Report from the coaching workshops on the process for sustainable forest management strategy development for greener economy in Tajikistan

Hotel Poytakht, conference-room, Dushanbe, Tajikistan, February 21, 2015

Note: This report written by the lead facilitator focusses more on design/process reflections, lessons and recommendations. This is not a proceedings report.

Dushanbe 2015

1. Background and rationale

Globally governments have increased the pace of change towards more sustainable development through policies for greener economies. According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), a green economy is low carbon, resource efficient, and socially inclusive. It promotes economic growth that is increasingly based on more sustainable management and use of resources. If the potential for Sustainable Forestry Management (SFM) is unlocked it can deliver a full range of interconnected carbon/climate, economic, social and ecological benefits on a sustainable basis, perfectly in line with green economy principles. However much more needs to be done to ensure forestry fulfils its potential in playing a key role in a green economy –for example providing a conducive policy and legislative environment to make sustainable forestry more attractive for rural people and the private sector, creating more green jobs and improving livelihoods. Also more needs to be done to increase the profile and potential of wood as a source of renewable materials and energy, equal to or better performing in terms of carbon credentials than other renewable sources of energy. In addition of course forestry can provide key environmentalservices, enhancing water and soil quality, biodiversity and climate mitigation.

Forestry of Tajikistan is an important component of natural-resource potential for the country, and has a special role in prevention of desertification and biodiversity conservation under global climate change.

The Republic of Tajikistan belongs to forest-poor countries in Central Asia. Only 3 percent of Tajikistan's territory is covered with forest vegetation. Only over 0.05 hectare of corresponds for denizen. Because of the development of land and shortage of fuel and energy resources the scale of destruction of forests by unauthorized logging increased. Over past 20 years unauthorised illegal loggings a considerable forest area were lighted in many places. Particularly affected are poplar, pistachio, almond, and walnut woodlands, the areas of which considerable reduced. In many areas, commercially valuable tree breeds were replaced with several of shrub species.

 In addition, uncontrolled grazing in the state forest without complying with pasture rotation and without king measures to improve productivity of pastures was in main case of degradation of forest cover in large areas.

Forestry in the capital, Dushanbe city and other regional and district towns is also poor condition. Analysis of condition of public green spaces-gardens, parks, boulevards, urban forests in cities and towns of the country shows vegetation and forestry in many cities is in an extremely poor condition. The main reasons are the massive felling of trees, mechanical damages, increase of sources of pests and diseases and air pollution by emissions of industrial plants and motor vehicles.

Forestry production in Tajikistan was not developed properly. Up to 1992 in the country functioned furniture's factory, which processed exported wood. Currently due to lack of the wood all wood processing organizations not functioning.

In Tajikistan is not exciting production/processing forest, due to this were conducting only sanitary cutting and carry out of forestry and in the result receiving only fuel wood.

In 70- 80 years of last century, when Tajikistan was in Soviet Union, the wood was imported from Russian Federation in average 400 thousand m3, including for industrial purposes 350 thousand m3 and fuel purposes 50 thousand m3.

Currently export from Russia for processing purpose decreased 3times, but he wood for fuel purpose is not exporting to Tajikistan.

Processed wood have been used for construction and furniture production. Now, entrances of the industrial woods are coming through commercial channels in amount of 109 thousand m3 per year, which are more that 20 mln USD and are using for construction purposes. Dushanbe furniture factory and other organization on furniture production not functioning more than 15 years, due to lack of raw materials.

At the last years due to exhaustion of forestry resources and dissecting of forestry, including conducting protection activities, in Tajikistan significantly reduced plan of wood harvesting and it is equal to 7 thousand m3 per year, which covering only 5 percent of the needs of the country with fuel. The industrial wood are not harvesting in practical.

In response to the gap between forestry's potential contribution and the only cursory mention in the Green Economy Concept, the Forestry Agency of Tajikistan is planning to include in forestry strategy and National Program on development of forest (2016-2025), which outlines how forestry can be developed to more explicitly link with Green Economy principles. A first draft is under development and is scheduled to be submitted by end of 2014, with its final submission for approval by the government after review probably 2015.

In a timely development, in October 2013, United Nations Economic Commission of Europe (UNECE or ECE for short) and the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) launched a capacity development project which aims through training and policy advisory services to assist countries in the region develop context specific strategies to unlock the potential of sustainable forest management for greener economies. More information on this initiative is available from http://www.unece.org/forests-welcome/areas-of-work/forestsforestpolicieswelcome/capacity-building-in-central-asia-and-caucasus.html

This initiative held its first regional workshop in Kazakhstan in April, 2014. The regional workshop included representatives from 7 countries in the Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Kirgizstan) and Caucasus region (Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan). The regional workshop focussed on examining the principles of the green economy, analysing challenges and opportunities for unlocking the potential of forestry to better meet these principles, and practically demonstrating a best practice process and set of methods that could be helpful in developing an inclusive forestry strategy that effectively fits key green economy principles.

Following the national workshops will be a series of coaching and local workshops designed to communicate what green economy principles mean for forestry development as well as aiming to harness the views of different stakeholders in the development of a forestry strategy for the green economy. The first coaching seminar followed on from the national workshop in Tajikistan, with the outputs and lessons from the national workshop feeding into the coaching seminar. As mentioned the national workshop practically demonstrated process steps and methods that could be useful for rigorous and inclusive analysis, negotiation and drafting of the forestry strategy.

The coaching workshop focussed on designing the process for the further development of the Tajikistan's Forest sector according to best practice process steps and using methods for inclusiveness along the way. Although compromises had to be struck between 'ideal process' and fact that a draft is already developed and there is a tight timeframe to follow and there are

also other partners who will be engaged in supporting the development of the program/strategy.

2. Learning objectives, attendants, approach, contents and key outputs.

This one day coaching workshop (See full agenda in Annex1) focussed mainly on planning the skills, process and methods of **how** to further develop the forest sector development program and better link it to Green Economy principles.

