



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Report by the Chair of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI)



FORESTS



113 meeting of UNECE Executive Committee

Geneva, 22 January 2021





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Background and introduction

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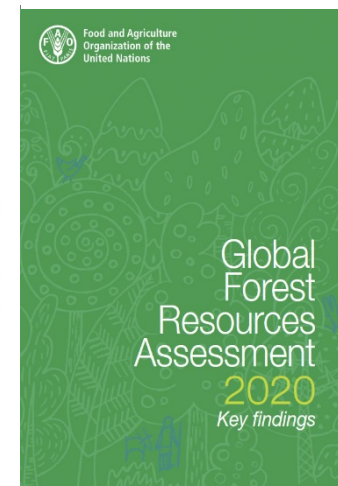
- Since the last EXCOM, the Joint Section:
 - coordinated, organized and supported data collection on forests, forest management and the forest industry and provided assistance to member States for improving the forest sector in the region through coordinated activities of communication and capacity-building
 - started the Strategic Review process to assess the 2018-2021 Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work.

Key achievements by work areas

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- Work Area 1: Data, monitoring and assessment
 - The “Forest Products Annual Market Review 2019-2020” was published;
 - Eight bilingual (English/Russian) studies on the state of forests and forest management in Central Asia and the Caucasus were published;
 - Input was provided to the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) and the pan-European reporting on forests and sustainable forest management;
 - Study on “Who owns our forests? Forest ownership in the ECE region” and the related online data platform on forest ownership in the ECE region (https://w3.unece.org/PXWeb2015/pxweb/en/STAT/STAT_26-TMSTAT1_080-FO17_FO) were launched;
 - Study on “Forest Product Conversion Factors” was launched.



Key achievements by work areas

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- **Work Area 2: Policy Advice and Dialogue**
 - National Forest Policy Dialogue in Kazakhstan on 4 March 2020 to collect input from national stakeholders and international experts and update the “Master Plan for the development of the Forest Sector of the Republic of Kazakhstan until 2030” and action plan for its implementation;
 - Study and webinar on “Forest Sector Workforce in the ECE region” were launched;
 - Servicing of, and support to, the new Team of Specialists on Boreal Forests, which held its first meeting virtually on 21 October 2020;
 - Online capacity building workshop on forest sector outlook modelling for participants from Russia on 17-18 November 2020 took place.

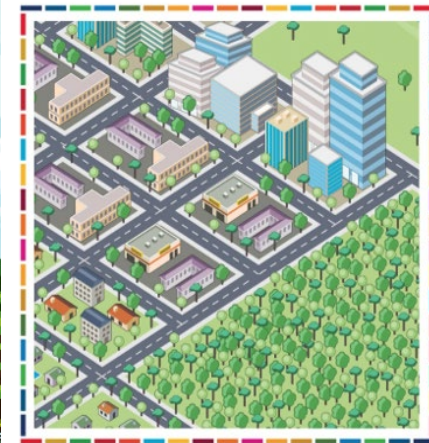


Key achievements by work areas

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- Work area 3: communications and outreach
 - The webinar SDG 15 Day: Focus on forests in the ‘super year’ for nature and beyond was held on 2 November 2020;
 - An exhibition “Forest biodiversity: too precious to lose” was held from 2 to 12 November 2020 in the Passerelle and in [virtual format \(https://unitednations.rgo.ru/\)](https://unitednations.rgo.ru/);
 - The Trees and Cities Challenge, a voluntary initiative aimed at mayors and corresponding urban authorities in cities across the world to locally take action to combat climate change and foster urban sustainability and resilience, has seen an increase of commitments by cities around the world from just half a million to over 10 million trees in 2020.



