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# **Economic Commission for Europe**

# **Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry**

**Eighty-first session** 

San Marino, 20 to 23 November 2023 Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda

Joint Committee/Commission matters: Global stocktaking of

international forest work

# Food and Agriculture Organization

## **European Forestry Commission**

Forty-second session

San Marino, 20 to 23 November 2023

# **Global and Regional Forest-related Processes and Initiatives**

### Note by the Secretariat

### *Summary*

At the 2023 joint sessions of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI) and the European Forestry Commission (EFC) Bureaux, the secretariat was requested to prepare a descriptive table outlining forest work initiatives in the international forest arena which is contained in this document.

The document does not analyze the roles and functions of COFFI and EFC.

Delegations are invited to invited to consider the impact on the work of the Committee and Commission and discuss possible follow-up.

# I. International forest policy and governance

- 1. Forests play a key role in global ecosystems and are subject to international policy and governance efforts. International forest policy has emerged from a historical context of increased trade globalization, environmental movements, and scientific concerns over sustainable forest management, forest loss and degradation. It includes diverse mechanisms such as legally binding multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and trade agreements (e.g. International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA), such as declarations, governmental initiatives, voluntary commitments, as well as private sector-led corporate social responsibility and certification schemes. It addresses global environmental concerns, promotes sustainable forest management (SFM), and contributes to broader goals of economic growth, environmental protection, and social equality.
- 2. Efforts to address climate change through the UNFCCC have increased attention on forests, with mechanisms like Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) focusing on reducing forest loss in developing countries. Non-legally binding agreements on international trade in forest products (such as the Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT)) and measures like the New York and Glasgow Declarations on Forests and Land Use, emphasize the need for integrative policy solutions to address climate change and biodiversity loss in forests.
- 3. Forests furthermore play an important role in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Several of the 2030 Agenda goals are directly interconnected with forests, such as Goal 11 on Sustainable Cities and Communities, Goal 13 on Climate Action, and Goal 15 covering Life on Land.

### A. Overview of international forest policy processes

- 4. International instruments form one approach to international forest governance focusing on specific aspects: the CBD on conserving biodiversity and promoting sustainable use, UNFCCC as the first global environmental convention addresses climate change and sets targets for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and ITTA on providing a framework for cooperation between tropical timber producers and consumer. The REDD+ initiative under the UNFCCC seeks to incentivize the conservation and sustainable management of forests to reduce carbon emissions. All three agreements recognize the importance of forests in achieving their objectives.
- 5. Other agreements include the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF)¹, which came out of the Rio summit and includes the Non-Legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests (the Forest Principles) and Chapter 11 "Combating Deforestation" in Agenda 21. For the first-time, in the Forest Principles, countries have agreed on a global common definition of SFM, while Chapter 11 sets out a non-binding action plan of the UN regarding sustainable development. The IAF establishes the guiding principles and framework for international cooperation on forests. The United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), established in 2000 by the UN Economic and Social Council, acts as the main implementation and coordination mechanism for the IAF.
- 6. Following the Climate Summit held in New York in 2014, the voluntary and non-legally binding New York Declaration on Forests (the New York Declaration) was released as a pledge to halve the rate of deforestation by 2020 and to end it by 2030. Under the umbrella of the UNFCCC and COP26 in Glasgow, this was followed up by a Declaration on Forests and Land Use (the Glasgow Declaration) in 2021. Both declarations aim to end and reverse deforestation by 2030 and seek a sustainable land-use transition. Substantial progress

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The International Arrangement on Forests (IAF) has five main components: the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) and its Member States, the UNFF Secretariat, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), the UNFF Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network (GFFFN), and the UNFF Trust Fund.

has also been made regarding the mobilization of finance for forests as part of issuing a Global Forest Finance Pledge together with the Glasgow Declaration. The pledge aims to support action on restoring degraded land, tackling wildfires, and advancing the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities. The future will show the success of the Declaration.

- 7. Countries have also adopted the UN Strategic Plan for Forests (UNSPF) for the 2020-2030 period in 2017. The Strategic Plan features six Global Forest Goals and 26 associated targets to be reached by 2030, which are voluntary.
- 8. SFM criteria and indicators processes, such as through Forest Europe and the Montreal Process, are international frameworks designed to assess and monitor the sustainable management of forests. These processes provide structured approaches for countries to develop and implement SFM practices, while also facilitating international cooperation and information exchange.
- 9. Other examples include the Bonn Challenge, a global effort to restore degraded landscapes and forestlands by 2020 and 2030, the Tropical Forest Alliance (TFA), which bring together governments, companies, NGOs, and indigenous communities to reduce commodity-driven tropical deforestation, and IUCN's Global Partnership on Forest and Landscape Restoration, a global network that seek to restore lost and degraded forests and their surrounding landscapes.
- 10. Recently, the One Forest Summit, which was held on 1 to 2 March 2023 in Libreville, Gabon, focused on the preservation of rainforests. The outcome of the summit was summarized in a two-point Libreville Plan: (1) Creation of a 100 million euro fund to finance biodiversity certificates for countries that have safeguarded their forests and biodiversity stocks; and (2) Creation of 10 million jobs in activities related to SFM and value chains that benefit local and indigenous communities. It is further worth noting the recent Summit for a New Global Financing Pact, which took place 22 to 23 June 2023 in Paris, which advocated for a reform of the international financial system to tackle present-day challenges.
- 11. There are further international initiatives driven by the public and private sector. One prominent example relates to forest certification. Forest certification provides market incentives for SFM by setting standards for responsible forest management and awarding green labels to producers who meet those standards. Two major certification systems compete: the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC), launched respectively by international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and by the forest-based industry and forest owners.
- 12. There are likewise efforts related to the legality of international timber trade, aimed at controlling illegally logged wood and wood products from entering the market. For instance, the European Unions (EU) FLEGT initiative<sup>2</sup>, interacting with public legal timber regulations and private legality verification and sustainability certification schemes, represents a global timber legality regime.

