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Reporting on and implementation of the 2018-2021 Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work and related decisions: Draft Programme of Work of Forests and the Forest Industry Subprogramme for 2021

Draft programme of work of the Forests and Forest Industry subprogramme for 2021

Note by the Secretariat

Summary

The present document contains the draft programme of work of the Forests and Forest Industry subprogramme for 2021. Due consideration is given to the fact that men and women should have equal opportunities to participate in and benefit from all the activities planned in the subprogramme. This also applies to the respect of the rights of people with disabilities.

The Committee is invited to review and adopt the draft programme of work of Forests and the Forest Industry subprogramme for 2021 and recommend it to the Executive Committee for approval.



Introduction

1. The present document contains the draft programme of work of the Forests and the Forest Industry subprogramme¹ (“the subprogramme”) for 2021. The Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (“the Committee”) is invited to adopt it and recommend it to the Executive Committee (ExCom) for approval. Any subsequent additional, discontinued or carried over outputs will be reflected in the Umoja system used by the Secretariat for planning, monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the programme.
2. The draft programme of work applies a results-based management (RBM) approach, a broad management approach which establishes logical relationship between the hierarchical results (deliverables – objectives – impact) known as ‘results chain’, the resources (human and financial) known as ‘inputs’ and the external factors (strategic, governance, operational, financial) which can prevent the achievement of the objective.
3. The objective, the most significant planned result, and the deliverables in the draft programme of work correspond to those contained in the ECE proposed programme budget for 2021. The objective of the subprogramme is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In pursuing its objective, the subprogramme builds on cross-sectoral collaboration with other subprogrammes in relevant ECE nexus areas where multiple SDGs converge². This type of collaboration enables the subprogramme to maximize existing synergies, increase the efficiency of its work and have a multiplying effect on the impact of its actions to support countries to implement SDGs. The deliverables of the subprogramme fall into the following main categories: (a) facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies; (b) generation and transfer of knowledge, including technical cooperation projects, training events, seminars, workshops, and publications; (c) other substantive deliverables, and (d) communication deliverables.
4. The details of the proposed publications are provided in Annex I. The overall ECE legislative mandates and those specific for the subprogramme are listed in Annex II.

I. Objective

5. The objective, to which the subprogramme contributes, is to strengthen sustainable management of forests and enhance the contribution of forests and forest products to sustainable development in the ECE region.

II. Strategy

6. The responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Forests, Land and Housing Division.
7. The strategy of the subprogramme is based on the implementation of the core interlinked functions, namely: (a) analytical and normative work; (b) international policy dialogue; (c) capacity-building; and (d) communication. Through its work, the subprogramme will contribute to the ECE nexus area on the sustainable use of natural resources.
8. To contribute to the strengthening of sustainable forest management (SFM) and enhancing the contribution of forests and forest products to sustainable development in the ECE region, the subprogramme will continue to assist and promote cooperation with member States, regional entities and other partners for sustainable forest management, forest landscape restoration and sustainable use of forest products. The subprogramme will also be collecting, validating and disseminating information and results of research and analysis

¹ The Economic Commission for Europe decided to change the name of subprogramme 7 from “Forestry and timber” to “Forests and the forest industry”. See E/2019/15/Add.2 Decision G (68)

² The ECE nexus areas are as follows: 1) Sustainable use of natural resources; 2) Sustainable and smart cities for all ages; 3) Sustainable mobility and smart connectivity; and 4) Measuring and monitoring SDGs.

related to sustainable forest management and sustainable production and consumption of wood products. The subprogramme will further facilitate the exchange of national experiences and best practices and monitor progress on achieving sustainable forest management using key forest-sector indicators. This work is expected to result in restored ecosystems, forest goods and services to benefit societies, and other aspects of managing forest resources in a sustainable and integrated way. The subprogramme will support member States in making progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, notably SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production) and SDG 15 (life on land), as well as in implementing the UN Strategic Plan for Forests (A/RES/71/285).

