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Warsaw, Poland 9-13 October 2017

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Item 4(a) of the provisional agenda

**FAO European Forestry Commission matters:****Follow-up to the decisions of the thirty-eighth session of the  
European Forestry Commission****Follow-up to the decisions of the thirty-eighth  
session of the European Forestry Commission****Note by the Secretariat***Summary*

The thirty-eighth session of the Commission made several requests and recommendations to FAO. This document presents the actions taken to implement these requests and recommendations. Implementation of recommendations on joint matters by FAO and ECE is not covered under this document and will be reported under the relevant joint EFC and COFFI items.

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## European Forestry Commission recommendations for the FAO Programme of Work in Forestry

Area/ action for FAO programme of work	FAO Strategic Objective	Follow up activities by FAO
<b>A. Global and regional context: ECE and FAO, within their existing mandates, to:</b>		
1. Collaborate to support country implementation of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as they relate to forests, in cooperation with CPF members.	SO1-5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FAO is continuing to support country implementation of the forest related SDGs and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, giving special emphasis to 15.1, 15.2, and 15.4, as the custodian agency.</li> <li>• Because of the need to improve the quality and consistency of international, regional and national reporting on forest resources, FAO, through training and technical assistance, has been supporting countries in developing and strengthening integrated monitoring systems to provide reliable forest, tree resource and land use/change information. This information has been used for policy development, planning, sustainable management and international reporting such as UNFCCC, CBD, UNCCD and now the SDGs.</li> <li>• FAO continued to support enhancing statistical capacity on forest products at the national and regional levels on the FAO Forest Products Statistical Programme (FPS) to improve data availability and quality of forest products statistics.</li> <li>• FAO has built a solid foundation for a framework of indicators to measure the economic, social, and environmental contributions of forests and monitor progress towards SFM.</li> <li>• In order to help countries monitor the green cover of mountain areas, the FAO Forestry Department also promoted a series of regional training/assessment workshops during which about twenty young researchers received training and then will undertake assessments based on augmented visual interpretation of high-resolution images through the Open Foris Collect Earth (CE) tool. This initiative took place in</li> </ul>

		<p>the summer in 2016, and provided the information needed to define the baseline data for the mountain green cover index.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FAO is also developing its flagship publication "The State of the World's Forests" (SOFO 2018), which will address the strong linkages between forests and the SDGs. The working title is Forest Pathways to Sustainable Development: Benefitting Landscapes and Livelihoods. SOFO 2018 will provide evidence of the multiple contributions of forests - and of the people who use and manage them - to sustainable development in its three dimensions (economic, social and environmental), and analyze the efficiency of those contributions. It will identify data gaps and provide examples of and recommendations for forest pathways to sustainable development that benefit landscapes, promote economic growth, and improve livelihoods, in particular of the poor.</li> </ul>
<p>2. Work jointly on developing global forest-related indicators, building on existing indicators, related to Sustainable Development Goals and efficient ways of measuring them, in the framework of the Inter-agency Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, and further requested FAO and ECE to continue their inputs to this group.</p>	<p>SO1-5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Following a number of informal meetings, an international expert workshop in Ottawa, and an organisation-led initiative (OLI) in Rome, a task force under the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) prepared a proposal for a global core set of forest-related indicators for an on-line consultation. The consultation closed on 21 May 2017 and its results were presented in the FRA Expert Consultation in Joensuu, Finland 12 to 16 June 2017. After the Expert Consultation review the global core set will be finalized by the CPF Task Force and submitted for approval to the CPF governing bodies, including COFO and UNFF in 2018.</li> </ul>
<p>3. Continue jointly to provide support to countries, through providing tools and technical assistance to integrate issues related to climate change mitigation and adaptation into their forest and related sectors; and to assist in strengthening national forest monitoring systems for climate change mitigation.</p>	<p>SO2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FAO has published supplementary guidelines to the UNFCCC NAP Guidelines for "Addressing Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in National Adaptation Plans (NAP-Ag Guidelines)". These guidelines will be of use to developing countries within the ECE region as it provides support to ensure that forestry, agriculture and fisheries are included in national adaptation plans and made more adaptive and resilient.</li> <li>• FAO has also commenced work to develop a framework methodology for vulnerability assessments in forestry.</li> <li>• FAO REU and SEC provide technical</li> </ul>

