



MID-TERM REVIEW OF THE ROVANIEMI ACTION PLAN FOR THE FOREST SECTOR IN A GREEN ECONOMY

Background Paper for the
Workshop on the Mid-Term Review of the
Rovaniemi Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a
Green Economy

13 - 14 February 2018, Geneva

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BACKGROUND

The Rovaniemi Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy (RAP) is a blueprint for a green economy in the forests sector in the ECE region. It was adopted in Rovaniemi, Finland, by the Joint Session of the ECE Committee on Forests and Forest Industry (COFFI) and the FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC) in 2013. The Plan describes how the forest sector can lead the way towards, and contribute to, a green economy in the ECE region. It provides concrete actions meant to support and inspire national strategies and activities that enhance the contribution of the forest sector to a green economy. It proposes to achieve its overall goal by 2020.

The mid-term review of the Rovaniemi Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy was conducted between March 2017 and summer 2018 by the ECE-FAO Forestry and Timber Section. The government of Finland supported the work through the ECE project “Strengthening capacities of the ECE member States to implement the Rovaniemi Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy”. The work aimed to promote the exchange of knowledge on the status of implementation of the Rovaniemi Action Plan and, more generally, on the contribution of the forest sector to a green economy.

Mandate

The Rovaniemi Action Plan proposed to achieve its overall goal, “the greatest possible contribution of the forest sector to the green economy”, by 2020. The work on the mid-term review is in line with the RAP’s recommendation requesting the Committee and the Commission to “monitor progress of the forest sector towards a green economy and prepare, as a part of its integrated Programme of Work, a report on “The Forest Sector in a Green Economy in the ECE region””.

The need for the mid-term review of the RAP was reiterated by member States in the ECE-FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Policy (Forest Policy Network), which provided guidance to the process. The work on the mid-term review benefitted also from the guidance of the ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management.

Methodology

The Joint Section invited all stakeholders of the Rovaniemi Action Plan to report about actions they have implemented and are in line with the RAP.

The review process started on 28 March 2017, when the Joint Section presented a proposed approach to the mid-term review work to the Team of Specialists on Forest Policy (Forest Policy Network) during its meeting in Geneva. The proposal involved the preparation of a mid-term review report, which would include a summary of regional progress in the implementation of the RAP. Further to the report, and in order to ensure a wide stakeholder consultation to develop recommendations on the further implementation of the RAP, a workshop was envisaged. In addition, FAO offered to develop an online platform to include information gathered through the mid-term review.

Stakeholders were asked to provide inputs in June 2017. Follow up messages were sent on 15 September and 25 September 2017. Several reminders followed. Inputs were received from Estonia, United Kingdom and the Global Fire Monitoring Center.

From October 2017 to February 2018, the section followed up with individual communications to members of the Team of Specialists and other stakeholders inviting contributions to the mid-term review. As the result, inputs were received from Austria, Poland and USA.

In addition to reaching out to the stakeholders of the Rovaniemi Action Plan to collect information on its implementation, the Joint Section also reviewed its own activities, where the



Section was identified as leading actor. The results of this review are included in this report and will be made available on the ECE/FAO website as well as presented during to the mid-term review workshop and the 40th session of the ECE-FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management on 22 - 23 March 2018.

Given the limited number of replies from stakeholders received by the secretariat, this study contains a general review of actions reported through this reporting cycle, as well as information gathered through the previous voluntary update on the status of the implementation by the member States in 2014, undertaken for the 72nd session of the ECE Committee on Forests and Forest Industry. The mid-term review's structure is in line with the RAP pillars.

The workshop on mid-term review (on 13 -14 February 2018, Geneva) will focus on priorities for the implementation of the five pillars of the Rovaniemi Action Plan until 2020 and the development of recommendations.

The outcome of the workshop will be reflected into this paper and presented to the 40th session of the Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management for further consideration and guidance.



INTRODUCTION

The Rovaniemi Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy (RAP) was developed through a consultative process with the aim to increase the forest sector's contribution to a green economy. The actions of the Plan are organised under five pillars: A. Sustainable Production and Consumption of Forest Products; B. A Low Carbon Forest Sector; C. Decent Green Jobs in the Forest Sector; D. Long Term Provision of Forest Ecosystem Services and; E. Policy Development and Monitoring of the Forest Sector in Relation to a Green Economy.

RAP Link to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The green economy provides the means for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through its environmental, social and economic dimensions. The Rovaniemi Action Plan states that “a forest sector which plays a leading role in a green economy is promoting sustainable development, both in the forest sector and outside of it”.

Sustainably managed forests, at the core of the Rovaniemi Action Plan, contribute greatly to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular they support the implementation of SDG 15 “Life on Land” and SDG 6 “Clean water and sanitation”. In addition, each of the Plan's thematic pillars supports specific SDGs.

Pillar A on sustainable patterns of production, consumption and trade of forest products contributes to a number of other goals, for instance SDG 3 “Good health and well-being”, SDG 8 “Decent work and economic growth” SDG 12 “Responsible Consumption and Production” and SDG 13 “Climate Change”.