# B. Overview of policy instruments on the pan-European level, including the European Union

- 13. At the pan-European level, several initiatives and agreements influence forest governance:
- (a) Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (Forest Europe): A voluntary political process involving 46 Member States, including the EU, Forest Europe aims to promote SFM. It has developed criteria and indicators for SFM and provides a platform for discussing forest-relevant issues;

The EU FLEGT initiative have established a voluntary partnership agreement (VPA-FLEGT) with timber exporting countries that become legally binding upon signature.

- (b) Pan European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS): This strategy responds to the CBD's implementation in Europe, promoting biodiversity conservation and landscape diversity;
- (c) Bern Convention: Adopted in 1982, this Convention focuses on the conservation of European wildlife and habitats, including forests;
- (d) European Landscape Convention: Related to forests in parts, this convention emphasizes landscape protection and management;
- (e) Alpine and Carpathian Conventions: These sub-regional agreements have protocols on forests that are binding to several countries in the respective mountain regions;
- (f) Convention on the European Forest Institute (EFI): An international agreement with a secretariat working on a diverse range of forest-relevant research fields. It was established by the European countries and has 30 Member States.

#### 1. Forest governance in the European Union

- 14. The EU does not have a common forest policy, and forest governance is managed on the EU Member State level.
- Examples of EU policy instruments that affect forests (a) the EU Forest Strategy. The strategy is a voluntary and strategically important document for EU action on forests; (b) the EU Timber Regulation, as part of the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan;<sup>3</sup> (c) the EU Deforestation Regulation on deforestation-free products to curb EU-driven deforestation and forest degradation;<sup>4</sup> (d) the European Green Deal, which outlines commitments to combat climate change, biodiversity loss, and environmental degradation with forests as an essential component of achieving these objectives; (e) the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and national Rural Development Programmes, and (f) the EU taxonomy for sustainable economic activities.
- 16. Other EU policy domains affecting forests include legislation on biodiversity and conservation, such as the Birds Directive, Habitats Directive, Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, and LIFE Programme, as well as the 2030 climate and energy policy framework, European Climate Law, Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF), the provisionally agreed Renewable Energy Directive (REDIII),<sup>5</sup> and the EU Nature Restoration Law.

# 2. Forest governance in the North America, covering the United States of America and Canada

- 17. The United States of America and Canada have several policy instruments that are relevant to sustainable forest use and management.
- 18. In the United States of America, these include: (a) the National Forest Management Act, which guides the management of national forests; (b) the Endangered Species Act; (c) the Clean Water Act; (d) the Healthy Forests Initiative, which aims to reduce wildfire risks and restore forest health; (e) the Forest Legacy Program, and (f) the Lacey Act, which addresses illegal logging and trade by prohibiting trade in illegally harvested plants and plant products.
- 19. In Canada, these include: (a) the Crown Lands, covering forested land owned by Canadian federal and provincial governments, and the policies around these lands which concern sustainable forest management; (b) the Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement, a voluntary initiative involving industry and conservation groups to promote sustainable forestry practices in the boreal forest; (c) the Species at Risk Act; (d) the Canadian Environmental Protection Act; and (e) the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> It applies to imports from countries outside the EU, excluding Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The EU Timber Regulation, which at present controls the trade of illegally harvested timber products into the EU, will be replaced by the EU Deforestation Regulation when its provisions come into force.

The European Council and European Parliament have reached a provisional agreement to raise the share of renewable energy in the EU's energy consumption to 42.5% by 2030.

#### 3. Forest governance in the Russian Federation

20. The Russian Federation have several policies that play an important role for the management, conservation, and sustainable use of forests. These include: (a) the Forest Code of the Russian Federation, which governs forest management, protection, and use; and (b) the State Forest Management Plans, which guides SFM, such as timber extraction, biodiversity conservation, and wildfire prevention.

#### 4. Emerging trends for the forest sector

21. Emerging trends in the pan-European forest sector encompass various activities that reflect changing perspectives on SFM. These trends include: (a) the One Forest Summit and the Libreville Plan; (b) the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) work relevant for forests, such as the nexus assessment and values assessment; (c) the recently adopted Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including activities such as the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Indicators for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the GEF 'gamechanging' fund to finance the implementation of the framework; and (d) the forthcoming sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) and the seventh Global Environment Outlook (GEO7).

## **II.** Points for Considerations

- 22. The Commission and the Committee within their existing mandates may wish to request to:
  - (a) monitor current and emerging forest-related work and processes;
- (b) review the impact of the new processes and work on the work of the Committee and Commission.