<mark>The main objectives of the coaching workshop are the following:</mark>

1. <mark>Orientation on green economy principles and assessment of forestry strategy outline against green economy principles, identifying any gaps.</mark>
2. <mark>To prepare for conducting a regional workshops through practicing a series of review and analytical methods and building facilitation skills.</mark>

In terms of participants the coaching workshop primarily targeted members of the special working group set up to develop the document, which consists of the representatives of the Forestry Agency under Government of Tajikistan, other related government departments, NGO, as well as national experts on forest sector (See full list of participants in <mark>Ann</mark>ex 2). All except for one of the coaching workshop participants attended the previous National Workshop on Sustainable Forest Management for Green Economies, which was important as the coaching workshop draws upon lessons and outputs generated in the national workshop. Mr. Said Inogamov, the Regional consultant of the project facilitated the seminar with the co-facilitation of Mr. Ibrohim Ahmadov, the National consultant for Tajikistan.

The approach of the workshop, as with the national workshop was a facilitated expert workshop, not a taught training. This facilitated approach is aimed at ensuring that the outputs of the workshop are fully owned and fully harness the expertise of participants from the workshop and make sue the outputs are relevant to the national context – not prescribed by the facilitator. National ownership and relevance was paramount for the outputs.

Next steps – and UNECE support

Regarding next steps, and how best the UNECE FAO UNDA initiative could best support the development of the strategy in the coming next two months, it was suggested that the next four local regional workshops and one coaching seminar could be tailored to the needs of the strategy development, with the workshops focussing on engaging local stakeholders in participatory analysis and the coaching seminars being possibly focussed on a multi-stakeholder negotiation. The coaching seminars would be based around the skills and methodological needs of these workshops. This will be finalised in discussions between the working group/Forestry Committee and the national consultant for the UNECE FAO project, who will then inform the regional/international consultant so that the schedule, form and function for the coaching seminars and other support workshops can be designed quickly.

An emerging opportunity that provides some challenges with regards to coordination is the other support being provided for the development of the program, notably support from FAO regarding National Forest Programme development and support from the Government of Germany. Good coordination of all initiatives to ensure agreement on the process and activities for further program development, avoid overlap, work together and assign clear roles and responsibilities will be extremely important.

Evaluation, lessons learned and recommendations.

The **evaluation and lesson learning** for the seminar was conducted in an informal discussion, some of the key points raised included the following;

- The participatory approach was appreciated; some methodologies must be improved according to the auditory in order to have maximum impact form the seminar.
- It was realized that the function and form of the subsequent local workshops and coaching seminars planned as part of the UNECE FAO support should be shaped and targeted based on the needs identified in the coaching seminar process plan. For example there was a request for more coaching support on design and

Key Recommendations generated by this seminar include;

1) Short period of the seminar (one day) is not enough to achieve the appropriate results.

2) Increased clarification of the guidance and process support role of the regional and coaching workshops in the training materials and the rationale behind this emphasis, rather than directly generating 'content' of the forestry strategy for the green economy.

3) Speed up the working group activities in order to have the strategy on time and with high quality document.

Agenda for the 2ndcoaching workshop on forestry action planning for a greener economy in Tajikistan

1. **Background**

Globally governments have increased the pace of change towards more sustainable development through policies for greener economies – that encourage economic growth but in ways that are based increasingly on more renewable use of resources. On the other hand green economy principles emphasise that any initiative that is designed to promote ecological benefits, must also consider and generate economic and social benefits.

It would be envisaged that forestry would ideally fit these credentials and be playing a major part in the transition to green economies for many countries, however within the green economy concepts of many countries forestry receives only a minimal mention. Yet there are many opportunities from forestry related to increasing sources of renewable materials and energy, environmental services, more green jobs and improved livelihoods whilst enhancing biodiversity, water and soil. To fully realise the potential of forestry requires a responsive and inclusive forest sector, enabling policies and supportive institutions to help broaden opportunities related to forest management, products and services, making forestry attractive for farmers, the private sector and investors.

In response to the gap between forestry's potential contribution and the only limited mention in the Green Economy Concept, the United Nations Economic Commission of Europe (UNECE) and the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) launched a capacity development project in 2013, which aims through training and policy advisory services to assist countries in the region develop context specific strategies to more fully harness the potential of sustainable forest management for greener economies. More information on the initiative is available fromhttp://www.unece.org/forests-welcome/areas-of-work/forestsforestpolicieswelcome/capacity-building-in-central-asia-and-caucasus.html Tajikistan is a pilot country for this initiative and capacity development and policy advisory support is being provided to help Tajikistan release the potential of forestry to be better aligned to Green Economy objectives. Tajikistan is currently undertaking the drafting process for its Forest Sector Development Strategy 2016-2030 and Action Plan. The tentative goals and objectives of this strategy are the following;

- Preservation of biodiversity in forest ecosystems, conservation and increasing of forests areas, their productivity and ecosystem services in the conditions of climate change
- Development of local economy by creating new jobs and increasing income
- Provision of local people with forest products

It has been suggested to integrate the green economy project support with the development process of this strategy, whilst helping ensure that the strategy is aligned to green economy principles. One important green economy principle is that forestry strategies should be developed in inclusive ways that engage a full range of stakeholders in analysis and drafting the strategy. To do this a series of 6 workshops remain within the project support, 1 coaching workshop designed to orient, train and prepare for 4 participatory workshops held in the different regions of Tajikistan(Khatlon region, Direct Rule of District; Sugd region;GBAO).The final coaching workshop is designed to support the consolidation, final review and validation of the results into the forestry strategy.

2. Purpose of the coaching workshop

The main objectives of the coaching workshop are the following:

3. Orientation on green economy principles and assessment of forestry strategy outline against green economy principles, identifying any gaps.
4. To prepare for conducting a regional workshops through practicing a series of review and analytical methods and building facilitation skills.

In effect, the coaching workshop will be a practice- 'dry run' for the actual regional workshops.

Target audience: About6-12 participants ideally including from the Working Group Responsible for drafting the forestry strategy and/or participants with potential to facilitate the regional workshop.

