

**Economic and Social Council**

Distr.: General
22 August 2023

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****Eighty-first session**

San Marino, 20-23 November 2023

Item 4 (d) (ii) of the provisional agenda

**Joint Committee/Commission matters: Reporting on the
implementation of the 2021-2025 Integrated Programme of
Work and related decisions: Review of 2023 activities and
publications planned for 2024**

Forty-second session

San Marino, 20-23 November 2023

Review of 2023 activities and planned activities for 2024**Submitted by the Secretariat***Summary*

This document lists the 2023 activities implemented by the joint Economic Commission for Europe/Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (ECE/FAO) Forestry and Timber Section under the 2022-2025 COFFI/EFC Integrated Programme of Work (until end of September 2023). It also presents a tentative list of activities for 2024 (its implementation being subject to availability of funds).

Due consideration is given to providing equal participation opportunities to all gender and people with disabilities in all listed activities.

The Committee and Commission is invited to endorse the activities for 2024.

I. Review of 2023 activities

Between November 2022 and September 2023, major events organized and co-organized by the Joint Section included:

- (a) 18 capacity-building events, meetings, and webinars;
- (b) 5 meetings of Teams of Specialists;
- (c) 2 intergovernmental meetings.

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 towards Sustainable Forest Management, and the contribution of the forest sector to a sustainable economy:

- (i) Reporting on the FAO Global Forest Resource Assessment (FRA) and the Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire (CFRQ): cooperation with the FAO FRA Secretariat and other CFRQ partners on the preparation of data collection for the 2025 FRA reporting process;
- (ii) Joint pan-European reporting on forests and sustainable forest management: cooperation with Forest Europe and FAO FRA secretariat on the preparation of the next 2025 reporting cycle, including monthly coordination meetings of the partner secretariats;
- (iii) Production of the ECE/FAO online Platform and the Guide for the 2025 Joint Pan-European Data Collection on Forests and Sustainable Forest Management (JPEDC);
- (iv) Launch of the FRA and JPEDC – co-organization with the FAO FRA secretariat a webinar for FRA National Correspondents in the pan-European region (online, 21 July 2023);
- (v) Co-organization, with the FAO FRA secretariat and Forest Europe, of the technical workshop for 2025 FRA and JPEDC reporting for National Correspondents in the pan-European region (Helsinki, 12-14 September 2023);
- (vi) 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 databanks;
- (vii) Organization of the “Forests and Timber Data Lab” - the workshop on forest and timber data-related processes in the Forestry and Timber Section (Geneva, 12 December 2022);
- (viii) Dissemination of the results of the 2020 global and pan-European reporting on forests and Sustainable Forest Management (SFM), including an update of the Forest Knowledge Platform INForest and the forestry-related component of the ECE Statistical Database.

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

- (i) Continuation of the implementation of the project “Assessment of forest conditions and the impact of biotic and abiotic disturbances”, including monthly coordination meetings of the project team;
- (ii) Production of the thematic study on international reporting on forest damage/disturbance in the ECE region;

(iii) Review and update of the Forest Damage reporting formats in the Global and Pan-European data collection.

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

(i) Participation in the FAO FRA Advisory Group (online, 19 December 2022), and organization of the ECE/FAO technical consultations on the project on developing forest data collection systems (Rome, 7-8 November 2022);

(ii) Cooperation with, and support to countries, organizations and international processes (e.g. Forest Europe) in the ECE region on monitoring SFM;

(iii) Contribution to capacity-building on forest monitoring in countries of the Caucasus, Central Asia, Eastern and South-East Europe;

(iv) Support to the work of the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management, including monthly coordination meetings of the Team's core group; organization of the 31st and 32nd meetings of the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on monitoring sustainable forest management since the last Committee (online, 8 February 2023 and Geneva/hybrid, 30 May 2023).

2. Forest products and markets

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

(i) Preparation of historical data on forest products removals, production, trade and prices;

(ii) Preparation of forecast data on forest products removals, production and trade;

(iii) Updates to the existing database and expansion of available information;

(iv) Webinar on updates to the structure of the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire (JFSQ) for 2022 data;

(v) Assessment of existing practices in collecting, validating, processing and sharing data;

(vi) Consultation on proposed data strategy and related work;

(vii) Dissemination of statistics through the FAO statistical database (FAOSTAT) and ECE websites.

