

Sustainable Forest
Management for
**Greener
Economies**
in Central Asia and the Caucasus



UNECE/FAO UNDA
Project



Food and Agriculture
Organization
of the United Nations



UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR EUROPE

Sustainable forest management for greener economies

When managed on a sustainable basis, a strong, healthy forest sector has a key role to play in “greening” the economies, as outlined in the Rio+20 outcome document. Using wood products to substitute for more carbon-intensive non-renewable materials and fossil fuels enhances that contribution. Additionally, forests perform an essential role in preventing environmental degradation (air and water pollution, soil erosion) and in reducing the impact of natural disasters such as landslides, avalanches and flooding.

Strengthening the forest sector will enable countries to gain both environmental and economic benefits. To this end, forest sector policies and institutions need to be reinforced; provision of sustainable forest products needs to be expanded, including for renewable energy production; financial and technical capacity for sustainable forest management needs to be enhanced.

Opportunities in Central Asia and the Caucasus

Countries in Central Asia and the Caucasus are ready to develop and implement policies to properly and sustainably capture the opportunities of the forest sector, in full respect of existing environmental legislation and international commitments. All of them are signatories to the Rio Conventions as well as participating in relevant UN processes which identify forests as a key biome for the mitigation of climate change and the conservation of biodiversity.

About the project

To sustain such commitments, in July 2013, UNECE and FAO jointly launched a project whose objective is to support the national capacity of countries in the region to enhance the contribution of their forest sector to greener economies through sustainable forest management. The project will help countries to respond to key capacity gaps, by providing knowledge, capacity building, training materials and advisory services on:

- Strengthening forest sector policies and institutions, to facilitate sustainable forest management's contribution to a green economy and mitigating climate change;
- Developing action plans and implementing sustainable forest management in three pilot countries;
- Promoting sustainable forest products, including for bioenergy production.

Seven countries from the region joined, namely: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

Schedule

The joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section leads the project, which will be implemented through partnerships in the region, drawing on the UNECE and FAO existing regional networks. The duration of the project is 24 months, from July 2013 to July 2015.

Contact

Elina Warsta, coordinator
UNECE FAO Forestry and Timber section
E-mail: elina.warsta@unece.org
Tel. +41 (0) 22 917 2872
<http://www.unece.org/forests>