

Economic Commission for Europe Food and Agriculture Organization
 Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry European Forestry Commission

**Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on
 Forest Statistics, Economics and Management
 Forty-first session**

Geneva, 27-29 March 2019
 Item 8 (d) of the provisional agenda

GUIDANCE ON WORK AREA 4: CAPACITY-BUILDING

AGENDA ITEM 8 (d)

Note by the Secretariat

Summary

In accordance with its mandate, the Working Party is expected to provide guidance to Work Area 4: Capacity-building. This document provides information about activities in this work area since the Working Party's last session in March 2018, as well as plans for 2019, drawing the Working Party's attention to any specific issues where guidance is needed. Activities in Work Area 4 for the year 2020 are made available in document ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2019/Inf.8 and discussed under Agenda Item 9.

Matters related to green jobs in the forest sector are a subject for in-depth discussion under agenda item 5 of the annotated agenda of the forty-first session of the Joint Working Party. Any information on Green Jobs and the work of the Team of Specialists on Green Jobs will be discussed under agenda item 5. The background paper for agenda item 5 (ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2019/Inf.2) will repeat the question for guidance and discussion on green jobs as outlined in paragraph 17 d.

Content

I.	Capacity-building	2
A.	Forest Resources	2
B.	United Nations Development Account (UNDA) capacity-building projects	2
C.	Team of Specialists on Green Jobs in the Forest Sector	3
D.	Key questions for guidance and discussion	4
II.	Annex	5
A.	Report by the Team of Specialists on Green Jobs in the Forest Sector (Joint ILO/ECE/FAO Expert Network)	5

I. Capacity-building

A. Forest Resources

Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) 2020 and the pan-European reporting on forests 2020

1. The national data collection for 2020 cycles of the FAO FRA 2020 and the Forest Europe/FAO/ECE Pan-European reporting was undertaken jointly, in a coordinated manner. The Forestry and Timber Section continues to be an active partner in both processes and supported member States participated in the regional and global reporting on forests and forest management. In 2018, the Secretariat co-organized two workshops for the ECE member States (Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia) and assisted national correspondents in their work on compilation and submission of national data.
2. A Regional Workshop for Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, held 18-20 April 2018 in Geneva, Switzerland, was organized jointly by ECE, FAO and Forest Europe. The workshop introduced FRA 2020 and the pan-European processes, reporting content, terms and definitions, as well as reporting tools (including a new FRA reporting platform). National correspondents, working together with international reviewers, discussed the reporting content, methodology and the problems they encountered in preparing national reports. The workshop provided an opportunity to test the reporting tools. More information is available at the meeting website: <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=48388>.
3. To provide additional support to countries of the Caucasus and Central Asia in their reporting to FRA 2020, the FAO FRA Secretariat and the ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section organized a technical meeting (5 December 2018, Tbilisi, Georgia). The meeting built on the earlier training provided at the Geneva workshop and was tailored to the region to ensure completeness, consistency and transparency. At the meeting, experts reviewed problems encountered with data submission through the online platform, facilitated the compilation of country reports and reviewed data and information already entered in the reporting platform.
4. The conclusion of the 2020 data collection will not end support offered to countries for improving their national information systems. Future support will be focused towards increasing member States' capacities to develop particular tools, e.g., criteria and indicators, or monitoring damage and conditions of forests.

Forest Landscape Restoration and the Bonn Challenge

5. "Strengthening capacity of Caucasus and Central Asia to restore deforested and degraded lands in support of the international Bonn Challenge and the achievement of SDGs 13 and 15, was implemented in 2018. The project was funded by Germany. Details on this are available under document ECE/TIM/WP.2/2019/Inf.5.
6. In 2019-2020, the Section will be implementing a follow-up project on forest landscape restoration and the Bonn Challenge. The follow-up activities will include support of the implementation of the landscape restoration pledges of the Caucasus and Central Asia and the organization of a high-level policy event for Eastern and South-East Europe. A study on degradation and forest landscape restoration for Eastern and South-East Europe will be undertaken and provide background for the high-level event.