WEBINAR | 2 NOVEMBER 2020 | 10 AM - 1 PM



TREES IN CITIES
CHALLENGE

Key achievements by work areas

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■ Work area 4: Capacity-building

- All five target countries of the UNDA project “Accountability Systems for Sustainable Forest Management in the Caucasus and Central Asia” developed national sets of criteria and indicators (C&I) for sustainable forest management;
- A series of virtual meetings were held, including a webinar on Financing Forest Landscape Restoration (16 July 2020) were held;
- Five project countries of the UNECE/FAO, UNDA project "Accountability Systems for Sustainable Forest Management in the Caucasus and Central Asia" (2016-2020) exchanged knowledge and experience on the application of C&I in various areas at a workshop in December 2020.

Webinar on Financing Forest Landscape Restoration

16 July 2020

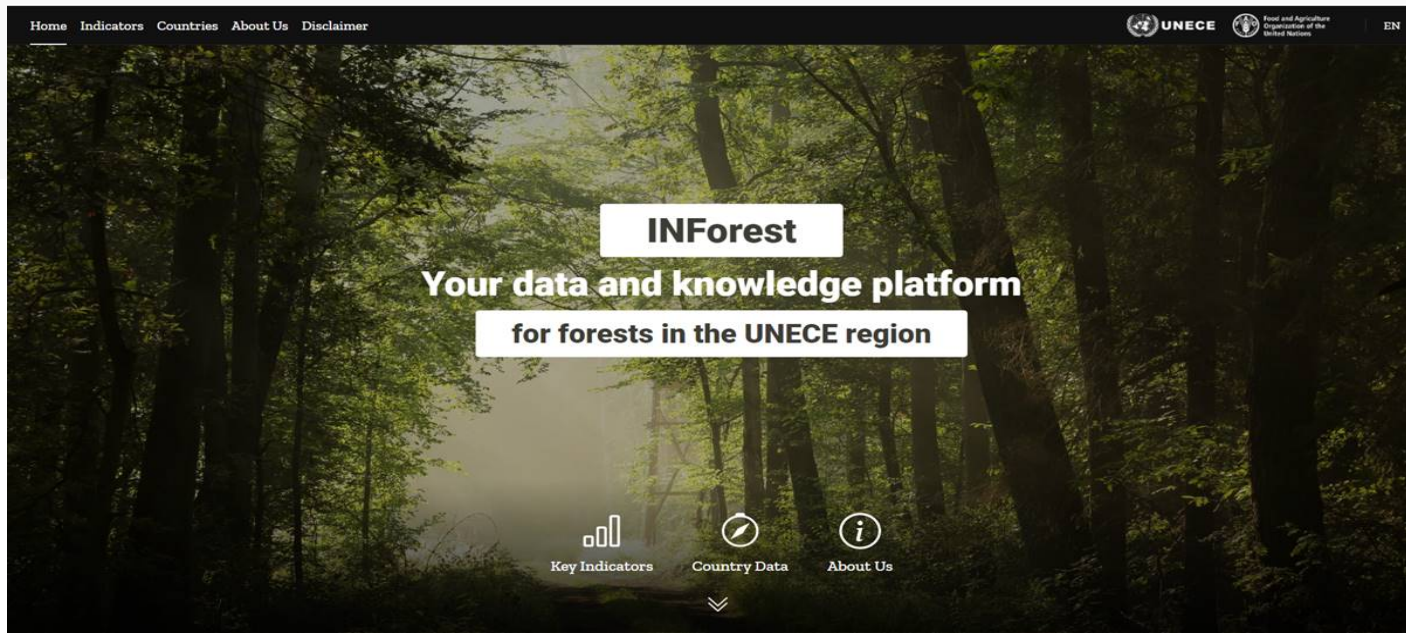


Activities for 2021 and beyond

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- Work area 1: Data, monitoring and assessment
 - A new website on forest and forest sector, which will serve as knowledge hub about forests and forest sector in the region;
 - Focused analysis will be devoted to the monitoring of forest biotic and abiotic disturbances, and their impact on forests, forest management and provision of forest products and services;
 - A study “National Reporting on Sustainable Forest Management in Caucasus and Central Asia”.