9. Past results in these areas include the organization of a Ministerial Roundtable on forest landscape restoration and the Bonn Challenge in the Caucasus and Central Asia, held in Astana (now Nur-Sultan) on 21 and 22 June 2018. The ECE secretariat prepared a study on restoration and afforestation opportunities that was shared and discussed among forest stakeholders who attended the meeting. Following the Ministerial Roundtable, the ECE, together with FAO, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the World Resources Institute, and the World Bank, launched the ECCA30 initiative in September 2019, which is intended to restore 30 million hectares of degraded and deforested land in Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia by 2030. As a result, the capacity of member States to provide statistical data on sustainable forest management and the sustainable production and consumption of wood products in the Corporate Database for Substantive Statistical Data database was significantly increased. Fifty per cent of the datapoints in this database are provided by the ECE member States. Owing to cooperation between ECE and FAO, the coverage of the ECE member States reporting on indicators of sustainable forest management significantly increased in 2019, compared with the planned value.

10. As part of its implementation strategy, the subprogramme will carry out its work in partnership with FAO and other relevant organizations and processes (among others IUCN, World Agroforestry and Forest Europe).

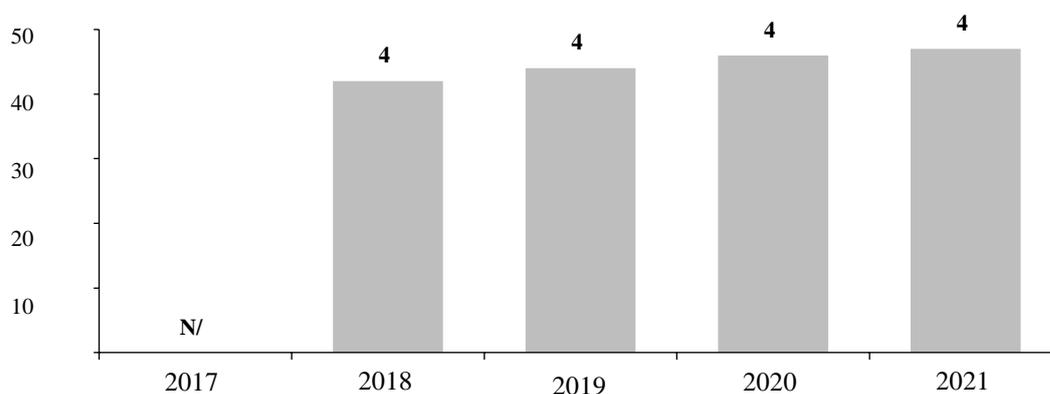
III. Programme plan for 2021

Result 1: are we there yet? Measuring sustainable forest management under Sustainable Development Goal 15 (result carried over from 2020)

11. The subprogramme will continue the work related to the measurement of reporting under Sustainable Development Goal 15, in line with its mandate, and will assist countries in reporting on sustainable forest management targets, which is expected to be demonstrated by the performance measure for 2021 shown below. For 2020, a proxy performance measure is indicated, to reflect that the General Assembly in its resolution 74/251 approved a programme narrative at the subprogramme level that is composed solely of the objectives.

Table 1

Performance measure: number of Economic Commission for Europe member States that report data on targets 15.1 and 15.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals



Result 2: strengthening capacity and political commitment for ecosystem restoration in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe (new result)

12. The subprogramme has been actively involved in raising awareness on the Bonn Challenge among ECE member States since 2018 with countries in the Caucasus and Central Asia to support Governments in determining potential areas for landscape restoration and increasing the political commitment to restore degraded lands. In line with the General Assembly resolution 73/284, which declared 2021-2030 to be the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, the subprogramme builds on this momentum to support countries in Eastern and South-East Europe in aligning their efforts on ecosystem restoration with the existing international initiatives. The subprogramme plans to expand the ECCA30 initiative, which will strengthen the regional cooperation and joining of forces for forest landscape restoration, in line with the Bonn Challenge. The ECCA30 initiative will gather all pledges towards ecosystem restoration in Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and targets to realize the commitments by countries to restore 30 million ha of degraded lands by 2030. The subprogramme will be working closely with ministries and stakeholders responsible for ecosystems, specifically for forest restoration, to mobilize funds and increase capacities for restoration.

