



UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC COMMISSION  
FOR EUROPE



Food and Agriculture  
Organization  
of the United Nations

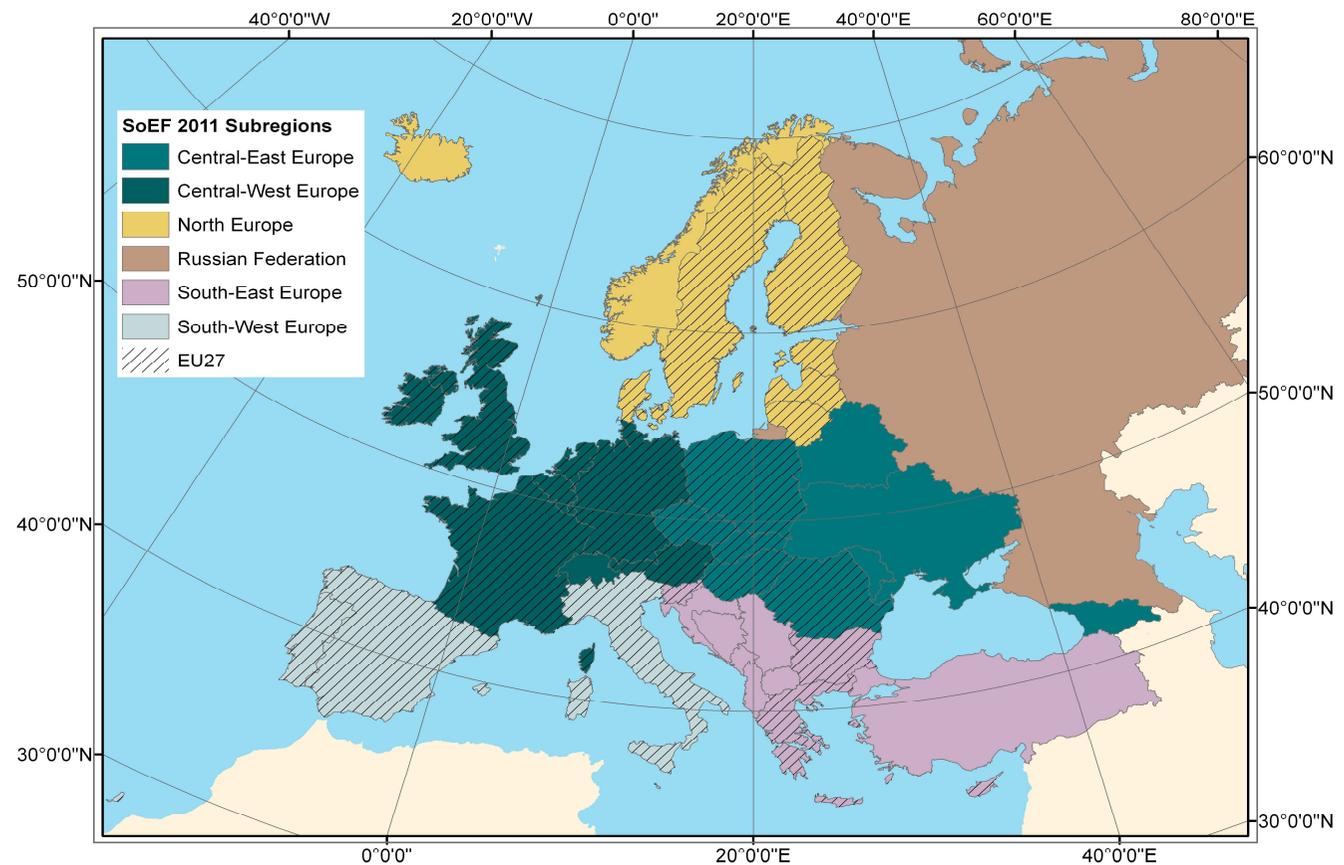
# Challenges for a sustainable workforce in the ECE region

**Arnaud BRIZAY**

**Impact of Climate Change on Forest Work  
11 November 2013**



# MAIN TRENDS IN EUROPE'S FORESTS



# MAIN TRENDS IN EUROPE'S FORESTS

Forests continue to **expand** and remove increasing amounts of carbon from the atmosphere.

**Fellings** remain below annual volume increment so that the stock of wood in Europe's forests is growing every year.

Roughly one-fifth of all trees and one per cent of Europe's forests show some signs of **damage** (main causes: insects and diseases).



# MAIN TRENDS IN EUROPE'S FORESTS

National forest policies are increasingly **influenced** by international processes and other sectoral policies (energy, climate change, agriculture and biodiversity).

Increasing **wood mobilization** to meet the demand for material uses and energy purposes...

...while better **protecting forests** and their capacities to provide ecosystem services, became a major forest policy objective in many countries .



# MAIN TRENDS FOR THE EUROPEAN FOREST WORKFORCE

**750 000** out of 4 million forest based workers with different labour intensities (0,1 to 6 workers/1 000 ha)

Highly relevant sector in **rural areas**

Continuing **declining trend** but various situations (mechanization), for example:

- Steady decline in Central-East Europe after increasing between 1990 and 2000
- Slight increase in Central West Europe after reaching a bottom line?



