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**Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party on  
Forest Statistics, Economics and Management  
Thirty-sixth session**

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Item 5 (d) of the provisional agenda

**GUIDANCE OF WORK AREA 4: CAPACITY-BUILDING**

AGENDA ITEM 5 (d)

Note by the Secretariat

*Summary*

According to its mandate, the Working Party is expected to provide guidance to work area 4: Capacity-building. This document provides information about activities in this work area since the Working Party's last session and plans for the future, drawing the Working Party's attention to any specific issues where guidance is needed.

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## **I. Capacity building**

### **A. Forest Resources Assessment**

FRA 2015 regional workshop for Europe, North Africa, Caucasus and Central Asia, Geneva

1. The UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section supports FAO in the work on data collection and analysis of information on forests, sustainable forest management for the periodic FAO global Forest Resources Assessments (FRA). The data collection processes rely on the FAO networks of officially nominated National Correspondents, who are responsible for the compilation of thematic reports. To assist countries and to enhance their knowledge for the preparation of national reports for global FRA 2015, a regional workshop for countries of Europe, North Africa, Central Asia and Caucasus was jointly organized by FAO Rome and UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section on 16-17 October 2013 in Geneva.
2. In the course of the workshop, technical assistance was provided for the compilation of the FRA 2015 country reports. The outstanding issues National Correspondents faced in the compilation of the country reports and the Collaborative Forest Resource Questionnaires were identified and addressed. The workshop served as a learning platform for National Correspondents to interact with each other, share experience on forest related reporting. English, French and Russian, was provided to the 41 specialists, amongst which 35 were National Correspondents. Support received from the Governments of Sweden, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the UN Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation (RPTC) was instrumental for enabling the participation of several correspondents from the Caucasus, Central Asia and Mediterranean region.

### **B. Market and Statistics**

Workshop on Wood Products and Energy Reporting, Geneva

3. The secretariat held a workshop with National Forest Resources correspondents to discuss ways to improve reporting on forest products and wood energy production, trade and consumption in seven countries of the Caucasus and Central Asia. Participants discussed the relation between the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire, Joint Wood Energy Enquiry and the Forest Resources Assessment. Participants also had the chance to learn more about UNECE's project on sustainable forest management for Greener Economy in Central Asia and the Caucasus funded by the United Nations Development Account.

Workshop on Forest Products Statistics in Ankara

4. As mandated by member States, UNECE and FAO, with logistical support from FAO Sub-regional office for Central Asia, organized a workshop on capacity building for forest products statistics reporting, on 27-28 May 2014 at the International Agricultural Training Centre, in Ankara, Turkey. The workshop brought together the national statistical correspondents from 11 countries from Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia to share experiences related to forest products statistical processes in their countries, namely to identify and discuss constraints in the production of forest products statistics. It provided opportunities for national correspondents to improve their skills, which should help them to fulfil commitments under international agreements to provide reliable data and to enhance national capacities in this area through the exchange of knowledge. An expert (former national correspondent) from Estonia was invited to the event to share his experience. UNECE and FAO are planning to produce a report on data collection challenges in the 11 target countries based on the workshop's proceedings in the second half of 2014. More detailed information about the workshop and its outcomes will be presented at the meeting.

Forest products marketing workshop in Eastern Europe

5. Due to lack of resource, the secretariat and the Team of Specialists on Sustainable Forest Products did not organize a workshop in Eastern Europe or Caucasus. Planning is under way, to organize a capacity-building workshop in Podgorica, Montenegro in October 2014. The meeting is planned to build on the Bled declaration from 2011<sup>1</sup>. The objective of the meeting is to enable more targeted meetings in the future to better focus on the different forest products sectors and their potentials. UNDA project.