# Annex I

# 1. International and regional forest related work, processes and initiatives

Organization, process, nitiatives	Mandate or main work areas	Recent and upcoming events & meetings (non-exhaustive)
1. Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF)	• The Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) merged in 2019.	• 5th International Congress on Planted Forests: 7 to 10 Nov 2023 (Nairobi, Kenya).
	• ICRAF is an international institute that conducts research in agroforestry. It specializes in the sustainable management, protection and regulation of tropical rainforest and natural reserves.	• 6th World Congress on Agroforestry: TBC.
	• CIFOR conducts research related to challenges of forest and landscape management.	
	• CIFOR is a CGIAR Research Center, leads the CGIAR Research Program on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry, and leads the Global Landscapes Forum.	
(a) Global Landscapes Forum (GLF)	• Multi-stakeholder forum that facilitates participation in landscape approaches.	• 2023 Landscape Leadership Workshop: 9 to 10 October 2023 (Nairobi, Kenya).
	• Knowledge-led platform on integrated land use, dedicated to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and Paris Climate Agreement.	• GLF Nairobi 2023 Hybrid Conference: A New Vision for Earth: 11 to 12 October 2023 (Nairobi, Kenya).
. Convention of the	• Subregional treaty signed by eight Alpine states and the EU.	• EUSALP Conference on deployment of decarbonised mobility: 31
Protection of the Alps (Alpine convention)	• The objective of the treaty is to protect the natural environment of the Alps while promoting its development.	August to 1 September 2023 (Ticino, Switzerland).
		• Meeting of the Alpine Climate Board: 17 October (Online).
	<ul> <li>Consist of a Framework Convention, various implementation protocols and declarations.</li> </ul>	• Annual Meeting Mountaineering Villages: 6 to 8 October 2023 (Villgratental, Austria).
	• Sets measures for the sustainable development of the Alpine region and promotes cooperation between Alpine countries.	• EUSALP Annual Forum 2023: 18 to 19 October (Bad Ragaz, Switzerland).

Organization, process, initiatives	Mandate or main work areas	Recent and upcoming events & meetings (non-exhaustive)
	• In the protocols of the convention, concrete actions have been identified for ten thematic areas (e.g., on mountain forests and energy.	
3. Convention on Biological Diversity	• Established during the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and by General Assembly	• United Nations Biodiversity Conference (COP16): TBC, 2024 (Turkey)
(CBD)	resolution 55/201.  • Multilateral agreement for the conservation of biological	• Twenty-fifth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice: 16 to 20 October 2023 (Nairobi, Kenya).
	diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.	• Twenty-sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice: 13 to 17 May 2024.
	• It has two supplementary agreements, the Cartagena Protocol and Nagoya Protocol.	
(a) Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)	• Independent intergovernmental body established by States to strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long-term human well-being and sustainable development.	• Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES 10): 28 August to 2 September 2023 (Bonn, Germany).
	• IPBES can be grouped into four complementary areas: assessments, policy support, building capacity and knowledge, communications and outreach.	
	• It is not a UN body. UNEP provides secretariat services to IPBES.	
(b) Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.	• GBF was adopted during COP15 to the Convention on Biological Diversity. It is not a legally binding treaty.	• International Forum facilitated by the Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative: Workshop on ecosystem restoration-related planning and
	• Contains 4 global goals and 23 targets. It succeeds the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (including the Aichi Biodiversity	capacity-building needs for the implementation of the Kunming- Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework: 12 September 2023 (Online).
	Targets).	• International dialogue with indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant stakeholders on the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Gender Plan of Action: 9 to 10 November 2023 (Geneva, Switzerland).

Organization, process, initiatives	Mandate or main work areas	Recent and upcoming events & meetings (non-exhaustive)
4. Convention on International Trade in	• Multilateral agreement to protect endangered plants and animals from the threats of international trade.	• Seventy-seventh meeting of the Standing Committee: 6 to 10 November (Geneva, Switzerland).
Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)	• Provides a legal framework for the regulation of international trade in CITES-listed species.	• <b>COP20</b> : TBC, 2025.
(/	• CITES regulates the international trade of close to 800 tree species, as well as other fauna and flora species occurring in forest ecosystems.	
	• Decisions 19.32 to 19.34 on CITES and forests.	
Conservation of c European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention)	• Regional multilateral agreement in the field of nature conservation, covering most of the natural heritage of the	• 2nd Bureau meeting 2023: 12 to 13 September 2023 (Strasbourg, France).
	<ul> <li>European continent and extending to some States of Africa.</li> <li>The convention led to the creation of the Emerald network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest (ASCIs), which operates alongside the EUs Natura 2000 programme.</li> </ul>	• <b>43rd Standing Committee meeting</b> : 28 November to 1 December 20 (Strasbourg, France).
6. Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)	• Multilateral agreement that aims to conserve migratory species throughout their ranges. The agreement was signed under the auspices of UNEP and is concerned with conservation of wildlife and habitats on a global scale.	• Fourteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (COP14): 23 to 28 October 2023 (Samarkand, Uzbekistan).
	• The only global convention specializing in the conservation of migratory species, their habitats and migration routes.	
	• Migratory species threatened with extinction are listed on Appendix I of the Convention.	
7. Convention on Wetlands	• Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat is multilateral agreement for the conservation and sustainable use of Ramsar sites (wetlands).	• <b>62nd meeting of the Standing Committee</b> : 4 to 8 September 2023 (Gland, Switzerland).
	• The Convention's mission is the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation.	• COP15: TBC, 2025 (Zimbabwe).