# MAIN TRENDS FOR THE EUROPEAN FOREST WORKFORCE

**An ageing** workforce (25% > 50 years)

*A better* **qualified** workforce?

**Health and safety issues:**

- Forestry is a very hazardous occupation
- No real decrease in accidents
- About one in ten workers suffers an accident annually
- 700 people are killed annually (500 in the Russian Fed.,2005)
- Importance of working conditions (mechanization, slope, storm damage clearing...)
- Lack of comparable statistical information



# MAJOR CHALLENGES FOR THE EUROPEAN FOREST SECTOR

- To secure a **balance** between the competing demands that society places on forests, using the capacity of forests to help in **mitigating climate change while adapting forests** to new climatic conditions.
- To increase the **harvest** of wood from Europe's forests in such a way that the sector can supply enough wood to meet the demand for renewable energy and renewable raw material.
- To achieve the potential of the forest sector in the transition towards a **green economy** in Europe, building on and developing the green features of the sector.



# MAJOR CHALLENGES FOR THE EUROPEAN FOREST WORKFORCE

A **sufficient number** of working people with adequate skills and competencies is absolutely essential for sustainable forest management.

Need to attract and train **new entrants** for the sector in order to address:

- the ageing workforce
- the need for increased wood mobilization
- the complexity of forest jobs (**incl. climate change impact**)

In a few words:

- “**more and better jobs**” (EU Lisbon Strategy)
- “**decent green jobs**” (ILO and Green Economy)



# AN ACTION PLAN FOR THE FOREST SECTOR



Demonstrate how the ECE region forest sector can contribute to the transition towards a Green Economy;

Share best practices and promote policies which are effective, efficient and equitable;

Communicate achievements – to public, policy makers and other sectors.

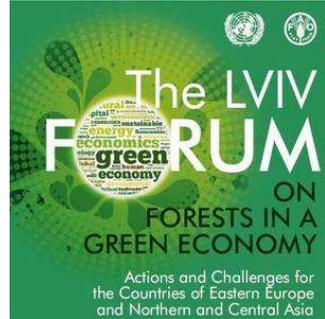


# ACTION PLAN FOR THE FOREST SECTOR IN A GREEN ECONOMY



- Stakeholder meetings
  - 10-11 May 2011
  - 26 March 2012
- Questionnaire first draft

- E-mail consultations
  - Dec 2012 to Jan 2013
  - July 2013 to Sept 2013



- Intergovernmental meetings
  - 9-13 December 2013  
Rovaniemi, Finland

- ECE TC-COFFI / FAO EFC:
  - October 2011
  - October 2012
  - June 2013





# STRATEGIC ISSUES / PRINCIPLES

Uses and reuses  
wisely **resources**

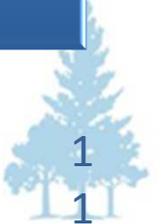
Contributes to  
the **mitigation** of  
climate change

Cares for its  
**workforce**

**By 2020**

Takes all  
**externalities** into  
account

Bases decisions  
on **evidence**



# THE FIVE PILLARS OF THE ACTION PLAN

## 1. Sustainable wood consumption and production

- Patterns of consumption and production of forest products are truly sustainable.

## 2. The low-carbon forest sector

- The forest sector makes the best possible contribution to mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change.

## 3. Decent green jobs in the forest sector

- The workforce is able to implement SFM and the forest sector provides decent jobs.

## 4. Valuation of and payment for forest ecosystem services

- Forest functions are valued and PES are established.

## 5. Monitoring and governance of the forest sector

- The forest sector policies and institutions promote SFM, policy making is evidence-based, and policy instruments are effective, efficient and equitable

For more information: <http://www.unece.org/forests/greeneconomy.html>



# GREEN JOBS IN THE FOREST SECTOR

**Decent work** sums up the aspirations of people in their working lives.

It involves:

- opportunities for work that is productive and delivers a **fair income**,
- **security** in the workplace and social protection for families,
- better prospects for **personal development** and social integration,
- **freedom** for people to express their concerns, organize and participate in the decisions that affect their lives and
- **equality** of opportunity and treatment for all women and men.

**Green jobs** are decent jobs that:

- Improve energy and raw materials **efficiency**
- Limit **greenhouse gas** emissions
- Minimize **waste** and pollution
- Protect and restore **ecosystems**
- Support **adaptation** to the effects of climate change

DECENT WORK



# DECENT GREEN JOBS IN THE FOREST SECTOR

- **Goal:** The workforce is able to implement sustainable forest management, and the forest sector contributes to achieving the social goals of the green economy
- **Strategy:**
  - A skilled workforce
  - Safety and health
  - Forest operations





# Thank you!

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**See you  
in Rovaniemi,  
Finland  
  
9 to 13  
December 2013**



9-13 December 2013

Joint session of the  
**UNECE Timber Committee and  
the FAO European Forestry  
Commission**

9-13 December 2013  
Rovaniemi, Finland



**Forests for  
a green society:  
taking root,  
branching out**

A unique opportunity for forest and non-forest sectors  
to meet and share their experience and knowledge  
of forests and their contribution to a green economy

*A major event of:*  
**The European Forest Week 2013**