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

(i) Publication of the Forest Products Annual Market Review (FPAMR) 2022-2023;

(ii) Preparation of data and the statistical annex for the FPAMR 2022-2023;

(iii) Preparation of tables and graphs for the Market Forecasts 2023-2024;

(iv) Preparation of the Market Discussion 2023 and the Market Statement 2023;

(v) Preparation of three data briefs on sawn softwood, pulp and paper, and wood energy;

(vi) Dissemination of analyses at industry meetings.

(c) Support of international processes in forest products:

(i) Participation in the Intersecretariat Working Group on Forest Sector Statistics and attendance at other international meetings;

(ii) Organization of meetings of the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Products and Wood Energy Statistics (ToS FPWES) and the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Sustainable Forest Products (Geneva, 30 May 2023 and online, September 2023);

- (iii) Support ToS FPWES activities, including the Ad Hoc Task Group on Removals Statistics and the Ad Hoc Task Group on Wood Energy Statistics as secretariat of the ToS FPWES.

3. Wood energy

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

- (i) Publication of a new database on wood energy with 2021 data from the Joint Wood Energy Enquiry (JWEE2021);
- (ii) Preparation and issuance of the Joint Wood Energy Enquiry for collecting data for 2021 (JWEE2021);
- (iii) Organization of capacity building webinars with three modules on Joint Wood Energy Enquiry data collection;
- (iv) Dissemination of the JWEE2019 data at relevant international meetings;
- (v) Increasing the visibility of ECE wood energy data.

B. Work Area 2: Policy dialogue and advice

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

- (i) Monitoring of developments in global and regional forest policy processes (United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF); Forest Europe, United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and relevant contributions to these processes;
- (ii) Organization of a workshop on National and Regional Forest Action for Global Policy Impact at UNFF18 (New York, 8 May 2023);
- (iii) Support to the continued implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests through policy dialogues at the regional and national levels;
- (iv) Publication of a joint ECE, FAO, ILO (International Labour Organisation) study on “Occupational safety and health in the future of forestry work” (<https://unece.org/info/Forests/pub/380802>).

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

- (i) Analysis of how the circular bio-economy concepts are related to the forest-based sector;
- (ii) Analysis of wood-based value chains in a circular bio-economy and publication of one study and drafting of two more forthcoming studies;
- (iii) Promotion and dissemination of information about the circular bio-economy, including its social dimension e.g. presentation of studies on “Circularity concepts in wood construction”, “Circularity concepts in forest-based industries” (<https://unece.org/info/Forests/pub/379215>) and the “Catalogue of Wood Waste Classifications in the ECE Region” (<https://unece.org/info/Forests/pub/376003>) at external events;
- (iv) Promotion of Circular Fashion and Forest based fibres at the Regional Forum for Sustainable Development.

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

- (i) Support the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and the forest landscape restoration pledges under the Bonn Challenge through capacity building efforts, and development of a platform on Forest Landscape Restoration for the Caucasus and Central Asia.

(e) Boreal Forests:

(i) Publication of a policy brief in English, French and Russian on “Boreal Forests and Climate Change: from impacts to adaptation” and promotion of the importance of boreal forests for climate action and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2023-03/Boreal%20forests%20policy%20brief_%20ENG_final0.pdf);

(ii) Drafting of an overview study on boreal forests in the ECE region highlighting their environmental, social and economic importance including national overviews of boreal forests in six countries of the boreal zone.

(f) Sustainable Urban and Peri-Urban Forestry:

(i) Dissemination and promotion of a policy brief in English, French and Russian on Sustainable Urban and Peri-Urban Forestry (https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-02/Urban%20forest%20policy%20brief_final_0.pdf);

(ii) Consultation on The Draft Regional Urban Forestry Opportunity Plan for consideration by the 81st session of Joint ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI);

(iii) Development of the “UNECE Urban TreePal initiative – Part 1. Planning and Management” (<https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2023-03/ECE%20Trees%20for%20Resilient%20Green%20Cities%20Toolkit%20V1.pdf>);

(iv) Development of the UNECE Urban TreePal initiative – Part 2. Implementation.

(g) Organization of the National forest policy dialogue (NFPD)

(i) Organization of “The future of the forestry and wood-based industries sector in Türkiye in the transition to a sustainable bioeconomy” policy dialogue, Kastamonu, Türkiye, 21-23 September 2023.