Pillar B on low carbon forest sector contributes to SDG 7 “Affordable and Clean Energy”, SDG 12 “Responsible Consumption and Production” and SDG 13 “Climate Change”.

Pillar C on decent green jobs in the forest sector is of particular relevance to achieving SDG 1 “No poverty”, SDG 3 “Good health and well-being”, SDG 5 “Gender equality”, SDG 8 “Decent work and economic growth”, SDG 13 “Climate change” and SDG 15 “Life on Land”.

As regards Pillar D on a long-term provision of forest ecosystem services, its objectives are aligned with the SDG 3 “Good health and well-being” and SDG 12 “Responsible Consumption and Production”.

RAP Link to the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030

The Rovaniemi Action Plan also supports the achievement of sustainable forest management at the regional level under the six Global Forest Goals of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030. Because of the alignment of its five pillars with the principles of sustainable forest management and with the Global Forest Goals, the Rovaniemi Action Plan may serve as a reference framework for the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2017-2030, as well as of Quadrennial Programme of Work of the United Nations Forum on Forests 2017-2020, in the ECE Region.

For instance, the actions under Pillar A on sustainable patterns of production, consumption and trade of forest products contribute to the “enhancement of forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits” listed under the Global Forest Goal 2. These actions also address the need to increase the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests reflected in Global Forest Goal 3.

Pillar B on the low carbon forest sector contributes to the “efforts to prevent forest degradation and to address climate change” mentioned in Global Forest Goal 1.



Actions under Pillar C on decent green jobs in the forest sector are aligned with Global Forest Goal 2, which, among others, focuses on “enhancing social benefits of forests”, including by improving the livelihoods of forest dependent people.

Pillar D, on the long term provision of forest ecosystem services, can contribute to the increased efforts to prevent forest degradation mentioned in the Global Forest Goal 1. It can also contribute to Global Forest Goal 3, which focuses on efforts to “increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests”.

Finally, in Pillar E, a number of references can be found to the cooperation, coordination and governance aspects of the Global Forest Goals 4, 5 and 6.

RAP Link to the Paris Agreement

In the Rovaniemi Action Plan, Pillar B focuses on the low carbon forest sector with the goal to make the best possible contribution to mitigation of and adaptation to climate change. The pillar focuses on the development of strategies for the low carbon forest sector, on the reduction of emissions of greenhouse gasses through substitution of wood for non-renewable materials and energy and on promoting the sequestration of carbon in forest ecosystems and harvested products.

RAP Link to Gender Mainstreaming

In Pillar C, on Decent Green Jobs in the Forest Sector, some actions make a direct reference to “improving the monitoring and analysis of gender aspects in the forest sector workforce skills analysis”¹ or “streamlining gender aspects into relevant forest policy strategies”². In Pillar E one action is focused on “review of gender aspects of the forest sector in the green economy”.

¹ RAP Action C.0.2.

² RAP Action C.1.1.



MID - TERM REVIEW OF THE ROVANIEMI ACTION PLAN

1. Activities Reported by Member States and Other Stakeholders

In the fall of 2017, the Joint Section collected information from the RAP stakeholders on the activities they implemented which contributed to the implementation of the RAP. This information was complemented by inputs provided by RAP stakeholders in the past, as reported in presentations delivered during meetings of the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Policy (Forest Policy Network), the seventy-second session of the ECE Committee on Forests and Forest Industry in Kazan, Russia in 2014 and a document prepared for “Silva2015” Joint Session of the ECE Committee on Forests and Forest Industry and FAO European Forestry Commission, in Engelberg, Switzerland (ECE/TIM/2015/INF.3 – FO:EFC/2015/INF.3).

Pillar A. Sustainable Production and Consumption of Forest Products

Objective A0: To develop and communicate realistic and ambitious strategies for sustainable patterns of production, consumption and trade of forest products and the related services.

Implementation of objective A0 was reported by Austria, Estonia, Georgia, Germany, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Poland and the Russian Federation.

These member States worked at the development and update of national forest programmes and action plans with the aim to enhance sustainable forest management, and increase the demand of forest products from legal sources and stimulate a number of green jobs linked to the forest sector. Countries reported that the adoption of forest programmes and action plans led to additional funding to forest related projects and increased visibility of the forest sector in the context of national sustainable development and green economy strategies.

Some countries reported on additional efforts to promote the use of sustainable forest products, through exchange of knowledge among experts at scientific seminars and conferences (Poland) as well as on the introduction of targeted forest management programmes, for instance for the provision and use of renewable wood energy in order to reduce fossil fuel consumption (Austria). These activities contributed to sustainable production and consumption trends.

Objective A1: To ensure that consumers are fully and accurately informed whether the forest products they purchase come from sustainable sources, and that certification and labelling systems encourage the sound and sustainable use of wood and forest products

Under this objective many countries gave priority to activities related to the promotion and development of certifications schemes. This was to ensure the provision of forest biomass as a renewable carbon neutral material in a number of applications, as energy source and as a substitute for carbon-intensive building materials. These activities contributed to the lowering of the carbon footprint of the energy and construction sectors.

