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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry

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#### Biennial evaluation report 2012-2013

## Biennial evaluation report for the Timber and Forestry Subprogramme (2012-2013)

Prepared by the secretariat

### *Summary*

The document provides the 2012-2013 biennial evaluation report of the work of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Timber and Forestry subprogramme. It presents the performance evaluation in an aggregated way, harmonised with the United Nations biennial planning and evaluation framework. The evaluation follows the biennial evaluation plan for 2012-2013, which was presented to the Committee at its 70th session. The Committee is invited to endorse the evaluation report.

This document is presented to the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry for approval.

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## **I. Introduction**

1. This biennial evaluation report is based on the biennial evaluation plan for 2012-2013. It presents an assessment of accomplishments and lessons learned for each cluster of work of the Subprogramme 7: Timber and Forestry.
2. The indicators of achievement for each expected accomplishment are reported for the end of each biennium unless otherwise indicated.

## **II. Cluster 1: From data to policy**

### **A. Expected accomplishment**

3. Increased understanding, based on better monitoring of sustainable forest management, encompassing. (i) policies and institutions, (ii) forest resources, (iii) sound use of wood, for material and energy purposes, in domestic and export markets, and (iv) the outlook for the sector in a broader, cross-sectoral context.

### **B. Indicators of achievement**

4. Increased percentage of UNECE countries able to provide satisfactory data on qualitative indicators of sustainable forest management.
  - (a) 2008-2009: 65 per cent
  - (b) 2010-2011: 67 per cent
  - (c) 2012-2013: 67 per cent
  - (d) Target 2012-2013: 69 per cent
5. Increased percentage of ECE countries able to provide satisfactory data on quantitative indicators of sustainable forest management
  - (a) 2008-2009: 65 per cent
  - (b) 2010-2011: 67 per cent
  - (c) 2012-2013: 67 per cent
  - (d) Target 2012-2013: 69 per cent
6. Percentage of ECE countries able to provide satisfactory responses to the ECE/Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations/International Tropical Timber Organization/Eurostat joint forest sector questionnaire (which monitors the sound use of wood)
  - (a) 2008-2009: 68 per cent
  - (b) 2010-2011: 70 per cent
  - (c) 2012-2013: 66 per cent
  - (d) Target 2012-2013: 70 per cent

7. Percentage of policymakers and other stakeholders who regard selected policy forums and workshops as useful

- (a) 2008-2009: 75 per cent
- (b) 2010-2011: 77 per cent
- (c) 2012-2013: 80 per cent
- (d) Target 2012-2013: 77 per cent

### **C. Accomplishment account**

8. Data collection on forest resources, policies and institutions was harmonized with six international organizations through the development of "The Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire" (CFRQ), which reduces the burden on ECE member States for quantitative and qualitative reporting on sustainable forest management. The percentage of ECE countries able to provide satisfactory responses to the ECE/FAO/International Tropical Timber Organization/Eurostat joint forest sector questionnaire which monitors the sound use of wood decreased from 70 per cent in 2011 to 66 per cent in 2013. This reduction was mainly caused by budget and capacity constraints of the national institutions in the wake of the global economic situation. Eighty per cent of participants evaluated meetings/workshops of the ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section to be useful, in particular with regard to their responsiveness to emerging challenges, including trade measures affecting timber trade, life cycle assessment, and the green economy.

### **D. Lessons learned/areas needing improvement**

9. Further efforts are needed to convey the overall importance of forests and of data to sustainable forest management. The quantity and quality of forest information in the region could be further improved through capacity-building activities, especially on topics where the number of reporting countries has been decreasing. Reporting institutions in member States are facing significant budget cuts and without these efforts, the reduction in the response rate could become even more significant in the future.

## **III. Cluster 2: Capacity-building**

### **A. Expected accomplishment**

10. Increased capacity of countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and South-East Europe to achieve sustainable forest management at the national level.

### **B. Indicators of achievement**

11. Percentage of participants having used the information provided at capacity-building activities

- (a) 2008-2009: 77 per cent
- (b) 2010-2011: 77 per cent
- (c) 2012-2013: 86 per cent
- (d) Target 2012-2013: 77 per cent

### **C. Accomplishment account**

12. Two capacity-building workshops to achieve sustainable forest management at the national level targeted countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. The workshop on Forest Resources Assessment (October 2013) brought together participants from the Commonwealth of Independent States and Georgia. It aimed to improve national capacities in reporting forest related indicators for the FAO Forest Resource Assessment. The Joint Wood Energy Enquiry capacity-building workshop (September 2012) contributed to improving communication between the energy and forest sectors at the national level. It aimed at increasing knowledge on the issue of participants from Ukraine and other CIS countries. Based on evaluations, the workshops were useful. Some 86 per cent of the surveyed workshops participants rated the workshops as ‘useful’ or ‘very useful’ for their work. The capacity-building workshops facilitated the exchange of best practices and experience and showcased some good examples from other countries.

### **D. Lessons learned/areas needing improvement**

13. Political commitment from the energy and forestry sectors to wood energy still requires development and support through capacity-building. The capacity-building workshop in Geneva on Forest Resource Assessment helped countries to improve their understanding of reporting. It is clear that national experts could use further support to reinforce what was learned and help them to overcome problems with its application.

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