Language and approach: Coaching workshop delivered in Russian – note that the subsequent local workshops will be delivered in Tajik. The workshop approach will be informal and interactive.

Workshop agenda (Tentative)

	November 27, 2014
A M	**Start sharp at 9.00.** 1. Introductions and objectives 9.00 – 9.30 3. Recap of key green economy principles and links with forestry 9.30 - 10.00 4. Presentation of Tajikistan draft forestry strategy outline 10.00-10.30 5. Assessment of the forestry context in Tajikistan against green economy principles. 10.30-11.00
	Break 11.00-11.15

		6. Group work in three groups doing deep analysis, problem analysis, SWOT analysis and 3Rs analysis. 11.00-12.30
	Lunch 12.30 to 13.30	
P M	7.Presentation of outputs of group work in fishbowl debate for discussion.13.30-15.00	
	Break 15.00- 15.15	
	8. Prioritisation of recommendations 15.15 – 15.45	
	9. Discussion on suitability of structure, methods and topics used in coaching workshop for the regional workshop. 15.45 to 16.30	
	10. Assigning roles and responsibilities for regional workshop + next steps. 16.30-17.00	
	Close 17.00	

Annex 2. Workshop participants

3rd coaching workshop on forestry action planning for a greener economy in Tajikistan

Hotel Poytakht, Conference-room, Dushanbe, Tajikistan, February 21, 2015

List of the participants

#	Name	Organization	Position
1	Mr. Murodov Rustam	Forestry Institute under Forestry Agency	Director
2	Mr. Ustyan Ivan Petrovich	Forestry Institute under Forestry Agency	Head of the Department
3	Mr. Sharipov Davlatali	State Agency of Forestry, RT	Chief Specialist
4	Ms. Skochilov Yury	Youth Eco center	Director
5	Mr. Nazarov Aziz	State Agency of Forestry, RT	Head of International Communication Department
6	Mr Saidov Madibron	State Agency of Forestry, RT	Head of the State Enterprise
7	Mr. Inogamov Said	Regional Consultant of the Projects FAO	Regional Consultant
8	Mr. Yatimov Ghiyosiddin	State Agency of Forestry, RT	Head of Unit
9	Mr Mamadaliev Bahrom	Social organization "Fund Kuhiston "	Expert
10	Mr Jalilov A	State Agency of Forestry, RT	Chief specialist
11	Mr. Ahmadov Ibrohim	UNECE	National Consultant
12	Mr. Adnan Idiev	YEC	Specialist

Annex 3. Evaluation of the strategy of forestry in Tajikistan (total 10 participants)

#	Indicators	1	2	3	4	5
1	Sustainable production and consumption of forest products	3	2	2	2	1
2	Supporting the development of wood based materials and energy production as alternatives to non renewable resources	1	3	3	3	
3	Attracting the private sector and rural people to engage in forestry creating more jobs and improving livelihoods	3	2	2	3	
4	Advancing ecological health, soil and water2	2	4	3	1	
5	Collection, management and data analyze	2	2	4		
6	Inclusive forest policy processes that result in policies that satisfy all key stakeholder interests	2	4	4		

Annex 4. Presentation of the group work on forestry strategy

Group 1

1) Necessary of the scientist approaches on climate change issue;

2) Limited livestock grazing area in the Governmental Forestry Fund;

3) No enough has been considered social aspects on provision of the ecosystem services;

Group 2

1) In the strategy were considered:

   - improving of the financial expenses for ecosystem services (%) ;

   - involving of the foreign capital;

2) Was not developed mechanism on improvement of the financing in the forestry sector;

3) In the goal and objectives of the strategy included provision of the ecosystem services in climate change conditions;

4) In the text of the strategy mechanism (provision of the ecosystem services) was not developed;

Annex 5. Dissemination of the function and responsibilities in the future

#	Activities on improvement of the improvement strategy of forestry sector based green economic principles	Responsible person	Deadline
1	Evaluation of the Ecosystem services	Saidzoda M	March 2, 2015
2	Gender issue	Yatimov Gh and Salikhova Z	March 2, 2015
3	Establishment of the Coordination Council	Nazarov Aziz	March 2, 2015
4	Alternation energy sources	Jalilov A	March 2, 2015

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When **reviewing the outputs of the national workshop** what became clear was that the biggest gaps in the existing forest sector development plan draft were both 'process' and 'content' gaps. A key principle of the green economy is social inclusion. Participants identified a need to engage more stakeholders in the draft development need to engage especially more local forest stakeholders and private sector. It was discussed that this was important to ensure that the strategy reflects the realities on the ground and provides the incentives required to make forestry more attractive for local people and the private sector. In terms of 'content' the main gap was the absence of consideration of the development and promotion of fuel wood energy as a green energy, that when harvested from sustainably managed forests can have a very small or even negative carbon foot print. Other content gaps related to too much emphasis on the traditional protection approach and not enough on sustainable forest management and overall economic, social, climate and ecological benefits this could bring.

When discussing **the rationale and skills required and process of further development** of the forestry strategy for the green economy, there were a few interesting discussions on the role of ECE technical assistance and the purpose of the coaching and the rationale for focussing on the process for forest sector plan development (e.g. ensuring all sectors and stakeholder interests are considered and ownership is built) or whether the ECE technical assistance should be directly focussing on strategy content development. It was clarified that

the ECE advisory support provides guidance and content examples and structures from other countries, as well as process and methods guidance for content development – but it is up to the working group to steer the process of strategy development and generate content through full engagement of key stakeholders, using appropriate methods to ensure that all green economy principles are considered but contextualised to the specifics of Kazakhstan. When it came to discussions on the role of the experts on the working group acting as facilitators to engage other stakeholders it was agreed that whether or not the experts had forestry experience, the most important aspect was for the facilitator to have an open mind – not try to influence the opinions of stakeholders, but rather be skilled in engaging and guiding stakeholders to do good analysis..