Member States reported on participating in various certification schemes and on encouraging certification of timber under the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) (Poland, the United Kingdom). In the United States, forest certification was undertaken by the private forest owners under a number of local and international forest certification schemes.



Another important issue considered by member States under this objective the improvement of traceability in the timber value chain. For instance, the Russian Federation reported on the establishment of the Round Wood Act of the Russian Federation Federal Law-415 dated 28 of December 2014 – aimed to trace round wood from its harvesting site through transport and sale to the point of processing or export.

Objective A2: To help public and private buyers of forest products to develop and implement procurement rules, which encourage sustainable practices and promote demand for certified forest products

Member States that reported their activities under this objective worked, among others, on the promotion and implementation of public and private procurement policies, which would “take into account sustainability considerations”³ of wood sourcing. Specific examples of development or amendment of national public procurement policies were reported by Austria, Georgia and Luxembourg.

Objective A3: To ensure that wood supply from the region’s forests is sufficient to satisfy, on a sustainable basis, society’s needs for renewable raw materials and sources of energy

Member States that reported their activities under this objective were Estonia, Georgia, Luxembourg, Poland, Ukraine and United States. Poland conveyed that “under the conditions of emerging shortages of wood raw materials, increasing of their supply, while maintaining sustainable forest management, has become extremely important”. Ensuring the sustainability of forests requires constant monitoring and assessment of forest resources and forest conditions. Countries have undertaken national forest inventory assessments to gather information in support of effective forest management and planning of relevant actions.

In addition, a number of member States (Austria, Georgia, Germany, Lithuania, Luxembourg and Poland) reported on carrying out forest inventories in order to “generate information and data to support effective forest planning”⁴

Objective A4: To promote innovation in forest management and in the production and use of forest products and the related services so that the forest sector is a competitive supplier of renewable and sustainably produced goods and services

The commitment to continuously improve innovation in the forest sector and its competitiveness in the transition to a green economy was a priority for countries that reported under objective A4 (Austria, Estonia, Georgia, Germany, Lithuania and Poland). Their activities are aimed at exchanging experiences and cooperation among all stakeholders, including: science, business and policy-makers. Activities included the creation of research centres; studies on the development of forest products and services and their impact in terms of employment and value added; launching of national programmes for innovation in the forest sector and; participation in international research initiatives.

Countries reported that these various activities increased the awareness on trends in the innovative use of forest biomass, for instance as a substitute to carbon intensive materials in the construction or energy sectors, lowering the carbon footprint, improving environmental quality of modern products and creating a potential for new green jobs.

Objective A5: To promote the use of LCA data based on internationally agreed standards for all materials at all stages of manufacturing, use and recycling, to support decision making at all levels

Only Poland reported on carrying out research on the environmental assessment of the life cycle of wood products using the LCA technique. Poland highlighted the importance of

³ RAP Action A.2.2.

⁴ RAP ActionA.3.1.



continuous work on this topic, which requires the constant exchange of experience to enhance knowledge in support of decision-making and the integration of the forest sector in the work of international standardisation initiatives such as UNEP/SETAC Life Cycle Initiative or ISO methodologies.

Objective A6: To contribute to the development of green building standards and promote the equitable treatment of all materials in terms of sustainability

During the course of the implementation of the Rovaniemi Action Plan, no member State or other stakeholder reported on carrying out activities on “monitoring and analysis developments in green building”⁵ in order to identify major trends and issues or on the development and implementation of green building standards with impact on use of wood in buildings.

Objective A7: To ensure that only legally produced forest products enter the market

Member States that undertook initiatives, reported under this objective, are Austria, Georgia, Germany, Luxembourg, Poland, the Russian Federation and Ukraine. Luxembourg and Poland implemented actions following the guidelines of the EU Timber Regulation⁶.

Illegal logging remains one of the major issues in some parts of the ECE region. Besides causing environmental damage, it impacts the lives and livelihoods of the poorest people, in particular in rural areas.

Pillar B. The Low Carbon Forest Sector

Objective B0: To develop and communicate ambitious and realistic strategies for the low carbon forest sector

Member States that reported on the implementation of this objective (Austria, Poland and the United Kingdom) have incorporated climate change concerns, its possible impacts on the forest sector, and adaptation and mitigation measures in to their national forest programmes.

The reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in forestry can be achieved through different methods, for instance by increasing the forest area by afforestation of post-agricultural land, using fast growing species in forest renewal, employing silvicultural methods aimed at increasing standing volume and extending the life of wood products and their recycling. These methods not only contribute to offset greenhouse gas emissions in the sector but also promote low-carbon activities in the forest sector and thereby ensure its transition to a green economy.

Objective B1: To encourage the reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases by substituting wood from sustainable sources for non-renewable materials and energy

The Russian Federation reported on the adoption of the Decree of the President on the Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emission, aiming at the reduction of 25 per cent by 2020 if compared to the level of 1990. Poland reported on the development of educational materials to promote the use of wood as a natural and sustainable material.

