



Update on the recent developments under the Air Convention

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range Transboundary Air Pollution

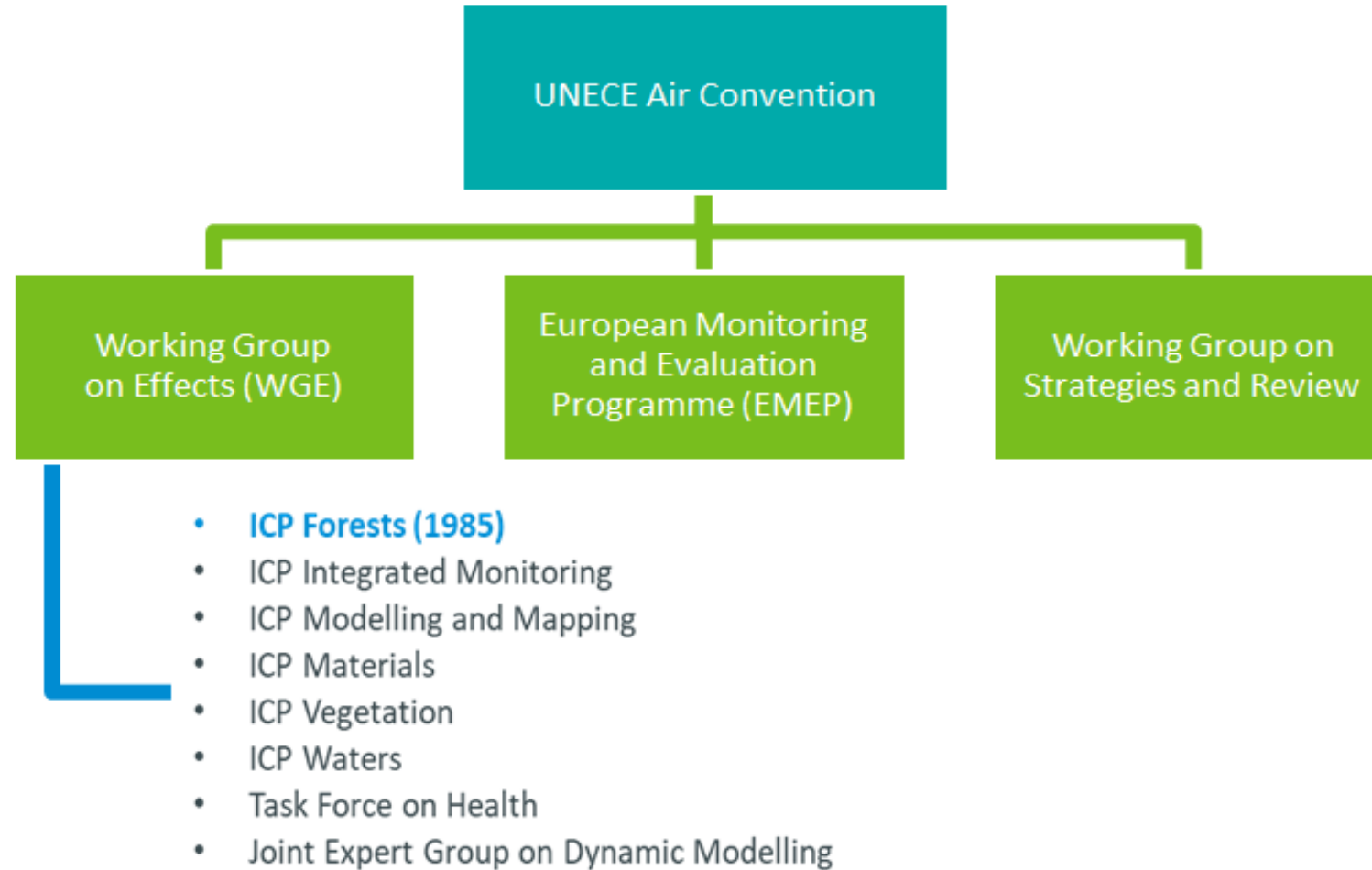
Geneva, 24 May 2024



UNECE Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (Air Convention)

