



# Forest Policy in a Green Economy

16-18 September 2014 - Krakow, Poland

## Outcome of the first meeting of the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Policy





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### Participants

- 1st meeting of the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists after adopting the extended scope
- à 23 participants (13 country delegates, 7 experts from organisations and 3 secretariat members)

### In Focus

- à The Rovaniemi Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy adopted at “Metsä2013”
- à Presentation of case studies: Spain on the Plan for an activation of the Spanish Forest Sector, Poland on Green Economy projects, the Alpine Convention on its Protocol on Mountain Forests

### Organisers





# The Green Economy - a tool to gain visibility or an ultimate goal?

- **reviewing the objectives of the Rovaniemi Action Plan**
  - What would be the most relevant objective(s) for your country?
  - Why is the objective relevant, what are the expected impacts?
  - What kind of assistance could the secretariat provide you to define objectives for your country
- **comparing of two forest policy approaches in the context of Green Economy**
  - The sectoral approach: NFPs, Sector Action Plan
  - The cross-sectoral approach: National Green Economy Policy or Strategy for Sustainable Development.



# Outcome of the objectives review

## Pillar A: Sustainable production and consumption of forest products (7)

**A.3: To ensure that wood supply from the region's forests is sufficient to satisfy, on a sustainable basis, society's needs for renewable raw materials and sources of energy.**

**A.4: To promote innovation in forest management and in the production and use of forest products and the related services so that the forest sector is a competitive supplier of renewable and sustainably produced goods and services.**

### **Expected impacts:**

- **Well informed consumers**
- **Better conditions for wood promotion**
- **Increased area of sustainable forest area**
- **Increase use of forest products, incl. in substitution to non-renewable and less environmentally-friendly products**
- **Distribution of benefits along the whole value chain**

## Pillar B: A low carbon forest sector (3)

**B.1: To encourage the reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases by substituting wood from sustainable sources for non-renewable materials and energy**

### Expected impacts:

- Forest contribution to climate change mitigation
- Huge opportunities for the forest sector, incl. higher profitability, Increased used of wood in construction
- However, adaptation strategies needed to preserve forests and their role in the carbon cycle

## D: Long term provision of forest ecosystem services (3)

**D.0: To develop and communicate ambitious and realistic strategies for the valuation of and payment for forest ecosystem services.**

**D.1: To support the assigning of economic value to non-marketed forest goods and services and to enhance the understanding and recognition of the public goods provided by forests.**

**D.2: To promote best practice in the development and implementation of Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) in order to ensure the continued provision of forest environmental services..**

### Expected impacts:

- Improved communication to convince policy-makers and the general public about the benefits of forests for the society
- Recognition of non-marketed services and Inclusion of the real value of forests in decision making
- Preservation of forests services
- Up-scaling in PES schemes

## Pillar C: Decent green jobs in the forest sector (5)

**C.1: To ensure that the workforce has the necessary skills at all levels to carry out the increasingly complex tasks associated with sustainable forest management.**

**C.4: To promote the use of tools to assess the socio-economic impacts of green economy policies on the forest sector.**

### Expected impacts:

- Sustainable skilled workforce for sustainable forest management
- Better practices, higher levels of health and safety
- Attractiveness of the forestry work
- Adapted curricula to face forest challenges incl. Green Economy
- Improved knowledge on socio-economic benefits of forest employment for rural populations

## Pillar E: Policy development and monitoring of the forest sector in relation to a green economy (5)

**E.4:** To improve communication with the public and policy makers about the forest sector's actual and potential role in the green economy and facilitate public participation in the debate on the green economy.