Organization, process, initiatives	Mandate or main work areas	Recent and upcoming events & meetings (non-exhaustive)
8. European Environment Agency (EEA)	• Agency of the EU which provides independent information on the environment. Including members outside the EU.	N/A.
	• The goal of the EEA is to help those involved in developing, implementing and evaluating environmental policy, and to inform the general public.	
	• EEA hosts the Forest Information System for Europe (FISE).	
1(a) European Environment Information	• Partnership network of the EEA and its 38 member and cooperating countries.	• Eionet workshop on circular economy and resource use: 27 to 28 September (Copenhagen, Denmark).
and Observation Network (Eionet)		• NFP/Eionet meeting: 10 to 11 October (Copenhagen, Denmark).
(Zionet)	to policy makers about Europe's environment.	• 86th Scientific Committee: 24 to 25 October (Copenhagen, Denmark).
9. European Forest	• International organization established by the European states.	• European Bioeconomy Scientific Forum 2023: 6 to 8 September (Vienna, Austria).
Institute (EFI)	• EFI conducts research and provides policy support on forest	
	related issues.	• EFI Annual Conference: 20 to 23 September 2023 (Novi Sad, Serbia)
	• Provides forest-related knowledge around three interconnected and interdisciplinary programmes: bioeconomy, resilience and governance.	
(a) International Partnerships Facility	• Global center of knowledge and expertise that supports policy and governance reforms concerning forests.	
	• The Facility conceptualizes and pilots' tools and approaches, and supports the development and implementation of partnerships approaches and legally binding instruments, aimed at sustainable forest and land use, commodity production and trade.	
	• It supports a range of actors in producing countries to strengthen and implement legal frameworks and policies.	
(b) Integrate Network Multi-Donor Trust Fund (Integrate Network).	• Facilitated by EFI, the Integrate Network is an alliance of representatives of different European countries that promotes the integration of nature conservation into sustainable forest management at the policy, practice and research level.	• 8th Annual Meeting of the European Integrate Network: 4 to 6 October 2023 (Luxembourg).

Organization, process, initiatives	Mandate or main work areas	Recent and upcoming events & meetings (non-exhaustive)
	• Promotes the exchange of successful management practices and experiences amongst its Members on the application, training, and communication of integrated forest management approaches.	
10. European Union	• Political and economic union of 27 member states.	• See calendar of the Council of the European Union:
(EU)	• Represents an internal single market based on standardized legal frameworks and legislation that applies in all member states.	https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/calendar/.  • See calendar of the European Parliament:
	• The treaty on European Union and the treaty on the Functioning of the European Union form the basis of EU law, setting out general principles of the EU's purpose, the governance of its institutions (e.g., European Commission, Parliament, and Council).	https://www.europarl.europa.eu/plenary/en/meetings-search.html.
(a) Directorates-General	• EU departments with specific zones of responsibility.	
of the European Commission (AGRI, CLIMA, ENER, ENV, GROW).	• Within the European Commission, Directorates-General are the equivalent of national-level ministries.	
(b) Joint Research Centre (JRC)	employs scientists to carry out research in order to provide independent scientific advice and support to European Union policy.  • JRC-FOREST research is at the basis of JRC's with regards to forest-related policies.	• JRC Week on Composite Indicators and Scoreboards: 26 to 29 September 2023 (Online).
		• Science Meets Regions: 27 to 28 September 2023 (Brussels, Belgium).
		• EuroGEO Workshop 2023: 2 to 3 October (Bolzano/Bozen, Italy).
		• <b>Big Data from Space 2023 (BiDS) Conference</b> : 6 to 9 November 2023 (Wien, Austria).
		• Sustainable and Impact Investments International Conference: 30 November to 1 December 2023 (Online)
(c) Eurostat	• The statistical office of the EU.	• N/A.
	• Provide statistical information to the institutions of the EU and promotes the harmonization of statistical methods across EU Member States.	
	• Covers statistics on forestry and logging in the EU.	

Organization, process, initiatives	Mandate or main work areas	Recent and upcoming events & meetings (non-exhaustive)
(d) Standing Forestry Commission (SFC)	• Assist the European Commission in preparing legislative proposals and policy initiatives, coordinating with the EU Member States (e.g., exchange of views), and providing expertise to the Commission when preparing to implement measures.	• Meeting of the Standing Forestry Committee: TBC 2024 (Online)
(e) Working Party on Forestry	• Handles international forest processes and internal dossiers within the EU and is composed of relevant delegates and experts.	• Working Party on Forestry meeting: 22 September 2023 (Brussels, Belgium).
	• Mainly involved in discussions on international forest fora and processes	
(f) Civil Dialogue Group on Forestry and Cork	• Forum for regular information exchange between forest and forestry-related stakeholders that operate on a European level.	$\bullet$ $4^{th}$ meeting of the Civil Dialogue Group on Forestry and Cork: TBC.
	• The main task of the civil dialogue groups is to maintain regular dialogue on all matters relating to the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), including its implementation and new measures.	
(g) Expert Group on Forest-based Industries and Sectorally Related	• Representatives from the forest-based industries, relevant Member State authorities and groupings holding relevant information.	• Group of Experts on Forest-based Industries and Sectorally Related Issues Meeting: TBC 2024 (Online).
Issues	• This is the main body for cooperation between forest-based industries and the Commission. It provides legal, economic and technical advice on issues.	
(h) Commission Expert Group/Multi-Stakeholder Platform on Protecting and Restoring the World's Forests, including the EU Timber Regulation and the FLEGT Regulation	<ul> <li>Expert forum for discussion and consultation, established following the publication of the communication on EU action to protect global forests, to provide advice and assistance to the Commission in the preparation of relevant legislative proposals and policy initiatives.</li> <li>Set up to ensure cooperation between Member States, stakeholders, and the Commission to ensure compliance with the EU Timber Regulation (EUTR) and to assist the Commission in</li> </ul>	• 18th Meeting of the "Expert group/multi-stakeholder platform on protecting and restoring the world's forests (EUTR - FLEGT) - MS only: 28 September 2023 (Online).
	ensuring a uniform implementation of the EUTR and the FLEGT Regulation across the EU.	

