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of the United Nations****Economic Commission for Europe****Food and Agriculture Organization****Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry****European Forestry Commission****Seventy-third session**

Engelberg, 2-6 November 2015

Item 6(a) of the provisional agenda

**Joint ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry
and the FAO Forestry Commission matters****Integrated Programme of Work 2014-2017****Thirty-eight session**

Engelberg, 2-6 November 2015

**Review of 2015 activities and planned activities
for 2016****Note by the Secretariat***Summary*

This document describes how the ECE/FAO Integrated Programme of Work 2014-2017 was implemented in 2015 and provides a tentative list of activities for 2016, the implementation of which is subject to availability of funds.

I. Review of activities 2015**A. Work Area 1: Data, monitoring and assessment****1. Forest resources****(a) Collection, validation and dissemination of statistics on forest resources, functions and services, sustainable forest management and contribution of the forest sector to a green economy**

- Pan-European 2015 reporting: collection of national reports and desk studies; production of the third edition of the interactive database (quantitative indicators);



- Reporting on forest ownership in the region: production of the final questionnaire, launch of the reporting process, collection of national reports; production of a preliminary database.
- (b) **Analysis and assessment of the state of forests and sustainability of forest management; and monitoring the role of the forest sector in the green economy**
- Pilot reporting on sustainability of forest management: compilation of the data, establishment a dialogue with countries, compilation of the results and production of a draft report;
 - UNECE-FAO study “Forests in the ECE Region: Trends and Challenges in Achieving the Global Objectives on Forests”: production of the final version of the study, analytical and dissemination material; presentation of the study at the International Day of Forests in Geneva, Switzerland, March 2015 and the Eleventh Session of the United Nations Forum in New York, United States, May 2015;
 - Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) and Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire (CFRQ): regional contribution to the release of the and dissemination of final outputs, participation in the side event at the FAO World Forestry Congress and in the FRA Advisory Group meeting in Durban, South Africa, September 2015;
 - Reporting on forest ownership in the region: establishment of the production process of the UNECE/FAO/COST Action FACESMAP (Forest Land Ownership Changes in Europe: Significance for Management and Policy) study; preparation of a concept note; organisation of a meeting of the Core Group on forest ownership reporting in Geneva, Switzerland, November 2015.
- (c) **Cooperation and support to international processes in sustainable forest management, including regional Criteria and Indicators processes**
- Contribution to the work of international processes (e.g. Forest Europe, Montréal Process, etc.), including input to the review process of the pan-European indicators (January, February and May 2014 – Madrid, Spain) and the provision of source data and assistance to the preparation of the 2015 edition of the State of Europe’s Forest report.
 - Support to forest information related work in countries and organisations in the region.
 - Organization of the third meeting of the Team of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management, Engelberg, Switzerland, 4-5 November 2015.

2. Forest products and markets

- (a) **Collection, validation and dissemination of statistics on production, trade, consumption and prices of forest products**
- Preparation of data on forest products, species trade, prices.
 - Data provided to FAOSTAT in January and July
 - Unit price statistics published in January
 - Price statistics updated in July

- Long-term data series (1964-2013) published in February
 - Initial 2014 data collected in summer 2015
 - Increased use of the United Nations COMTRADE database in collaboration with the International Tropical Timber Organization, in order to improve quality of data on trade.
 - Development of procedures for estimating wood balance. National wood balance tables were developed in 2013 and mid-2014 and a Discussion Paper is being finalized.
 - Jointly with FAO and the ITTO, development of a questionnaire on conversion factors.
 - Trial game meat survey launched for the UNECE region.
- (b) **Analysis of markets for forest products, notably policy relevant aspects, including Forest Products Annual Market Review and annual Market Discussions**
- Publication of the Forest Products Annual Market Review (FPAMR) in mid-August 2015 in advanced draft with hard copy to follow in October.
 - Preparation of statistical annex for the FPAMR, including trade flow and forest products production and trade (August 2015).
 - Country market statements requested collected and subsequently published on web site (October 2015).
 - Preparation of tables and graphs for Market Forecasts for Engelberg and subsequently published on web site (November 2015).
 - Preparation of the COFFI Market Discussion and the Market Statement (November 2015).
 - Preparation of a discussion paper on national industrial roundwood balances.
- (c) **Support to international processes in forest products**
- Participation in the Intersecretariat Working Group for Forest Sector Statistics.
 - Market presentations (“*Wood in the global context: relevance and future challenges*”, University for applied sciences, Bern, Switzerland; “*International Trends in Harvesting and Exports*”, remote presentation to the 43rd Annual Spring Symposium on Innovations in Timber Harvesting and Utilization, Gainesville, Florida; “*Forest products conversion factors: Importance for international data and statistics*”, Timber Measurement Society, Coeur d’Arlene, Idaho, United States of America).
 - Review international classifications and provide input to relevant international organizations such as the World Custom Organization and UN Statistical Division.
 - Team of Specialists meeting on Forest Products Statistics on 17 March 2015 in Geneva and the Team of Specialists on Sustainable Forest Products on 02 November 2015 in Engelberg.

