate and SDGs		
Expected timing/ duration: April 2024 – March 2025		
<p>Objective and brief summary of the project: The project will support efforts to align local and national policy and action for urban forests as a nature-based solution for SDGs, climate action and other local, national and global goals. The objective of the project is to strengthen capacities of the UNECE member States to develop a systemic approach to enable, drive and align actions by cities and local governments to plan and deliver urban trees and forests as a nature-based solution. Working with counterparts in national government, the project will assess the current status and develop a roadmap and tools based on city pilots and a national policy dialogue. This approach builds on the experience and lessons learned of the UNECE “Trees in Cities Challenge” (TICC) and Informal Expert Network on Urban Nature, under previous projects funded by Switzerland (E416 “Forests and Forest Knowledge for Resilient, Low-Carbon Urban and Rural Communities”; E395 “Sustainable urban forestry as a cost-effective nature-based solution for green, resilient, and healthy development in the UNECE region”; E373 “Supporting UNECE member States to integrate the maintenance, protection and restoration of urban and peri-urban trees and forests in their post COVID-19 recovery plans”; E351 “Supporting UNECE member States in building capacity on urban forestry”). It is also aligned with the San Marino Regional Urban Forestry Action Plan, adopted by the UNECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry in November 2023. Trees and forests in urban and peri-urban areas are cost-effective nature-based solutions that can deliver on many SDGs, the Paris Agreement, Sendai Framework, Convention on Biological Diversity, New Urban Agenda and other local, national and global agreements and goals. A key challenge in promoting this nature-based solution is engaging mayors and key decision makers in governments, to build knowledge and awareness of the potential benefits of integrating urban trees into broader urban planning. Thus, this project will also support the creation of a forest network, which has been identified as an effective strategy to build engagement at the municipal level, serving as an entry point to promote systemic action for biodiversity and climate. The objective of the project will be achieved by implementing the following activities:</p> <p>A1.1. Development of two guidance documents for national assessments of current policies, actions and status of urban forests; A1.2. Development of a tool to support the national government in one county to coordinate and collaborate with subnational authorities; A1.3. Development of a policy brief with best practice for systemic approaches to integrate urban trees into national and subnational policy; A1.4. Organization of a regional meeting on enhancing linkages and alignment between local and national urban forest policy and action; A2.1. Establishment and leading of an international network on petite forests to drive and align systemic adoption of petite forests; A2.2. Organization of an online or hybrid events to build knowledge and capacity on petite forests and engage interested partners; A2.3. Organization of one in-person international stakeholder meeting of the network for peer exchange and collaboration.</p>		
Link to the SDG targets: SDG 11 targets 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, A and B; SDG 13 targets 1, 2, 3, and A, and SDG 15 targets 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, A and B		
Expected results of the project: EA1. Enhanced national capacities for integration of urban forests into national & subnational policy & planning; EA2. Improved knowledge and capacity of local and national government to plan and sustainably manage urban forests.		
Target group and beneficiaries of the project: National and local government officials in UNECE member States from ministries responsible for forestry, environment and urban development, and from local governments, including mayors.		
Justification of project and its relationship to the programme of work: The project contributes directly to the objective of the Subprogramme 7 “Forests and the forest industry” of the UNECE programme budget for 2024, to “to strengthen the sustainable management of forests and enhance the contribution of forests and forest products to sustainable development in the ECE region,” including to “promote cooperation among member States, regional entities and other partners for sustainable forest management, forest landscape restoration, ... and urban and peri-urban forestry.” 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) (ECE/TIM/2021/2 , FO:EFC/2021/2), adopted on 25 November 2021, this project supports efforts to promote sustainable forest management and urban forestry. The project also supports the implementation of the San Marino Regional Urban Forestry Action Plan, as adopted by COFFI at its 81 st Session in November 2023 (ECE/TIM/2023/11).		
Estimated UN regular budget resources (work months of RB staff/level of staff): 0.25 month/P5; 0.5 month/P3; 0.5 month/P2		
Estimated extra budgetary resources:		Amount (US\$)
Donor Switzerland		89,948
Project Manager: Daniel Griswold	26.02.2024	Section/Division: UNECE-FAO Forestry and Timber Section/ Forests, Land and Housing Division
Cleared by Programme Management Unit: Nicolas Dath-Baron	26.02.2024	Approved by EXCOM¹ 25.03.2024

¹ 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. Enhanced national capacities for integration of urban forests national and subnational policy and planning	A1.1. Development of two guidance documents for national assessments of current policies, actions and status of urban forests International consultant x 2 months x \$7,000	14,000 14,000
	A1.2. Development of a tool to support the national government in one county to coordinate and collaborate with subnational authorities (such as a national set of urban forest metrics, or a national urban forest diagnostic template to inform national policy and programming) International consultant x 1.5 months x \$7,000	10,500 10,500
	A1.3. Development of a policy brief with best practice for systemic approaches to integrate urban trees into national and subnational policy International consultant x 1.5 months x \$7,000	10,500 10,500
	A1.4. Organization of a regional meeting on enhancing linkages and alignment between local and national urban forest policy and action International consultant to provide substantive inputs for a meeting and prepare background materials x 1.5 months x \$7,000 Staff travel x \$1,900 x 2 missions	14,300 10,500 3,800
EA2. Improved knowledge and capacity of local and national government to plan and sustainably manage urban forests	A2.1. Establishment and leading of an international network on petite forests to drive and align systemic adoption of petite forests through an inclusive approach that mobilizes all sectors International consultant to engage network members x 2 months x \$7,000 Staff travel x \$2,300	16,300 14,000 2,300
	A2.2. Organization of an online or hybrid events to build knowledge and capacity on petite forests and engage interested partners International consultant to provide substantive inputs for a meeting and prepare background materials x 0.5 months x \$7,000	3,500 3,500
	A2.3. Organization of one in-person international stakeholder meeting of the network for peer exchange and collaboration International consultant to provide substantive inputs for a meeting and prepare background materials x 1.5 month x \$7,000	10,500 10,500
Budget summary		79,600
13% of Programme Support Costs		10,348
Total (rounded)		89,948