

**I. Title of the project: Strengthening national capacities of the UNECE member States for the implementation of the Rovaniemi Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy (RAP).**

**II. Background**

Rovaniemi Action Plan (RAP) for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy was adopted in December 2013, and it has been a guiding document for the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section activities since then. The plan aims to inspire actions on regional and national levels and to contribute to achieving a green economy in the forest sector, together with the ECE/FAO Integrated Programme of Work 2014-2017.

The Rovaniemi Action Plan describes how the forest sector in the UNECE region could lead the way towards and contribute to the emerging green economy. RAP provides suggestions meant to support and stimulate national strategies and activities enhancing the contribution of forest sector to a green economy.

UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists (ToS) on Forest Policy has organized a workshop “Forest Policy in a Green Economy” in September 2014 in Poland, identified priority actions for implementation from their country perspectives, during their first meeting in Poland in September 2014 and the member States have expressed interest for follow-up work on this area.

During the second meeting of the ToS in Czech Republic in October 2015, the draft progress report of implementation was presented and discussed. The ToS members highlighted the importance of further monitoring the implementation of the RAP and they stressed the need of better coordination of existing practices in order to promote the exchange of experiences for its implementation among member States. They asked the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section to support member States in further implementation of the RAP.

This project aims to raise awareness about RAP and to strengthen national capacities of UNECE member States for the Rovaniemi Action Plan implementation. It will be achieved through the following activities:

1) Organization of a workshop on the contribution of the forest sector to a green economy

The workshop, will analyze the consistency of the present forest sector valuation systems with approaches developed by other sectors in the context of green economy and Sustainable Development Agenda 2030. The meeting will contribute to the implementation of actions under RAP Pillar D (Long-term provision of forest ecosystem services) and Pillar E (Policy development and monitoring of the forest sector in relation to a green economy). In concrete terms it will review the work being undertaken in the forest sector in the UNECE region, in the context of:

- Green economy reporting/accounting approaches developed by other sectors,
- Systems of environmental-economic accounting,
- Approaches to the valuation of forest capital, products and ecosystem services,
- Synergies among the monitoring systems in the forest sector for the needs of a green economy.

The workshop will be held in Geneva. Speakers will include experts from international organisations, governments and NGOs. Representatives from member States and NGOs will be invited to provide statements on existing strategies and methods in their countries.

## 2) Study on Forests and Water: Valuation and Payments for Forests Ecosystem Services

Payment for ecosystem services (PES) schemes are considered one of the major tools for accounting of the tangible contribution of the forest sector to a (green) economy and ensuring the economic viability of forest management. In 2014, the Joint Section issued a study paper on the Value of Forests: Payments for Ecosystem Services in a Green Economy analyzing the state of knowledge on the topic and presenting case studies, which examined best practice in promoting PES. This year, based on initial scoping of stakeholders interest, the Section will prepare the study, which will focus on valuation of and payments for water related forest ecosystem services and the provision of water. The study will review the state of knowledge on the topic and present best practices in promoting PES. The study will also include analyses of possible linkages between UN Water Convention and the forestry sector in the region. The study, will contribute to the implementation of RAP (Pillar D. Long term provision of forest ecosystem services), and will be preceded by a survey on the state of knowledge on the topic, carried out to determine the scope and structure of the study. In addition, a dedicated UNECE/FAO website on Forest Ecosystem Services in relation to water will be developed.

## 3) Study on Green Jobs in the forest sector

This study on Green Jobs in the forest sector aims to examine good practices, national policies and action plans for the creation, implementation and promotion of Green Jobs in the forest sector. The objective of this study is to collect information and increase the knowledge on existing policies, action plans, communication campaigns, framework conditions, instruments, education curricula, as well as the general understanding and examples of Green Forest Jobs. The study will be developed in collaboration with the Team of Specialists on Green Jobs in the forest sector. As a result, the paper will identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges, and provide information to facilitate sub-regional cooperation. The paper will be an important basis for the formulation of recommendations to the member countries elaborated by the Team of Specialists on Green Jobs in the forest sector and support the Section's work on forest sector workforce. The study should give also information about new green jobs developed in the last 5-10 years as well as older ones. This study should be prepared with open and public call for participation by UNECE and FAO as well as by ILO. First results should be available in September 2016; the final report will be delivered by December 2016.

This study will complement the work initiated by the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section with the use of Finnish funding (2016) for the work on forest sector workforce by widening the focus to education. The study will cover the UNECE region.

The Rovaniemi Action Plan aims to develop national gender strategies for the forest sector and to streamline gender aspects into relevant forest policy strategies, topics which will be included in the green economy workshop. In addition, gender will be taken into specific consideration in the study on green jobs by reviewing the changes of forest study curricula and gender balance in recent decades.