C. Work Area 3: Communication and outreach

(a) Organization of events and campaigns in support of Sustainable Forest Management and forest products and services:

(i) Organization of two side events at the Conference of Parties (COP-15) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (Montreal, December 2022);

(ii) International Day of Forests (IDF) celebrated with an online campaign “Forests as Pharmacy” (21 March 2023);

(iii) Communicating the potential of urban trees and forests in the ECE region through various events, including a workshop “Future-proof green cities make future-proof countries: Building urban and peri-urban tree and forest resilience” (Budapest, 6-8 December 2022) and a workshop on Advancing Urban Forestry: A Nature Based Solution for Local and Global Goals (Geneva, 8 May 2023);

(iv) Regional Forum for Sustainable Development (RFSD) 2023 side event on SDG 9 and Fashion – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure (Geneva, 29 March 2023);

(v) Regional Forum for Sustainable Development (RFSD) 2023 side event “The city of the future is a green city: why we need trees in our cities for the SDGs”(Geneva, 30 March 2023);

(vi) Hybrid side event “Rooted in Forests – National and regional action for global impact” at UNFF18 (New York, 8 May 2023);

(vii) ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Communication – Forest Communicators’ Network annual meeting and workshop (Prague, 20-22 June 2023);

(viii) Communication campaigns (e.g., Forests As Pharmacy, Trees in Cities Challenge, Forests for Fashion initiative, circularity, biodiversity, and urban action) including infographics, news stories, reels, posts and stories on social media.

(b) Dissemination of information via social media, websites, newsletter and audio-visual products:

(i) Promotion and dissemination of studies and publications via press briefs and social media (Twitter: <https://twitter.com/UNECEForests>, LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/unece-forests> and Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/unecefaoforests/>);

(ii) Promotion of the website INForest on forest-statistics: <https://forest-data.unece.org/> in meetings and press releases, translation of available information into Czech, English, French, German, Polish and Russian;

(iii) Compilation and dissemination of the Forest Information Billboard (<https://unece.org/forests/forest-information-billboard>);

(iv) Production and launch of 4 episodes of the United Nations Forest Podcast: “Urban forests hosted by Stefano Boeri”, “Climate change and forests hosted by Michelle Yeoh”, “Wildfires and forests hosted by Jodi-Ann Jue Xuan Wang”, and “Building with wood hosted by Nyasha Harper-Michon”;

(v) Production of a short film: “Why Trees?” on the value and importance of urban trees and forests (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o0Vb6hVyFHQ>).

(c) Press and news releases to present the outcomes of workshops, events and publications; and outreach activities beyond the forest sector):

(i) Press releases published in 2023 (as of 25 July 2023 – all press releases can be found here: <https://unece.org/media/forestry/press>): “The 80th Committee on Forests and the Forestry Industry opens with opportunities for bringing nature back into our cities” (03 November 2022), “Wood energy on the rise in Europe” (04 November 2022), “Urban trees support global biodiversity and sustainable societies” (16 December 2022), “Boreal forests at risk of losing their captured carbon, says new UNECE policy brief” (06 March 2023), “Urban forests in the spotlights of the first episode of the United Nations Forest Podcast” (15 June 2023), “Forest work must be made safer and healthier, says new FAO-ILO-UNECE report” (06 July 2023), “Forests and climate change: an Oscar-winning alliance – Michelle Yeoh on the United Nations Forest Podcast”;

(ii) News releases published in 2022 (as of 25 July 2023 – all news releases can be found here: <https://unece.org/media/news?f%5B0%5D=program%3A342>): “Building urban and peri-urban tree and forest resilience in Central Asia” (21 December 2022), “International Day of Forests: How can forest plants help us fight some of the world’s deadliest diseases” (21 March 2023), “Why trees? UNECE premieres short film calling for trees in cities at the Regional Forum for Sustainable Development” (30 March 2023).

D. Work Area 4: Capacity-building

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

(i) Communication with countries on their technical cooperation needs;

(ii) Organization and implementation of technical cooperation activities, raising of extrabudgetary funds as necessary;

(iii) Coordination of technical cooperation of the sub-programme within ECE and FAO, communication with other international entities (particularly United Nations) and national partners;

(iv) Organization of three online capacity building modules to train national forestry and energy data experts on the Joint Wood Energy Enquiry (17, 20, 27 April 2023).

