



UNECE



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

70 YEARS WORKING TOGETHER IN THE SERVICE OF FORESTS AND PEOPLE

Strengthening FAO's work on boreal and temperate forests

Item 4(f)



**Las2017 - Joint Session of the ECE Committee on Forests and
the Forest Industry and the FAO European Forestry Commission**
9-13 October 2017, Warsaw, Poland

Evolution of COFO Mandate (1)

L A S 2017



■ 2014 - COFO22

- scale up FAO's support to countries **on boreal forests**
- address the **specificities of boreal forests in the normative and field work** of FAO, especially those related to forest protection, forest fires, wildlife management and carbon monitoring
- continue exploring further possibilities for enhancing **interdisciplinary work** on boreal forests



UNECE



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Evolution of COFO Mandate (2)

L A S 2017



■ 2016 - COFO23

- strengthen FAO's work in the area of **boreal and temperate forests**, taking into account their contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, incl. combating climate change and enhancing food security and nutrition
- explore **further options** in this regard, such as, *inter alia*, participation in **existing initiatives**, bodies and processes and the establishment of a **dedicated working group of COFO**
- present a **detailed document with concrete proposals** on that issue to its **next session in 2018** under a separate agenda item



UNECE



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Importance of boreal and temperate forests



L A S 2017

- A major component of the global forest
 - Almost half (48%) of the world's total forest area
 - >25% of carbon stock in living biomass
 - 60% of the world's industrial roundwood production
 - 63% of global sawnwood production
 - 35% of wood-based panels
 - 64% of wood pulp
 - 46% of paper and paperboard
 - 90% of wood pellets



UNECE



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

A sampler of issues and challenges

L A S 2017



- Important commonalities and differences within the domain
- Managing intact forests and biodiversity
- Managing and restoring abandoned agricultural lands, tree improvement programmes
- Managing carbon stocks, including in soils and permafrost, opportunities for 'negative emissions'
- Adaptive strategies for managing fuel loads after disturbances
- Effective monitoring and assessment, governance and certification
- Social impacts of rural depopulation



UNECE



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Existing institutional experiences

L A S 2017



- Many initiatives and platforms that **differ and overlap in complex ways**
 - *Biome focus:* Circumboreal Working Group (CWG), International Boreal Forest Research Association (IBFRA)
 - *Regional focus:* Barents Forest Sector Network, UNECE, EFI, Forest Europe, etc.
 - *Global but relevant:* CBD, FAO, IPBES, IPCC, IUFRO, Montreal Process, UNFCCC, UNFF, etc.
- Current scope of cooperation **lower than the existing potential**
 - Prevailing international funding architecture **not conducive to supporting 'north-north' cooperation** outside of already existing regional initiatives



UNECE



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Potential areas for strengthening collaboration (1)

L A S 2017



- Technologies for realizing a **forest based green economy**
- Management of **legacy areas**, including where logging many decades ago has been followed by spontaneous regrowth without silviculture
- **Restoration of former forest lands** that are no longer needed for agriculture
- **Valuation** of boreal and temperate forests' environmental and socio-economic contributions and development of **new revenue streams** including payment for ecosystem service schemes



UNECE



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Potential areas for strengthening collaboration (2)

L A S 2017



- Further development and implementation of **sustainable forest management**
- Forest inventory as well as assessments of **carbon stocks** in boreal and temperate **forest and soils, peat and permafrost** including their **vulnerability to climate shocks**
- Forest-based strategies for **climate change mitigation and adaptation**
- Policies for making **remote forest dependent settlements** viable
- **Urban and peri-urban** forestry



UNECE



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Requested points of guidance from EFC (1)

L A S 2017



1. **What current or emerging issues** shall be at the top of national and international attention as **putting at risk the potential contributions from the boreal and temperate forests** to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other relevant global and regional agreements on forests?
2. **How can these risks be most effectively addressed** through the existing institutions, processes, programmes at national and international levels?

Requested points of guidance from EFC (2)

L A S 2017



3. What specific aspects of the required effort may call for the creation of **additional formats and mechanisms of collaboration**, e.g. as per the COFO23 recommendations?
4. Which of these activities are better justified for **the boreal and temperate forests combined**, and which should be dealt with **through separate geographic lenses**?
5. Given the organization's mandate, **where should FAO concentrate its efforts and resources** to bring its best added value to such activities?



UNECE



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations



UNECE



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

70 YEARS WORKING TOGETHER IN THE SERVICE OF FORESTS AND PEOPLE



Thank you!



Andrey Kushlin
Deputy Director

FAO Forestry Department

11 October 2017, Warsaw