As regards wood mobilisation and the functioning of the wood energy market, countries have developed methodologies for conducting research on the demand and delivery of firewood to citizens (Georgia). They have also elaborated platforms to exchange information for trade of biofuel products, including wood pellets and wood chips (Lithuania) and the promotion of wood energy (Luxembourg).

⁵ RAP Action A.6.3.

⁶ EU Timber Regulation (EUTR) No 995/2010 of the European Parliament of the Council of 20 October 2010 laying down the obligations of operators who place timber and timber products on the market. (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32010R0995>)



Objective B2: To promote the most efficient production, processing and use of wood raw material

One interesting example reported under this objective is a Polish – German project on recycling used wood. The project provided information on experience of these countries in the application of the principles of cascade wood management in the forest sector.

The project developed a common definition of used wood as well as new sorting techniques for waste wood and a classification of recovered wood assortments. It developed technological guidelines ensuring the rational management of used wood in the production of particleboards for the furniture industry as well as brackets for pallets.

Objective B3: To improve the capacity of the forest sector to adapt to climate change and manage the risks associated with a changing climate

Several member States (Austria, Luxembourg, Poland, Turkey and United Kingdom) reported on the development of strategies “for the use of forests as tool for the adaptation of society and the environment to climate change”⁷ and the “risk management for forests at a national level and by forest region”⁸. They noted that integrating the forest sector into wider cross-sectoral plans to tackle climate change was key to ensure their effectiveness.

One activity reported under this objective was related to the development of wildfire monitoring and early warning capacities for integrated forest fire management. Extensive reporting on that topic was provided by the Global Fire Management Centre. It illustrated how multiple actors from different disciplines can successfully work on the development of participatory approaches in landscape fire management within international networks.

Objective B4: To promote the sequestration and storage of carbon in forest ecosystems and harvested wood products

Under this objective, several member States reported monitoring carbon stocks in forests (Georgia, Germany, Lithuania, Luxembourg and the United States).

The United States provided an interesting example on how the forest carbon is tracked in their country through the Forest Carbon Accounting Framework (FCAF). This new framework relies on the US Forest Service’s extensive forest inventory and related information. In the period of 1990-2015, the framework provided useful information, for instance on net forest sequestration per year and on forest area increase, based on the total forest carbon stock change.

Pillar C. Decent Green Jobs in the Forest Sector

Objective C0: To develop and communicate ambitious and realistic strategies for decent green jobs in the forest sector

Estonia and Poland reported on having undertaken a “review of the forest sector workforce, in order to recommend priorities and communicate their importance through stakeholder consultation”⁹. In addition, Poland reported on including gender aspects when addressing forest workforce issues in its National Forest Programme.

Objective C1: To ensure that the workforce has the necessary skills at all levels to carry out the increasingly complex tasks associated with sustainable forest management

Several member States reported on “investing in education and training in the forest sector”¹⁰. Activities included: the establishment of a forest education centre (Austria); training courses for

⁷ RAP Action B.3.7.

⁸ RAP Action B.3.8.

⁹ RAP Action C.0.1.

¹⁰ RAP Action C.1.5.



private forest owners (Lithuania); establishment of regional information centres for the public (Luxembourg); training to encourage the development of a skilled and adaptable workforce (Scotland, England) and; training to improve staff development and capacity within the Forestry Commission (United Kingdom).

GFMC reported the development of the EuroFire competency standards and training materials for fire management in fire institutions that did not have specialized services.

Objective C2: To reduce the levels of illness and injury experienced at present by the forestry workforce, taking into account the changes in technology and their implications for occupational health and safety due to the transition to the green economy

Health and safety of the forest workers are major concerns in many countries in the ECE Region although in recent years improvements to work safety were recorded. The mid-term review of the Rovaniemi Action Plan did not provide much light on activities of member States in this area.

Only Austria reported about some of its activities under this objective. They included enforcing the Workers Protection Act, which is at the basis of work on the safety and health of workers (the amendment to the Act was adopted in 2012), and undertaking two research projects: (i) on the identification of new technologies for avoiding accidents at work in the surroundings of vehicles, machines and devices in agriculture and forestry and; (ii) on exposure of forest workers to vibration caused by forest equipment and machinery.

Objective C3: To review the work methods used for harvesting and silviculture, determine whether they need to be improved and to ensure that best practice is applied everywhere

Under this objective, several member States reported developing best practices for forest operations. Austria included them in training curricula for foresters. Georgia shared their best practices in sustainable forest management and other silvicultural activities at various regional workshops (for example, under FLEG II programme). Luxembourg promoted certification and collective contracts for forest workers, and provided funds to public forest workers for safety clothing and forest machinery. Poland conducted research on (i) possibilities and limits of harvesting in deciduous forests (birch, oak, beech, black alder stands) and; (ii) on damages to round wood due to mechanised harvesting.

Activities reported aimed at sharing best practices for environmentally efficient, economically productive and safe forest operations, which are needed for sustainable forest management and supporting the sector's transition to a green economy.

