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Rovaniemi, 9-13 December 2013

Item 6 (b) of the provisional agenda

Joint Committee/Commission matters**Proposed list of activities from the Action Plan for the
Forest Sector in a Green Economy to be carried out
by ECE/FAO****Note by the Secretariat***Summary*

This document contains the proposed list of activities from the Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy (see document ECE/TIM/2013/12-FO:EFC/2013/12) to be integrated in the annual list of activities (for 2014 see ECE/TIM/2013/15-FO:EFC/2013/15) for the implementation of the ECE/FAO Integrated Programme of Work 2014-2017 (ECE/TIM/2013/13-FO:EFC/2013/13). This list of activities will be adjusted on a year to year basis and is subject to availability of regular or extrabudgetary funds as well as human resources within the ECE/FAO secretariat.

| Code AP | Possible activities from the Action Plan | Expected year of implementation | Tentative budget USD | Comments |
|--|---|---------------------------------|----------------------|---|
| A. Sustainable production and consumption of forest product | | | | |
| A.0.2 | Review challenges and opportunities for sustainable consumption patterns for forest products and the related services (e.g. through a high level conference). | 2016 | 10,000 | Workshop to be organized |
| A.1.1 | Maintain monitoring of developments in certification and labelling, preferably with more analysis of the impact of certification and labelling in the marketplace. | 2014-2017 | Regular activity | Partly covered by the Policy chapter of FPAMR (Forest Products Annual Market Review) |
| A.1.2 | Consider policy frameworks for harmonised labelling and certification systems for forest products. | 2015 | 10,000 | Policy brief to be produced (consultancy) |
| A.3.1 | Generate information and data to support effective forest planning, including through national forest inventories. | 2014-2017 | Regular activity | Covered by pan-European data collection and reporting |
| A.4.1 | Showcase innovative uses of wood and forests, e.g. by regular forums/market places. | 2014 | 15,000 | Promotion event (such as International Day of Forests), FPAMR innovation chapter |
| A.4.3 | Review and promote innovation intended to improve efficiency in the use of materials in the manufacturing and processing of forest products, and the competitiveness of the sector. | 2014-2017 | Regular activity | FPAMR innovation chapter |
| A.5.1 | Present and discuss LCA outcomes, starting from the recommendations of the workshop on LCA “the Green Life of Wood” held in October 2012. | 2015 | 15,000 | Publication/Workshop to be prepared |
| A.6.2 | Establish a task force to monitor and analyse developments in green building, in order to bring important trends and issues (e.g. the alleged unfair treatment of forest products) to the attention of policy makers, and monitor whether green building codes, standards and programmes constitute barriers to trade in forest products. | 2014-2015 | No cost | Existing project of task force (involving the Committee for Housing and Land Management and the Committee on Sustainable Energy) suspended due to the review of the ECE review of the reform. The project can be resumed. |
| A.7.1 | Exchange national experiences with regulations on illegal logging. | 2014-2017 | No cost | ECE/FAO only observer |