		assistance on integration of climate change mitigation and adaptation into forest and related sectors through implementation of GEF projects, namely in Azerbaijan, Serbia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, and Turkey, which are focusing on strengthening of the national forest monitoring system for climate change mitigation and landscape approach to forest land management.
4. Continue jointly, through the Integrated Programme of Work, to regularly update member States and other stakeholders on the forest-related global and regional policy developments, building also on the possible input from the ToS on Forest Policy, to contribute to the SDG implementation and review process.	SO1-6	<p><i>Information is provided here and in the document ECE/TIM/2017/4; FO:EFC/2017/4</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FAO has contributed to discussing global and regional policy matters at EFC, ECE COFFI and the FAO/ECE JWPFSSEM by preparing background documents and presentations on the subject. Furthermore, regular information was provided through inFO news and Infosylva for a broad range of stakeholders.</li> </ul>
5. Continue efforts to streamline reporting, inter alia through the Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire (CFRQ), in the next global reporting cycle.	SO2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forest Europe, FAO and ECE work towards a close collaboration in the 2020 data collection cycle and integrate the two surveys using the new online FRA Platform. The implementation of the collaboration plan is subject to the availability of formal approval by all governing bodies and necessary financial resources.</li> </ul>
<b>B. Forest Ecosystem Services and Financing Sustainable Forest Management: FAO and ECE, within their existing mandates to:</b>		
6. Compile studies and information and disseminate them in an easily-accessible format.	SO2-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FAO compiled several studies for the chapter “Valuation of water related forest ecosystem services” in the ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section Study Paper (Forests and Water: Valuation and Payments for Forest Ecosystem Services)</li> <li>• FAO continued its basic task of compiling and publishing statistics on forest products, where time series span from 1947 to present and now have renewed importance in a carbon-balance perspective.</li> </ul>
7. Analyse and compare existing schemes of payments for forest ecosystem services.	SO2-4	See the answer provided for point 6 above.

<p>8. Develop and publish guidelines for practitioners on how to finance, pay for and institute markets for forest ecosystem services building on successful examples in member States; and that FAO consider expanding the SFM toolbox in this area.</p>	<p>SO2-4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In collaboration with ECE, FAO contributed to the delivery of the ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section Study Paper (Forests and Water: Valuation and Payments for Forest Ecosystem Services).</li> </ul>
<p>9. Raise awareness of the value of FES, particularly among politicians, with the aim of creating the necessary enabling policy environment.</p>	<p>SO2-4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FAO prepared the chapter ‘Valuation of water related forest ecosystem services’ in the ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section Study Paper (Forests and Water: Valuation and Payments for Forest Ecosystem Services)</li> </ul>
<p><b>C. Disaster risk reduction and watershed management</b></p>		
<p>10. The Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds to work in its current direction including broader cross-sectoral collaboration.</p>	<p>SO2-5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Working Party, in the framework of its two thematic working groups on “hazards and disaster risk management in mountain” and “forests and water” respectively, has been very active in implementing its work programme and in promoting cross-sectoral collaboration. Workshops on events documentation and training for practitioners have been implemented in Bosnia, France and Austria. A Springer book “ecosystem services in headwater catchments” was published online and a COST proposal on “smart management of headwater catchments” was submitted. The Working Party is preparing for its thirty-first session which will be held from 4 to 6 September in Prague with the theme “management of municipal watershed in mountain regions”.</li> </ul>
<p><b>D. Climate change mitigation, substitution and adaptation and forest and landscape restoration: The FAO and ECE, subject to their capacities and mandates, to:</b></p>		
<p>11. Undertake, in collaboration with research institutions, an analysis of the potential for forest products and markets for climate change mitigation; development of standards for calculating and validating contributions from forest product-based mitigation.</p>	<p>SO2, SO4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The FAO Forestry Paper Forests for a low carbon future was launched in 2016 with analysis of contributions of forests and harvested wood products to climate change mitigation.</li> <li>• A study titled The Charcoal Transition, demonstrating ways to make charcoal production and consumption cleaner and more climate-friendly, was published and presented during the International Day of Forest together with</li> </ul>

