

Integrated Programme of Work 2014-2017 for the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the FAO European Forestry Commission

This document contains the Integrated Programme of Work 2014-2017 of the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI) and the FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC), as adopted by the joint session of the Committee and the Commission, “Metsä 2013”, held from 9 to 13 December 2013 in Rovaniemi, Finland.

I. Integrated Programme of Work

A. Scope

1. The Integrated Programme of Work covers all fifty-six member States of the ECE region, in line with the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry membership. Thirty-nine member States, which are all ECE members States, as well as the European Union, are members of the FAO European Forestry Commission¹. The Programme encompasses sustainable forest management as well as the sound and legal use of forest products, for raw material and energy, and forest services, based on appropriate policies and institutions.²

2. The Programme continues to cover many traditional topics related to forest products and services (as contained in the previous Programme of Work ECE/TIM/2008/7 – FO:EFC/08/7). It also introduces new elements to address emerging issues related to sustainable forest management. These new elements include:

- Linkages between sustainable forest management and a green economy, including: the contribution of forest products and services to a green economy; decent green jobs and employment in the forest sector;
- Innovation in the forest sector, including new forest products and the use of wood in construction;
- Enhanced emphasis on wood energy and payment for ecosystem services;
- Interactions between forest policies and other sectors, such as the effect of wood energy policies on land use and the effect of urbanization on forest extent and character;
- Adaptation to climate change;
- Forest health and disturbance-related issues;

¹ Albania, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan and the European Union.

² The scope is unchanged from the period 2008-2013. For ease of reference, please see the Mandate of the FAO European Forestry Commission, the Terms of Reference of the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry, the ECE/FAO Joint Working Party and the ECE/FAO Teams of Specialists (Annex V, ECE/TIM/2013/2–FO:EFC/2013/2).

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- Mainstreaming of biodiversity and environmental issues into the different areas of work.

3. The Programme makes reference to the Rovaniemi Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy, which was also adopted by the Committee and the Commission at “Metsä 2013” (see Annex III of document ECE/TIM/2013/2–FO:EFC/2013/2). Actions contained in that Plan and attributed to the joint ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section are indicated with an asterisk and reflected in the annual list of activities as part of the Integrated Programme of Work.

B. Overall goal

4. The overall goal of the Integrated Programme of Work 2014-2017 for the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the European Forestry Commission, their related bodies and the Teams of Specialists is to, “*Support member countries and relevant stakeholders in their efforts to sustainably manage and use ECE-region forests so that they provide products and ecosystem services to benefit society*”.

C. Objective of the Integrated Programme of Work

5. The Integrated Programme of Work aims to assist member countries to achieve the overall goal by: providing the best available information; facilitating policy dialogues and communication; and building capacity.

D. Structure and work areas

6. The Integrated Programme of Work is structured around four main functions, or work areas (WA), as follows:

WA 1: Data, monitoring and assessment

WA 2: Policy dialogue and advice

WA 3: Communication and outreach

WA 4: Capacity-building

7. Specific activities and outputs proposed for the four work areas are outlined below.

WA 1: Data, monitoring and assessment

8. The data collection and reporting system of the joint ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section consists of the following:

- Collection, validation and dissemination of statistics on forest resources, products, functions and services, sustainable forest management, forest policies, institutions and instruments, and the contribution of the forest sector to a green economy;
- Analysis and assessment of the state of forests, sustainability of forest management and forest products markets; and monitoring the role of the forest sector in a green economy;
- Cooperation and support to international processes in sustainable forest management, including the development and use of regional Criteria and Indicators and the preparation of the report on the State of Europe’s Forests.

9. The joint ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section monitors and analyses developments in different forest-related areas and also has extensive cooperation with other organizations in this area. This includes the gathering of comprehensive statistics and data (quantitative and qualitative), and developing methodologies for data collection, analysis and assessments on:

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- Forest product markets and services in the region;
 - All aspects of forests and forest resources, their functions and services, and sustainable forest management;
 - Long-term supply of and demand for wood and other forest goods and services;
 - Use of wood energy and its implications for sustainable forest management.

10. Outputs from this work area include: the Forest Products Annual Market Reviews; the State of Europe's Forests in cooperation with Forest Europe; the regional input to the FAO Global Forest Resource Assessment; Joint Wood Energy Enquiries; associated databases; studies on forest ownership, occupation and employment, the contribution of the forest sector to a green economy; and ad hoc sectorial studies on topics such as the profitability and competitiveness of the forest sector and other emerging issues.

