



---

**Economic Commission for Europe****Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry****Seventy-second session**

Kazan, 18-21 November 2014

Item 2 (b) of the provisional agenda

**Rovaniemi Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy****Follow-up to the Rovaniemi Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy****Note by the secretariat***Summary*

This document provides an overview of activities undertaken by the joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section and partners for the implementation of the Rovaniemi Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy.

The Committee is expected to take note of these activities and provide guidance on further work to be undertaken for the implementation of the Rovaniemi Action Plan.

**I. Introduction**

1. The Rovaniemi Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy was adopted at “Metsä2013”, the joint session of the Committee with the FAO European Forestry Commission held in Finland, from 9 to 13 December 2013.
2. The Plan was annexed to the report of the joint session (see document ECE/TIM/2013/2 – FAO:FO/EFC/2013/2). This version was prepared for publication as a study paper in A5 format (ECE/TIM/SP/35), following the layout used for the publications “Forests and Economic Development” (ECE/TIM/SP/31) and “The Value of Forests” (ECE/TIM/SP/34).
3. The publication is expected to be also available as an e-publication and used as the basis for different meetings and projects by the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section (hereafter referred to as “the Section”) and partners.



## **II. Implementation of the Rovaniemi Action Plan**

4. This section gives an overview of activities undertaken for the implementation of the Rovaniemi Action Plan, following the structure of its five pillars. For more information on the activities, please refer to other relevant agenda items, which are mentioned in the text, and the list of activities contained in document ECE/TIM/2013/9. Specific activities of the Action Plan are referred by their number (example: A.1.2 for Pillar A, objective 1, activity 2).

### **A. Activities undertaken by the secretariat, including those implemented in partnership with other organizations**

#### **1. Sustainable production and consumption of forest products**

5. The work of the Section on Forest Products Markets and their annual review contribute to different objectives of this pillar. In particular, this work reviews challenges and opportunities for sustainable consumption patterns for forest products (A.0.2) and monitors developments in certification and labelling (A.1.1). It also showcases innovative uses of wood and forests in a specific chapter of the annual review (A.4.1).

6. The results of the study on policies and incentives to encourage innovative and traditional wood use in construction (to be presented at the Committee session) will provide an overview of existing policy tools for the promotion of wood materials for Green Building (A.6.2 and E.4.2).

7. In addition, the work on Forest Resource Assessment helps in generating information and data to support the provision of an adequate wood supply from the region's forests (A.3.1).

#### **2. The low carbon forest sector**

8. The next round of the Joint Wood Energy Enquiry, based on 2013 data, will provide updated figures on the developments in wood energy supply and trade. A specific study, which was conducted by the secretariat and presented at the meeting of the Team of Specialists on Forest Sector Outlook in June 2014, compared the developments in wood energy as projected by the EUWood study<sup>1</sup> with the implementation of policy targets at the EU level as described in the progress reports of the National Renewable Energy Action Plans<sup>2</sup> (B.1.2).

9. The Forests for Fashion Initiative and the related events organized on the occasion of the International Forests Day in 2014 are an example of the Section's work in promoting the use of low carbon materials over high-carbon/non-renewable alternatives (B.1.7).

10. A study analysing the advantages and disadvantages of the "cascade" approach to wood use is forecasted for 2015 (B.2.1).

---

<sup>1</sup> The EUWood report is available at:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/energy/renewables/bioenergy/bioenergy\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/renewables/bioenergy/bioenergy_en.htm)

<sup>2</sup> For more information, please visit:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/energy/renewables/action\\_plan\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/renewables/action_plan_en.htm)

11. The work on Forest Resource Assessment helps in improving national forest inventories and the monitoring of carbon stocks in forests (B.4.2).

### **3. Decent green jobs in the forest sector**

12. Several activities in relation to forest-sector workforce issues were included in the Terms of Reference of the Team of Specialists on Green Jobs (C.1.1, C.1.2, C.3.1, C.3.2, and C.3.3; see annex V of document ECE/TIM/2013/2 – FAO:FO/EFC/2013/2). The Team was established in June 2014 and is preparing its work plan.

13. The Section also actively contributed to the FOREST EUROPE work on the green economy and social aspects of sustainable forest management and, in particular, its workshop held in Santander, Spain in April 2014. This covered a number of the Rovaniemi Action Plan activities (C.0.1, C.0.2, C.1.1, C.1.2, C.2.1, C.2.2). Moreover, on-going consultancy work is expected to provide recommendations on how to improve the monitoring of occupational safety and health of the forestry workforce (C.2.2).

