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Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry

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Reporting on the Committee's Programme of Work:

**Programme of work for 2025 and
recommendations on key components of the
programme of work 2026**

Draft programme of work of the Forests and the Forest Industry subprogramme for 2025

Note by the Secretariat

Summary

The present document sets out the draft programme of work of the Forests and the Forest Industry subprogramme for 2025.

The Committee is invited to review and adopt the draft programme of work of the Forests and the Forest Industry subprogramme for 2025 and recommend it to the Executive Committee for approval.

The document is submitted according to A/78/6 (Section 20); ECE/TIM/2023/2-FAO:EFC/2023/2, para 68.



Introduction

1. The present document sets out the draft programme of work of the Forests and the Forest Industry subprogramme (“the subprogramme”) for 2025. The Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (“the Committee”) is invited to adopt it and recommend to the Executive Committee for approval. Any subsequent additional, carried over or terminated deliverables will be reflected in the United Nations Umoja system used by the Secretariat for planning, monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the programme.
2. The draft programme of work applies a results-based management (RBM) approach, a broad management approach which establishes logical relationship between the hierarchical results (deliverables – results - objectives – impact) known as ‘results chain’, the resources (human and financial) known as ‘inputs and the external factors (strategic, governance, operational, financial) which can prevent from achieving the objective.
3. The objective, the strategy, the planned results, and the deliverables in the draft programme of work correspond to those contained in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) proposed programme budget for 2025 (A/79/6 (Sect.20)). The work of the subprogramme is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In attaining its objective, the subprogramme builds on cross-sectoral collaboration with other subprogrammes in relevant ECE areas where multiple SDGs converge¹. This type of collaboration enables the subprogramme to maximize existing synergies, increase the efficiency of its work and have a multiplying effect on the impact of its actions to support countries to implement SDGs. The deliverables of the subprogramme fall into the following main categories: (a) facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies; (b) generation and transfer of knowledge, including technical cooperation projects, training events, seminars, workshops, and publications; (c) other substantive deliverables, and (d) communication deliverables.
4. The details of the proposed publications are provided in Annex I. The overall ECE legislative mandates and those specific for the subprogramme are listed in Annex II.

I. Objective

5. The objective, to which the subprogramme contributes, is to strengthen the sustainable management of trees and forests and enhance the contribution of forests and forest products to sustainable development, climate action and biodiversity in the ECE region.

II. Strategy

6. The responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Forests, Land and Housing Division.
7. The **strategy** of the subprogramme is based on the implementation of the core interlinked functions, namely, analytical and normative work, international policy dialogue, capacity-building and communication.
8. To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will:
 - (a) Promote cooperation for sustainable forest management, forest landscape restoration, the sustainable use of forest products and services, linkages between sustainable food systems and forests, and urban and peri-urban forestry;
 - (b) Collect, validate and disseminate information, research and analysis related to sustainable forest management and the sustainable production and consumption of wood

¹ The ECE cross-sectoral collaboration areas are as follows: 1) Digital and green transformations for sustainable development in the ECE region; 2) Circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources; 3) Sustainable and smart cities for all ages; 4) Sustainable mobility and smart connectivity; and 5) Measuring and monitoring progress towards achieving the SDGs.

products, including wood energy;

(c) Facilitate exchange of national experiences and best practices and monitor progress on achieving sustainable forest management using indicators for Sustainable Development Goals 12 and 15, which will help member States to measure progress towards achieving the Goals and provide an indirect indication of progress under the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030;

(d) Organize capacity-building seminars and webinars and prepare dedicated publications on the forest sector and wood energy, including on crisis response and on solutions for more resilient economies.

9. The subprogramme will carry out its work in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other relevant organizations and processes.

10. The above-mentioned work is expected to contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 7, 11–13 and 15 and result in:

(a) The ability of ECE member States to sustainably manage healthy forest ecosystems, goods and services to benefit society, including climate mitigation and adaptation;

(b) Increased and more efficient use by ECE member States of sustainable forest products that contribute to the circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources;

(c) The integration of forest resources and products into planning and recovery from economic, health and environmental shocks to increase the resilience of member States and their most vulnerable persons.