		infographics.
12. They also proposed that the twenty-third meeting of the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO) in 2016 should take up the issue of adaptation of forests to climate change, taking into account all types of forests from boreal to tropical.	SO2, SO6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Based on this and other RFC's recommendation the agenda of the twenty-third session of COFO included the consideration of FAO's corporate climate change strategy and the role of forests. As part of the same thematic cluster, a specific discussion was held on the funding opportunities for forests emerging after the Paris Agreement. In addition, a high-level dialogue was held on forest and climate change. The recommendations of COFO are available at <a href="http://www.fao.org/3/a-mr526e.pdf">http://www.fao.org/3/a-mr526e.pdf</a></li> </ul>
<b>E. Forest and Landscape Restoration</b>		
13. Support country efforts to plan and implement activities related to the restoration of forests and other degraded lands, in particular through activities of the FRL Mechanism.	SO2	<p>See the response provided under point 14.</p> <p><i>Detailed information is provided in the document ECE/TIM/2017/15; FO:EFC/2017/15</i></p>
14. Seek further cooperation with partners to promote the restoration of degraded lands, in particular through direct involvement in global partnerships and initiatives, including the GPFLR, International Model Forest Network, and the Landscapes for People, Food and Nature initiative, as well as with the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.	SO2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under the leadership of IUCN, FAO is participating in a new Joint Initiative of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests on forest and landscape restoration. The new initiative is planned for three years and aims to support leading to accelerated on-the-ground progress in achieving restoration goals; strengthen support for FLR within and among key existing international frameworks; increase public- and private-sector funding for FLR; enhance synergies and partnership among cross-national programs on FLR from the GEF, GCF, LDN Fund, and others, leading to enhanced impacts and cost savings.</li> </ul>
15. Engage in more cross-cutting and inter-departmental work, in particular through the relevant Major Areas of Work and/or Regional Initiatives defined under the FAO Strategic Framework, to support landscape approaches to achieve greater food security, poverty alleviation, climate change adaptation and mitigation, as well as the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.	SO2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FAO has published supplementary guidelines to the UNFCCC NAP Guidelines for "Addressing Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in National Adaptation Plans (NAP-Ag Guidelines)". These guidelines will be of use to developing countries within the ECE region as it provides support to ensure that forestry, agriculture and fisheries are included in national adaptation plans and made more adaptive and resilient.</li> <li>FAO has also commenced work to develop a framework methodology for</li> </ul>

		<p>vulnerability assessments in forestry.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• REU increasingly engages in more cross-cutting and interdepartmental work through current (GEF Ukraine) and planned project work (GEF Moldova), with agro-forestry type of interventions, as part of the climate smart agriculture projects.</li> <li>• SEC does cross-cutting and inter-departmental work mainly in relation to integration of climate smart agriculture, and pasture and biodiversity management into sustainable land use development within the framework of the GEF funded projects in Turkey, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.</li> </ul>
<p>16. Pursue active engagement with multilateral, bilateral and private sector resource partners, including the GEF, Green Climate Fund and multilateral and regional development banks, to enable FAO to increase its support to member countries for capacity development in inter-sectoral planning, institutional development and application of landscape approaches on the ground.</p>	SO2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FAO is accredited with the GCF as a grant-implementing entity for medium-sized projects (USD 50-250 million), has signed the GCF Readiness Framework Agreement and is currently negotiating the Accreditation Master Agreement (AMA), FAO is actively engaged in supporting developing countries to access GCF financing to build their capacity for larger investments and sectoral transformation related to forestry and other land uses (intersectorally), notably on REDD+, adaptation, as well as resilience of forest ecosystems and forest-dependent communities.</li> <li>• In addition, REU received country requests (Armenia, Georgia) to develop GCF project concepts with main focus on forestry related issues. Similar request is being considered for SEC in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.</li> </ul>
<p><b>F. Rovaniemi Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy implementation</b></p>		
<p>17. ECE and FAO to continue their joint efforts to assist member States in implementing the Rovaniemi Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy on a voluntary basis within their existing mandates, referring to elements related to climate change adaptation and mitigation.</p>	SO2	<p>Information provided in this document should be considered as FAO contributions to RAP implementation. Further information is provided in the document: <i>ECE/TIM/2017/4</i>; <i>FO:EFC/2017/4</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FAO is contributing to the mid-term review of the RAP.</li> </ul>
<p><b>G. Follow-up to the decisions of the thirty-seventh session of the European Forestry Commission</b></p>		