In the final stage of the coaching workshop, **planning the process** and methods for the further development of the draft strategy, through conducting of the 4 regional workshops and jointly work with FAO and GIZ. Based the agenda of the workshop the participants taught how to conduct high quality training sessions in the regions of the country.

Next steps – and UNECE support

Regarding next steps, and how best the UNECE FAO UNDA initiative could best support the development of the strategy in the coming next two months, it was suggested that the next four local regional workshops and one coaching seminar could be tailored to the needs of the strategy development, with the workshops focussing on engaging local stakeholders in participatory analysis and the coaching seminars being possibly focussed on a multi-stakeholder negotiation. The coaching seminars would be based around the skills and methodological needs of these workshops. This will be finalised in discussions between the working group/Forestry Committee and the national consultant for the UNECE FAO project, who will then inform the regional/international consultant so that the schedule, form and function for the coaching seminars and other support workshops can be designed quickly.

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- It was realized that the function and form of the subsequent local workshops and coaching seminars planned as part of the UNECE FAO support should be shaped and targeted based on the needs identified in the coaching seminar process plan. For example there was a request for more coaching support on design and

Key Recommendations generated by this seminar include;

1) Short period of the seminar (one day) is not enough to achieve the appropriate results.

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Agenda for the 2ndcoaching workshop on forestry action planning for a greener economy inTajikistan

1. **Background**

Globally governments have increased the pace of change towards more sustainable development through policies for greener economies – that encourage economic growth but in ways that are based increasingly on more renewable use of resources.On the other hand green economy principles emphasise that any initiative that is designed to promote ecological benefits, must also consider and generate economic and social benefits.

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	Break 11.00-11.15
	6. Group work in three groups doing deep analysis, problem analysis, SWOT analysis and 3Rs analysis. 11.00-12.30
	Lunch 12.30 to 13.30
P M	7.Presentation of outputs of group work in fishbowl debate for discussion.13.30-15.00
	Break 15.00- 15.15
	8. Prioritisation of recommendations 15.15 – 15.45 9. Discussion on suitability of structure, methods and topics used in coaching workshop for the regional workshop. 15.45 to 16.30 10. Assigning roles and responsibilities for regional workshop + next steps. 16.30-17.00
	Close 17.00

2ndcoaching workshop on forestry action planning for a greener economy in Tajikistan

Hotel Kayon, Conference-room, Dushanbe, Tajikistan, November 27, 2014

List of the participants

#	Name	Organization	Position
1	Mr. Murodov Rustam	Forestry Institute under Forestry Agency	Director
2	Mr. Ustyan Ivan Petrovich	Forestry Institute under Forestry Agency	Head of the Department
3	Mr. Sharipov Davlatali	State Agency of Forestry, RT	Chief Specialist
4	Ms. Skochilov Yury	Youth Eco center	Director
5	Mr. Nazarov Aziz	State Agency of Forestry, RT	Head of International Communication Department
6	Mr Saidov Madibron	State Agency of Forestry, RT	Head of the State Enterprise
7	Mr. Inogamov Said	Regional Consultant of the Projects FAO	Regional Consultant
8	Mr. Yatimov Ghiyosiddin	State Agency of Forestry, RT	Head of Unit
9	Mr. Ahmadov Ibrohim	UNECE	National Consultant
10	Mr. Dustmurodov Nemat	YEC	Driver
11	Ms. Khodjaeva Zumrad	YEC	Accountant
12	Mr. Adnan Idiev	YEC	Specialist

Report from the coaching workshop on the process for sustainable forest management strategy development for greener economy in Tajikistan

Hotel Poytakht , 3ᵗʰ floor, conference-room, Dushanbe, Tajikistan, June 26, 2014

Note: This report written by the lead facilitator focusses more on design/process reflections, lessons and recommendations. This is not a proceedings report.

Dushanbe 2014

1. Background and rationale

Globally governments have increased the pace of change towards more sustainable development through policies for greener economies. According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), a green economy is low carbon, resource efficient, and socially inclusive. It promotes economic growth that is increasingly based on more sustainable management and use of resources. If the potential for Sustainable Forestry Management (SFM) is unlocked it can deliver a full range of interconnected carbon/climate, economic, social and ecological benefits on a sustainable basis, perfectly in line with green economy principles. However much more needs to be done to ensure forestry fulfils its potential in playing a key role in a green economy –for example providing a conducive policy and legislative environment to make sustainable forestry more attractive for rural people and the private sector, creating more green jobs and improving livelihoods. Also more needs to be done to increase the profile and potential of wood as a source of renewable materials and energy, equal to or better performing in terms of carbon credentials than other renewable sources of energy. In addition of course forestry can provide key environmentalservices, enhancing water and soil quality, biodiversity and climate mitigation.

Forestry of Tajikistan is an important component of natural-resource potential for the country, and has a special role in prevention of desertification and biodiversity conservation under global climate change.

The Republic of Tajikistan belongs to forest-poor countries in Central Asia. Only 3 percent of Tajikistan's territory is covered with forest vegetation. Only over 0.05 hectare of corresponds for denizen. Because of the development of land and shortage of fuel and energy resources the scale of destruction of forests by unauthorized logging increased. Over past 20 years unauthorised illegal loggings a considerable forest area were lighted in many places. Particularly affected are poplar, pistachio, almond, and walnut woodlands, the areas of which considerable reduced. In many areas, commercially valuable tree breeds were replaced with several of shrub species.

 In addition, uncontrolled grazing in the state forest without complying with pasture rotation and without king measures to improve productivity of pastures was in main case of degradation of forest cover in large areas.

Forestry in the capital, Dushanbe city and other regional and district towns is also poor condition. Analysis of condition of public green spaces-gardens, parks, boulevards, urban forests in cities and towns of the country shows vegetation and forestry in many cities is in an extremely poor condition. The main reasons are the massive felling of trees, mechanical damages, increase of sources of pests and diseases and air pollution by emissions of industrial plants and motor vehicles.