B. United Nations Development Account (UNDA) capacity-building projects

"Accountability Systems for Sustainable Forest Management in the Caucasus and Central Asia"

7. The capacity-building project "Accountability Systems for Sustainable Forest Management in the Caucasus and Central Asia" is funded by the United Nations Development Account (UNDA), under the 10th tranche. The objective of this project is to strengthen the national capacity of Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan to develop national sets of criteria and indicators (C&I) and reporting/accountability systems for sustainable forest management (SFM). The timeframe for the project is 2016-2019.

8. After its launch with a regional inception workshop in 2016, the project was implemented at the national level in 2017 and 2018. A Regional Interim Workshop was held in February 2018 in Tbilisi, Georgia, which brought together practitioners who were directly involved in the process of developing national criteria and indicator sets from all five project countries to: review, share results, network and further develop the national C&I sets and update the process plans. Part of the Workshop was conducted with the participation of the Team of Specialists (ToS) on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management.
9. All project countries benefitted from the second series of national coaching workshops held in 2018 and 2019. During these five national workshops (i) background, definitions, purposes, process, benefits and challenges were recapped; (ii) national progress and challenges were critically reviewed; (iii) coherence was checked and gaps in indicators removed; (iv) indicators were screened, prioritized and reformulated; (v) advice on methodologies for data collection was given. As a result, advanced versions of the criteria and indicator sets were developed and the plans for the finalization of the work were made. Each of the national workshops were attended by 25-35 participants representing government, NGOs, academia, and the private sector. The workshops involved experts from the national and local levels, with a mix of various age groups and gender.
10. The guidelines for the development of a C&I set for sustainable forest management, which were developed for the project, provided detailed guidance to the process of the development of C&I at national level, and included tools for conducting participatory workshops. These guidelines (available in English and Russian) were completed in 2018 and are being published. The draft version of the guidelines served as background material for the national coaching workshops and were used by the national consultants and the stakeholders as a reference to draft the national C&I sets.
11. Out of the five project countries, Georgia and Kazakhstan are the most advanced in the development of their C&I sets for sustainable forest management. Georgia finalized the indicator set and has started developing specific reporting guidance and measurement units for each indicator. Parliamentary approval is expected in March 2019. Kazakhstan expanded their indicator set to also include socio-economic indicators, with their 2018 workshop focused specifically on forest-related socio-economic and governance indicators. In January 2019, the criteria and indicators set of Kazakhstan will be submitted for approval to the Chairman of the Committee of Forestry and Fauna of the Ministry of Agriculture. Kyrgyzstan took the initiative to organize a local consultation workshops to get broader feedback on the C&I set. The results of the local consultations were presented at the national workshop and used as a basis for the national C&I set. Uzbekistan is in the process of revising their indicator set based on the recommendations from its national workshop. In Armenia, a second national workshop was organized in February 2019. All workshop reports, press releases and training material are available on the project website at: www.unece.org/forests/areas-of-work/capacity-building/unda2016-2019.html
12. The final regional forest congress is planned to be held in May 2019 in Issyk Kul, Kyrgyzstan. The results of the project will be published online. In the second half of 2019, the project will be concluded in 2019 and evaluated by an external evaluator.

C. Team of Specialists on Green Jobs in the Forest Sector

13. During the reporting period two meetings of the Team of Specialists on Green Jobs in the Forest Sector (Joint ILO/ECE/FAO Expert Network) took place: on 18-19 June 2018, in Bern, hosted by Switzerland (<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=48391>) and on 19 September 2018, in Geneva. The meetings covered topics related to the Team's activities in line with the list of activities agreed in the ToS mandate.
14. The ToS supported the Secretariat in the implementation of the ECE project on "Improving the capacity of the ECE member States to create green jobs in the forest sector", in particular as regards the work on the "Guidelines on the promotion of the green jobs in forestry" and in the organization of the workshop on "Green Forest Jobs – Exploring opportunities and increasing capacity of ECE member States". In addition, the ToS organized a side event at

the seventy-sixth session of the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry in Vancouver, Canada. More information about the ToS activities can be found in the Annex II.