III. Planned results for 2025

Result 1: enhanced accessibility and timeliness of sustainable forest management information and improved monitoring of the impact of increased wood use in a circular economy

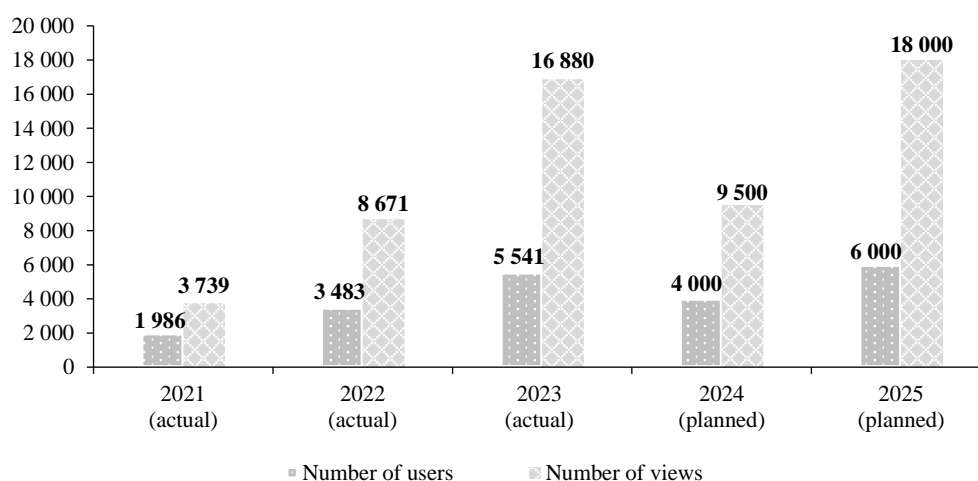
Programme performance in 2023 and target for 2025

11. The subprogramme's work contributed to 16,880 views by 5,541 users, which exceeded both the planned target of 6,000 views and of 2,500 users.

12. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2025 are presented in the performance measure below (see figure 1).

Figure 1

Performance measure: number of public users and number of views of up-to-date data on sustainable forest management from the INForest platform that is accessible to persons with disabilities (cumulative)



Result 2: cities and towns commit themselves to expanding sustainable urban and peri-urban forest cover

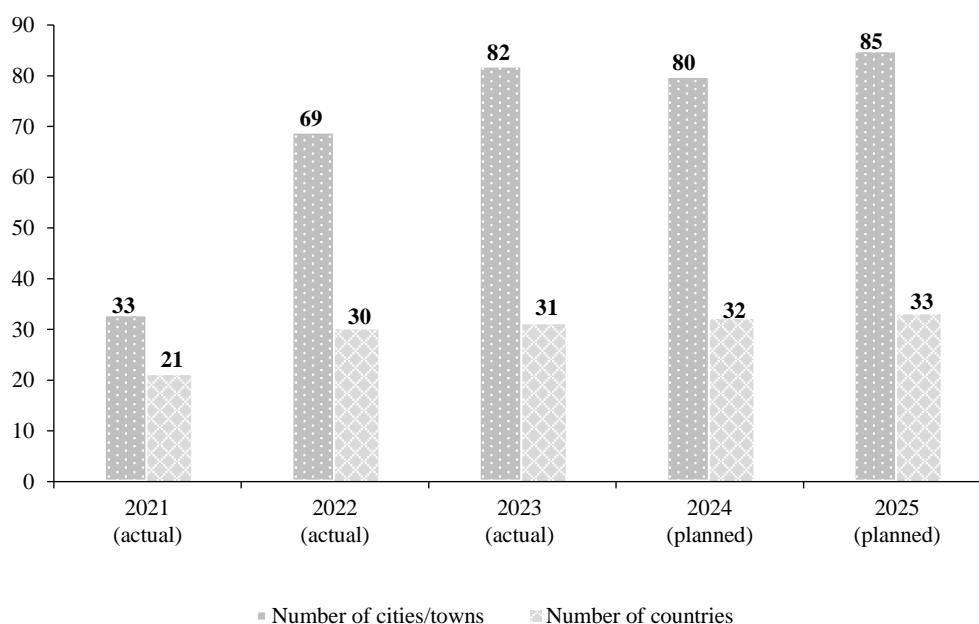
Programme performance in 2023 and target for 2025

13. The subprogramme's work contributed to a cumulative total of 82 cities from 31 countries that made pledges and commitments to increasing sustainable urban tree and forest cover, which exceeded the planned target of 75 cities and met the planned target of 31 countries.

14. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2025 are presented in the performance measure below (see figure 2).

Figure 2

Performance measure: number of cities and towns making pledges and commitments to increasing sustainable urban tree and forest cover (cumulative)



Result 3: evidence-based planning and action for the sustainable production and consumption of forest products

Proposed programme plan for 2025

15. Sustainably produced wood is a global commodity used widely for many products. ECE member States account for approximately 40 per cent of global forest resources and more than 60 percent of wood harvested globally for wood products manufacturing (excluding wood energy). The subprogramme contributes to increased access to forest products information by collecting data annually from member States on their production, trade and consumption of wood and wood-based products and developing technical and policy-oriented reports and assessments.