Forestry production in Tajikistan was not developed properly. Up to 1992 in the country functioned furniture's factory, which processed exported wood. Currently due to lack of the wood all wood processing organizations not functioning.

In Tajikistan is not exciting production/processing forest, due to this were conducting only sanitary cutting and carry out of forestry and in the result receiving only fuel wood.

In 70- 80 years of last century, when Tajikistan was in Soviet Union, the wood was imported from Russian Federation in average 400 thousand m3, including for industrial purposes 350 thousand m3 and fuel purposes 50 thousand m3.

Currently export from Russia for processing purpose decreased 3times, but he wood for fuel purpose is not exporting to Tajikistan.

Processed wood have been used for construction and furniture production. Now, entrances of the industrial woods are coming through commercial channels in amount of 109 thousand m3 per year, which are more that 20 mln USD and are using for construction purposes. Dushanbe furniture factory and other organization on furniture production not functioning more than 15 years, due to lack of raw materials.

At the last years due to exhaustion of forestry resources and dissecting of forestry, including conducting protection activities, in Tajikistan significantly reduced plan of wood harvesting and it is equal to 7 thousand m3 per year, which covering only 5 percent of the needs of the country with fuel. The industrial wood are not harvesting in practical.

In response to the gap between forestry's potential contribution and the only cursory mention in the Green Economy Concept, the Forestry Agency of Tajikistan is planning to include in forestry strategy and National Program on development of forest (2016-2025), which outlines how forestry can be developed to more explicitly link with Green Economy principles. A first draft is under development and is scheduled to be submitted by end of 2014, with its final submission for approval by the government after review probably 2015.

In a timely development, in October 2013, United Nations Economic Commission of Europe (UNECE or ECE for short) and the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) launched a capacity development project which aims through training and policy advisory services to assist countries in the region develop context specific strategies to unlock the potential of sustainable forest management for greener economies. More information on this initiative is available from http://www.unece.org/forests-welcome/areas-of-work/forestsforestpolicieswelcome/capacity-building-in-central-asia-and-caucasus.html

This initiative held its first regional workshop in Kazakhstan in April, 2014. The regional workshop included representatives from 7 countries in the Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Kirgizstan) and Caucasus region (Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan). The regional workshop focussed on examining the principles of the green economy, analysing challenges and opportunities for unlocking the potential of forestry to better meet these principles, and practically demonstrating a best practice process and set of methods that could be helpful in developing an inclusive forestry strategy that effectively fits key green economy principles.

Following the national workshops will be a series of coaching and local workshops designed to communicate what green economy principles mean for forestry development as well as aiming to harness the views of different stakeholders in the development of a forestry strategy for the green economy. The first coaching seminar followed on from the national workshop in Tajikistan, with the outputs and lessons from the national workshop feeding into the coaching seminar. As mentioned the national workshop practically demonstrated process steps and methods that could be useful for rigorous and inclusive analysis, negotiation and drafting of the forestry strategy.

The coaching workshop focussed on designing the process for the further development of the Tajikistan's Forest sector according to best practice process steps and using methods for inclusiveness along the way. Although compromises had to be struck between 'ideal process' and fact that a draft is already developed and there is a tight timeframe to follow and there are also other partners who will be engaged in supporting the development of the program/strategy.

2. Learning objectives, attendants, approach, contents and key outputs.

This one day coaching workshop (See full agenda in Annex 1) focussed mainly on planning the skills, process and methods of **how** to further develop the forest sector development program and better link it to Green Economy principles. The learning objectives of the workshop included;

- To review of the existing draft document, forestry/green economy analysis and outputs from the national workshop to recap on gaps and opportunities between the forestry program draft and green economy principles.
- To examine the principles, skills and methods for effective facilitation of a forestry strategy for the green economy.
- To developa process plan and methods for the further development of the draft forest sector development plan.

In terms of participants the coaching workshop primarily targeted members of the special working group set up to develop the document, which consists of the representatives of the Forestry Agency under Government of Tajikistan, other related government departments, NGO, as well as national experts on forest sector (See full list of participants in Annex 2). All except for one of the coaching workshop participants attended the previous National Workshop on Sustainable Forest Management for Green Economies, which was important as the coaching workshop draws upon lessons and outputs generated in the national workshop. Mr. Peter O'Hara, the International consultant of the project facilitated the seminar with the co-facilitation of Ms Elina Warsta, Associate Economic Affairs Officer, co-facilitation and translation support of Mr. Said Inogamov, the Regional consultant and Mr. Ibrohim Ahmadov, the National consultant for Tajikistan.

The approach of the workshop, as with the national workshop was a facilitated expert workshop, not a taught training. This facilitated approach is aimed at ensuring that the outputs of the workshop are fully owned and fully harness the expertise of participants from the workshop and make sue the outputs are relevant to the national context – not prescribed by the facilitator. National ownership and relevance was paramount for the outputs.

When **reviewing the outputs of the national workshop** what became clear was that the biggest gaps in the existing forest sector development plan draft were both 'process' and 'content' gaps. A key principle of the green economy is social inclusion. Participants identified a need to engage more stakeholders in the draft development need to engage especially more local forest stakeholders and private sector. It was discussed that this was important to ensure that the strategy reflects the realities on the ground and provides the incentives required to make forestry more attractive for local people and the private sector. In terms of 'content' the main gap was the absence of consideration of the development and promotion of fuel wood energy as a green energy, that when harvested from sustainably managed forests can have a very small or even negative carbon foot print. Other content gaps related to too much emphasis on the traditional protection approach and not enough on

sustainable forest management and overall economic, social, climate and ecological benefits this could bring.