Internal challenge and response

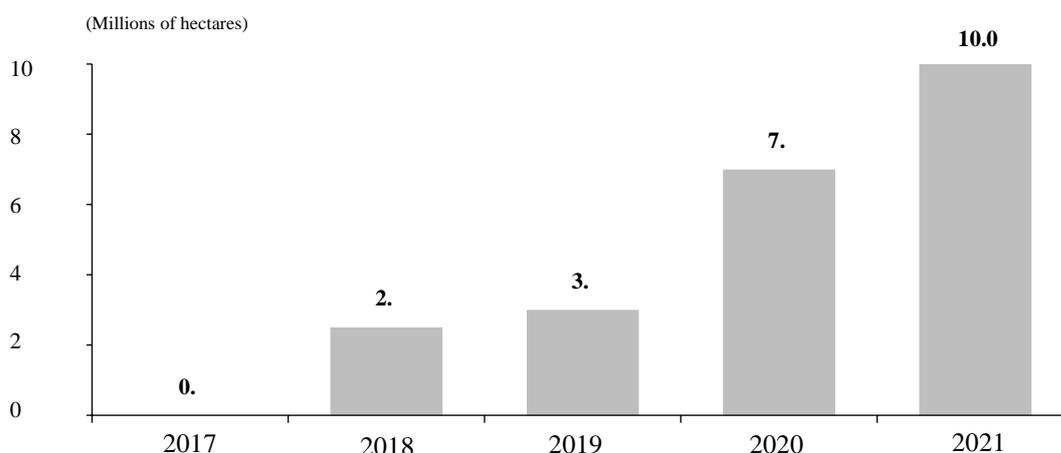
13. The challenge for the subprogramme was to build partnerships with international organizations that have extensive experience and expertise in the area of ecosystem restoration, to better support member States in Eastern and South-East Europe, build their capacity and increase the awareness on ecosystem restoration. The political development and commitment made by member States preceding the adoption of General Assembly resolution 73/284 helped the subprogramme to identify this topic as a major opportunity for Eastern and South-East Europe to strengthen their capacities in ecosystem restoration from the forest perspective.

14. In response, the subprogramme developed strong partnerships with organizations that have extensive experience and expertise in this area (IUCN, United Nations Forum on Forests and the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification), and involved United Nations resident coordinators in the target countries. Furthermore, the subprogramme worked closely with member States to define which capacities were required. The subprogramme also reached out to member States that are more advanced in ecosystem restoration to support countries in Eastern and South-East Europe in analyzing their restoration potential and to build capacities for monitoring landscape restoration and degradation at the national level for reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals.

Expected progress towards attainment of objective and performance measures

15. The work on this subprogramme is expected to contribute to the strengthening of sustainable management of forests and enhance the contribution of forests and forest products to sustainable development in the ECE region, which would be demonstrated by national commitments made towards ecosystem restoration. This would increase the total area for Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia region committed under the Bonn Challenge from 7 million ha in 2020 to at least 10 million ha in 2021. National or regional restoration commitments are announced at a high-level meeting and formalized with a letter from the Government to the Bonn Challenge secretariat, which is hosted by IUCN.

Table 2
Performance measure: commitments to ECCA30



IV. External factors

16. The subprogramme is expected to achieve its objective on the assumption that there is continued: (a) active country and stakeholder participation; (b) partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), including the provision of staff and non-staff resources, to implement the integrated ECE/FAO programme in this field; and (c) in kind and cash support from member States to support the implementation of planned activities.

V. Deliverables to be implemented in 2021

17. The below table lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, that are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

	<i>2021 planned</i>
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies	
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	24
1. Documentation for the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry/European Forestry Commission	18
2. Documentation for the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management	6
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	32
3. Meetings of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry/European Forestry Commission	16
4. Meetings of the Bureau of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry	2
5. Meetings of the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management and of Teams of Specialists	14
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge	
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	15
6. Capacity building events for policymakers, experts and relevant stakeholders from countries in the ECE region on topics related to the ECE/FAO integrated programme	15
Publications (number of publications)	7
7. Publication on Forest Products Annual Market Review	1
8. Publication on Sustainable Forest Management and Forest Products	6
C. Substantive deliverables	

Consultation, advice and advocacy: Forest policy dialogues on the request of countries and support on forest policy issues (1)

Databases and substantive digital materials: Update and maintenance of databases: on forest resources; on forest policies and institutions; on forest products; on production, consumption, and trade including prices; and on wood energy (6)