Objective C4: To promote the use of tools to assess the socio-economic impacts of green economy policies on the forest sector

The mid-term review of the Rovaniemi Action Plan did not provide information on activities of member States or other stakeholders in this area.

Objective C5: To improve the situation of forestry education and identify present and future requirements for forestry professionals in the region, in order to get well prepared for future and emerging challenges for the sector

Several member States reported on measures to monitor the situation of forestry education, including the establishment of the National Forestry Education Strategy (Georgia), of the Forestry Training Centre (Austria) and of four regional information centres (Luxembourg).

The Russian Federation reported actions to improve forestry education, which included (i) the promotion of the profession; (ii) the establishment of a National Forest Knowledge Day since 2013; (iii) a contest on "best school forestry unit" (which covers 59 regions); (iv) the International Junior Forest Contest "Podrost", as well as; (v) professional forestry programmes in 47 universities of the country.



An interesting example on the development of new competences needed in the modern European furniture-making industry was reported by Poland. It pertains to the project “Furniture New European Skills 2020” which included: “the identification of development scenarios for enterprises of the furniture-making industry, the analysis of new skills needed by present and future employees, and the preparation of training modules using an Internet-based platform to improve the acquisition of new competencies in the European furniture-making industry”.

Pillar D. Long Term Provision of Forest Ecosystem Services

Objective D0: To develop and communicate ambitious and realistic strategies for the valuation of and payment for forest ecosystem services

Under this objective, Georgia reported elaborating Guidelines for Eco-Compensation Standards and payment for ecosystem services, including for other-than-timber forest use. The United Kingdom published a set of experimental Natural Capital Accounts for forestry and reviewed evidence on valuing the benefits of forestry to recommend priorities for future research and methodological improvements. Turkey introduced the “Honey Production Forests Action Plan” along with the “Urban Forests Action Plan”. It also conducted studies on bio-valuation and mapping of ecosystem services.

Objective D1: To support the assigning of economic value to non-marketed forest goods and services and to enhance the understanding and recognition of the public goods provided by forests

Activities under this objective were reported by Austria, Poland and the United Kingdom. These countries conducted various research on the valuation of forest goods and services and on the incorporation of values of forest ecosystems into national accounting frameworks. The United Kingdom also reported exploring the development of innovative financial mechanisms to finance forest benefits¹¹ and the development of corporate natural capital accounts for the public forest estate.

Countries noted that there is a need for further cooperation on data collection, dissemination and development of guidance for the valuation of forest ecosystem services in the context of a green economy.

Objective D2: To promote best practice in the development and implementation of Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) in order to ensure the continued provision of forest environmental services

Member States that reported on activities under this objective (Austria, Poland and the United Kingdom) incorporated the payment for ecosystem services (PES) into their national forest programmes and other sectoral strategies (e.g. Austria into its Rural Development Programme and the Austrian Forest Strategy 2020+).

An example on cooperation among forest owners and other stakeholders for the promotion of ecosystem services in forest ecotourism was submitted by Austria. A course on “Forest and Culture” was organised by the Forestry Training Centre Ort/Gmunden and grant opportunities were created by the Rural Development Programme to support a business-oriented utilisation of cultural values in the forests¹².

In the context of this objective, no information was reported on one other topic listed under this objective i.e. “development of guidance for policies and instruments that will provide a framework for PES”¹³.

¹¹ <https://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/inf-d-8rc1la>

¹² <https://bfw.ac.at/rz/bfwcms.web?dok=9582>

¹³ RAP Action D.2.3.



Objective D3: To review ways in which forests contribute to or endanger human health and well-being, and ascertain whether this information is properly incorporated into policies and practices

No information on activities of member States or other stakeholders in this area was reported.

Pillar E. Policy Development and Monitoring of the Forest Sector in Relation to a Green Economy

Objective E0: To develop and communicate ambitious and realistic strategies for governance and monitoring of the forest sector

Several members States reported on their activities supporting governance and monitoring of the forest sector. Austria conducted “the national review of the forest sector governance”¹⁴ through the Austrian Forest Dialogue, “in order further develop the way in which its forests are managed, to be able to reconcile the multiple interests in the use of forests for industry in the future, all government institutions, public and private interest groups, as well as any individuals interested in forests”¹⁵.

The United Kingdom reported on updating the UK Forestry Standard, which defines the approach of the UK government to sustainable forest management and provides a basis for the regulation and monitoring of forest management – including national and international reporting¹⁶. Poland reported including the requirement for a “review of the forest sector governance” in its National Forest Programme.

Objective E1: To review existing forest sector policy instruments in the light of the requirements of a green economy, and, if necessary, make proposals for a new approach, while improving synergies at the international level

Under this objective Poland and Austria reported conducting studies at the national level on policy instruments in place and their relevance to a green economy. They concluded that in the economic practice, there is a need for a systemic approach to the implementation of the principles of a green economy. Increasing awareness on the role of forests and wood raw material in a green economy requires continuing research and outreach to the public.

Turkey continues the alignment of its forest sector with the requirements of the green economy. It reported on planning to harmonise national forest regulations with the Rovaniemi Action Plan.