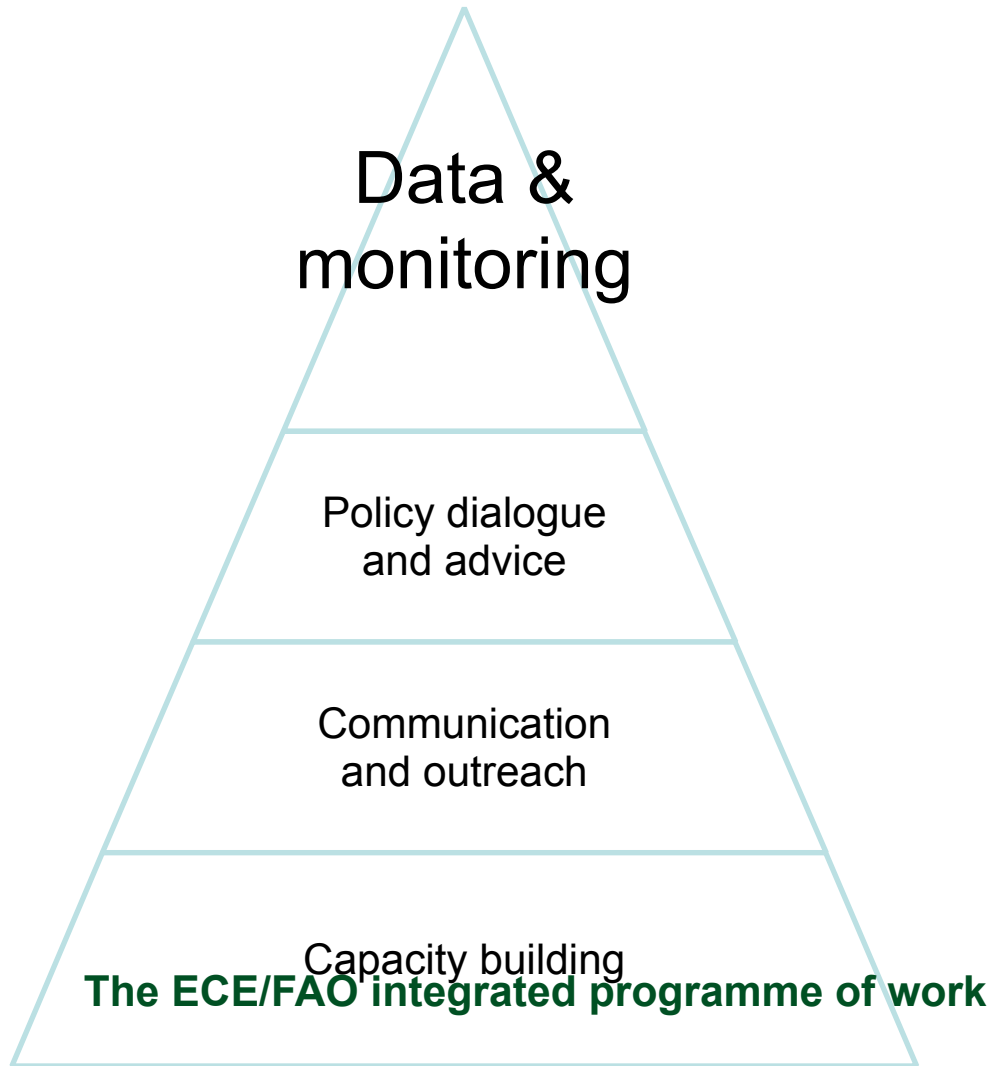
**E.1:** To review existing forest sector policy instruments in the light of the requirements of a green economy, and, if necessary, make proposals for a new approach, while improving synergies at the international level.

### Expected impacts:

- Outreach campaign for the promotion of the forest sector based on the image of a green sector, which can demonstrate its sustainability
- Suitable policy instruments to unlock the potential of the forest sector for the transition to greener economies



# Guidance to the secretariat work on forest policies



## Expected assistance :

- **relevant information and reliable data**
- **opportunities to discuss traditional issues as well as emerging ones**
- **tailored tools for communication**
- **material for innovation**
- **training for capacity-building**

**... over 60 proposals**

# Comparison of two approaches


## The sectoral approach



Ensures a holistic approach to forests and use of reliable data and technical expertise as developed by the forestry community

Highlights what forests can offer to society in terms of products and services.

Creates a sense of ownership and probably higher commitments



the importance of follow-up work and local initiative are often overlooked creating disappointment and lack of interest

Isolates the forest sector

Limits the possibilities to face conflicting strategies from other sectors (environment, energy, agriculture...)

## The cross - sectoral approach

Provides a good way to highlight the multifunctionality of forests

Ensures better visibility for a sector where outputs are often underestimated e.g. vis-à-vis stronger sectors (energy, agriculture...)

Helps to disseminate the picture of healthy, rich and productive forests provided by forest monitoring and promote the use of wood

Requires intensive advocacy work to compensate its relatively small contribution to national economy in monetary and employment terms.

To achieve that, the forestry community must move beyond clichés and overcome the perception of being too conservative and only production oriented.