When discussing **the rationale and skills required and process of further development** of the forestry strategy for the green economy, there were a few interesting discussions on the role of ECE technical assistance and the purpose of the coaching and the rationale for focussing on the process for forest sector plan development (e.g. ensuring all sectors and stakeholder interests are considered and ownership is built) or whether the ECE technical assistance should be directly focussing on strategy content development. It was clarified that the ECE advisory support provides guidance and content examples and structures from other countries, as well as process and methods guidance for content development – but it is up to the working group to steer the process of strategy development and generate content through full engagement of key stakeholders, using appropriate methods to ensure that all green economy principles are considered but contextualised to the specifics of Kazakhstan. When it came to discussions on the role of the experts on the working group acting as facilitators to engage other stakeholders it was agreed that whether or not the experts had forestry experience, the most important aspect was for the facilitator to have an open mind – not try to influence the opinions of stakeholders, but rather be skilled in engaging and guiding stakeholders to do good analysis..

In the final stage of the coaching workshop, **planning theprocess** and methods for the further development of the draft strategy, the process was divided into four steps and an action plan developed for each. Workshop participants were then divided into two groups, one focussing on Phase 1 and 2 and the other focussing on Phase 3 and 4. The participants were given a toolbox guide of methods used in the national workshop that might be suitable for each stage and the key outputs of the national workshop were placed on the wall as a reference. The phases and key actions identified are the following;

Phase 1: PREPARING. Preparing for the strategy development, identifying data gaps, how to identify them and who to involve.

1.1 The main gaps identified included the need to target and attain more analysis from especially local forest stakeholders in the development of the forestry strategy and the private sector/businesses. This would best through participatory workshops.
1.2   There was also a need identified to better integrate and connect the forest administration with scientific/research institutions, production and processing actors in the development and implementation of the strategy. It is considered that this would be best achieved through a mix of methods including round table meetings, workshops, public hearings and on-line conferences.

Phase 2: ANALYSIS. Filling data gaps and facilitating analysis by stakeholders.

2.1   It was recommended to make the strategy development more inclusive and interconnected with key stakeholders by establishing relationships and networks between interested stakeholders, e.g. local of forest users and businesses that are related to forestry, including associations, professional unions and entrepreneurs in the forest sector. Also NGOs, farmers, and other environmental sectors would be engaged. Participatory methodologies would be used to collect analysis and proposals from these stakeholders. This would be done from June –July , 2014.

2.2.   One of the key activities would be the engagement of local forest stakeholders through participatory workshops in analysis of the current strengths and weaknesses within current forest policy and implementation so that among other things the incentives and disincentives in policy and legislation to motivate stakeholders to engage in sustainable forest management and fully understood and recommendations developed. The time frame for this would be September –October 2014.

Phase 3: NEGOTIATION. Engaging stakeholders in negotiating strategy priorities.

3.1   This will involve the identification of the stakeholders' priorities through conduction of the round tables, workshops and meetings and involvement of local population representatives, NGO, governmental agencies and business representatives in multi-stakeholder negotiations and prioritization of strategies. This would happen during the period of June – November, 2014.

3.2. Development of approaches for drafting the strategy through the public hearings, monitoring, and analysis of stakeholders' proposals developed during the previous analysis phase.

Phase 4: DRAFTING. Drafting the strategy and seeking validation.

4.1. Discussion on the draft Strategy with the relevant stakeholder representatives including NGOs, business, local *hukumats* and ministries through round tables and working meetings; agreeing the draft Strategy with the interested ministries and agencies of Tajikistan. This would happen during the third quarter of 2014.

4.2. Approval of the draft Strategy by the fourth quarter of 2014 or first quarter of 2015.

Process plans

The process plans were then presented and discussed for peer review, with key topics for discussion including the relevance of the methods suggested for stakeholder groups and the feasibility of the process plan in the tight timeframe and within existing resources. The rough draft process plan itself is contained within Annex 3 of this report. This was to be reviewed and finalised after the workshop.

The crux of the discussion in the presentation of the process plan focussed on balancing the 'ideal' with pragmatism – getting the job done within the tight time frame, a sort of 'light' version of a participatory process.

Next steps – and UNECE support

Regarding next steps, and how best the UNECE FAO UNDA initiative could best support the development of the strategy in the coming months, it was suggested that the next two coaching seminars and four other planned local workshops could be tailored to the needs of the strategy development, with the workshops focussing on engaging local stakeholders in participatory analysis and the coaching seminars being possibly focussed on a multi-stakeholder negotiation. The coaching seminars would be based around the skills and methodological needs of these workshops. This will be finalised in discussions between the working group/Forestry Committee and the national consultant for the UNECE FAO project, who will then inform the regional/international consultant so that the schedule, form and function for the coaching seminars and other support workshops can be designed quickly.

An emerging opportunity that provides some challenges with regards to coordination is the other support being provided for the development of the program, notably support from FAO regarding National Forest Programme development and support from the Government of Germany. Good coordination of all initiatives to ensure agreement on the process and activities for further program development, avoid overlap, work together and assign clear roles and responsibilities will be extremely important.

Evaluation, lessons learned and recommendations.

The **evaluation and lesson learning** for the seminar was conducted in an informal discussion, some of the key points raised included the following;

- The holding of the coaching workshop directly after a three day national workshop was inconvenient for participants, some were not able to attend and for others that did attend they were tired and it was difficult for them to be away from their offices for a 4th consecutive day. There was a request from participants on the day to shorten the coaching workshop to one day from one and a half day. This modification was done, although could have been done better if more advance warning of the desire to shorten the workshop had been done.
- As with the national workshop, the participatory approach was appreciated, although initially there was some confusion on the role of the seminar; to write the content or the document or to use the coaching seminar to primarily focus on the process for forest strategy development? It was clarified that participatory process planning was the key focus, with justifications that this would help ensure the realities of a range of important stakeholders are considered in the draft and that ownership of the program would be increased.
- It was realized that the function and form of the subsequent local workshops and coaching seminars planned as part of the UNECE FAO support should be shaped and targeted based on the needs identified in the coaching seminar process plan. For example there was a request for more coaching support on design and methods of stakeholder analysis as well as multi-stakeholder negotiation and strategy drafting events – but within a tight timeframe. Also the 'local workshops' should be renamed as 'participatory workshops', as they may or may not be restricted to only the local level.
- It was requested from the working group that the outputs of both the coaching seminar and national workshop be documented quickly and shared with them for reference as time is tight for them to get moving.