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

(i) Organization of the work and initiation of the project, establishment of the network and organization of the online meetings for project's national focal points;

(ii) Preparation of the National Survey on Forest Information Management and Forest Information Systems (for project countries) and organization of the advisory missions to pilot countries of the project Kyrgyzstan (16-18 May 2023) and Uzbekistan (11-14 July 2023);

(ii) Drafting guidance and training material for developing forest information systems (FIS);

(iii) Publication of the study "Reporting on Forests and Sustainable Forest Management in the Caucasus and Central Asia – Focus on Criteria and Indicators" in English.

(c) Forest landscape restoration:

(i) Production of the knowledge-sharing platform on forest landscape restoration in the Caucasus and Central Asia, in English and Russian;

(ii) Presentation of a feasibility study and organization of the capacity-building workshop (Chisinau, September, 2023 to be confirmed) on the production of forest regeneration material in the Republic of Moldova and its development.

(d) Sustainable Urban and Peri-Urban Forestry:

(i) Joint organization of a workshop on "Future-proof green cities make future-proof countries – Building urban and peri-urban tree and forest resilience" with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Uzbekistan (Budapest, 6-8 December 2022)

(ii) Organization of the Informal Expert Network on Urban Nature meeting on "Are all urban trees created equal? Benchmarking for evidence-based urban forest policy and planning" (online, 12 December 2022);

(iii) Contribution to the Regional Forum for Sustainable Development 2023 with a side event on "The city of the future is a green city: why we need trees in our cities for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)" (Geneva, 30 March 2023);

(iv) Organization of a side event at the eighteenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests on "Rooted in Forests – National and regional action for global impact" (New York, 8 May 2023);

(v) Organization of the event "Advancing Urban Forestry: A Nature Based Solution for Local and Global Goals" jointly with the International Forestry Student Organization (IFSA) (online, 3 August 2023).

E. Secretariat services to governing bodies and their subsidiary body

(a) Intergovernmental meetings:

(i) Organization of the 44th session of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management (Geneva, 31 May – 2 June 2023);

(ii) Organization of the 81st session of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (San Marino, 20-23 November 2023).

(b) Bureaux meetings:

- (i) Organization of four Joint ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and FAO European Forestry Commission Bureaux meetings (Geneva, 27 January 2023, 28 March 2023, and 31 May 2023).

II. Tentative list of activities for 2024

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, and the contribution of the forest sector to a sustainable economy:

- (i) Reporting on the FRA and CFRQ: cooperation with the FAO FRA Secretariat and other CFRQ partners on the data collection for the 2025 reporting process;
- (ii) 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;
- (iii) Co-organization (with FAO FRA Secretariat) of the workshop for FRA National Correspondents from countries of the Caucasus, Central Asia and Eastern Europe (Kyrgyzstan, October 2023);
- (iv) Initiation of the preparatory work for the next cycle of reporting on forest ownership in the ECE region;
- (v) 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 databanks;
- (vi) 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:

- (i) Publication and dissemination information on the study on international reporting on forest damage/disturbance;
- (ii) Production of a policy brief on forest damage/disturbance in the ECE region;
- (iii) Development of a proposal for the refinement of forest damage data collection, in the ECE region.

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

- (i) Participation in the FAO FRA Advisory Group;
- (ii) Support to the UNFF secretariat on reporting on the implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 (if requested);
- (iii) Cooperation with, and support to countries, organizations and international processes (e.g. Forest Europe) in the ECE region on monitoring SFM;
- (iv) Contribution to capacity-building on forest monitoring in countries of the Caucasus, Central Asia, Eastern and South-East Europe;
- (v) 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:

- (i) Preparation of historical data on forest products removals, production, trade and prices;
- (ii) Preparation of forecast data on forest products, removals, production and trade;
- (iii) Improvement of the existing database and expansion of available information;
- (iv) Dissemination through FAO and ECE statistical databases and websites;
- (v) Development of a Central Data Platform module for Forest Products and Wood Energy Statistics.

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

- (i) Preparation of the FPAMR 2023-2024;
- (ii) Preparation of data and the statistical annex for the FPAMR 2023–2024;
- (iii) Preparation of tables and graphs for the market forecasts 2023–2024;
- (iv) Publication of the FPAMR 2023–2024;
- (v) Preparation of the market discussion 2024 and the Market Statement 2024;
- (vi) Preparation of data briefs on selected forest products;
- (vii) Dissemination of analysis at industry meetings.