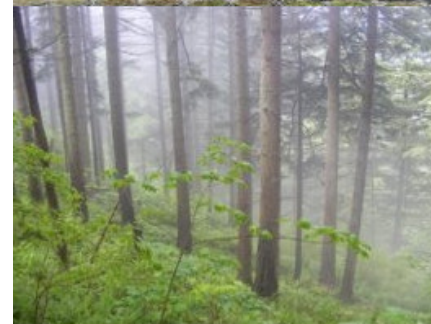
Activities for 2021 and beyond

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■ Work area 2: Policy dialogue and advice

- The Joint Section will facilitate National Forest Policy Dialogue to support revision of the Forest Code in Uzbekistan;
- The UNECE/FAO Forest Sector Outlook Study in the ECE region will be published;
- The Joint Section will work with countries of the region on the further development of the Strategy for Landscape Restoration and Greening Infrastructure in Central Asia and the Caucasus;
- The Joint Section will service a new Team of Specialists on Boreal Forests.



Activities for 2021 and beyond

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Work area 3: Communications and outreach

- Communications activities will be focused on promoting the potential of sustainable wood products in a circular bioeconomy;
- The Trees in Cities Challenge will showcase cities' progress on their tree-planting pledges on a dedicated website (<https://treesincities.unece.org/>) and through international fora;
- The International Day of Forests will be celebrated under the theme “Forest restoration: a path to recovery and well-being” on 22 March 2021.



United Nations

**International Day of Forests
21 March**



Activities for 2021 and beyond

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Work area 4: Capacity-building

- Technical workshops on forest landscape restoration and afforestation, and the organization of a Ministerial Roundtable on forest landscape restoration;
- Supporting countries under the ECCA30 initiative by providing a platform for policy dialogue and advice, and by delivering capacity building related to forest landscape restoration, data improvement, and forest resource assessment;
- A virtual capacity-building workshop on forest products statistics targeted at EECCA and western Balkans;
- Further capacity building events in the area of forest sector outlook modelling.



The links between the environment and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

Proposed changes to the subsidiary structure of the Committee

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- No changes to the subsidiary structure were proposed by the previous session of COFFI.

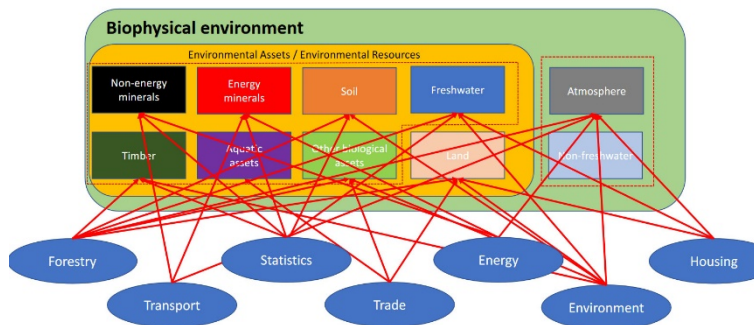
Inter-sectoral activities: new activities and/or progress in existing inter-sectoral activities

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- Through the UNECE Nexus Team on ‘Sustainable use of natural resources’, including development a flagship publication, the Joint Section contributes to strengthen synergies within the organization and thereby scale up efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.
- The Joint Section together with the Liaison Unit Bratislava of Forest Europe finalized the “Guidelines on Green Jobs in the Forest Sector”.
- The Joint Section cooperates with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the World Resources Institute (WRI) and the World Bank on the topic of forest landscape restoration and the Bonn Challenge and ECCA30.

UNECE vis-à-vis the Nexus



UNECE
Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations
UNECE
UNECE/FAO/Forest Europe
Guidelines on the Promotion
of Green Jobs in Forestry



Technical cooperation activities

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- For more information on key deliverables and events organized by COFFI Secretariat, see Annex 1 of the report

Cooperation with other organizations

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- FAO, Forest Europe, ITTO, The Intersecretariat Working Group on Forest Sector Statistics, the International Energy Agency (IEA) and the European Commission (EC) and others





Thank you!



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Ms. Maria Sokolenko
Chair, Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry

