

**Economic and Social Council**

Distr.: General
25. April 2022
Original: English

**Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations****Economic Commission for Europe**

Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry

Food and Agriculture Organization

European Forestry Commission

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

Geneva, 1-3 June 2022

Item 6 of the provisional agenda

Draft list activities for 2023**Note by the secretariat***Summary*

In November 2021, the joint session of the seventy-ninth session of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI) and the forty-first session of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) European Forestry Commission (EFC) adopted the Integrated Programme of Work 2022-2025 (ECE/TIM/2021/2).

To facilitate its implementation and, at the request of COFFI and EFC, the secretariat prepared the present document listing proposed activities in 2023 for the Joint Working Party to note, review and approve with the understanding that the list will be updated during 2022. The list also indicates currently underfunded activities (marked with an asterisk (*))(ECE/TIM/2021/2 Annex II, para 27). The final list will be presented for approval to the eightieth session of COFFI in November 2022 provided sufficient availability of funds and resources within the secretariat.

I. Tentative list of activities for 2023

A. Work Area 1: Data, monitoring, reporting and assessment

1. Forest resources

(a) Collection, validation and dissemination of statistics on forest resources, functions and services, progress toward Sustainable Forest Management (SFM), and the contribution of the forest sector to a sustainable economy

- Reporting on the Global Forest Resource Assessment (FRA) and the Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire (CFRQ): cooperation with the FAO and other CFRQ partners on the data collection for the 2025 reporting process;
- Joint pan-European data collection on forests: cooperation with Forest Europe and FAO FRA secretariat on the data collection for the 2025 reporting cycle, including development of the online data-collection system;*
- Cooperation with member States, and other national and international partners on the exchange of information and the development of forest information systems, including national forest data banks;
- Dissemination of the results of the 2020 global and the pan-European reporting on forests and SFM.

(b) Analysis and assessment of the state of forests and the sustainability of forest management; and the monitoring of the role of the forest sector in a green economy

- Assessment of forest conditions and the impact of biotic and abiotic disturbances; publication of the thematic study.

(c) Cooperation and support to international Sustainable Forest Management processes, including regional criteria and indicator processes

- Participation in the FAO FRA Advisory Group;
- Support to the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) secretariat on reporting on the implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030;
- Cooperation with, and support to countries, organizations and international processes (e.g. Forest Europe) in the ECE region on monitoring SFM;
- Contribution to capacity building on forest monitoring in countries of the Caucasus, Central Asia, Eastern and South-East Europe;
- Organization of the meeting(s) of the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Monitoring SFM.

2. Forest products and markets

(a) Collection, validation and dissemination of statistics on production, trade, consumption and prices of forest products

- Preparation of historical data on forest products, species trade, and prices;
- Preparation of forecast data on forest products production and trade;
- Improvement of the existing database and expansion of available information;*
- Dissemination through FAO and ECE statistical databases and websites.

(b) Analysis of markets for forest products, notably relevant policy aspects, including the Forest Products Annual Market Review (FPAMR) and annual Market Discussions

- Preparation of the FPAMR 2022-2023;*
- Preparation of data and the statistical annex for the FPAMR 2022–2023;

- Preparation of tables and graphs for the Market Forecasts 2022–2023;
- Publication of the FPAMR 2022–2023;
- Preparation of the Market Discussion 2023 and the Market Statement 2023;*
- Dissemination of analysis at industry meetings.

(c) Support of international processes in forest products*

- Participation in the Intersecretariat Working Group on Forest Sector Statistics and attendance at other international meetings;*
- Organization of meetings of the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Products and Wood Energy Statistics and the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Sustainable Forest Products.*

3. Wood energy

(a) Collection, validation and dissemination of statistics on wood energy*

- Collection and validation of wood energy data for the reference year 2021 via the Joint Wood Energy Enquiry (JWEE) 2021;*
- Analysis of results of the JWEE2021;*
- Issuance of a new database on wood energy with 2021 data (JWEE2021);*
- Dissemination of the JWEE data at relevant international meetings.*

(b) Analysis of energy-related issues, including demand for, and supply of, wood energy

- Preparation of new information material on wood energy, e.g. policy brief, short studies on various topics such as wood energy and United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), wood energy and climate change, wood energy and air quality or another demand-driven topic;*
- Upon request provide input on forests to the ECE Environmental Performance Reviews.

(c) Support of international processes in wood energy

- Presentation of the wood energy work at relevant international meetings and cooperation with relevant processes (e.g. International Energy Agency, International Renewable Energy Agency, World Sustainable Energy Days).*

B. Work Area 2: Policy dialogue and advice

(a) Contribution to the policy-related components of activities under Work Areas 1, 3 and 4

- Organization of national forest policy dialogues workshops in interested countries;
- Monitoring and developments in global and regional forest policy processes (UNFF; Forest Europe, SDGs) and contributions, as relevant, to those processes;
- Support to the continued implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests by providing policy dialogues at the regional and national level.