The Joint Section received no information about the implementation of possible activities related to “including the green economy as one of the main topics of the programmes of work”¹⁷ and “creation of European Forest Partnership on a voluntary basis to improve coordination and cooperation between international organisations in Europe”¹⁸.

Objective E2: To ensure that the forest information available is comprehensive and comparable, structured according to the regional criteria and indicators sets, at the appropriate spatial resolution for decision making, that analysis of the outlook makes it possible to assess the consequences of policy choices, and that policy makers make use of the best available information and analysis

Activities related to the implementation of objective E2 include ensuring the availability of information for forest resources assessments, conducting outlook studies as well as developing

¹⁴ RAP Action E.0.2.

¹⁵ <https://www.bmnt.gv.at/english/forestry/AustrianForestDialogue.html>

¹⁶ <https://www.forestry.gov.uk/ukfs>

¹⁷ RAP Action E.1.2.

¹⁸ RAP Action E.1.3.



capacity of member States to produce data and indicators for sustainable forest management and a green economy.

These activities have been assigned to international and regional actors in the ECE Region, such as the ECE-FAO Forestry and Timber Section, Forest Europe, the Montreal Process, the European Forest Institute and others. Their implementation is the result of long-term cooperation among these institutions, including on: the Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire, the pan-European reporting process and the State of Europe's Forest, and the Forest Outlook Studies.

Objective E3: To develop an agreed method for assessing sustainable forest management at the international level, based on criteria and indicator sets, and apply this method, to provide policy makers, particularly in the forest sector, with clear information on whether forest are being sustainably managed or not

Under this objective Poland and Austria reported assessing the sustainability of forest management at the national level. Austria reported that it prepared the "Sustainable Forest Management – Austrian Forest Report 2015" which assesses sustainable forest management according to the criteria identified in the national Forest Strategy 2020. Poland reported that it established 25 promotional forest facilities as part of the State Forest's policy on the promotion of sustainable forest management.

Activities related to "developing methodologies to assess sustainability of forest management at the international level"¹⁹ and "capacity building for reporting on sustainable forest management indicators"²⁰ have been delegated to ECE-FAO Forestry and Timber Section, Forest Europe, Montreal Process, European Forest Institute and other regional actors.

The Joint Section's activities reporting on sustainability of forest management have been reported to member States on a regular basis in line with the Work Areas of the ECE-FAO Integrated Programme of Work.

During the mid-term review of RAP no other stakeholders reported on their activities under this objective.

Objective E4: To improve communication with the public and policy makers about the forest sector's actual and potential role in the green economy and facilitate public participation in the debate on the green economy

Activities under this objective have been assigned mainly to international and regional actors. The Joint Section, being one of them, reported on its activities on a regular basis in line with the Work Areas of the ECE-FAO Integrated Programme of Work.

During the mid-term review of RAP no other stakeholders assigned to this objective reported on their activities.

Objective E5: To communicate lessons learned in the forest sector to other sectors, and to learn from other sector's experience

Poland and Austria reported on their activities to ensure the participation of forest stakeholders in cross-sectoral processes and initiatives related to the green economy. International stakeholders assigned to this objective provided no feedback on their activities.

The mid-term review of the Rovaniemi Action Plan summarised in this study conducted by the Forestry and Timber Section contributed directly to "monitoring of green economy developments in the ECE region"²¹ under this objective, by collecting information on voluntary contributions and case studies from member States and other relevant stakeholders.

¹⁹ RAP Action E.3.1.

²⁰ RAP Action E.3.4.

²¹ RAP Action E.5.1.



Under this objective, implementation of one other action on “establishment of cross-sectoral working groups with other green economy sectors and share experience”²² has not been reported during the mid-term review of RAP.

²² RAP Action E.5.4.



2. Activities of the ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section Supporting the Implementation of the Rovaniemi Action

The Joint ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section has not only been mandated to monitor the voluntary implementation of the RAP, but also to directly contribute to reaching its goal through undertaking various activities. This section offers a brief overview about activities implemented by the Joint Section.

Table 1: Overview of the objectives and possible actions of the RAP

Pillar	Objectives	Objectives the Joint Section contributed to	Possible RAP Actions	Actions the Joint Section contributed to
A: Sustainable production and consumption of forest products	8	7 (87.5%)	36	12 (33.3%)
B: The low carbon forest sector	5	3 (60%)	33	6 (18.2%)
C: Decent green jobs in the forest sector	6	4 (66.6%)	19	6 (31.6%)
D: Long-term provision of Forest Ecosystem Services	4	3 (75%)	15	3 (20%)
E: Policy development and monitoring of the forest sector in relation to a green economy	6	6 (100%)	25	12 (48%)
Total number of objectives and actions	29	23 (79.3%)	128	39 (30.5%)

The role of the ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section in supporting the implementation of the Rovaniemi Action Plan

The Joint Section has been supporting the implementation of the RAP in three ways:

1. It promoted the plan during various intergovernmental meetings, panel discussions and workshops.
2. As one of the possible actors, it has implemented the RAP through various activities. Out of a total number of 128 possible RAP actions, UNECE/FAO was indicated as lead actor for 30 actions, and for 24 actions as secondary or supporting actor. Through its various activities, the Joint Section addressed 80 per cent, respectively 71 per cent of the actions designated to UNECE/FAO as possible actor.
3. Through monitoring the implementation of the RAP.