11. Data are collected in partnership with countries, international organizations and the scientific community, based on agreed standards and rules. Activities under WA1 are also expected to improve the quality of information, ensuring international compatibility, storage, dissemination and analysis of the information, and helping countries to strengthen their capacity in this area (see WA 4 on capacity-building).

12. This programme area also addresses monitoring and assessment components of priority activities identified in the Rovaniemi Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy and attributed to joint ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section for the period 2014-2017.

WA 2: Policy dialogue and advice

13. This includes contributions of the joint ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section to the global (mainly United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO)), regional (in particular CIS Intergovernmental Council on Forestry and Forest Industry, Eurasian Economic Commission, European Commission, European Forest Institute, Forest Europe) and national forest dialogues and cross-sectoral cooperation.

14. This component also involves the organization of policy dialogues and specific studies in the ECE region, and at the national level on request from member countries. Subjects to be covered will, depending on availability of funds, include:

- Forest policies, institutions and instruments;
- Regional and national coordination of forest and forest-related policies;
- Governance and policy making;
- Green economy and green jobs;
- Interaction with stakeholders and the private sector;
- Financing for, and investment in, the profitability and competitiveness of the forest sector;
- Structural developments in the forest sector and their policy impact and implications;
- Wood energy and its implications for renewable energy policies and land use;
- Role of biodiversity and wildlife in sustainable forest management;
- Adaptation of forests and the forest sector to climate change.

15. This programme area also addresses policy-related components of priority activities identified in the Rovaniemi Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy and attributed to the joint ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section for the period 2014-2017.

16. Outputs include guidelines and recommendations in accordance with the Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy, national forest policy dialogues and other policy dialogues and workshops for the ECE region. An important component will also be the next round of Forest Sector Outlook Studies and the policy-related parts of relevant ECE and FAO studies such as reports on the status and trends in forests and sustainable forest management, and relevant reviews.

WA 3: Communication and outreach

17. This is an essential part of the Integrated Programme of Work. Improving the ability of the forest and forest products sector to communicate effectively, within and outside the sector, is essential to promote sustainable forest management. Enhancing the efforts of the Committee and the Commission to reach out to relevant constituencies and to increase the dissemination of the information and tools produced, at the national, regional and global levels will make an important contribution to this end. This will be achieved through:

- Providing a platform for international interaction and cooperation in forest related communication;
- Events and campaigns in support of sustainable forest management and forest products and services (e.g. the International Day of Forests, the European Forest Week, the Forest Information Week);
- Dissemination of information produced under the Integrated Programme of Work via policy briefs, press briefs and ad hoc studies, whenever results are available and new information released;
- Improved website maintenance and design including the use of social media/networks and videos;
- Contribution to the organization of relevant events in member countries and dissemination of their announcements (e.g. National Forest Policy Dialogues, capacity building workshops, special public relations events) in cooperation with all stakeholders;
- Outreach activities beyond the forest sector for disseminating information that highlights the relevance of forests and forest products and services to other sectors (e.g. energy events, biodiversity and environment meetings, sustainable construction and building).

18. This programme area also addresses communications and outreach components of priority activities identified in the Rovaniemi Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy and attributed to the joint ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section for the period 2014-2017.

WA 4: Capacity-building

19. While all countries benefit from international cooperation through the Integrated Programme of Work, special attention is paid to countries in Eastern Europe, Southeast Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. This work focus on capacity-building to encourage sustainable forest management, data collection, monitoring and analysis as well as promoting the engagement of national experts from the region in international activities, covering the following:

- Forest policies development, governance and institutions;

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- National systems for forest monitoring and statistical reporting;
 - Forest products markets and forest resources;
 - Forest related communication;
 - Wood energy, including the collection of wood energy data;
 - The contribution of the forest sector to a green economy.

20. This work area relies mainly on extrabudgetary support. This area also addresses capacity-building components of priority activities identified in the Rovaniemi Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy and attributed to the joint ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section for the period 2014-2017.

21. This work area also benefits from the implementation of the United Nations Development Account (UNDA) project on “Sustainable Forest Management for Greener Economies in the Caucasus and Central Asia (2013-2015)”. Additional sources of funding for capacity building will be sought with the European Union, and development banks and national development agencies.