(b) The role of the forest sector in a circular economy

- Analysing how the circular economy concepts are related to the forest-based sector – continue to work on a definition of a circular economy in the forest sector;
- Exploration of wood-based value chains in a circular economy – work on a series of three studies;
- Promotion and dissemination of information on the circular economy, including its social dimensions.

(c) Forest Sector Outlook

- Dissemination of the Forest Sector Outlook Study in the ECE region;
- Presentation of the results of the Forest Sector Outlook Study at relevant international meetings and cooperation with relevant stakeholders at national, regional and international levels.*

(d) Monitoring and support of international processes relevant to policymaking for the forest sector

- Organization of follow-up meetings for the Caucasus and Central Asia on Forest Landscape Restoration and the implementation of the Strategy for Landscape Restoration and Greening Infrastructure in the Caucasus and Central Asia.*

(e) Boreal Forests

- Organization of meeting(s) of the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Boreal Forests;
- Preparation of policy briefs and communication material about boreal forest policy and science;
- Organization of webinar(s) on sustainable management of boreal forests;
- Data collection on and analysis of common challenges, gaps, and best practices on boreal forest management.

C. Work Area 3: Communication and outreach**(a) Organization of events and campaigns in support of Sustainable Forest Management and forest products and services**

- Regional celebration of the International Day of Forests (IDF) on 21 March 2023, Geneva, Switzerland;
- Side event at the eighteenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF18), 2023, New York, United States of America;*
- Communication on forest landscape restoration in the ECE region through various events;*
- Communication on sustainable wood products in contributing to SDG12 through various events and exhibitions;*
- Various communication campaigns (e.g. ECCA30, Trees in Cities Challenge, Forests for Fashion initiative);*
- Organisation of the 7th European Forest Week in parallel with the EFC/COFFI joint session.

(b) Dissemination of information via policy briefs, press briefs and ad hoc studies, whenever results are available and new information is released

- Promotion and dissemination of studies and publications;
- Promotion of the INForest platform on forest statistics: <https://forest-data.unece.org/> in meetings and press releases;
- Dissemination of the Forest Information Billboard.

(c) Press releases and targeted social media articles will be published to present the outcomes of workshops, events and publications. Outreach activities beyond the forest sector, disseminating information that highlights the relevance of forests and forest products to other sectors (e.g. energy events, biodiversity and environment meetings, sustainable construction and building)

- Events organized on the margins of main forest-related and cross-sectoral meetings.

D. Work Area 4: Capacity-building

(a) Improving national capacities of middle-income countries to implement Sustainable Forest Management

- Review of countries' technical cooperation and capacity-building needs;
- Organization and implementation of technical cooperation activities;
- Raising of extrabudgetary funds as necessary;
- Coordination of technical cooperation of the sub-programme within ECE and FAO, collaboration with international entities (particularly other UN agencies/programmes), UN country offices as well as national partners..

(b) Strengthening capacity of policy and decisions makers, and forest service specialists to develop national forest policy and management support information systems (FPMSIS) in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia

- Analysis of the current situations, needs, requirements and opportunities for building information systems in pilot countries on e.g. forest policy and management support
- Drafting guidelines for developing national forest policy and management support information systems.

(c) Organization of capacity-building workshops on:

- Forest policy and management support information systems (two national workshops).
- Global and pan-European data collection on forests and sustainable forest management;*
- Forest products statistics for national correspondents to the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire;
- Sustainable Forest Management focused on non-wood forest products and services, if requested;*
- Urban and peri-urban trees and forests;*
- Forest landscape restoration in the ECE region in support of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.*

E. Secretariat services to its governing bodies and their subsidiary body

(a) Intergovernmental meetings

- Forty-fourth session of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management (2023);
- Joint session of the eighty-first session of the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI) and the forty-second session of the FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC) (2023).

(b) Bureaux meetings

- Joint COFFI and EFC Bureaux meetings upon request.

III. List of publications for 2023

<i>Title</i>	<i>English</i>	<i>French</i>	<i>Russian</i>
Forest Products Annual Market Review 2022-2023	E-600	[F-50]	R-150
COFFI Forecast for Forest Products	English only, online publications		
Forestry and Timber publication (2023)	E-600	[F-200]	R-200
Forestry and Timber publication (2023)	E-600		R-150
Forestry and Timber publication (2023)	E-600		
Forestry and Timber publication (2023)	English only, online publications		
Forestry and Timber publication (2023)	English only, online publications		
