



---

## **Economic Commission for Europe**

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

#### **Eighty-first session**

Geneva, 13-15 November 2024

Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda

#### **Programme of work for 2025 and recommendations on key components of the programme of work for 2026**

## **Outline of key components of the programme of work of the Forests and the Forest Industry subprogramme for 2026**

### **Note by the Secretariat**

The amendments since the 2025 programme of work are highlighted and underlined.

### **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 2026. These components are based on the subprogramme-related section of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) proposed programme budget for 2025, 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 2026. It will be prepared by the secretariat at the end of 2024 and included in the ECE proposed programme budget for 2026.

## **Outline of key components of the programme of work**

### **I. Objective**

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

## II. Strategy

3. The responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Forests, Land and Housing Division. 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.
4. To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will:
- (a) Promote cooperation for sustainable forest management, forest landscape restoration, 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 exchange of national and subnational experiences and best practices and monitor progress on achieving sustainable forest management, which will help member States to measure progress towards achieving the relevant Sustainable Development Goals and the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030;
  - (d) Organize capacity-building seminars and webinars and prepare dedicated publications on the forest sector and wood energy, including on crisis response and on solutions for more resilient economies.
5. The subprogramme will carry out its work in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and other relevant organizations and processes.
6. The above-mentioned work is expected to contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 7, 11–13 and 15 and result in:
- (a) The ability of ECE member States to sustainably manage healthy forest ecosystems, 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;
  - (c) The integration of forest resources and products into planning and recovery from economic, health and environmental shocks, to increase the resilience of member States and their most vulnerable persons.

## III. Deliverables to be implemented in 2026

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

<i>Deliverables</i>	<i>2025 planned</i>	<i>2026 planned</i>
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies		
Parliamentary Documentation (number of documents)	[24]	[14] <sup>1</sup>
1. Documentation for the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry/European Forestry Commission	[18]	[8] <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 2026 is a ECE Committee of Forest and Forest Industry session. Therefore, the number of meeting days and documents have been reduced.

<i>Deliverables</i>	<i>2025 planned</i>	<i>2026 planned</i>
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)	[22]	[20] <sup>1</sup>
Meetings of:		
3. The Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry/European Forestry Commission	[8]	[6] <sup>1</sup>
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	[12]	[12]
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge		
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	[1]	[1]
6. Safeguarding forest management in the ECE region	[1]	[1]
Seminars, workshops, and training events (number of days)	[12]	[12]
7. 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)	[5]	[4]
8. Forest Products Annual Market Review	[1]	[1]
9. On sustainable forest management and forest products	[4]	[3]
C. Substantive deliverables		
Consultation, advice and advocacy: advisory services, 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, removals and trade, including prices; and wood energy for global access. ECE regional databases on forest resources and forest ownership.		
D. Communication deliverables:		
<b>Outreach programmes, special events and information materials:</b> events celebrating the International Day of Forests; brochures and information materials on various forest-related topics; and presentations at round tables and international forest-related events.		
<b>External and media relations:</b> press releases for the subprogramme; and Forest Information Billboard newsletter.		
<b>Digital platforms and multimedia content:</b> website of the subprogramme; social media accounts; and videos and other media on forest-related topics.		