E. Principles guiding implementation

22. Implementation should be guided by the following principles:

- **Partnership:** There will be a strong focus on working in partnerships with international and regional actors, as the most effective way of minimizing overlap and optimizing benefits. The Committee and the Commission will seek and welcome cooperation for any of the relevant outputs under the four work areas.
- **Outreach to other constituencies:** The Committee and the Commission will look beyond the traditional forest constituency to make sure the relevance of the forest sector and its contribution to other sectors is well recognized and understood and will coordinate relevant actions with, for example, the environment, biodiversity, energy, water, construction and building sectors.
- **Expert advice:** The work of the Teams of Specialists will be fully aligned with the Integrated Programme of Work and its objectives, and will support the related areas of work.
- **Involvement of the private sector.** The Integrated Programme of Work recognizes the private sector as a key actor for developing sustainable forest management, sustainable forest products and services and the transition towards a green economy. The participation of the private sector in the work of the Committee and the Commission will be actively sought.

F. Support to the Integrated Programme of Work and related resources

23. As per current practice, specific activities in support of the implementation of the Integrated Programme of Work will be agreed on annually. The list will be based on proposals by member States, the joint Bureaux³ and the joint secretariat and reflect the activities set out in the current multi-year Programme of Work. Implementation will depend on regular programme funding levels and to a large extent on extrabudgetary resources made available. The member States and other donors are encouraged to support such activities in kind and/or with the necessary level of financial resources. The annual list of

³ Joint meetings of the COFFI Bureau and the EFC Executive Committee.

activities will show clearly the areas of work (e.g. capacity-building) or activities where extrabudgetary funding will be needed.

24. A broader participation and more strategic engagement by member States and stakeholders should be sought. In particular, resources should be identified to finance the participation of delegates from countries with economies in transition.

G. Governance

25. Formal governance is undertaken by the two parent bodies, the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the FAO European Forestry Commission, which have the ultimate responsibility for the implementation of the Integrated Programme of Work. The Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry meets annually, while the European Forestry Commission meets every second year. The two bodies are encouraged to continue holding joint meetings in line with established practice and with the aim to further strengthen cooperation and exploit synergies. During joint meetings, matters of relevance to COFFI or EFC only are dealt separately and under specific agenda items during these meetings. The Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management meets annually.

26. The AFWC/EFC/NEFRC⁴ Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions (*Silva Mediterranea*), a forestry statutory body of FAO, is invited to coordinate its activities with this Integrated Programme of Work.

27. The EFC Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds reports on its work to, and seeks guidance from, the EFC. The Commission shall ensure that the Working Party coordinates its activities with this Integrated Programme of Work, where appropriate.

28. The Bureau of the COFFI and the Executive Committee of the EFC are entrusted with overseeing the implementation of the Integrated Programme of Work and with providing guidance as needed. They have the authority to take decisions to support the implementation of the Programme of Work between sessions of the parent bodies. They should meet at least twice annually.

H. Expert support

29. Teams of Specialists (ToS), composed of experts in particular fields, contribute advice or undertake activities that support the implementation of the Integrated Programme of Work. Teams may also provide guidance to the joint secretariat on their work areas, and help with outreach activities to country-level experts, as well as have team-specific outputs in support of the Integrated Programme of Work. Teams of Specialists are mandated by the Committee and Commission, which approve their terms of reference. They report annually to the Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management. This reporting set up is to be assessed after the next two sessions of the Working Party.

30. Guidelines for the Teams of Specialists clarifying the Teams' mandates and procedures, and the role and responsibilities of Team Leaders, and Deputy Leaders, Team Members and secretariat can be found in Annex V of document ECE/TIM/2013/2-FO:EFC/2013/2.

⁴ AFWC: African Forestry and Wildlife Commission; EFC: European Forestry Commission; NEFRC: Near East Forestry and Range Commission.

II. Recommendations in support of the implementation of the Integrated Programme of Work

31. The following recommendations for the implementation of the Integrated Programme of Work were adopted by the Committee and the Commission at “Metsä2013”:

Institutional structure

32. Foster stronger cooperation between the European Forestry Commission and the North American Forestry Commission (NAFC).

33. Bring the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the European Forestry Commission as close together as possible and organize joint meetings according to established practice. Joint meetings should have the same name for each session – “forest” in the language of the country hosting the meeting and then the year of the meeting.

34. Continue and maintain the tradition of joint meetings, the Integrated Programme of Work, the joint secretariat, joint Bureaux, joint publications and a joint profile.