<p>18. FAO to continue to support the development and dissemination of the SFM Toolbox and the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources.</p>	<p>SO 2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Since COFO23, FAO Forestry has continued to enhance the SFM toolbox by (i) developing and publishing ten new modules – eight in 2016 and two in 2017 (Community based forestry, Dryland forests and agrosylvopastoral systems, Forest genetic resources, Health benefits from forests, Forest and landscape restoration, Participatory approaches and tools in forestry, REDD+, Reducing deforestation, Reducing forest degradation, Wood energy, Mangrove Ecosystem Restoration and Management, Criteria &amp; Indicators: A Tool to Enhance SFM; (ii) strengthening the gender aspects in the SFM Toolbox; and (iii) conducting a user survey to inform an internal reflection note on opportunities to further improve the use of the toolbox.</li> <li>• Targets, indicators and verifiers for forest genetic resources (FGR) were developed with inputs from the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on FGR and the National Focal Points on FGR. The Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) adopted them at its sixteenth Regular Session in February 2017 to be used as assessment tools to monitor the implementation of the Global Plan of Action on FGR. The targets, indicators and verifiers can also be used for monitoring progress towards Aichi Biodiversity Target 13.</li> </ul>
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<b>H. Gender, youth and education</b>		
<p>19. FAO to work on supporting education in forest issues for the public at large, taking into account possibilities for synergy with ECE in the regional context".</p>	SO2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FAO is about to conclude the development of a text book and educational manual aimed at pupils of the higher classes in primary schools. The education material is expected to be tested in various locations and revised on the basis of the experiences of the test run.</li> <li>• Preparations are underway for the development another educational toolkit suggesting forestry topics for consecutive years in primary schools, starting with the youngest. The toolkit is expected to be based on a European concept and will be adopted to three test countries in three continents. Based on the field experiences the toolkit will be further tailored to be responsive to the different conditions.</li> </ul>
<p>20. FAO to support countries by strengthening capacity and providing technical support for gender and youth mainstreaming in forest policies and their implementation.</p>	SO3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FAO produced in 2016 a practical field guide “how to mainstream gender in forestry” which is available in English, French and Spanish. The FAO Forestry Department is implementing a training on gender mainstreaming in forestry that is involving all forestry staff in HQ. The training sessions will be followed by coaching sessions to ensure that the knowledge acquired is indeed utilized in project formulation, implementation and monitoring. These efforts are expected to result in a significant improvement of gender mainstreaming in forestry activities at country level.</li> </ul>
<p>21. FAO to support the economic empowerment of women in the forestry value chain, where appropriate, through enterprise development.</p>	SO3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FAO is carrying out numerous capacity development activities on small scale forest enterprise (SSFE) development with a focus on women. In addition regional studies have completed in Latin America and Africa and is on-going in Asia to assess the current situation of SSFE and to formulate policy recommendations to improve access to knowledge, to markets and credits.</li> <li>• REU supports the economic empowerment of women in the forestry value chain through gender assessments and analysis of factors hampering women’s participation in the forestry value chain within the framework of current project activities in Balkan countries and Georgia.</li> </ul>

<p>22. FAO to work with the Advisory Panel on Forest Knowledge to provide guidance for modernizing forestry related education.</p>	<p>SO2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Advisory Panel on Forest Knowledge (APFK) met during COFO23. With the help of an intern, it was agreed to set-up platform where broader attendance can be reached for effective communication. This initiative is currently on-hold due to the re-design of the internship program of FAO.</li><li>• While current activities are focusing on the youngest generations, stronger financial basis needs to be established for strengthening APFK's input.</li></ul>
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The Commission is invited to give further guidance on the follow-up work done by FAO.

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