- Signed in 1979, entry into force in 1983
- First international treaty to deal with air pollution on a broad regional basis
- 51 Parties in the UNECE region
- Framework Convention, has been extended by 8 protocols covering a number of pollutants
- Emission targets agreed for the following pollutants: sulphur, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, persistent organic pollutants, heavy metals, and particulate matter, including black carbon
- Emissions of harmful substances reduced by 58% (nitrogen oxides) to 83% (sulphur dioxide) since 1990 in the UNECE region
- Emissions of fine particles (PM_{2.5}) have been reduced by 44% since 1990 in the UNECE region
- More info: <http://www.unece.org/env/lrtap/welcome.html>

Long-term monitoring of the effects of anthropogenic and natural stressors on forest ecosystems under the Air Convention



ICP Forests - International Cooperative Programme on Assessment and Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Forests

- Established in 1985 with a clear political mission in response to the extensive forest damage observed in Europe
- 42 participating countries, implementing and funding the monitoring
- Provides information on temporal changes in the condition of European forests in relation to anthropogenic and natural stress factors
- Provides insights into cause-and-effect relationships between forest ecosystems health and various stressors such as air pollution, drought, climate change
- <https://unece.org/environmental-policy/air/forests>

Cooperation with the forest and wood sector

- Letter of Intent between the Wood Buffalo Environmental Association (WBEA) and ICP Forests
- Exchange at the institutional level: FAO, Forest Europe
- Contribution to the [Report State of Europe's Forests 2020](#)
- The next report will be released in 2025
- Organization of policy events
- Participation in EU funded projects relevant for the forest and wood sector
- Contribution to the new EU Framework for Forest Monitoring and Strategic Plans



Cooperation with the forest and wood sector (cont)

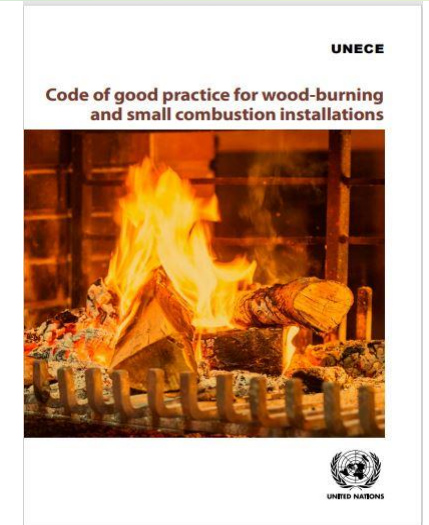
- Strong involvement of ICP Forests in the research programme of the European Commission:
 - **Pathfinder** – Towards an Integrated Consistent European LULUCF Monitoring and Policy Pathway Assessment Framework (Sep 2022-Aug 2026)
<https://www.nibio.no/en/projects/pathfinder>
 - **ForWards** - The ForestWard Observatory to secure resilience of European forests (Nov 2022-Oct 2027) <https://forwards-project.eu/>
 - **MoniFun** - Development of a concept for a harmonized European Forest Multifunctionality Monitoring System (EFMMS) (Jan 2024 – Dec 2027)
<https://www.monifun.eu/>

Relevant resources and publications

- [Prioritizing reductions of particulate matter from sources that are also significant sources of black carbon – analysis and guidance](#)
- [Code of good practice for wood-burning and small combustion installations](#)



- [Forest condition in Europe 2023](#)
- <https://unece.org/environmental-policy/air/forests>
- June 11-12, 2024 - **11th Scientific Conference FORECOMON**
<https://forecomon2024.thuenen.de/>
- Session at the **26th World Congress of IUFRO** in Stockholm in 2024: Nitrogen Depositions in Forests in a changing climate: Trends and Implications on Forest Ecosystems Services <https://iufro2024.com/>





Thank you

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UNECE

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