35. Encourage countries to strengthen coordination between the Committee and Commission delegates at the national level, by e.g. appointing the same Head of Delegation for both.

36. Engage Committee and Commission members in linking the joint ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section’s work to work at the national level in order to ensure feedback on the Integrated Programme of Work.

37. Strengthen the collaboration with the Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds and *Silva Mediterranea*.

38. Establish the following Teams of Specialists for the period 2014-2017:

<i>Name of the Team</i>	<i>Contribution to the Programme of Work</i>
ToS on Sustainable Forest Products	WA1: to focus on forest products and markets, market statements and support to the Committee
ToS on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)	WA1: to focus on SFM monitoring for different ECE and FAO studies and reviews, SFM assessment and work on criteria and indicators
ToS on Forest Policy	WA2 and WA4: to focus on the development of forest policies in the region and provide capacity building
ToS on the Forest Sector Outlook	WA1 and WA2: to support the development of Outlook Studies
ToS on Forest Communication - Forest Communicators Network	WA3: to provide advice to the joint ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section in support of relevant events, campaigns and public relations efforts, support the dissemination of results of other ToS
ToS on Green Jobs - Joint ILO/ECE/FAO Expert Network	WA4: the previous joint ToS to be refocused on green jobs and capacity-building activities in support of SFM
ToS on Wood Energy	WA1 and WA2: to support the development of

<i>Name of the Team</i>	<i>Contribution to the Programme of Work</i>
ToS on Forest Products Statistics	data and relevant policy advice on wood energy in the region WA 1 and WA4: to support the work on statistics in the Working Party, in order for the Working Party to focus on its coordinating function for Teams of Specialists and work area review
ToS on Forest Fires	WA2: to support international cooperation in fire management. The Team will complete its mandate by July 2014

39. The Terms of Reference of and the Guidelines for the Teams of Specialists are contained in Annex V of document ECE/TIM/2013/2-FO:EFC/2013/2. The Guidelines are in line with, and complementary to, the guidelines for the establishment and functioning of Teams of Specialists within ECE (ECE/EX/2/Rev.1).

Data management

40. Data on forest and forest management are collected through regular and ad hoc processes. They are often collected, stored and disseminated separately, through different means and formats. Taking into account relatively long data collection cycles, this situation hampers seriously continuity, inter-connectivity, planning for data collection and its management. This also limits the availability and usability of information collected.

41. It is recommended that the organization and structure of data on forests, their management, their functions and services be analyzed. While avoiding any duplication with existing similar repositories, the results of this analysis would provide the basis for the establishment of an electronic repository, enhancing the efficiency of data collection, management and dissemination.

Private sector

42. The involvement of the private sector, given its relevance to the work undertaken by the Committee and the Commission, should be increased, including through considering the establishment of a regional working group under the FAO Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest-based Industry, which could provide advice to the joint Bureaux and other meetings.

Funding

43. The final list of activities prepared every year should contain a related budget (costing of activities) to help member States recognize funding needs and understand the feasibility of activities. The first of such lists should be prepared for the year 2014 and submitted to Metsä2013 for consideration (and should include both human and financial resource needs).

Outreach

44. More attention should be paid to communication activities that shall be implemented with due regard to keeping a balance between official languages of COFFI and EFC in order to increase the impact and visibility of work. This might include a high level segment in key meetings, which would bring together ministers and chief executive officers of private companies, and heads of other organizations.

45. The Integrated Programme of Work should also allow addressing new and emerging issues of high political value and interest or influence to forestry and forest industry.

Partnerships

46. Partnerships should be established with other sectors, including through the cooperation with other ECE Committees. This should serve to demonstrate the value of forests and forest products for other sectors (energy, environment, housing, employment, climate change, etc.).

47. Good examples of cross-sectoral cooperation should be highlighted and showcased whenever possible.

Name of the Section

48. Following the change of name to Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry, ECE and FAO are invited to consider adjusting the name of the joint secretariat accordingly. Such an invitation does not imply any intention by member States to change the current duties of the joint Section.

Outlook

49. The next round of outlook studies in North America, Europe and the Russian Federation should be based on common methodologies and approaches, and developed in cooperation with relevant partners. Member States and other relevant parties are encouraged to support the outlook work by designating national correspondents to the Team of Specialists, sharing data and modelling results of national outlook studies.