Report by the Chair of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI) to the Executive Committee (EXCOM)

The Integrated Programme of Work (IPoW) of COFFI and the FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC)
Joint Programme of Work
UNECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and FAO European Forestry Commission

**WA1**
- data, monitoring and assessment

**WA2**
- policy dialogue and advice

**WA3**
- communication and outreach

**WA4**
- capacity building
Achievements of 2019

**WA1: Data, monitoring and assessment**

- **Outputs**
  - First regional overview of the forest sector in Caucasus and Central Asia with study on *State of Forests of the Caucasus and Central Asia* and *Forest Landscape Restoration in the Caucasus and Central Asia*

- **Impact**
  - Improved monitoring and assessment of forest sector
  - ECE member States able to provide satisfactory data on qualitative and quantitative indicators of sustainable forest management.
  - Contribution to the achievement of Global Forest Goal 1 of the UNSPF and SDG 15.
Achievements of 2019

WA2: Policy advice and dialogue

Outputs

- National Forest Policy Dialogue in Azerbaijan
- Guidelines on the Promotion of Green Jobs in Forestry published
- Rovaniemi Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy: Mid-term Review was published providing a review of actions that have been implemented.

Impact

- The National Forest Policy Dialogue in Azerbaijan led to the development of a new National Forestry Programme for the country, which provides a sound legal basis for forest management and ensures the development of institutional capacities.
Achievements of 2019

- **WA3: Communication and outreach**

  - **Outputs**
    - **International Day of Forests 2019**: *Forests and education* event
    - **Forests for Fashion Initiative** – exhibition at UNEA4 and Climate Summit
    - **Trees and Cities Challenge** was launched as a global campaign at Climate Summit
    - **5th European Forest Week** celebrated with exhibition on *Forests and the Circular Economy: a future without plastics*

  - **Impact**
    - **Half a million trees** committed for planting in different cities, including Bonn, Helsingborg, Tirana, Bacarena and Victoria.
    - The Forests for Fashion Initiative, the International Day of Forests and the 5th European Forest Week resulted in **increased visibility and strengthened public support** for the value of sustainably produced wood and wood-based products.


Achievements of 2019

- **WA4: Capacity-building**

  - Forest Congress for the Caucasus and Central Asia
  - Bold call to action to bring 30 million hectares of degraded and deforested landscapes into restoration by **2030** in Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia in support of the Bonn Challenge presented during the Climate Summit in New York.
  - UNECE member of the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration

- **Outputs**

  - Commitments under the Bonn Challenge **increased to 3 million ha** in the Caucasus and Central Asia
Major activities planned for 2020

- **WA1: Data, monitoring and assessment**
  - Website on forest and forest sector data in the ECE region
  - Issuance of new database on wood energy with 2017 data
  - Focused analysis on impacts of biotic and abiotic disturbances on forests and markets for forest products

**IMPACT/OUTPUT**

Open-source, transparent, reliable forest sector data for the ECE region
Major activities planned for 2020

- **WA2: Policy advice and dialogue**
  - Forest Sector Outlook study published
  - New Team of Specialists on Boreal Forests
    - Will contribute to and streamline science and policy cooperation on boreal forests, increase collaboration with research organizations and improve awareness of boreal forests’ global role
  - Forest Policy Dialogues in Kazakhstan
    - Focus on the development of a strategic document for the forest sector at national scale

**IMPACT/OUTPUT**
- Open-source forest sector outlook models and study
- National Forest Strategies developed
- Science-policy cooperation on boreal forests strengthened
Major activities planned for 2020

- WA3: Communication and outreach
  
  IDF 2020: Forests and Biodiversity
  
  Promoting the potential of sustainable wood products in the circular bioeconomy
  
  • Various communication activities

- Trees in Cities Challenge
  
  • Showcase cities’ progress on their tree-planting pledges on a dedicated website and through international fora

IMPACT/OUTPUT

- Accelerated commitments by mayors to plants more trees in cities
- Positive communication on the forest sector reaches people
- Improved public image of forest products
Major activities planned for 2020

- WA4: Capacity-building
  - UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration
    - Technical workshops on forest landscape restoration and afforestation, and the organization of a Ministerial Meeting on forest landscape restoration and the Bonn Challenge for Eastern and South-East Europe;
    - Supporting countries under the ECCA30 initiative by providing a platform for policy dialogue and advice, and by delivering capacity building related to forest landscape restoration, data improvement, and forest resource assessment.
  - Strategic Review process
    - Assess the 2018-2021 Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work taking into consideration the results of its implementation and past experience; and with the aim of developing a proposal for the IPoW for 2022-2025.

IMPACT/OUTPUT

- Bonn Challenges commitments extended to Eastern and South-East Europe
- Countries supported in their forest landscape restoration efforts
The Executive Committee is invited to approve the following decisions, which were endorsed by COFFI:

- **Programme of Work** of the Forests and Forest Industry Subprogramme for 2020
- **Activities for 2020** and proposed **publications** planned for 2020 and 2021
- Establishment and Terms of Reference of a **new Team of Specialists on Boreal Forests** and the modified Terms of Reference of the Team of Specialists on Forest Sector Outlook
- Renewal of mandate for the period 2020-2021 of the following Teams of Specialists: ToS on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management (SFM); ToS on Sustainable Forest Products; ToS on Forest Products Statistics; ToS on Wood Energy; ToS on Forest Communication - Forest Communicators’ Network; ToS on Green Jobs - Joint ILO/ECE/FAO Expert Network.
Thank you!