3. Wood energy

- (a) **Collection, validation and dissemination of statistics on wood energy**
- Maintenance of database on wood energy.
 - Joint Wood Energy Enquiry 2013 (JWEE2013) data analysis and publication online.
 - Workshop “More Heat with Less Wood” in Geneva, Switzerland, 6-7 October 2015.
- (b) **Analysis of energy-related issues, including demand and supply for wood energy**
- Preparation of publication of a wood energy report, explaining the data collection process, analysing trends in supply of and demand for wood energy, including national case studies on wood energy data collection as appropriate.
- (c) **Support of international processes in wood energy**
- Presentation of the wood energy work at relevant international meetings and cooperation with relevant processes (e.g. International Energy Agency, International Renewable Energy Agency, etc.).
 - Meeting of the Team of Specialists on Wood Energy, 11–13 March 2015, Vienna, Austria.

B. Work Area 2: Policy dialogue and advice

- (a) **Follow-up to the Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy**
- Monitoring of the implementation of the Action Plan in the UNECE region.
 - Dissemination and presentation of the Action Plan at relevant meetings
 - Side event at EXPO2015 “The multiple values of European mountain forests: which perspectives in a green economy?” organised in collaboration with the Alpine Convention, 2 June 2015, Milano, Italy.
 - Circumboreal Cooperation High Level Meeting, 29 May 2015, Rovaniemi, Finland.
 - Organization of a meeting of the Team of Specialists on forest policy, 7-9 October 2015, Prague, Czech Republic.
 - Preparation of a study on policies and incentives to promote wood in construction.
- (b) **Contribution to the policy-related components of activities under work area 1, 3 and 4**
- Policy Chapter of the Forest Product Annual Markets Review.
 - Policy elements of the report on Global Forest Objectives, “Forests in the ECE region”.
- (c) **Forest Sector Outlook**
- Meeting of the Team of Specialists on Forest Sector Outlook, 22 – 23 January 2015, Ispra, Italy.

- Meeting of the Team of Specialists on Forest Sector outlook, 17 - 18 September 2015, Brussels, Belgium.

(d) Green Jobs in the Forest Sector

- Meeting of the ILO/UNECE/FAO Team of Specialist on Green Jobs in the Forest Sector on 24 - 25 March 2015, Geneva, Switzerland.
- Meeting of the ILO/UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Green Jobs in the Forest Sector, 8 - 9 September 2015, La Bastide-des-Jourdans, France.
- Organization of a side event in Silva 2015, November 2015, Engelberg, Switzerland.

(e) Monitoring and support of international processes relevant to policy making for the forest sector

- Contribution to and organization of a side event at the eleventh session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, 13 May 2015, New York, United States.
- Participation in Forest Europe Expert Level Meeting, 2 July 2015, Madrid, Spain.
- Participation and contribution to side events at the FAO World Forestry Congress in September 2015, Durban, South Africa.
- Monitoring of intergovernmental consultations on post-2015 agenda.
- Monitoring of developments and contribution to, as relevant, Forest Europe process.

C. Work Area 3: Communications and outreach

(a) Organization of events and campaigns in support of sustainable forest management and forest products and services

- International Day of Forests: 21 March 2015. The celebration was organized on 20 March 2015 in Geneva, Switzerland with the theme “Forests for Food – Food for Forests”, including conference, reception and opening of the “Learning from Forests” exhibition, which resembled a walk through the forest drawing the attention of the public to the social, environmental, cultural and gastronomic benefits of forests.