Organization, process, initiatives	Mandate or main work areas	Recent and upcoming events & meetings (non-exhaustive)
11. European Wood Policy Platform	• WoodPoP serves as a platform, initiated by Finland and Austria, to promote wood-based policy dialogue.	• N/A.
(woodPoP)	• Supports the cooperation between public services, civil society, and research to develop policy solutions promoting the sustainable consumption and production of wood-based products.	
12. Food and Agriculture	• Specialized agency of the UN covering all aspects of forestry from policy to technical support to the countries.	• European Commission on Agriculture (ECA) - 43rd Session: 26 to 28 September 2023 (Budapest, Hungary).
Organization of the United Nations (FAO)		• Global Symposium on Soil and Water: 02 to 05-October 2023 (Rome, Italy).
		• Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture – 10 <sup>th</sup> session: 20 to 24 November 2023 (Rome, Italy).
(a) Committee on Forestry (COFO)	<ul> <li>FAO Forestry statutory body.</li> <li>As a global Technical Committee, COFO bring together heads of forest services and other senior government officials to identify emerging policy and technical issues, to seek solutions and to advise FAO and others on appropriate action.</li> </ul>	• Near East Forestry and Range Commission - 26th Session: 10 to 13 September 2023 (Jordan).
		• 3rd Session of the COFO Working Group on Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems: 13 to 14 September 2023 (Jordan).
		• North American Forest Commission - 32nd Session: 25 to 27 September 2023 (Fredericton, Canada).
		• 27th Session of COFO: 22 to 26 July 2024
(b) European Forestry	• Regional Forestry Commissions established by FAO.	$\bullet$ European Forestry Commission (EFC) – $42^{nd}$ Session – and the
Commission (EFC)	• One of six Regional Forestry Commissions that provide a policy and technical forum for countries to discuss and address forest issues on a regional basis.	UNECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry – 81st Session: 20 to 24 November 2023 (San Marino).
13. Forest and Climate Leaders Partnership (FCLP)	• Partnership of governments committed to expanding and maintaining high-level political leadership on forests, land-use and climate.	• N/A
	• Focused on finding solutions that reduce forest loss, increase restoration and support sustainable development.	

Organization, process, initiatives	Mandate or main work areas	Recent and upcoming events & meetings (non-exhaustive)
	• The partnership is underpinned by six voluntary action areas under which governments, with partners, can take action or make pledges.	
14. Forest, Agriculture and Commodity Trade (FACT) Dialogue	• The FACT Dialogue and its Roadmap of Action was launched in Glasgow during COP26. It is part of a wider package of announcements made during COP26 concerning forests and sustainability, including the Glasgow Leaders Declaration on Forests and Land Use.	N/A
	• The dialogue brings together 30 of the largest producer and consumer countries of internationally traded agricultural commodities to protect forests and other ecosystems. It also promotes sustainable trade and development as well as the climate and biodiversity crisis.	
	• The FACT Roadmap covers 4 key thematic areas: Support for Smallholders, Traceability and Transparency, Research, Development and Innovation, and Trade & Markets.	
15. Framework Convention on the Protection and	• Subregional treaty signed by seven Carpathian States. The treaty aims to foster sustainable development and the protection of the Carpathian region.	• Seventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention (COP7): 11 to 14 October 2023 (Belgrade, Serbia).
Sustainable Development of the Carpathians	• The Convention provides a transnational framework for cooperation and multisectoral policy integration.	• 10th Meeting of the Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management (WG Forest): TBC.
(Carpathian Convention)	• Article 7 of the Convention asks the parties to support the use of forest management instruments and programmes in accordance with the SFM principles formulated.	
16. Global Environment Facility (GEF)	• Multilateral environmental fund providing grants and blended finance for projects related to biodiversity, climate change,	• Seventh GEF Assembly: 22 to 26 August 26, 2023 (Vancouver, Canada).
	international waters, land degradation, persistent organic pollutants (POPs), mercury, sustainable forest management, food security, and sustainable cities in developing countries.	• 65th GEF Council Meeting: 18 to 22 December 2023 (Online).
	• Financial mechanism for five MEAs: the Minamata Convention on Mercury, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), CBD, UNCCD, and UNFCCC.	

