

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Geneva, 1 July 2024

Item 6 of the provisional agenda

Informal Document No. **2024/20**

Extrabudgetary project

Information on urban tree and forest cover and biodiversity

(for approval)

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

Project title: Information on urban tree and forest cover and biodiversity		
Expected timing/ duration: August - December 2024		
Objective and brief summary of the project: The objective of the proposed project is to enhance the availability and quality of data and metrics on urban tree and forest cover in cities, to support efforts to assess their contribution to biodiversity, climate, and society. This can guide evidence based learning an action by public, private, and civil society. Urban nature, including trees and forests, play a critical role in preserving biodiversity, mitigating and adapting to climate change, and delivering numerous benefits to society such as improved physical and mental health, cooler cities and increased flood resilience. This 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. Establishing and maintaining the right trees in the right place at the right time can greatly enhance the benefits of urban forests and nature. This requires sound long-term and inclusive planning to ensure benefits are delivered for all. In this context, there is a need to better understand the extent, composition and state of urban forests and trees to inform this long-term planning and sustainable urban forest management. The project will review existing metrics and frameworks to assess outcomes of urban forestry for biodiversity, climate and society and assess whether standard metrics may facilitate action by improving data quality and availability. This would enhance the capacity of local and national policymakers to identify areas of greatest need and opportunity to support urban trees and forests as a nature-based solution to deliver local, national and global goals, and to develop policies, target resources accordingly and foster implementation. Similarly, the use of standard metrics will help to increase the credibility of reported outcomes from urban forestry resulting from public, private and civil society actions, financing and investment. The objective of the project will be achieved by the following activities: A1.1. Collect and compile data on urban forest metrics from at least 5 cities; A1.2. Conduct an assessment on measuring biodiversity, climate and societal outcomes of urban forestry considering costs and benefits; A1.3. Organize an expert meeting on measuring and reporting on biodiversity and other outcomes of urban forestry.		
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 knowledge and capacity of UNECE member States on assessing the state of urban forest and nature cover in cities.		
Target group and beneficiaries of the project: Beneficiaries are UNECE member States. Target groups are local and national urban forestry policymakers, practitioners and researchers.		
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).		
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	Amount (US\$)	
Switzerland	38,420	
Project Manager: Daniel Griswold 03.06.2024	Section/Division: UNECE-FAO Forestry and Timber Section/Forests, Land and Housing Division	
Cleared by Programme Management Unit: Nicolas Dath-Baron 03.06.2024	Approved by EXCOM¹	01.07.2024

Annex
Results-based budget for the extra-budgetary project

Expected Accomplishments	Planned activities	Estimated costs (US\$)
EA1. Enhanced knowledge and capacity of UNECE member States on assessing the state of urban forest and nature cover in cities.	A1.1. Collect and compile data on urban forest metrics from at least 5 cities.	10,000
	International consultant to collect and process data x \$5,000 per month x 2 months	10,000
	A1.2. Conduct an assessment on measuring biodiversity, climate and societal outcomes of urban forestry considering costs and benefits.	10,000
	International consultant to develop assessment x \$5,000 per month x 2 months	10,000
	A1.3. Organize an expert meeting on measuring and reporting on biodiversity and other outcomes of urban forestry.	14,000
	Staff travel \$2,000 x 2 missions	4,000
	Travel of experts x \$2,000 x 5 participants	10,000
Budget summary		34,000
13% of Programme Support Costs		4,420
Total		38,420