Key Recommendations generated by this seminar include;

1) Shortening the seminar to one day and ensuring a gap of at least a day between it and the national workshop to make it convenient for the busy professionals attending the seminar.

2) Increased clarification of the guidance and process support role of both the national and coaching workshop in the training materials and the rationale behind this emphasis, rather than directly generating 'content' of the forestry strategy for the green economy.

3) For UNECE FAO technical support to not fully predetermine the form, function and timing of subsequent support workshops, until these are identified in a demand driven way in the first coaching workshop (or if there is no coaching workshop- in the national workshop).

4) Rapid typing up, sharing and discussion of the outputs from the coaching workshop in Russian language with the working group/Forestry Committee to make the UNECE FAO support as useful as possible for them because of the tight schedule. Because many details discussed verbally were not captured in the written process plans it is also so best to write up in a timely manner while these are still fresh and elaborations will have to be made in consultation with decision makers in the Forestry Committee. The training facilitator should focus on design reflection and analysis in his report, the national consultant should focus on quick development of the proceedings for review and revision by the drafting team.

Agenda for the coaching workshop on forestry action planning for a greener economy in Tajikistan

Dushanbe, Tajikistan, 26th of June 2014

Globally governments have increased the pace of change towards more sustainable development through policies for greener economies. According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), a green economy is low carbon, resource efficient, and socially inclusive. Unlocking the full potential of sustainable forestry can deliver a range of economic, social and ecological functions that play a key role in greening the economy. There are many opportunities from forestry related to increasing sources of renewable materials and energy, environmental services, more green jobs and improved livelihoods whilst enhancing biodiversity, water and soil. To fully realise the potential of forestry requires a responsive and inclusive forest sector, enabling policies and supportive institutions to help broaden opportunities related to forest management, products and services.

In October 2013, United Nations Economic Commission of Europe (UNECE) and the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) launched a capacity development project which aims through training and policy advisory services to assist countries in the region develop context specific strategies to more fully harness the potential of sustainable forest management for greener economies. More information on the initiative is available fromhttp://www.unece.org/forests-welcome/areas-of-work/forestsforestpolicieswelcome/capacity-building-in-central-asia-and-caucasus.html

This one- day coaching workshop will focus on planning the process of **how** to develop the forest sector action plan for a greener economy in Tajikistan. The components of the workshop include;

- Function, form and generic contents of forest sector action plan for a green economy;
- Principles, skills and methods for effective and responsive forestry process planning.
- Development of the detailed process guide for action plan development; steps, methods, information needs, roles, responsibilities and timeframe.

The outcome of the coaching workshop will be a process guide which will lay out an inclusive and rigorous series of steps and methods that ensure the forest sector action plan for greener economies in Tajikistan is built on rigorous analysis of all relevant information and the interests of a wide range of relevant stakeholders from across all areas of the country.

Target audience: about10 participants. Participants must have attended the previous National Workshop on Sustainable Forest Management for Green Economies from the 23th to the 25th of June. Participants must be in a position and have the commitment and ability to directly support and facilitate the development of a national forest sector action plan for Green Economies. **Existing skills on training, facilitation, extension or communication particularly welcome.** Representation sought from all relevant government departments, as well as from NGOs, Academia etc., with representation from the different provinces in Tajikistan expected.

Language and approach: Workshop in English with materials provided both in English and in Russian and interpretation into national language. The workshop approach will be informal and interactive.

Workshop agenda (Tentative)

27th of June

Workshop agenda (Tentative)

	27th of June
A M	**I. Forest Sector Action Plan for Green Economies form, function and review against Tajikistan context.** 1. **Start sharp at 8.30.** Workshop objectives, rules and norms. 8.30 – 9.00 2. Form and function of forest sector action plans for green economies. 9.00-9.30. *Presentation.* 3. Presentation and review of the generic UNECE/FAO action plan for the forest sector in Green Economy. *Presentation and review.* 9.30-10.15
	Break 10.15-10.45
	4. Critical review of the components in the generic action plan based on the analysis from the national workshop. Identification of key gaps and questions required to be filled /answered to develop the Tajikistan Forest Sector Action Plan for Greener Economies. 10.45 – 12.30 *Presentation.*
	Lunch 12.30 to 13.30
P M	**II. Planning the process for action plan development** 5. Rationale, process steps, tool box and key skills for action plan development. *Presentation.* 13.30 – 14.00 6. Development of process plans for the forest sector action plan development in Tajikistan. 14.00-15.15
	Break 15.15- 15.45
	7. Presentation of process plans for critical review *Participant presentation. 15*.45 -16.30 8. Revision of process plans and harmonization based on feedback. Assigning roles and responsibilities. *Group work 16.30 – 17.00* 9. Rapid presentation of finalized process plans for comment. *Group presentation. 17.00 – 17.15* 10. Next steps, follow on support and guidance. P*resentation. 17.15-17.30*
	Close 17.30

Annex 2. Workshop participants

Coaching workshop on forestry action planning for greener economies in Tajikistan

Hotel Poytakht, 3th floor, Conference-room, Dushanbe, Tajikistan, June 26, 2014

List of participants of the one day workshop
June 26, 2014
Venue: Hotel "Poytakht", Dushanbe, Tajikistan

#	Name	Organization	Position
1	Mr. Murodov Rustam	Forestry Institute under Forestry Agency	Director
2	Mr. Ustyan Ivan Petrovich	Forestry Institute under Forestry Agency	Head of the Department
3	Mr. Qosimov Said	Forestry Agency	Specialist
4	Ms. Skochilov Yury	Youth Ecocenter	Director
5	Mr. Nazarov Aziz	State Agency of Forestry, RT	Head of International Communication Department
6	Ms.Shukurova Anna	State committee for environment protection RT	Deputy Director
7	Mr. Inogamov Said	Regional Consultant of the Projects FAO	Regional Consultant
8	Mr. Peter O'Hara	UNECE	Consultant
9	Ms. Elina Warsta	UNECE	Coordinator
10	Mr. Idiev Anvar	YEC	Information Manager
11	Mr. Dustmurodov Nemat	YEC	Driver
12	Mr. Ahmadov Ibrohim	UNECE	National Consultant
13	Ms. Solieva Munira		Translator
14	Ms.Khamidova Munavara		Translator

Annex 3. Process plan for the support of the further development of the forest sector green economy strategy.