The project will be implemented jointly with UNEP, FAO, UNECE Water Convention and the ILO/UNECE/FAO team of specialists on green jobs in the forest sector. The beneficiary countries

are all countries in the UNECE region, government officials responsible for forestry and education as well as academic and vocational institutions.

The project duration is one year, from April 2016 to March 2017.

### **III. Objective**

The objective of the project is to strengthen national capacities of the UNECE member States for the implementation of the Rovaniemi Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy (RAP).

### **IV. Expected accomplishments**

EA1. Increased knowledge of the contribution of the forest sector to a green economy.

EA2. Increased knowledge of the status of forest water related ecosystem services.

EA3. Increased knowledge of the status of forest jobs and education.

### **V. Indicators of achievement**

IA1. 80% of the workshop participants acknowledge increased knowledge on green economy reporting or accounting (workshop evaluation forms).

IA2. Study paper on forests and water prepared by March 2017 and disseminated for all UNECE member States through the UNECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the FAO European Forestry Commission meeting.

IA3. Study paper on green jobs prepared by the end of 2016 and disseminated for all UNECE member States through the UNECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry meeting.

### **VI. Main activities**

Activity 1. Workshop on forests and green economy will be organized in cooperation with UNECE member States and participation of countries in transition will be supported.

Activity 2. Study paper on forests and water will be accomplished as a consultancy and stakeholder consultation.

**VII.** Activity 3. Study paper on green jobs will be accomplished through a literature review and interviews or short questionnaires to forest education institutions (vocational schools, universities). The Joint Expert Network (ILO/UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Green Jobs) will support the study. **Assumptions and Risks**

Assumptions describe the factors or conditions that must exist for the project to succeed:

- a) UNECE member States are willing to contribute to the studies and activities by providing access to information and data;
- b) UNECE member States contribute to dissemination of the project results at national level;
- c) UNECE member States are willing to follow-up with the recommendations from the project studies and activities.

Assumptions with a negative impact (influence on achievements) and a high probability of not holding true should be considered as risks for the delivery of activities and for the achievement of expected accomplishments:

- a) UNECE member States might be not able to provide specific data or information for the studies, which would result in incomplete coverage of topics.
- b) UNECE member States are not willing to follow-up with the recommendations from the project studies or activities.

### **VIII. Budget**

- A1.1 Green Economy Workshop 15,000 USD + 2,700 USD; A1.2. forests and water study 8,850 USD; study on green jobs in the forest sector 17,700 USD; and 13% programme support costs 5,750 USD; with total 50,000 USD.
- The donor for this project is Swiss Confederation.
- The detailed budget is presented in the Annex 1.

### **IX. Work plan**

The detailed work plan is provided in the Annex 2.

**Budget**Consultants

(a) International consultants (\$ 8,850+\$ 17,700)

International consultants for the preparation of studies on forests and water (A2.1) and green jobs (A3.1); \$ 4,425 x 2 months = \$ 5,900 in support of activity A2.1 and \$ 5,900 x 3 months = \$ 17,700 in support of activity A3.1

(b) Consultant and expert travel (\$ 2,700)

1 travel by consultants or experts as speakers to support the green economy workshop, in support of activities A1, \$ 1,350 average mission cost x 2 persons = \$ 2,700.

Training

(a) Workshops & seminars (\$ 15,000)

A workshop on Forests and Green Economy Accounting and Reporting in Switzerland (to be confirmed), in support of A1.1 \$ 1,875 x 8 participants x 1 workshop = 15,000.

Total direct cost	44,250
13% on all expenditures incurred by the project/activity	5,750
<b>Total budget</b>	<b>50,000</b>

## Work plan (sample)

Expected accomplishment (EA)	Activity	Timeframe		Partners	Beneficiaries	Venue, timeframe and the expected number of participants (where applicable)
		2016	2017			
EA 1 Increased knowledge of the contribution of the forest sector to a green economy	A.1.1. Workshop on Green Economy  Travel of participants from economies in transition to the workshop (15,000) + Travel of experts (speakers) to workshop (2,700)	x		UNEP, FAO	UNECE member States	Switzerland (tbc), September-October 2016, up to 50 participants
EA 2: Increased knowledge of the status of forest water related ecosystem services	A2.1 Consultancy to prepare a study on forests and water	x	x	UNECE Water Convention, FAO	UNECE member States	
EA 3: Increased knowledge of the status of forest jobs and education	A3.1 Consultancy to prepare a study on Green Jobs	x		ToS on Green Jobs in the Forest Sector	UNECE member States, educational institutions	