(c) Support of international processes in forest products:

- (i) Organization of and participation in the Intersecretariat Working Group on Forest Sector Statistics and attendance at other international meetings;
- (ii) 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;
- (iii) Attend and support ToS FPWES activities, including those of the Ad Hoc Task Group on Removals Statistics and the Ad Hoc Task Group on Wood Energy Statistics, in role as Secretariat of the ToS FPWES.

3. Wood energy

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

- (i) Dissemination of the 2021 JWEE data at relevant international meetings;
- (ii) Maintain and improve database on wood energy with 2023 data (JWEE2023);
- (iii) Revision of the JWEE for collecting 2023 data (JWEE2023);
- (iv) Launch of the JWEE 2023 questionnaire.

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

- (i) Preparation of new information material on wood energy, e.g. policy brief, short studies on various topics such as wood energy and the SDGs, wood energy and climate change, wood energy and air quality or another demand-driven topic;
- (ii) 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:

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

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

- (i) Analysing circular economy concepts in the forest-based sector;
- (ii) Continue work on wood-based value chains in a circular economy;
- (iii) Promotion and dissemination of information on the circular economy, including its social dimensions.

(c) Forest Sector Outlook:

- (i) Dissemination of the Forest Sector Outlook Study in the ECE region;
- (ii) 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:

- (i) 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:

- (i) Publication of a study, a policy brief, a communication note and other material on boreal forests in the ECE region;
- (ii) Dissemination of information about boreal forests and promotion of the importance of boreal forests for sustainable development and achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

(f) Urban Forestry:

- (i) Promote urban trees as a nature-based solution through outreach to engage cities to make a pledge to the Trees in Cities Challenge to expand urban forest cover and strengthen management and policy;
- (ii) Organization of meeting(s) of the Informal Expert Network on Urban Nature;
- (iii) Support urban tree and forest policy and action by national and local governments.

C. Work Area 3: Communication and outreach

(a) Organization of events and campaigns in support of Sustainable Forest Management and forest products and services:

- (i) Celebration of the IDF on 21 March 2024, Geneva, Switzerland;

- (ii) Side event at the nineteenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF19), 2024;
- (iii) Communication on forest landscape restoration in the ECE region through various events;
- (iv) Communication on sustainable wood products in contributing to SDG 12 through various events and exhibitions;
- (v) Various communication campaigns (e.g. ECCA30, Trees in Cities Challenge, Forests for Fashion initiative);
- (vi) Contribution to the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP28) with an event on forests and climate change;
- (vii) Contribution to the 2024 Convention on Biological Diversity with events on forests;
- (viii) Production of new episodes of the United Nations Forest Podcast.

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

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

(c) Press and news releases and targeted social media articles to present the outcomes of workshops, events and publications; Outreach activities beyond the forest sector:

- (i) Promotion of activities and events including those 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:

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

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

- (i) Analysis of the current situations, needs, requirements and opportunities for building forest information systems in pilot countries on e.g. forest policy and management support;
- (ii) Organization of the regional workshop on development of forest information systems for countries of the Caucasus, Central Asia and Eastern Europe (October 2023);
- (iii) Publication of the Guide and training material for development of forest information systems;

(c) Organization of capacity-building workshops on:

- (i) Development of forest information systems for countries of the Caucasus, Central Asia and Eastern Europe (October 2023);
- (ii) Global and pan-European data collection on forests and SFM upon availability of funds;
- (iii) Development of circular value chains for forest products in the Caucasus and Central Asia;
- (iv) SFM focused on non-wood forest products and services, if requested;
- (v) Urban and peri-urban trees and forests;
- (vi) Forest landscape restoration in the ECE region in support of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration;
- (vii) Urban food and resource management.

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

(a) Intergovernmental meetings:

- (i) Forty-fifth session of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management (2024);
- (ii) Joint session of the eighty-second session of the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI) and the forty-third session of the FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC) (2024).

(b) Bureaux meetings:

Joint COFFI and EFC Bureaux meetings upon request.

III. List of publications for 2024

<i>Title</i>	<i>English</i>	<i>French</i>	<i>Russian</i>
Forest Products Annual Market Review 2023-2024	E-100	[F-50]	R-100
COFFI Forecast for Forest Products	E, online publications		
Forestry and Timber publication (2024)	E-100	[F-50]	R-100
Forestry and Timber publication (2024)	E-100		R-150
Forestry and Timber publication (2024)	E, online publications		
Forestry and Timber publication (2024)	E, online publications		
Forestry and Timber publication (2024)	E, online publications		