Overview of the ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section Activities contributing to the implementation of the Rovaniemi Action Plan

The work of the Joint Section that contributed to the implementation of the RAP encompassed 36 different activities (some of them recurring publications, annual meetings or workshop series) as well as the work of various Teams of Specialists. These activities contributed to 39 out of 128 proposed actions (30.5%), or in other words, to reaching 23 out of 29 objectives (79.3%). Overall, the activities by the Joint Section contribute especially to actions under pillar A, C and E, as illustrated in table 1.

The activities of the Joint Section can broadly be grouped into 4 categories (see tables below for a detailed overview):

- **Publications** (14), including recurring publications, **contributed to 27 actions from all five pillars** (A: 8 | B: 5 | C: 4 | D: 4 | E: 6).
- **Intergovernmental meetings, policy and market dialogues** (4), including panels and market discussions at 2 COFFI sessions and 2 joint COFFI/EFC sessions, **contributed to 11 actions with a focus on pillar A and E** (A: 5 | B: 2 | D: 1 | E: 3).
- **Communication activities** (6), including the international Day of Forests or the European Forest Week, **contributed to 4 actions** (A: 2 | B: 1 | E: 1), **whereas the various activities contribute in different ways to reaching the RAP objectives.**
- **Workshops** (14), including workshops under the two UNDA projects "Sustainable Forest Management for Greener Economies in the Caucasus and Central Asia" (2013-2015) and "Accountability Systems for Sustainable Forest Management in the Caucasus and Central Asia" (2016-2019), **contributed to 18 actions under pillars A, C and E, with a strong focus on objectives C.1 and E.2** (A: 4 | C: 6 | D: 2 | E: 8).



Overview over the four groups of activities of the Joint Section

Publications

Activity Title	Year	Obj.
Forest Products Annual Market Review (FPAMR)	Annually	A.0.2
		A.1.1
		A.4.1
		A.4.3
		A.7.2
Joint Wood Energy Enquiry + Database	2013, 2015	B.1.2
		B.1.1
The Value of Forests, Payments for Ecosystem Services in a Green Economy	2014	D.0.1
		D.2.1
Forest Resource Assessment + Database	2015	A.3.1
		B.4.2
		C.1.1
		C.2.2
		E.2.1

Forests in the ECE Region	2015	A.3.1 E.2.4
Contributions to Environmental Performance Reviews of four countries	2015-2016	E.0.1
Promoting sustainable building materials and the implications on the use of wood in buildings	2016	A.5.1
		A.6.4
		B.1.4 E.4.2
Pilot project on the System for the Evaluation of the Management of Forests (SEMAFOR)	2017	A.3.1 E.3.1
Wood Energy in the ECE region	2018	B.1.2
		B.1.7
Forests and Water: Valuation and Payments for Forest Ecosystem Services + Database	2018	D.0.1
		D.1.1
		D.2.1
Study on Forest Sector Workforce	2018	C.0.1
Study on Green Jobs in the Forest Sector	2018	C.5.1
Mid-term review of the Rovaniemi Action Plan	2018	E.5.1
Outlook Study	Forthcoming	E.2.1

Communication Activities

Activity Title	Year	Obj.
International Day of Forests (21 March)	Annually	A.0.3
		A.4.1
		B.1.7
		E.4.1
Video "Forests in the ECE Region: Trends and Challenges in Achieving the Global Objectives on Forests"	2015	E.4.1
3rd European Forest Week (Switzerland)	2015 2017	E.4.1
Video "More Heat with Less Wood"	2016	A.0.3 B.1.7
Press releases		B.1.7
Articles		B.1.7

Workshops

Activity Title	Year	Obj.
UNDA project "Sustainable Forest Management for Greener Economies in the Caucasus and Central Asia"	2013- 2015	E.0.4
		E.1.2
Contribution to the Forest Europe Workshop on Green Economy and Social Aspects of Sustainable Forest Management	2014	C.0.1
		C.0.2
		C.1.1
		C.1.2
		C.2.1 C.2.2
Workshop on Forest Products Statistics for National Statistical Correspondents	2014	E.2.2
Capacity-building for national reporting under JFSQ, JWEE, FRA and pan-European reporting	2014, 2016	E.0.4
		E.3.4
More Heat with Less Wood	2015	A.0.3
Forest Products Markets and Forest Sector Workforce in the Balkans	2015	A.7.1
		C.0.1
Threats to sustainability of the Forest Sector Workforce	2015	C.1.2
Meetings of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Forest Sector Statistics	2015, 2016	E.2.2
Bioenergy from the Forest Sector - Capacity Building for Information	2016	E.2.2
Measuring the Value of Forests in a Green Economy	2016	E.2.3
		E.5.1
Forests, water and ecosystem services	2016	D.0.1
		D.2.1
UNDA project "Accountability Systems for Sustainable Forest Management in the Caucasus and Central Asia"	2016- 2019	A.3.1
		E.0.4
		E.2.3
		E.2.4
		E.3.2 E.3.4
Promoting Green Jobs in the Forest Sector	2017	C.1.2
National Wood Resource and Product Balances	2017	A.0.2
		E.2.2