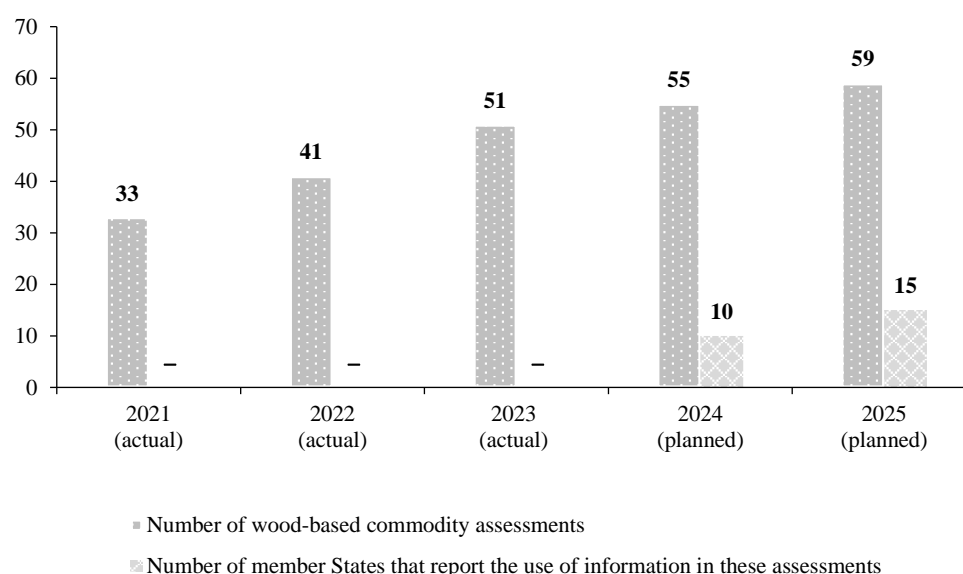
Lessons learned and planned change

16. The lesson for the subprogramme was that there was a strong demand for timely information on forest products from within the forest industry and that there were knowledge and awareness gaps outside of the forest sector and industry such as the role that forest products could play in meeting Sustainable Development Goal 12. In applying the lesson, the subprogramme will provide information on forest products, including tailored formats to enhance outreach.

17. Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see figure 3).

Figure 3

Performance measure: number of assessments of wood-based commodities, regarding their production, trade and consumption, and number of member States that report the use of information from these assessments (cumulative)



IV. External factors

18. The subprogramme is expected to achieve its objective on the assumption that there is continued:

- (a) active country and stakeholder participation;
- (b) partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, including the provision of staff and non-staff resources, to implement the integrated ECE/FAO programme in this field; and
- (c) in kind and voluntary contributions from member States to support the implementation of planned activities.

V. Deliverables to be implemented in 2025

19. The table below lists all deliverables of the subprogramme.

Table

Subprogramme 7: deliverables for the period 2023–2025, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2023 planned	2023 actual	2024 planned	2025 planned
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	24	31	16	24
1. Documentation for the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry/European Forestry Commission	18	25	10	18
2. Documentation for the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management	6	6	6	6
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	24	25	20	22
3. The Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry/European Forestry Commission	8	8	6	8

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2023 planned</i>	<i>2023 actual</i>	<i>2024 planned</i>	<i>2025 planned</i>
4. The Bureau of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry	2	3	2	2
5. The Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management and of Teams of Specialists	14	14	12	12
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	–	–	–	1
6. Safeguarding forest management in the ECE region	–	–	–	1
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	12	15	12	12
7. Training events for policymakers, experts and relevant stakeholders from countries in the ECE region on topics related to the ECE/FAO integrated programme	12	15	12	12
Publications (number of publications)	7	7	7	5
8. Forest Products Annual Market Review	1	1	1	1
9. On sustainable forest management and forest products	6	6	6	4
C. Substantive deliverables				
Consultation, advice and advocacy: advisory services, forest policy dialogues at the request of countries and support for forest policy issues, for up to 3 member States.				
Databases and substantive digital materials: ECE region databases on forest policies and institutions; forest products; production, consumption, removals and trade, including prices; and wood energy for global access; ECE regional databases on forest resources and forest ownership.				
D. Communication deliverables				
Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: events celebrating the International Day of Forests; brochures and information materials on various forest-related topics; and presentations at round tables and international forest-related events.				
External and media relations: press releases for the subprogramme; and Forest Information Billboard newsletter.				
Digital platforms and multimedia content: website of the subprogramme; social media accounts; and videos and other media on forest-related topics.				

