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70 YEARS WORKING TOGETHER IN THE SERVICE OF FORESTS AND PEOPLE

Contributions of FAO's work in forestry to the implementation of the SDGs within the scope of FAO-REU Regional Initiatives



**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

Introduction

LAS 2017



- FAO has reviewed its Strategic Framework and prepared its Medium Term Plan 2018-2021 to ensure that its work is harmonized with the 2030 Agenda. FAO's five Strategic Programmes contribute to 40 SDG targets measured by 52 SDG indicators, with a focus on SDG 2 ("zero hunger") as well as SDGs 1 ("no poverty"), 8 ("decent work and economic growth"), 13 ("climate action"), 14 ("life below water") and 15 ("life on land");
- At the regional level, the FAO Regional Conferences are providing a forum for consultation on matters pertaining to the mandate of the Organization including any special issues of interest to the members in the region concerned;
- The technical commissions of the Region review technical aspects and issues of importance in the areas of agriculture (ECA), forestry (EFC), fisheries and aquaculture (EIFAAC, and CACfish);
- Technical commissions' recommendations complement and inform discussions during the ERC on the Programme of Work, its strategic focus, and the Regional Initiatives;
- The results of discussions and recommendations stemming from the ECA, EFC, EIFAAC, and CACfish should be used as a basis for preparation of the topics of the ERC for policy discussion and adoption as well as preparation of the priorities for the region.



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REU Regional Initiatives

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- **Regional Initiative 1 (RI-1) – Empowering Smallholders and Family Farms for improved livelihoods and poverty reduction – ongoing**
- RI-1 is primarily built upon the legacy of the UN International Year of Family Farming (2014), as well as on the “Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests” (VGTT), and existing relevant partnerships in the European Region.
- The RI1 programme is mainly focusing on SDG 1, SDG 2, and SDG 8, but will also contribute to SDG 4, SDG 5 and SDG 10.



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REU Regional Initiatives

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- **Regional Initiative 2 (RI-2) – Improving Agrifood Trade and Market Integration**
 - to increase the rural poor's access to markets and value chains and to creating an enabling environment for the scope of RI-3 by strengthening institutional capacity for implementing policies for sustainable production.
 - It aims to improve the capacity of governments and stakeholders to use financial resources to eradicate hunger, food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition.
 - It is specifically targeting SDG 2, SDG 8, SDG 9, SDG10, SDG 12, SDG 15 and SDG 17



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REU Regional Initiatives

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- **Regional Initiative 3 (RI-3): Sustainable Natural Resource Management under a changing climate**
- Closely linked to government's obligations to international environmental conventions on Biodiversity, Desertification and Climate Change as well as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the UN Strategic Plan for Forests (UNSPF).
- In particular, RI3 provides that platform for FAO to support member countries in achieving their NDCs under the Paris Agreement.
- RI3 also provides the interlinkages of REU countries to international platforms for knowledge exchange and support, for example the Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture (GACSA).
- RI3 will in particular address SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG 6, SDG 7, SDG 12, SDG 13, and SDG 15.



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- The Forest and Farm Facility (FFF) - RI1, RI2 and RI3: SDGs 1,2,5,8,10,13,15 and 17.
- The Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism (FLR Mechanism) – RI3: SDGs 1,2,6,8 and 15.
- The Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGTT)- RI1 and RI3: SDGs 1,2,5 and 17
- The FAO Guide to Implementation of Phytosanitary Standards in Forestry – RI3 : SDGs 13 and 15



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FAO regional work by REU and SEC offices to provide support:

- to Integrated National Forest Assessment programmes (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Serbia, and Uzbekistan)
- to wood energy, sustainable production and consumption (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)
- to assist the countries to meet their commitments including reporting obligations deriving from international treaties and memberships

Regional works linked with RI1 and RI3 and SDGs 8,12,13 and 15.



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Points for consideration

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27. The Commission may wish to encourage countries in the region to:
- Recognize of the multi-functional roles of forests in the implementation of the REU Regional Initiatives and their contributions to the SDGs;
 - More effectively incorporate integrated landscape approaches amongst various land management agencies responsible for agriculture, forestry, fisheries and livestock management into relevant national planning processes and enhance intersectoral collaboration at the landscape level;
 - Provide financial and/or in-kind contributions to support the FAO regional forestry programs and relevant global programs and tools, including FLR, FFF, VGTT, and phytosanitary standards in forestry in the region.



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Points for consideration

LAS 2017



28. The Commission may wish to recommend FAO to:

- Strengthen the integration of specific forestry programs (including FFF, FLR, VGTT) and other operational forestry work in the region into existing and future REU Regional Initiatives, taking into account the multi-functional roles of forests;
- Continue to support natural resource management including forests through the harmonization and strengthening of national policy, financing, incentives, taxation and governance frameworks and measures, including regulations, standards and monitoring for forest management interventions and practices, and support capacity development in this regard;
- Provide assessment tools, methodologies and data (including GIS and mapping) to evaluate the impacts of climate change and support the definition of policy and investment options and evidence based planning and management of the forest resources.



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Points for consideration

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29. The Commission may wish to invite the Regional Conference to consider the Commission's recommendations in its deliberations on current and future regional Initiatives and on the programme of work and budget.



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Thank you!



Ekrem Yazici

EFC Secretary

UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section

11 October 2017, Warsaw