D. Communication deliverables

Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: International Day of Forest (1); brochures on different forest-related topics (1); presentations at roundtables and discussions at international forest-related events (2)

External and media relations: Annual set of press releases for the subprogramme (1)

Digital platforms and multimedia content: Update and maintenance of the website of the subprogramme (1); videos on forest-related topics (1)

Annex I

Details of proposed publications and promotional material for 2021

A. Recurrent publications

<i>Item no.</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Mandate</i>	<i>Print and/or electronic</i>	<i>Trim size</i>	<i>No. of pages</i>	<i>Original language (s)</i>	<i>Translated language(s) and Source of funding (RB or XB)</i>	<i>No. of copies and language(s)</i>
1	Forest Products Annual Market Review 2020-2021	ECE/TIM/2019/12, IV., line 19.	Print	A4	206	E	F, R (all RB)	600E, 50F, 150R
2	COFFI Forecast for Forest Products Markets	ECE/TIM/2019/12, IV., line 19	Electronic	A4	44	E		

B. Non-recurrent publications

<i>Item no.</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Mandate</i>	<i>Print and/or electronic</i>	<i>Trim size</i>	<i>No. of pages</i>	<i>Original language (s)</i>	<i>Translated language(s) and Source of funding (RB or XB)</i>	<i>No. of copies and language(s)</i>
3	Forestry and Timber Publication	ECE/TIM/2019/12, IV., line 19	Print	A4	147	E	F, R	600E, 200F, 200R
4	Forestry and Timber Publication	ECE/TIM/2019/12, IV., line 19	Print	A4	147	E	R	600E, 150R
5	Forestry and Timber Publication	ECE/TIM/2019/12, IV., line 19	Electronic	A4	118	E		
6	Forestry and Timber Publication	ECE/TIM/2019/12, IV., line 19	Electronic	A4	118	E		
7	Forestry and Timber Publication	ECE/TIM/2019/12, IV., line 19	Electronic	A4	118	E		

C. Promotional material

<i>Item no.</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Mandate</i>	<i>Print and/or electronic</i>	<i>Trim size</i>	<i>No. of pages</i>	<i>Original language (s)</i>	<i>Translated language(s)</i>	<i>No. of copies and language(s)</i>
1	Brochure on Sustainable Forest Management	ECE/TIM/2019/12	Print	A4	10	E	R	100 E/R

Annex II

Legislative mandates

A. Overall ECE legislative mandates

1. Resolutions of the General Assembly

<i>Res No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
66/288	The future we want
67/10	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Eurasian Economic Community
67/290	Format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development
69/277	Political declaration on strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations
69/313	Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda)
70/1	Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
70/133	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly
70/221	Operational activities for development of the United Nations system
71/14	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization
71/16	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization
71/162	Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly
71/243	Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
72/230	Development cooperation with middle-income countries
72/234	Women in development
72/237	South-South Cooperation
73/10	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Central European Initiative
73/13	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization

<i>Res No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
73/14	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development - GUAM
73/16	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Commonwealth of Independent States
73/195	Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
73/227	Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development
73/231	Disaster risk reduction
73/236	Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

2. Resolutions of the Economic and Social Council

<i>Res No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
1998/46	Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields
2006/38	Workplan on reform of the Economic Commission for Europe and revised terms of reference of the Commission
2013/1	Outcome of the review of the 2005 Reform of the Economic Commission for Europe

3. Economic Commission for Europe decisions

<i>Res No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
A (64)	The Work of the Economic Commission for Europe
A (65)	Outcome of the review of the 2005 reform of ECE
A (66)	Endorsement of the High-level statement on the post-2015 development agenda and expected sustainable development goals in the ECE region
A (68)	High-level statement
B (68)	Extension of the mandate of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

B. Legislative mandates specific to the subprogramme

1. Resolutions of the General Assembly

<i>Res No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
62/98	Non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests

67/200	International Day of Forests
71/285	United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030
71/286	United Nations forest instrument
73/284	United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030)

2. Resolutions of the Economic and Social Council

<i>Res No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
2007/40	Non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests
2015/33	International arrangement on forests beyond 2015
2017/4	United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 and quadrennial programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests for the period 2017–2020