Annex I

Details of proposed publications and promotional material for 2025

A. Recurrent publications

<i>Item no.</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Mandate (to be adopted in November 2024)</i>	<i>Print and/or electronic</i>	<i>Trim size</i>	<i>No. of pages</i>	<i>Original language(s)</i>	<i>Translated language(s) and Source of funding (RB or XB)</i>	<i>No. of copies and language(s)</i>
1	Forest Products Annual Market Review 2023-2024	ECE/TIM/2024/2	Electronic	A4	147	E	F, R (all RB)	
2	COFFI Forecast for Forest Products Markets (2024)	ECE/TIM/2024/2	Electronic		44	E		

B. Non-recurrent publications

<i>Item no.</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Mandate (to be adopted in November 2024)</i>	<i>Print and/or electronic</i>	<i>Trim size</i>	<i>No. of pages</i>	<i>Original language(s)</i>	<i>Translated language(s) and Source of funding (RB or XB)</i>	<i>No. of copies and language(s)</i>
3	Forestry and Timber Publication	ECE/TIM/2024/2	Electronic	A4	170	E	R, F (all RB)	
4	Forestry and Timber Publication	ECE/TIM/2024/2	Electronic	A4	170	E	F, R (all RB)	
5	Forestry and Timber Publication	ECE/TIM/2024/2	Electronic		118	E		

Annex II

Legislative mandates

A. Overall Economic Commission for Europe legislative mandates

1. Resolutions of the General Assembly

<i>Res No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
66/288	The future we want
67/10	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Eurasian Economic Community
67/290	Format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development
69/137	Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024
69/213	Role of transport and transit corridors in ensuring international cooperation for sustainable development
69/277	Political declaration on strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations
69/283	Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030
69/313	Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda)
70/1	Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
70/217; 73/243; 76/217; 77/246; 78/163	Follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries
71/16	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization
71/256	New Urban Agenda
72/279	Repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
73/10	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Central European Initiative
73/195	Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
74/4	Political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly
74/15	Political Declaration of the High-level Midterm Review on the Implementation of the Vienna Programme of

<i>Res No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
	Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024
74/122	Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly
74/128	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly
74/144	Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto: accessibility
74/216	Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development
74/231; 78/162	Development cooperation with middle-income countries
74/271	Progress towards an accountability system in the United Nations Secretariat
74/297	Progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 71/243 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
75/8, 77/15	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development – GUAM
75/9, 77/16	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Commonwealth of Independent States
75/12	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization
75/213; 76/202; 77/162	Promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, building on Agenda 21
75/216; 76/204	Disaster risk reduction
75/221	Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
75/233	Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
75/290 A	Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 72/305 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council
	Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 67/290 on the format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and 70/299 on the follow-up and review of

<i>Res No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
	the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level
	Economic and Social Council
75/290 B	Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 72/305 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council
	Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 67/290 on the format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and 70/299 on the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level
	High-level political forum on sustainable development
75/324	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization
77/21	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
77/173	Implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conferences on Human Settlements and on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme
77/181	Women in development
78/166	Operational activities for development of the United Nations system
78/167	South-South cooperation

2. Resolutions of the Economic and Social Council

<i>Res No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
36 (IV)	Economic Commission for Europe
1998/46	Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields
2006/38	Workplan on reform of the Economic Commission for Europe and revised terms of reference of the Commission
2013/1	Outcome of the review of the 2005 Reform of the Economic Commission for Europe
2023/4	Science, technology and innovation for development
2023/11	Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system
2023/31	Progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 75/233 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system

3. Economic Commission for Europe decisions

<i>Res No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
A (64)	The Work of the Economic Commission for Europe
A (65)	Outcome of the review of the 2005 reform of ECE
A (66)	Endorsement of the High-level statement on the post-2015 development agenda and expected sustainable development goals in the ECE region
A (70)	Economic and social effects of Russia's aggression against Ukraine
B (70)	Digital and green transformations in support of the sustainable development in the region of the Economic Commission for Europe
C (70)	Promotion of Circular Economy and the sustainable use of natural resources
D (70)	Extension of the mandate of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

B. Legislative mandates specific to the subprogramme

1. Resolutions of the General Assembly

<i>Res No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
62/98	Non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests
67/200	International Day of Forests
71/285	United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030
71/286	United Nations Forest Instrument
73/284	United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030)
75/219	Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development
76/223	Natural plant fibres and sustainable development
77/170	Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
77/186	Agriculture development, food security and nutrition

2. Resolutions of the Economic and Social Council

<i>Res No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
2015/33	International arrangement on forests beyond 2015
2017/4	United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 and quadrennial programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests for the period 2017–2020
2020/14	Outcome of the fifteenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests

2021/6

Programme of work of the United Nations Forum on
Forests for the period 2022–2024