Phase 1. Preparingtothefurtherdevelopmentofactionplan – identifying who to involve and how? Identifying information gaps.				
Goals/key questions to answer	Key activities and methods/approaches that will be used. Use cards in this column so sequence can be adjusted.	Which stakeholders must be engaged in this phase?	Who responsible for facilitating/ organising?	Time frame(From when to when)
Identify term	Developing of the term	Several specialists of the Forestry Agency, Ministry of Economic development and trade, Committee on Environmental protection, Ministry of Justice, Committee on tourism	Working Group	2 weeks (1-15 July 2014)
Identify the main players	Collect information from 3 seminars (each of them separately)	Local leaders, NGOs, District forestry departments, Hukumats	Working Group	1,5 months(July 15- September 1, 2014)
Identify group experts	Meeting	Experts: -forestry agency-10 person, -Com on Enviro. Pro- 2 person; - Ministry of Economic development and trade	Forestry agency	Up to submission for the goverment

Phase 2. Contextanalysis – facilitatingstakeholder analysis and data gathering and analysis - filling gaps	

Goals/key questions to answer	Key activities and methods/approaches that will be used. Use cards in this column so sequence can be adjusted.	Which stakeholders must be engaged in this phase?	Who responsible for facilitating/ organising?	Time frame(From when to when)
Informing of the target groups	Publication of the articles	Forestry Agency, Ministry of Economic development and trade, Committee on Environmental protection, Ministry of Labour, NGOs, Investment Committee and others	Working Group	August 1 up to November 1, 2014
Awareness campaign	Seminars, Informational meetings	Forestry Agency, Ministry of Economic development and trade, Committee on Environmental protection, Ministry of Labour, NGOs, Investment Committee and others	Working Group	August 1 up to November 1, 2014
Analyze of the problems and opportunities	Research, meetings, meetings of the Working Group	Forestry Agency	Working Group and Experts	August 1- November 30 , 2014

Phase 3. Actionplanprioritiesnegotiation – Enabling multi-stakeholder negotiations on priorities				
Goals/key questions to answer	Key activities and methods/approaches that will be used. Use cards in this column so sequence can be adjusted.	Which stakeholders must be engaged in this phase?	Who responsible for facilitating/ organising?	Time frame(From when to when)
Submission of the preliminary results	Round tables, working group meetings,	Ministries, Agencies, Experts and stakeholders	Working Group	December – January 2015
Analysis, seminars, meetings	meetings	Mass media, NGOs	Working Group	December – January 2015
Analyze and discussion of plan updating	Meetings	Forestry agency and UNECE	Working Group	February–2015

Phase 4. Development of action plan and its approval – seeking for its validation				
Goals/key questions to answer	Key activities and methods/approaches that will be used. Use cards in this column so sequence can be adjusted.	Which stakeholders must be engaged in this phase?	Who responsible for facilitating/ organising?	Time frame(From when to when)
Submission of the working plan	Round tables	Governmental interested sites, Mass-Media, NGOs	Working Group, FAO	February 2015
Discussion of the working plans	Meeting of the working group	Forestry Agency, FAO UNECE	Working Group, FAO	February – July 1, 2015
Submission of the final draft plan for Government	Preliminary agreement	Forestry Agency, FAO UNECE	Working Group, FAO	Government

Annex 4. Some additional documents related to the coaching session.

Attitude and behaviour of a good facilitator of an action planning process?

Suitable attitude and behaviour	Unsuitable attitude and behaviour
• Respect opinion • To able to communicate • Accept news and innovations • Listening – hearing	• Ignoring • Prejudicialness • Intrusion of the opinions • Not respectful

Appropriate educational background/profession and skills needed to facilitate a green economy action plan?

Suitable educational background/profession	Suitable Skills
Responsible worker for forestry sector With experience. Economical. NGO, neutral body Lieder of the local community	Facilitation Analytic Experience-knowledge Sociability To able manipulate mass

Establish of the working groups on developing of the plan

Would like to continue your involvement and involvement of others in guiding, coordinating and facilitating the action plan development .	For action plan development there is a need for • facilitators, • organizers, • documenters, • advisors, • Influencers/good connections with decision makers etc. in different ministries/departments.
Working group members	**Roles and responsibilities**
• Director of Forestry Agency Mr Ismatov A • Head of department of Forestry Agency – Saidov M • Head of international relationship unit –Nazarov • NGO - Anna Shukurova • Director of Forestry Institute – Muratov Rustam • Head of department, Forestry Institute- Ustyan Ivan • NGO, Yorth Ecological Center – Yuri Skochilov • Committee of Environmental protection • President Offce • Ministry of economic development and trade	• Head • Consultant • Interagency coordination • Consultant • Consultant, redactor • Facilitator, redactor • Logistics • Awareness camping • Facilitation , consultant • consultation

<u>Strategy of the Green Economy</u>

(Building on what exists and identifying key gaps)

1. What sustainable development/ green economy processes are ongoing between now and December 2014	2. What are the major gaps/deficits in forestry strategies in relation to green economy principles?	3. What forest policy processes are ongoing between now and December 2014
RIO +20	There is not private property in forestry resources (in Forest Code)	Again established Agency of Forestry under Government of Tajikistan
National report RIO+20 National Development strategy up to 2015 Strategy on development and poverty reduction up to 2025	There is not strategy on developing forestry sector Necessary upgrade strategy and ПД on conservation Biodiversity Not enough information and informing the population and officials.	Review of exist laws and regulations in forestry sector. Political will in developing of the strategy n forestry. Interagency working group