(b) Dissemination of information via policy briefs, press briefs and ad hoc studies, whenever results are available and new information released

- Regular update of the Media/Public Relation contact list.
- Maintenance of the website and improvement of its design.
- Preparation and dissemination of press briefs/releases on relevant topics developed in 2015.
- Issuing the Forest Information Billboard regularly.

- (c) **Outreach activities beyond the forest sector disseminating information that highlights the relevance of forests and forest products to other sectors (e.g. energy events, biodiversity and environment meetings, sustainable construction and building, etc.)**
- Preparation and dissemination of press releases on forest products markets.
 - Organization of the meetings of the Teams of Specialists on Forest Communication 26-27 February 2015, Engelberg, Switzerland (task force for Silva 2015) and 20-22 May 2015, Barcelona, Spain, hosted by the European Forest Institute.

D. Work Area 4: Capacity-building

- (a) **Organization of capacity-building workshops**
- Forest sector workforce: Threats to Sustainability of the Forest Sector Workforce, Geneva, Switzerland, 17 March 2015.
 - Forest products markets and forest sector workforce (to take place in the Balkans), December 2015.
- (b) **Preparation and implementation of the UNDA¹ projects: Sustainable forest management for greener economies in the Caucasus and Central Asia (2013-2015); and Accountability systems for sustainable forest management in Caucasus and Central Asian countries (2016-2017)**
- Development of national action plans for the forest sector in a green economy or supporting the national forest policy processes.
 - Second regional workshop for all seven project countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan) in cooperation with an EU funded RERAM project (Resource efficiency and raw material use of woodworking industries of Eastern Europe) in Tbilisi, Georgia, 21-24 April 2015.
 - Evaluation of the project (2013-2015) and preparation of a project report.
 - Preparation of a full project proposal for the new UNDA project (2016-2017).

E. Monitoring and management of the Programme of Work

- (a) **Intergovernmental Meetings**
- Silva2015 - joint session of the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the FAO European Forestry Commission, 2 - 6 November 2015, Engelberg, Switzerland.
 - Organization of the meeting of the Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management in Geneva, Switzerland, 18-20 March 2015, Geneva, Switzerland.

¹ UNDA : United Nations Development Account.

(b) Bureaux Meetings

- Organization of the Bureaux meetings: 13 January 2015, New York, United States, 19-20 March 2015, Geneva, Switzerland; 15 May 2015 New York, United States; 1 July 2015, Madrid, Spain and a possible meeting in October 2015, Madrid, Spain.

II. Tentative list of activities for 2016

A. Work Area 1: Data, monitoring and assessment

1. Forest resources

(a) Collection, validation and dissemination of statistics on forest resources, functions and services, sustainable forest management and contribution of the forest sector to a green economy

- Reporting on forest ownership in the region: set of final reports (national reports and desk studies), compilation of the forest ownership data.
- Review of the process and the results of the 2015 cycle of the reporting on forests and Sustainable Forest Management in the region.
- Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) and Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire (CFRQ): cooperation with FAO and other CFRQ partners on to the establishment and organization of the regional contribution to the 2020 reporting cycle.

(b) Analysis and assessment of the state of forests and sustainability of forest management; and monitoring the role of the forest sector in the green economy

- Reporting on forest ownership in the region: production of the UNECE/FAO/COST Action FACESMAP (Forest Land Ownership Changes in Europe: Significance for Management and Policy) study on forest ownership in the region;
- Pilot reporting on sustainability of forest management: production of a final report.
- Assessing the role of the forest sector in a green economy: organization of a thematic workshop on the forest sector in a green economy; production of review papers on evaluation of forest ecosystem services and assessment of forest sector contribution to a green economy.

(c) Cooperation and support to international processes in sustainable forest management, including regional Criteria and Indicators processes

- Contribution to the work of international processes (e.g. Forest Europe, Montréal Process).
- Support to forest information related work in countries and organisations in the region.
- Organization of the meeting(s) of the Team of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management.

2. Forest products and markets

- (a) **Collection, validation and dissemination of statistics on production, trade, consumption and prices of forest products**
- Preparation of data on forest products, species trade, prices.
 - Improvement of the existing database.
 - Development of procedures for estimating wood balance including conversion factors.
- (b) **Analysis of markets for forest products, notably policy relevant aspects, including Forest Products Annual Market Review and annual Market Discussions**
- Publication of the Forest Products Annual Market Review (FPAMR).
 - Preparation of data and statistical annex for the FPAMR.
 - Preparation of tables and graphs for Market Forecasts.
 - Preparation of the Market Discussion and the Market Statement.
 - Publication of a Topical Market Analysis.
- (c) **Support of international processes in forest products**
- Participation in the Intersecretariat Working Group for Forest Sector Statistics and attendance at other international meetings.
 - Review international classifications.
 - Organization of the meeting(s) of the Team of Specialists on Forest Products Statistics and the Team of Specialists on Sustainable Forest Products.

