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Programme of work for 2023 and recommendations on key components of the Programme of work 2024

Outline of key components of the programme of work of the Forests and the Forest Industry subprogramme for 2024

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Note by the Secretariat

Introduction

1. This document presents an outline of key components (objective, strategy and deliverables) of the programme of work of the Forests and the Forest Industry subprogramme (“the subprogramme”) for 2024. These components are based on the subprogramme-related section of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) proposed programme budget for 2023, with modified or new elements highlighted in track changes. The Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (“the Committee”) is invited to consider this information and provide recommendations on these components, as necessary. Those modifications and/or member States’ recommendations agreed by the Committee and included in its decisions will be reflected in the proposed programme plan of the subprogramme for 2024. It will be prepared by the secretariat at the end of 2022 and included in the ECE proposed programme budget for 2024.

Outline of key components of the programme of work

I. Objective

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

II. Strategy

3. The responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Forest, Land and Housing Division.

4. The **strategy** of the subprogramme is based on the implementation of the core interlinked functions, namely, analytical and normative work, international policy dialogue, capacity-building and communication.

5. To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will:

(a) Promote cooperation among member States, regional entities and other partners for sustainable forest management, forest landscape restoration, the sustainable use of forest products and services, linkages between sustainable food systems and forests, and urban and peri-urban forestry;

(b) Collect, validate and disseminate information, research and analysis related to sustainable forest management and the sustainable production and consumption of wood products, including wood energy;

(c) Facilitate the exchange of national experiences and best practices and monitor progress on achieving sustainable forest management using indicators for Sustainable Development Goals 12 and 15, which will help member States measure progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and provide an indirect indication of progress under the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030;

(d) Organize capacity-building seminars and webinars and prepare dedicated publications on the forest sector, including on wood energy, on crisis response and on solutions for more resilient economies.

6. The subprogramme will carry out its work in partnership with The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and other relevant organizations and processes (e.g. the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the World Agroforestry Centre and Forest Europe).

7. The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:

(a) The ability of ECE member States to sustainably manage healthy forest ecosystems in order to provide important ecosystem goods and services to benefit society, including climate mitigation and adaptation;

(b) Increased and more efficient use by ECE member States of sustainable forest products that contribute to the circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources, with increased use of renewable raw materials to replace less-sustainable alternatives;

(c) The integration of forest resources and products into planning and recovery from economic, health and environmental shocks, including COVID-19 recovery, to increase the resilience of member States and their most vulnerable segments of population, such as women, people with disabilities and youth.

III. Deliverables to be implemented in 2024

8. The below table lists all deliverables of the subprogramme.

<i>Deliverables</i>	<i>2023 planned</i>	<i>2024 planned</i>
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies		
Parliamentary Documentation (number of documents)	[24]	[16]
1. Documentation for the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry/European Forestry Commission	[18]	[10]
2. Documentation for the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management	[6]	[6]
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	[24]	[20]

<i>Deliverables</i>	<i>2023 planned</i>	<i>2024 planned</i>
Meetings of:		
3. The Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry/European Forestry Commission	[8]	[6]
4. The Bureau of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry	[2]	[2]
5. The Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management and of Teams of Specialists	[14]	[12]
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge		
Seminars, workshops, and training events (number of days)	[12]	[12]
6. Training events for policymakers, experts and relevant stakeholders from countries in the ECE region on topics related to the ECE/FAO integrated programme	[12]	[12]
Publications (number of publications)		
7. Forest Products Annual Market Review	[1]	[1]
8. On sustainable forest management and forest products	[6]	[6]
C. Substantive deliverables		
Consultation, advice and advocacy: forest policy dialogues at the request of countries and support for forest policy issues, for up to 3 member States.		
Databases and substantive digital materials: ECE region databases on forest policies and institutions; forest products; production, consumption and trade, including prices; and wood energy for global access. ECE region databases on forest resources and forest ownership (hosted by the ECE Statistical Division).		
D. Communication deliverables:		
Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: events celebrating the International Day of Forests; brochures and information materials on various forest-related topics; presentations at round tables and international forest-related events.		
External and media relations: press releases for the subprogramme; Forest Information Billboard newsletter for approximately 4,000 subscribers.		
Digital platforms and multimedia content: website of the subprogramme; social media accounts; videos on forest-related topics.		