Organization, process, initiatives	Mandate or main work areas	Recent and upcoming events & meetings (non-exhaustive)
	• GEF is the largest public funder of projects to improve the global environment. It also supports forest-related activities.	
17. International Tropical Timber	• International Tropical Timber Agreement, 2006 (TD/TIMBER.3/12).	• 59th Session of the International Tropical Timber Council and Sessions of the Associated Committees: 13 to 17 November 2023
Organization (ITTO)	• Intergovernmental organization that promotes conservation of tropical forest resources and their sustainable management, use and trade.	<ul> <li>(Pattaya, Thailand).</li> <li>Global Legal and Sustainable Timber Forum 2023: 21 to 22</li> <li>November 2023 (Macao SAR, China).</li> </ul>
18. International Union for Conservation of	• Membership Union of government and civil society organizations.	• IUCN Leaders Forum: 11 October to 13 October, 2023 (Geneva, Switzerland).
Nature (IUCN)	• Implements a large and diverse portfolio of conservation projects worldwide.	• 110th Council meeting: 13 to 15 November 2023 (Fontainebleau, France)
	• Implementing agency for the GEF and an Accredited Entity	• 111th Council meeting: 14-16 May 2024.
	under the Global Climate Fund (GCF)	• IUCN World Conservation Congress: TBC, 2025.
19. International Union of Forest Research	• Non-governmental international network of forest scientists.	• IUFRO International Conference on Small-Scale Forestry: 22 to 26 August 2023 (Tartu, Estonia)
Organizations (IUFRO)	• Aim of the organization is to promote cooperation in scientific studies on forests and their use and sustainable development.	• FORESTED LANDSCAPES in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity
	<ul> <li>Generates scientific knowledge for policymakers, practitioners and stakeholders.</li> <li>All activities are based on voluntary contributions from scientists.</li> </ul>	Framework: 24 to 27 October 2023 (Evora, Portugal)  • IUFRO International Symposium on Pine Wilt Disease: 25 to 28
		October 2023 (Nanjing, China)
		• Short Rotation Woody Crops International Conference: 13 to 16 May 2024 (Columbia, United States of America).
		• IUFRO Seed Orchard Conference: 20 to 25 May 2024 (Braşov, Romania).
		• XXVI IUFRO World Congress 2024: 23 to 29 June 2024 (Stockholm, Sweden).
20. Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (Forest Europe)	• Pan-European voluntary forest policy platform for high-level political dialogue and technical exchange.	• 17th European Forest Pedagogics Congress 2023: 20 to 22 September 2023 (Königswinter, Germany).
	• The aim of Forest Europe is to develop common strategies on how to protect and sustainably manage forests. The process is	• Forest Europe High-Level Talks: 9 November 2023.

Organization, process, initiatives	Mandate or main work areas	Recent and upcoming events & meetings (non-exhaustive)
	based on the Ministerial Conferences convened with an interval of 3 to 5 years.	• 9th Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe: 2024
	Every conference result in a joint political declaration and resolutions to develop common strategies.	
	Forest Europe SFM definition and set of criteria and indicators are internationally regarded as guidelines for SFM.	
21. One Planet Summit	• The One Planet Summit brings together public and private sector leaders. The summits are followed by themed ministerial meetings (e.g., One Forest Summit) to follow up on initiatives, address progress and support One Planet coalitions.	
	• Joint and multi-stakeholder commitments taken as part of the One Planet Summit are monitored and reported.	
	• Initiatives form part of the action agenda of the UNCCD and the Hyderabad Call for Biodiversity Champions.	
2. United Nations	• Established by General Assembly resolution 47/188.	• UNCCD Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the
Convention to Combat Desertification UNCCD)	• Convention set up to address desertification and the effects of drought.	<ul> <li>Convention CRIC21: 13 to 17 November 2023 (Samarkand, Uzbekistan).</li> <li>UNCCD Conference of Parties 16th session (COP16): 02 to 13</li> </ul>
ONCCD)	• Multilateral commitment to mitigate the impact of land degradation.	December 2024 (Riyadh, Riyadh).
a) G20 Global Land nitiative	• Established by the G20 Environment Ministers Meeting November 22, 2020.	• Global Changemaker Academy for Parliamentarians: 21 to 25 August 2023 (Bonn, Germany)
	• Intergovernmental forum of the world's major developed and developing economies.	
	• Global Initiative on Reducing Land Degradation and Enhancing Conservation of Terrestrial Habitats aim to halt and reverse land degradation and reduce degraded land by 50 per cent by 2040.	
3. United Nations	• Established by General Assembly resolution 2029 (XX).	• N/A
Development Programme (UNDP)	• Strategic Plan 2022-2025.	

Organization, process, initiatives	Mandate or main work areas	Recent and upcoming events & meetings (non-exhaustive)
	• UNs lead agency on international development. Its mandate is to end poverty, build democratic governance, rule of law, and inclusive institutions. Projects include land restoration and forest-related work	
24. United Nations	• Charter of the UN and various General Assembly resolutions.	• Thirteenth Session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on
Economic and Social Affairs (ECOSOC)	• One of the six principal organs of the UN, responsible for the direction and coordination of the economic, social, humanitarian,	Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM): 2 to 3 August 2023 (New York, United States of America).
	and cultural activities carried out by the UN. It is the UN's largest subsidiary body.	• 2023 SDG Summit: 18 to 19 September 2023 (New York, United States of America).
(a) UN Forum on Forests (UNFF)	• ECOSOC Resolution 2000/35.	• Ad hoc Expert Group (AHEG) on the preparations for the IAF midterm review: 10 to 13 October 2023 (Vienna, Austria).
	<ul> <li>High-level intergovernmental policy forum, including all UN member states and permanent observers.</li> </ul>	• Nineteenth session of the Forum: 6-10 May 2024 (New York, United States of America).
(b) Collaborative Partnership on Forests	• Established in response to an invitation issued in resolution 2000/35 by ECOSOC.	• N/A
(CPF)	• Informal, voluntary arrangement between 16 international organizations with programmes on forests.	
	• CPF aim to enhance the contribution of all types of forests and trees outside forests to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other internationally agreed development goals, and promote the sustainable management of all types of forests.	
	• Support the work of the UNFF and its member countries, including the provision of scientific and technical advice	
25. United Nations Economic Commission	• Terms of reference have been defined by ECOSOC. (E/ECE/778/Rev.5).	• 28th session of the Committee on Environmental Policy: 1 to 3 November 2023 (Geneva, Switzerland).
for Europe (UNECE)	• One of the five regional commissions under the jurisdiction of ECOSOC.	
(a) Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI)	• Rules of Procedure for the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry.	• FORESTA 2023: Joint session of the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the FAO European Forestry Commission: 20 to 23 November 2023 (San Marino).