3. Wood energy

- (a) **Collection, validation and dissemination of statistics on wood energy**
- Maintenance of database on wood energy.
 - Dissemination of the 2013 Joint Wood Energy Enquiry data at relevant international meetings.
 - Joint Wood Energy Enquiry 2015 (JWEE2015), sending of the questionnaire.
- (b) **Analysis of energy-related issues, including demand and supply for wood energy**
- Finalisation of publication of a wood energy report, explaining the data collection process, analysing trends in supply of and demand for wood energy, including national case studies on wood energy data collection as appropriate.
- (c) **Support of international processes in wood energy**
- Presentation of the wood energy work at relevant international meetings and cooperation with relevant processes (e.g. International Energy Agency, International Renewable Energy Agency, etc.).

- Meeting of the Team of Specialists on Wood Energy, February 2016, Zagreb, Croatia.

B. Work Area 2: Policy dialogue and advice

- (a) **Follow-up to the Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy.**
 - Monitoring of the implementation of the Action Plan in the UNECE region.
 - Dissemination and presentation of the Action Plan at relevant meetings.
 - Organization of the meeting(s) of the Team of Specialists on forest policy.
- (b) **Contribution to the policy-related components of activities under work area 1, 3 and 4.**
 - Policy Chapter of the Forest Product Annual Markets Review.
- (c) **Forest Sector Outlook**
 - Organization of the meeting(s) of the Team of Specialists on Forest Sector Outlook.
- (d) **Green Jobs in the Forest Sector**
 - Organization of the meeting(s) of the ILO/UNECE/FAO Team of Specialist on Green Jobs in the Forest Sector.
 - Organization of a workshop on forests and health (potential new jobs in the forest sector).
- (e) **Monitoring and support of international processes relevant to policy making for the forest sector**
 - Monitoring of developments and contribution, as relevant, to the post-2015 agenda.
 - Monitoring of developments and contribution, as relevant to the new climate agreement to be decided in Paris in December 2015.
 - Monitoring of developments and contribution, as relevant, to Forest Europe process.
- (f) **Tools for policymaking - studies and publications**
 - A study to contribute to the system of environmental and economic accounting (SEEA) for forests (UN Statistical Division framework for ecosystem accounting).

C. Work Area 3: Communications and outreach

- (a) **Organization of events and campaigns in support of sustainable forest management and forest products and services**
 - International Day of Forests: 21 March 2016.
 - Other relevant events.

- (b) **Dissemination of information via policy briefs, press briefs and ad hoc studies, whenever results are available and new information released**
- Regular update of the Media/Public Relation contact list.
 - Maintenance of the website and improvement of its design.
 - Preparation and dissemination of press briefs/releases on relevant topics developed in 2016.
 - Issuing the Forest Information Billboard regularly.
- (c) **Outreach activities beyond the forest sector disseminating information that highlights the relevance of forests and forest products to other sectors (e.g. energy events, biodiversity and environment meetings, sustainable construction and building, etc.)**
- Preparation and dissemination of press releases on forest products markets.
 - Organization of the meeting(s) of the Teams of Specialists on Forest Communication.

D. Work Area 4: Capacity-building

- (a) **Organization of capacity-building workshops on:**
- Forest ownership.
 - Wood Energy (related to the Joint Wood Energy Enquiry).
 - Forest Products Markets.
 - National Forest Sector Statistics.
 - Emerging issues.
- (b) **Implementation of the UNDA² project: Accountability systems for sustainable forest management in Caucasus and Central Asian countries (2016-2017)**
- Development of training guidelines.
 - Organization of capacity-building workshops.

E. Monitoring and management of the Programme of Work

- (a) **Intergovernmental Meetings**
- Organization of the meeting of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry.
 - Organization of the meeting of the Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management.
- (b) **Bureaux Meetings**
- Organization of the Bureaux meetings as appropriate.

² UNDA : United Nations Development Account