

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

133rd meeting
Geneva, 25 March 2024

Item 6 of the provisional agenda

Informal Document No. **2024/11**

Extrabudgetary project

Communicating the value of urban tree policy action for climate and SDGs

(for approval)

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

Project title: Communicating the value of urban tree policy action for climate and SDGs		
Expected timing/ duration: March – December 2024		
<p>Objective and brief summary of the project: The objective of the proposed project is to strengthen the implementation of the UNECE “Trees in Cities Challenge” and further support UNECE member States to integrate the urban trees and forests as nature based solutions in their national and local plans. This builds on the experience and lessons learned of the Trees in Cities Challenge 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” and 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. The objective of the project will be achieved by the following activities:</p> <p>A1.1. Engagement of local and national policy makers to join and contribute to activities for the implementation of the Trees in Cities Challenge, San Marino Regional Urban Forestry Action Plan, the UNECE Tree Policy and Action Lab, and the Trees in Dry Cities Coalition (working meetings etc);</p> <p>A1.2. Organization/participation in at least two relevant international events (e.g. United Nations Forum on Forests);</p> <p>A1.3. Development of communication materials.</p>		
Link to the SDG targets: SDG 11 targets 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, A and B; SDG 13 targets 1, 2, 3, A, and SDG 15 targets 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, A and B		
<p>Expected results of the project: EA1. Enhanced national awareness on the value of urban tree policy action for climate and SDGs through increased participation by cities and ministries in Trees in Cities Challenge, San Marino Regional Urban Forestry Action Plan, the UNECE Tree Policy and Action Lab, and the Trees in Dry Cities Coalition.</p>		
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.		
<p>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 81st Session in November 2023 (ECE/TIM/2023/11).</p>		
Estimated UN regular budget resources (work months of RB staff/level of staff): 0.25 month/P5; 0.5 month/ P2		
Estimated extra budgetary resources:		
Donor Canada	Amount (US\$) 29,945	
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 awareness on the value of urban tree policy action for climate and SDGs through increased participation by cities and ministries in Trees in Cities Challenge, San Marino Regional Urban Forestry Action Plan, the UNECE Tree Policy and Action Lab, and the Trees in Dry Cities Coalition	A1.1. Engagement of local and national policy makers to join and contribute to activities for the implementation of the Trees in Cities Challenge, San Marino Regional Urban Forestry Action Plan, the UNECE Tree Policy and Action Lab, and the Trees in Dry Cities Coalition (working meetings etc).	12,000
	International consultant to provide substantive inputs to the engagement of local and national stakeholders in the project activities x 2 months x \$6,000	12,000
	A1.2 Organization/participation in at least two relevant international events (e.g. United Nations Forum on Forests)	9,000
	Staff travel \$2,250 x 4 missions	9,000
	A1.3. Development of communication materials	5,500
	Contractual services (developing communication leaflets, brochures etc.) x \$5,500	5,500
Budget summary		26,500
13% of Programme Support Costs		3,445
Total		29,945