Organization, process, initiatives	Mandate or main work areas	Recent and upcoming events & meetings (non-exhaustive)
	• Forum for cooperation and consultation between Member States on forestry, the forest industry and forest product matters.	
(b) Joint UNECE/FAO Working Party on Forest	Terms of Reference of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management (GE.14)	• 45 <sup>th</sup> session of the joint FAO/UNECE Working Party: TBC.
Statistics, Economics and Management (JWPFSEM)	Supports developing evidence-based policies for SFM and assisting countries to monitor and manage forests.	
26. United Nations	• Established by General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII).	• World Water Week 2023: 20 to 24 August 2023 (Stockholm, Sweden).
Environment Programme (UNEP)	• Responsible for monitoring the state of the environment, inform policy making with science and coordinate responses to the	• 8th Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation (APAN) Forum: 30 August to 1 September 2023 (Incheon City, Republic of Korea).
	<ul> <li>Provides guidance to national governments in the pan-European region.</li> <li>Host the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea (Tehran Convention) and the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable</li> </ul>	• Green Jobs for the future: 14 to 15 September 2023 (Bangkok,
(a) UNEP Europe Office		Thailand).
		• Final Intergovernmental Consultations on Nature-based Solutions: 9 to 13 October 2023 (Nairobi, Kenya).
		• Fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury (COP-5): 30 October to 3 November 2023 (Geneva, Switzerland).
		• Sixth session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA 6): 26 February to 1 March 2024 (Nairobi, Kenya)
(b) GRID-Geneva	• Global Resource Information Database - Geneva (GRID-Geneva), is a partnership between UNEP, the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) and the University of Geneva (UniGe).	• N/A
	• One of UNEP's major centres for data and information management and relevant for forest related work from a monitoring / earth observations perspective.	
27. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	• United Nations framework convention on climate change (FCCC/INFORMAL/84).	• UN climate change conference (COP28): 30 November to 12 December 2023 (Dubai, United Arab Emirates).
	• International environmental treaty to combat climate change.	

Organization, process, initiatives	Mandate or main work areas	Recent and upcoming events & meetings (non-exhaustive)
	• Treaty calls for ongoing scientific research and regular meetings, negotiations, and future policy agreements to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change.	
(a) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)	• Established by General Assembly resolution 43/53.	• 60th Session of the IPCC: TBC.
	• Provides regular assessments of the scientific basis of climate change, its impacts and future risks, and options for adaptation and mitigation	
(b) Green Climate Fund (GCF)	• Fund established within the framework of the UNFCCC as an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism to assist developing countries in adaptation and mitigation practices to counter climate change.	• Green Climate Fund Regional Programming Dialogue with Asia and the Pacific: 7 to 11 August 2023 (Songdo, Republic of Korea)
		• High-Level Pledging Conference of the second replenishment of GCF (GCF-2): 5 October 2023 (Bonn, Germany)
	• GCF invests across four transition areas: the built environment; energy and industry; human security, livelihoods and wellbeing; and land-use, forests and ecosystems.	
(c) United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (REDD+)	• REDD+ is a voluntary climate change mitigation framework developed by the UNFCCC.	• N/A
	• Guide activities in the forest sector that reduces emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, as well as the sustainable management of forests and the conservation and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries.	
28. World Bank (WB)	• International financial institution that provides loans and grants to the governments of low- and middle-income countries for the	• Civil Society Policy Forum: 10 to 13 October 2023 (Marrakech, Morocco).
	<ul> <li>A WB administered Multi-Donor Trust Fund, PROGREEN supports efforts to improve livelihoods while tackling forest loss, declining biodiversity, deteriorating land fertility, and increased risks exacerbated by climate change, such as uncontrolled forest fires.</li> </ul>	• 9th Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange (SDMX) Global Conference: 29 October to 2 November 2023 (Manama, Bahrain and online).
		• Law, Justice and Development Week 2023—Partnering for Impact: Enabling and Mobilizing the Private Sector for Sustainable Development: 13 to 15 November 2023 (Washington, United States of America).

Organization, process, initiatives	Mandate or main work areas	Recent and upcoming events & meetings (non-exhaustive)
(a) Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF)	• Administered by the WB, FCPF is a global partnership of governments, businesses, civil society, and indigenous people's organizations.	• Carbon Fund Twenty-seventh Meeting (CF27): TBC, 2024.
	• Focused on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, forest carbon stock conservation, the sustainable management of forests, and the enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries.	
	• FCPF has created a framework and processes for REDD+ readiness.	
29. World Meteorological Organization (WMO)	• Specialized agency of the UN that promotes international cooperation on weather, climate, water and related environmental issues.	• N/A
(a) Committee on Earth Observation Satellite (CEOS)	• International coordination of civil space-based Earth observation programs and promotes exchange of data	• 37th CEOS Plenary: 14 to 17 November 2023 (Chiang Rai, Thailand).
(b) Group on Earth Observations (GEO)	• Intergovernmental partnership that improves the availability, access and use of Earth observations for a sustainable planet.	• GEO Week 2023: 6 to 10 November 2023 (Cape Town, South Africa).
		• GEO-19 Plenary: 8 to 9 November 2023 (Cape Town, South Africa).
		• 2023 Cape Town Ministerial Summit: 10 November (Cape Town, South Africa).
(c) Global Forest Observations Initiative (GFOI)	• Partnership for coordinating international support for improving forest monitoring and associated GHG accounting capabilities in developing countries.	• GFOI 2024 Plenary: TBC.