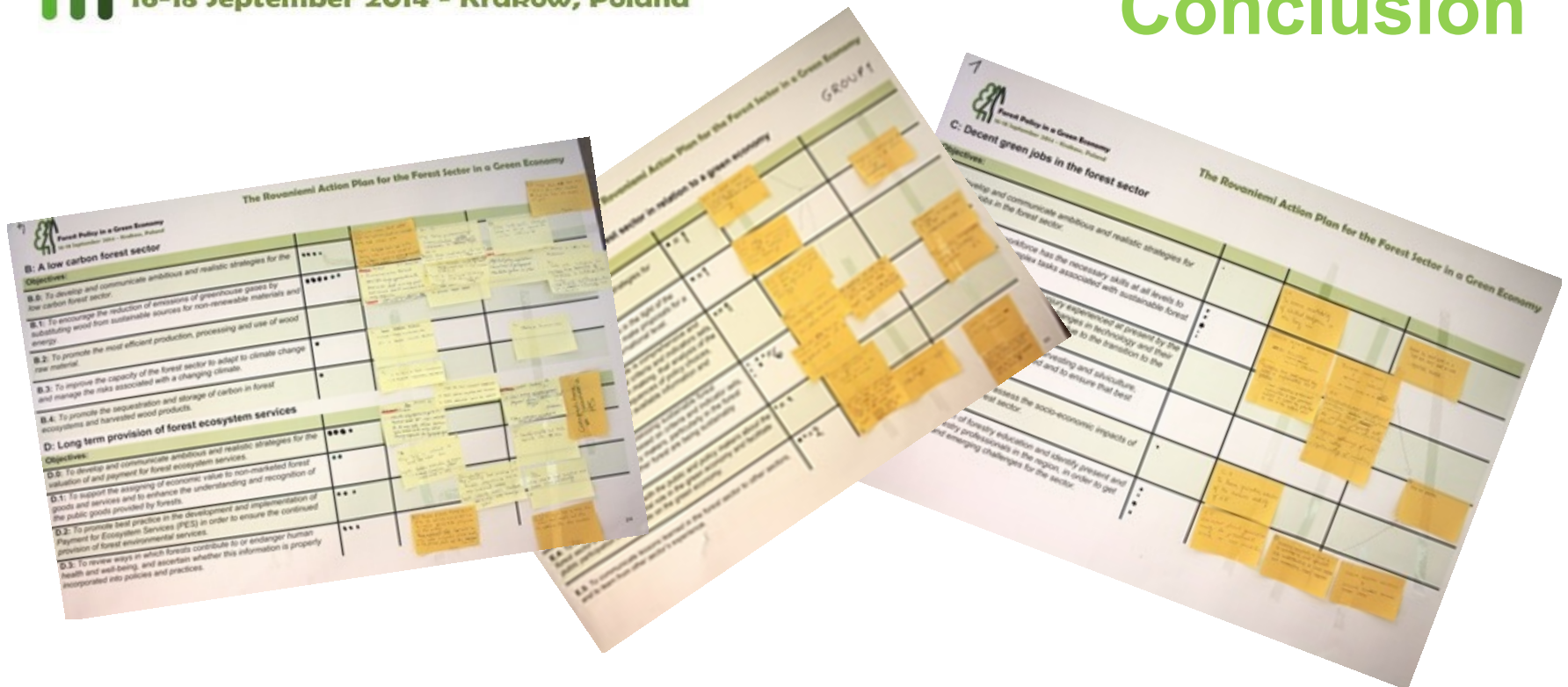
***The two approaches are not mutually exclusive and can be applied separately or jointly, considering national conditions and political trends in the country.***



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# Conclusion



## The Rovaniemi Action Plan objectives

- among the 29 objectives of the Action Plan, only four (A0, B4, C2 and E0) received less than 5% support.



- **Further needs to support the implementation of the Rovaniemi Action Plan**
  - Reliable data to preparer national approaches and conduct benchmarking studies (work area 1 of the ECE/FAO integrated programme of work, IPoW).
  - Information on potential impacts of the global and regional processes on forest policy in the region (work area 2 of the IPoW).
  - More opportunities to discuss with other experts on traditional issues, as well as emerging ones (work area 2 of the IPoW).
  - Tailored tools for communication within and outside the forest sector as well as material for innovation and training for capacity-building in the country level (work area 3 and 4 of the IPoW).

**Report availabe at: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=35942#/>**

# Thank you!



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