| B. A low carbon forest sector | | | | |
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| B.1.2 | Continue to monitor developments in wood energy (supply and trade), compare developments with policy targets, put demand for wood energy in the context of overall forest sector trends and potential. | 2014-2017 | 30,000 | Paper to be developed to use JWEE results and feed in the Outlook process |
| B.1.4 | Promote the use of wood in construction. Compare national experiences with the use of different benchmarks, policy measures and legal frameworks. Establish targets for the use of wood in construction. | 2014 | 25,000 | Study to be prepared, to be used also as a contribution to the Quebec World Conference on Timber Engineering (WCTE 2014) |
| B.1.7 | Promote use of low carbon energy and materials over high-carbon/non-renewable alternatives. | 2014-2017 | Regular activity | |
| B.2.1 | Analyse the advantages and disadvantages of the “cascade” approach to wood use. | 2015 | 10,000 | Meeting to be organized on the cascade approach pros and cons |
| B.3.1 | Bring together science and policy, for instance at a conference on the Adaptation of Forests and Forest Management to Changing Climate in the ECE region, to review progress since the global conference on the same topic in 2008. | 2015-2016 | 30,000 | Regional Meeting to be organized, with the support of FAO HQ (using guidelines for decision makers and forest managers) |
| B.3.2 | Promote international cooperation and experience sharing on the development of specific adaptive management regimes. | 2015-2016 | | Covered by B.3.1 |
| B.3.5 | Maintain and strengthen wildfire early warning and monitoring capacities, and promotion of integrated fire management approaches, i.e. the targeted extraction of biomass for both renewable energy provision and reduction of wildfire hazard; and the integration of communities / private forest users in the achieving these goals at local level. | 2014 | Funded | Follow-up to the Regional Forum on Cross-boundary Fire Management to be held in November 2013 Project funded by Germany |
| B.4.2 | Improve national forest inventories and monitoring of carbon stocks in forests and harvested wood products, for instance by developing and/or improving national greenhouse gas inventories, combined with forest inventories. | 2014-2017 | Regular activity | Covered by FRA, Pan-European data collection and reporting, ownership and Green Economy reporting |

| C. Decent green jobs in the forest sector | | | | |
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| C.0.1 | Review forest sector workforce issues in order to recommend priorities and communicate their importance including through wide stakeholder consultation. | 2016 | 10,000 | Meeting to be organized, building on the outcome of the meeting on forest work held in November 2013 |
| C.1.1 | Improve monitoring and analysis of the forest-sector workforce, including gender aspects, starting by updating the earlier ECE/FAO/ILO study of professional skills and training. | 2014-2017 | Regular activity | Partly covered by Pan-European data collection and reporting, ownership and Green Economy reporting, Input from ToS on Green Jobs expected |
| C.1.2 | Review and discuss at policy level the main threats to sustainability of the workforce, and possible countermeasures. The review should also include gender aspects. | 2014-2017 | Regular activity | Partly covered by Pan-European data collection and reporting and SFM assessment reports, Input from ToS on Green Jobs expected |
| C.2.1 | Raise the level of political will to improve the safety and health of the workforce, by studying workforce status and trends, with national comparisons, and analysis of the differences. | 2014-2017 | Regular activity | Partly covered by Pan-European data collection and reporting and SFM assessment reports, Input from ToS on Green Jobs expected |
| C.2.2 | Radically improve the monitoring of occupational safety and health of the forestry workforce, to enable meaningful analysis and preventive action, notably by improving monitoring coverage of contractors, farmers, migrant labour, etc. and by putting in place capacity building for improved reporting on social indicators. | 2014-2017 | Regular activity | Partly covered by Pan-European data collection and reporting and SFM assessment reports, Input from ToS on Green Jobs expected |
| C.4.1 | Monitor and analyse at the policy level the impact of green economy policy on employment in the forest sector, possibly with a cross-sectoral approach. | 2016 | Funded | Report on Green Economy, partially funded by the Netherlands |
| C.5.1 | Review and describe existing curricula or study courses related to forestry professionals within the region and analyze their correspondence to the present and emerging needs of the sector. | 2015 | | UNECE/FAO only observer |
| C.5.2 | Monitor the situation of forestry education and stimulate exchange between member states on this matter. | 2015 | | UNECE/FAO only observer |

