Green Jobs in the forest(ry) sector

74th session of the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry

18-20 October 2016

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Co-Chairs Andreas Bernasconi (CH) and Diarmuid Mc Aree (IRE)

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• Goals
• Tasks and context
• Identified decisive challenges
• Actions and results
• Observed fields of new / known developments
• In search for a reliable basis
• next steps and outlook
Tasks and context

“Advice and support the secretariat on the implantation of the ECE/FAO Integrated Programme on employment-related issues such as jobs, required competence, education and training for the forest sector in the context in the context of the green economy”

Contributing to:

• *Resource efficient economy* in Europe
• EU Forest Strategy review and other forest related policies in Europe including the *Rovaniemi Action Plan* for the sector in a green economy
• *Sustainable development* Goals
A Green Forest Job...

• … complies with the principles of Sustainable Forest Management
• … contributes to the green economy,
• … and is involved in the value chain of forest products and/or in the performance of forest services.
The general goal of the ToS-activities is stated as follows:

To Identify and list the existing and specially the potential new Green Forest Jobs in the forest sector.
What has been done so far?

• Workshop Threats to sustainability of the Forest Sector Workforce 17th March 2015 in Geneva
• team meetings, workshops and side events at international conferences
• Analysis of existing reports and case studies; evaluation of current situation
• Elaboration draft report: thematic areas & identified fields of action
• Inquiry on Green Forest Jobs (Solsona)
Identified decisive challenges

- Climate change impacts and adaptation measures

- Globalisation; urbanisation and growth of world population; demographic changes.

- General changes in working conditions i.a. new media/digitalisation, further automatisation (industry 4.0); global markets

- Shifting societies needs and forest services - growing importance/request on non timber benefits provided by forests and trees in the context of human health, recreation and other areas (ecosystem services)
Green Forest Jobs and its landscape
Thematic area: Health & Recreation
Example / Field of activity Forest Ecotherapy

- Healing by α-Pinene and Limonene
  (volatile organic compounds within forests)

  ➢ 44 accredited „Forest Bathing“
  areas in Japan
  (they are spreading all over the world)

- Forest Ecotherapists are promoting
  non-timber forest health benefits by
  combining new forest health research
  with a basic knowledge of medical
  issues.

Forest Ecotherapy

Skills, Expertise and Green
Forest Professions

- Research and dissemination of knowledge about forest healing effects.
- Forest Ecotherapists
- Medical Doctors working in forest therapy centres
- Sports professionals, forest health coaches
- Forest Educators and guided walks leaders…
The > 70,000 trees of Melbourne city are valued at $650 million. (incl. health, amenity and microclimate effects)

Melbourne`s trees receive letters of love. (instead of those reporting damages)

Urban foresters have to handle the special needs & demands of urban society as well as the special needs of urban trees associated with harsh and extreme growing conditions.

Urban forestry

Skills, Expertise and Green Forest Professions

- Urban Foresters
- Forest landscape gardeners
- Urban Forest Planners / Green urban infrastructure Managers
Inquiry on Green Forest Jobs (Solsona)

- Online-Inquiry in June 2016 (participants at the Solsona Conference)
- 70% of participants see a big potential
- Majority of participants see an essential contribution for the rural development in the future.
Green Jobs in the Forest Sector: Outlook

Meeting UNECE in Geneva

Josef Herkendell / 18 October 2016
### Contribution of Green Forest Jobs for Fulfilling the SDG

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>SDG</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Good Health and Well-Being</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages</td>
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<td></td>
<td>...promote the huge physical and physiological health benefits of forests and provide appropriate offers for society.</td>
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<tr>
<th>SDG</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Sustainable Cities and Communities</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable</td>
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<td></td>
<td>...promote and manage green infrastructures and urban forests within cities for a better live quality.</td>
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Trends in the forest sector

- Forest sector employment decreased throughout the ECE-regions by 21% from 2000 – 2010 (UNECE and FAO 2015)

- The contribution of the forest sector to GDP (gross domestic product) decreased from 1.2% to 0.8% from 2000 – 2011 (374 Bill. $ to 286 Bill. $) in ECE (UNECE and FAO 2015)

- The number of forest-related public employees reported in 2014 is around 14% lower than that reported in 2010. (FOREST EUROPE 2015)
Towards a green economy

- Employment in the EU in the “Environmental goods and service sectors” increased from 3 to 4.2 million between 2002 - 2011, including by 20% during the recession years.
- eg. Natura 2000 sites supports ~ 8 Mill. new jobs due to tourism and recreation (= 6% of the total employment in the EU).
- Further green jobs will be created in the future. (European Commission 2014).

- The importance of forests for recreation, cultural values and energy production is increasing (FOREST EUROPE, UNECE and FAO 2011).
In search for a reliable basis – next steps

• Joining efforts with Forest Europe
• Enhancing the European Think Tank on future Green Jobs

With that we are aiming at:

• Identifying and listing the existing and specially the potential new Green Forest Jobs in the forest sector.
  
  By the end of 2016: the different areas will be identified and described
  
  By the end of 2017: first recommendations will be presented to the Member States (End of the mandate)

Beyond the Mandate

• Developing indicators or a statistical foundation for new Green Jobs in the forest sector?
Green Forest Jobs have the potential to link green economy with Sustainable Forest Management in a modern globalized world of continuous changes!

- Recommendations: Oct 2017 (Poland)!!
- Green Forest Jobs Implementation 2018ff?

Thank you for your attention!
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