14. Preparatory work for the improvement of the situation in forestry education started in December 2013 at Metsä2013 with a side-event organized jointly by the International Union of Forestry Research Organizations and the International Forestry Student Association (C.5.1 and C.5.2).

### **4. Long term provision of Forest Ecosystem Services**

15. In March 2014, the Section published, jointly with UNEP, the study paper number 34: “The Value of Forests, Payments for Ecosystem Services in a Green Economy”<sup>3</sup> based on their knowledge on forest ecosystem services and cooperation with other partners (D.0.1). It also contributed to the inception phase of the FOREST EUROPE work on the valuation of Forest Ecosystem Services, which will contribute to different activities such as D.1.2 and D.1.4.

### **5. Policy development and monitoring of the forest sector in relation to a green economy**

16. Inter-organisation cooperation on forest resource assessment was maintained and developed through the Collaborative Forest Resource Questionnaire and the pan-European reporting process (E.2.1). The work on an indicator data sets to demonstrate the forest sector’s contribution to a green economy was launched at Metsä2013 with a round table (E.2.3, see also agenda item 2c). The results of this work are expected to be consistent with other forest sector indicators, notably those for sustainable forest management. The Section also is preparing a report as a contribution to the next session of the United Nations Forum on Forests based on the four global objectives on forests (E.2.4, see also agenda item 3b).

17. The methodology to assess the sustainability of forest management in the ECE region was further developed with the support of the Team of Specialists on Sustainable Forest Management (E.3.1).

---

<sup>3</sup> Available at <http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/timber/publications/SP-34Xsmall.pdf>

18. Activities undertaken by the Forest Communicators' Network contribute directly to improving the sector's capacity to communicate, by developing national and international capacities and sharing experience. The communication actions conducted by the Section and, in particular, on the occasion of the International Day of Forests on 21 March (Forests for Fashion in 2014 and Forests for Food in 2015) also contribute to improving the sector's capacity (E.4.1).

19. The Section's capacity-building activities on Forests, Forest Products and Wood Energy data are intended, *inter alia*, to develop the capacities of all stakeholders to provide usable data for indicators for sustainable management and use of the forests in the ECE region (E.0.4, E.2.2, E.3.4, see also section III).

## **B. Activities undertaken by member States and other stakeholders**

20. Discussions with member States and other organizations (such as the exchanges which took place at the last session of the ECE/FAO Joint Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management in June 2014) showed that it was relatively early to assess their contribution to the implementation of the Rovaniemi Action Plan, which was adopted less than one year ago. However, member States who wish to do so can prepare a short statement on their national approach the green economy in the forest sector and deliver it from the floor under item 2b of the provisional agenda.

21. In addition, it is suggested to conduct a survey of member States' governments and other forest sector stakeholders in the region to collect information on their activities in relation to the green economy in the forest sector.

## **III. Activities in support of the implementation of the Rovaniemi Action Plan**

22. The next meeting of the Team of Specialists on Forest Policy will focus on how member States and other stakeholders can make use of the Rovaniemi Action Plan to develop their own strategy, policy or set of measures for the forest sector in a green economy. It is scheduled to be held in Krakow, Poland, from 16 to 18 September 2014. The information collected during this meeting could also help in designing the survey mentioned in section II.B. More information on the outcome of the meeting will be available in the document ECE/TIM/2014/INF.1.

23. The capacity-building project, "Sustainable Forest Management for Greener Economies in the Caucasus and Central Asia", financed by the United Nations Development Account is also based on the Rovaniemi Action Plan and its training modules are directly inspired by its content. The implementation of this project started in 2013 and will continue until the end of 2015. For more information, please consult the document ECE/TIM/2014/11.

## **IV. Points for consideration**

24. Given the above, Delegates to the Committee are invited to:
- Take note of the activities mentioned in this document.
  - Provide guidance on further work to be undertaken to support the implementation of the Rovaniemi Action Plan.
  - Report on their national approach to the green economy in the forest sector at the Committee sessions.
  - Request the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section to conduct a survey of the member States' governments and other forest sector stakeholders in the region and prepare a report on their activities in relation to the green economy in the forest sector for the next joint session of the Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission "Silva2015" to be held in Engelberg, Switzerland, in November 2015.
-