15. The mandate of the Team runs from 2018-2019 and is subject to renewal by the ECE Executive Committee at the request of the joint session of the ECE Committee on Forests and Forest Industry (COFFI) and FAO European Forestry Committee (EFC) in November 2019.

D. Key questions for guidance and discussion

16. Matters related to green jobs in the forest sector are subject for in-depth discussion under agenda item 5 of the annotated agenda of the forty-first session of the Joint Working Party. Any information on Green Jobs and the work of the Team of Specialists on Green Jobs will be discussed under agenda item 5. The background paper for agenda item 5 (ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2019/Inf.2) will repeat the question “d.” for guidance and discussion on green jobs as outlined below.
17. The Working Party is invited to:
 - a. *Comment on the work and make proposals for future capacity-building work on the reporting on forests and forest management;*
 - b. *Suggest topics for possible future capacity-building workshops;*
 - c. *Comment on the ECE/FAO capacity-building projects focusing on Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia on the topics of forest landscape restoration and SFM monitoring;*
 - d. *Advise on future work of the Team of Specialists on Green Jobs in the Forest Sector, including the extension of its mandate.*

II. Annex

A. Report by the Team of Specialists on Green Jobs in the Forest Sector (Joint ILO/ECE/FAO Expert Network)

Items for regular reporting to the JWPFSEM	
1. Name:	
	Team of Specialists on Green Jobs in the Forest Sector (Joint ILO/ECE/FAO Expert Network) Team website http://www.unece.org/forests/sc/methodsandprocesses/fao/ece/ilo.html
2. Period covered:	
	April 2018 – March 2019
3. Leader/Deputies and Secretary:	
	Leader: Mr. Andreas BERNASCONI Deputies: Mr. Diarmuid MCAREE, Mr. Josef HERKENDELL Secretary: Ms. Alicja KACPRZAK
4. Members:	
	20
5. Countries:	
	12 countries: Armenia, Austria, Finland, France, Ireland, Germany, Lithuania, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine.
6. Meetings held:	
	18-19 June 2018 (Bern, Switzerland in kind contribution) 19 September 2018 (Geneva, Switzerland) February/March 2019 (phone conference of the ToS)

7. Outputs and impacts achieved during last year:

- Publication and promotion of the discussion paper on Green Jobs in the Forest Sector.
- Oversee, support and co-organise the first knowledge - sharing workshop in Geneva (forest and human health, optimal ecosystem functioning).
- Contribute to and support the elaboration of the guidelines on Green Forest jobs.
- Teleconference with the Team Leader of the ToS on Forest Sector Outlook.
- Participation in the COFFI-meeting in Vancouver (CA) and organisation of a side-event.
- Participation at the DIABOLO conference in Koli (FI): Exchange of experiences in the forest sector outlook studies and related work.
- Further development of the open book (examples of Green Forest Jobs).

8. Outputs and impacts expected for coming year:

- May: possible contribution to the ILO tripartite meeting on “Forest Work”.
- June: Support and co-organise the second knowledge - sharing workshop in Madrid (regional & land use-development, bio-economy, work 4.0).
- June: ToS meeting.
- Early September: second meeting of the ToS.
- September: Participation in a conference of the EFI-IFSA-IUFRO Capacity Development Project “Global student networking and green jobs in the forest sector”.
- November: Participation in the COFFI/EFC session in Geneva and organization of a side-event.

9. Issues for the attention of the Working Party:

Which are the future key-questions for the ECE region linked to forestry work?

10. Other comments:

The forest sector is in a permanent state of evolution and transition (e.g. digitalization, climate change adaptation, increasing societal demands, decline of qualified forest work force). Accordingly, forest skills and education methods should be amended, adapted and adjusted to cater for these newly emerging scenarios. The sector needs to prepare itself to continuously observe ongoing changes and trends and there should be strong collaboration between forest science, education and practice. Within the umbrella of ECE/FAO, it is important to exchange knowledge and experiences among the different ToSs.