<sup>\*</sup> G= Global; R=Regional \*\* H=High relevance, M=Medium relevance, L=Loew relevance \*\*\* Y=Yes, N=No

### Annex II

# Non-exhaustive list of other relevant stakeholder organizations

Following below is a non-exhaustive list of additional stakeholder organizations that can be seen as being relevant but have not been included in the matrix in Annex I.

Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs):

- Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (Stockholm Convention)
- Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal (Basel convention)
- Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (Rotterdam Convention)
- Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (LRTAP)
- Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espo Convention)
- Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention)
- · Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents
- Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention)

#### Forest Owners and Foresters:

- National Forest Owners Associations (covering all EU MS): Portuguese Forest Owners Association, Association of Forest Owners from Basque Country, Confederation of Spanish Forest Owners, Association of Municipal and Private Forest Owners in the Czech Republic, Federation of Swedish Forest Owners Associations, etc.
- Confederation of European Private Forest Owners (CEPF)
- European Federation of Municipal Forest Owners (FECOF)
- Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners (MTK)
- European Landowners Organization (ELO)
- European Network of Forestry Entrepreneur (ENFE)
- Union of Foresters of Southern Europe (USSE)
- Young People in European Forests (YPEF)
- Nordic Family Forestry
- European State Forest Association (EUSTAFOR)
- Union of European Foresters (UEF)
- Committee of Professional Agricultural Organisations and General Confederation of Agricultural Co-operatives in the European Union (COPA-COGECA)
- European Federation of Municipal and Local Community Forests (FECOF)
- International Family Forestry Alliance (IFFA)

#### Forest Resources:

• European Forest Nursery Association (EFNA)

#### Trade:

- National trade unions (covering all EU MS): Austrian Trade Union Federation, Estonian Private Forest Union, Swedish Forest Industries Federation, Swedish Forest and Wood Trade Union, Forestry Commission Trade Unions, etc.
- European Trade Union Institute (ETUI)
- European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)
- Timber Trade Federation
- · EFI FLEGT Facility

#### Certification:

· EU Ecolabel

#### Standardisation:

- International Organization for Standardization (ISO)
- European Committee for Standardization (CEN)
- European Standardisation Organisations (ESO)
- European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC)

#### Paper, pulp, packaging:

- Confederation of European Paper Industries (CEPI)
- Federation of the National Associations of Pulp Sellers in Western Europe (EUROPULP)
- Alliance for Beverage Cartons and the Environment (ACE)
- European Federation for Print and Digital Communication (INTERGRAF)
- International Confederation of Paper and Board Converters in Europe (CITPA)

# Timber, woodworking, panels:

- European Confederation of Woodworking Industries (Cei-Bois),
- European Organisation of the Sawmill Industry (EOS),
- European Panel Federation (EPF)
- European Pallet Association (EPAL)
- European Federation of Wooden Pallet and Packaging Manufacturers (FEFPEB)
- European Wood Preservative Manufacturers Group (EWPM)
- European Institute for Wood Preservation (WEI)
- European Timber Trade Federation (ETTF)
- European Organisation of Agricultural, Rural and Forestry Contractors (CEETTAR)

#### Furniture:

- European Furniture Industries Confederation (EFIC)
- European Furniture Manufacturers Federation (UEA)

#### Construction:

- European Construction Technology Platform (ECTP)
- Architects' Council of Europe (ACE)
- European Construction Industry Federation (FIEC)
- Building and Woodworkers' International (BWI)
- European Federation of Building and Woodworkers (EFBWW)

• Timber Construction Europe

#### Fibres and textiles:

- European Man-Made Fibres Association (CIRFS)
- EDANA (nonwovens and related industries)
- European Apparel and Textile Confederation (EURATEX)
- Bio-based Industries Consortium (BIC)

#### Energy:

- European Biofuels Technology Platform (EBTP)
- European Sustainable Biofuels Forum (ESBF)
- European Biomass Association (AEBIOM)
- European Biomass Industry Association (EUBIA)
- European Renewable Energy Council (EREC)
- Association of European Renewable Energy (EUREC)
- European Forum for Renewable Energy Sources (EUFORES)
- Energy Efficient Buildings Association (E2BA)
- European Biogas Association (EBA)

### Nongovernmental Organisations (NGOs):

- Forests and the European Union Resource Network (FERN)
- · Birdlife
- European Forum on Nature Conservation and Pastoralism
- · Friends of Earth
- Greenpeace
- World Wildlife Foundation (WWF)
- · Wild Europe
- ClientEarth
- Environmental Investigation Agency
- · Forests Monitor
- Forest Peoples Programme
- Global Witness

# Other:

- European Consumer Organisation (BEUC)
- European Bioeconomy Alliance (EUBA)
- Arctic Council: Barents Euro-Arctic Council, CAFF, etc.