**C. Forest Policy**

United Nations Development Account

6. In the context of the UNECE FAO UNDA (United Nations Development Account) capacity building project on “Sustainable Forest Management for Greener Economies in Central Asia and the Caucasus”, national action plans will be developed in three pilot countries in the region, namely: Georgia, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan. The action plans will support an enhanced role of the forest sector in a green economy. In particular, they will guide actions of national authorities and other stakeholders, through a detailed set of targets and activities to ensure that the forest sector will support transition towards a green economy. This includes activities such as: improved human well-being, social equity, reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities.
7. To meet these goals, action plans will address five main themes, with their respective areas of activity:
  - Sustainable production and consumption of forest products;
  - The low carbon forest sector;
  - Decent green jobs in the forest sector;
  - Valuation of and payment for forest ecosystem services;
  - Monitoring and governance of the forest sector in the green economy.
8. Action plans will be modelled after the Rovaniemi Action Plan on Forests for a Green Economy, which was adopted by the UNECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI) and the FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC) (Finland December 2013) (see item 5(b)).
9. An example is Kazakhstan, where the UNECE FAO project team, in coordination with the Ministry of Environment and its Forestry and Hunting Committee and other international players like UNDP and GIZ, is engaged in the development of the national action plan to be linked to the Kazakh Green Economy Concept 2020, which was adopted through Presidential Decree on 31 July 2012. A series of coaching seminars are organized under the project to engage key national stakeholders and guide them through the preparation of the action plans in all three pilot countries. The action plans are expected to be finalized by March 2015 and thereafter will be submitted to national governments for final approval.
10. The first regional seminar, engaging all seven UNDA project countries, was organized in Astana, Kazakhstan, in April 2014, followed by a national workshop and a coaching workshop. The main purpose of the regional workshop was to examine how to further develop and link forestry to green growth. The workshop focused on: principles of greener economies, sustainable forest management, stakeholder engagement in forest policy processes, forestry data gathering and management, bioenergy generation from wood, green economy action planning and training. The training was participatory and after each session the participants performed a series of exercises, which focused on planning processes. Participants identified a number of challenges and opportunities for the implementation of sustainable forest management in each country.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/timber/meetings/20111201/Bled\\_Declaration.pdf](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/timber/meetings/20111201/Bled_Declaration.pdf)

11. The result was that participants developed a forestry strategy (solutions tree) for the green economy in their countries. The forestry strategy developed for Kazakhstan included:
  - Context: low forest cover (5%), unsustainable use of forest resources, inefficient energy technologies, poverty, inadequate legislation on forestry, low awareness;
  - Vision: promoting social and economic development through the use of a low-carbon mechanism
  - Purpose: To ensure that the needs of the economy are through the sustainable use of forest resources by 2050;
  - Components: preservation and enhancement of forest resources; appropriate forest legislation in accordance with the principles of green economy; introduction of low-carbon technologies; conditions to attract investment; development of science and education; creation of new jobs.
12. The regional seminar was followed by a national workshop in Kazakhstan to examine how to further develop and link forestry to green growth at the national level. It was attended by representatives of local municipalities from all the regions of Kazakhstan and members of the special Working Group on drafting the Forest Strategy of Kazakhstan. The Working Group consisted of representatives from the Committee of Forestry and Hunting of the Ministry of Environment and Water Resources of Kazakhstan, other government departments, academia, NGO, as well as national experts on forest sector. .
13. As a result of the national workshop, the participants developed the structure for the forestry strategy in the green economy, which included:
  - a. Vision: increase forest cover, sustainable management and consumption; implementation of the SFM principles by improving forest; maintain environmental benefits to local population, save bio diversity;
  - b. Purpose: sustainable development of timber production and ensure the welfare of population;
  - c. Components: development of forest policy for a green economy, increase the contribution of the forest sector to GDP, substitution of traditional sources with renewable resources, strengthening the forest sector at the international level, improve the efficiency of forest management, implementation of adaptation measures for climate change, develop private forests, improve training and retraining of forestry specialists, issuance of preferential loans to forest businesses.
14. In addition, the national workshop was followed by a coaching workshop in Kazakhstan. The coaching workshops focus on planning the process of how to develop the forest sector action plan for a greener economy in the pilot countries. The components of the workshop include:
  - function, form and generic contents of forest sector action plan for a green economy;
  - principles, skills and methods for effective and responsive forestry process planning;
  - development of the detailed process guide for action plan development;
  - steps, methods, information needs, roles, responsibilities and timeframe.
15. National workshops and coaching seminars for Georgia and Tajikistan will take place in June 2014, followed by national workshops in Uzbekistan (July), Armenia (September), Kyrgyzstan and Azerbaijan. The second regional workshop for all countries will be organized in spring 2015, and the project finalized by mid-2015.

**D. Key questions for guidance and discussion**

16. The Working Party is invited to:
  - a. *Comment and advise on activities related to capacity building*