| D. Long term provision of Forest Ecosystem Services | | | | |
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| D.0.1 | Review and develop approaches to the valuation of and payment for different forest ecosystem services, in the UNECE region, and involve both research and policy bodies in this work. | 2013 | 10,000 | PES paper to be published with the support of UNEP |
| D.1.1 | Intensify research on the valuation of forest goods and services, notably as regards policy objectives, possible funding sources, and the incorporation of values of forest ecosystems into national accounting frameworks. Build databases and online platforms for exchange, cooperation and data dissemination. Develop guidance for the valuation of forest ecosystem services. | 2014-2017 | Regular activity | No direct action, contribution through FRA, Pan-European data collection and reporting and Green Economy reporting |
| D.2.1 | Review and share experience on payment for forest ecosystem services, notably enabling conditions for PES and monitor progress, taking into account existing material (e.g. SoEF 2011) and identifying implications for PES design and implementation. | 2017 | 20,000 | Follow-up to the PES paper |
| E. Policy development and monitoring of the forest sector in relation to a green economy | | | | |
| E.0.1 | Upon request of the country, carry out national forest sector policy reviews, in an international context, with peer review, along the lines of the environmental performance reviews carried out by UNECE. | 2014-2017 | XB | Upon request, funded by the country |
| E.0.4 | Develop the capacities (skills, information, institutions, etc.) of all stakeholders (workforce, private sector, administrations, etc.) to implement sustainable forest management, and forest protection and monitor progress in its implementation. | 2014-2015 | Funded | UNDA Project "Sustainable Forest Management for Greener Economies in Central Asia and the Caucasus" |
| E.1.1 | Prepare detailed and objective study at the regional level of policy instruments in place and whether they are appropriate for a green economy, leading, if appropriate to proposals for improvement. | 2015 | 50,000 | Publication to be prepared |

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| E.1.2 | Include the green economy as one of the main topics of programmes of work. | 2014-2017 | Regular activity | |
| E.1.3 | Create European forest partnership on a voluntary basis to improve coordination and cooperation between international organisations in Europe. | 2014-2017 | Regular activity | |
| E.2.1 | Maintain and develop present inter-organisation cooperation on forest resource assessment (CFRQ), State of Europe's Forests (SoEF) and forest sector outlook studies, set up appropriate task forces to address the challenges in measuring particular indicators. | 2014-2017 | Regular activity | Regular work of the section, with the input of the relevant ToS |
| E.2.2 | Develop the capacity of all countries so that they can make available usable data for all indicators for sustainable forest management. | 2014-2017 | Regular activity | UNDA project (see E.0.4), Forest information workshops |
| E.2.3 | Develop the forest sector's contribution to broader green economy indicator data sets: - explore how "forest sector" indicators can be used to report on the green economy - discuss with other sectors how they want to report on their contribution to a green economy - use the pan European and the Montreal Process criteria and indicators to assess sustainable forest management - update indicators and develop new ones whenever appropriate - ensure that forest sector indicators for green economy monitoring are consistent with other forest sector indicators, notably those for sustainable forest management. | 2014-2017 | 50,000 | Measuring Green Economy, partially funded by the Netherlands |
| E.2.4 | Produce regular fact based reports on sustainable forest management in countries, based on international and national criteria and indicators. | 2014-2017 | Regular activity | FRA and Pan-European data collection and reporting activities |

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| E.3.1 | Develop an agreed methodology to assess the sustainability of forest management, possibly building on SoEF 2011 experience, as well as the experience of other processes, and implement it. | 2014-2017 | Regular activity | |
| E.3.2 | Encourage cooperation between FOREST EUROPE and the Montréal Process. | 2014-2017 | Regular activity | |
| E.3.4 | Develop capacity for reporting on indicators of sustainable forest management, at national and international level. | 2014-2017 | Regular activity | UNDA project (see E.0.4), Forest information workshops |
| E.4.1 | Improve the sector's capacity to communicate, by developing national and international communications, capacities and funding, and sharing experience. | 2014-2017 | Regular activity | |
| E.4.2 | Implement communications that will result in public opinion and legislators considering wood to be an "ecologically, economically, and technically preferred" construction material and make the best use of the Strategic Framework for Forest Communication in Europe to this end. | 2014-2017 | Regular activity | |
| E.5.1 | Monitor green economy developments in the ECE region forest sector and ensure that organisations active on global green economy issues, such as UNEP, are aware of them. | 2016 | 10,000 | Possible joint event with UNEP and/or OECD, or brochure |
| E.5.4 | Establish cross-sectoral working groups, develop contacts with other green economy sectors, and share experience (also international) and identify success factors. | 2014 | 40,000 | Event to launch the implementation of the Action Plan |