Intergovernmental meetings, policy and market dialogues

Activity Title	Year	Obj.
Committee and Commission session market and other panel discussions	Annually	A.4.1
		A.4.3
		A.6.4
		B.1.4
		B.3.1
		D.0.1
		E.2.3
Joint Sessions of COFFI and EFC: Integrated Programme of Work 2014-2017; Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work 2018-2021	2013, 2017	E.1.2
National Forest Policy Dialogue, Ukraine	2016	E.0.2
Roundtable on Forest Certification	2017	A.1.1 A.1.2



The contribution of the Joint Section to the five pillars of the Rovaniemi Action Plan

Pillar A: Sustainable production and consumption of forest products	
Goal: Patterns of production, consumption and trade of forest products are truly sustainable	
Objectives Contributed to	7 out of 8 (87.5%)
Actions contributed to	12 out of 36 (33.3%)
Activities	
Publications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Products Annual Market Review (FPAMR) • Forest Resource Assessment + Database • Forests in the ECE Region • Promoting sustainable building materials and the implications on the use of wood in buildings • Pilot project on the System for the Evaluation of the Management of Forests (SEMAFOR)
Intergovernmental meetings, policy and market dialogues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee and Commission session market and other panel discussions • Roundtable on Forest Certification
Workshops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More Heat with Less Wood • Forest Products Markets and Forest Sector Workforce in the Balkans • UNDA project "Accountability Systems for Sustainable Forest Management in the Caucasus and Central Asia" • National Wood Resource and Product Balances
Communication Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Day of Forests (21 March) • Video "More Heat with Less Wood"
Results achieved	
<p>The activities by the Joint Section:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoted sustainable consumption of forest products and the related services, showcased and promoted the innovative and efficient use of wood, including fibers, wood as construction material and wood as source of energy. • Increased awareness of member States and stakeholders about sustainable patterns of production, consumption and trade of forest products. 	
Sample Activity	
<p>The Forest Products Annual Market Review (FPAMR) provides general and statistical information on the forest products markets in the UNECE Region of Europe, North America and the Commonwealth of Independent States. Thus, it offers information about patterns of production, consumption and trade of forest products and describes the current economic situation. For instance, the FPAMR 2016-2017 reviews some key issues that contribute to a green economy, namely innovation in the sector, forest policies, forest certification and green buildings.</p>	



- With regards to innovation, the FPAMR focuses on latest developments contributing to a green economy, such as liquid biofuel, carbon markets or new products made of hardwood cross-laminated timber, glulam and laminated veneer lumber.
- The chapter on forest policy outlines the link between forest products and forest policy. In the context of a green economy, the chapter addresses trade policies, due diligence and legal wood supplies, bioenergy policies, forest certification, climate change and carbon markets, green building, environmental product declarations, and deforestation policies.
- The FPAMR also reports on developments of forest certification. Certified forest products provide consumers with third-party verification that the forest products they purchase conform with commonly held concepts of sustainability and legality. Thus, forest certification is one tool to ensure that raw material is sourced from sustainably managed forests, which may contribute to a green economy.
- On green buildings, the FPAMR highlights that remodelling and new housing construction and sales are essential components of the economy in most countries, which is why much research is directed towards the housing sector. Housing is usually considered a primary indicator and driver of the overall economy, thus plays a key role in driving a green economy.

Overall, the FPAMR outlines latest developments of the forest sector, which allows policy makers and other stakeholders to tailor their activities to making a contribution to a green economy.

Activities not addressed so far

Activities of the Joint Section addressed all 11 possible RAP actions designated to UNECE/FAO.



Pillar B: The low carbon forest sector	
Goal: The forest sector makes the best possible contribution to mitigation (sequestration, storage and substitution) of, and adaptation to, climate change	
Objectives Contributed to	3 out of 5 (60%)
Actions contributed to	6 out of 33 (18.2%)
Activities	
Publications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Products Annual Market Review (FPAMR) • Joint Wood Energy Enquiry + Database • Forest Resource Assessment + Database • Promoting sustainable building materials and the implications on the use of wood in buildings • Wood Energy in the ECE region
Intergovernmental meetings, policy and market dialogues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee and Commission session market and other panel discussions
Communication Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Day of Forests (21 March) • Video "More Heat with Less Wood" • Press Releases • Articles
Results achieved	
<p>The activities by the Joint Section:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoted the use of use of low carbon energy and materials over high-carbon/non-renewable alternatives, for example, in buildings, as well as the efficient use of wood energy to make a contribution to climate change. • Offered a comprehensive overview over the developments in wood energy through publications and collected data of the Joint Wood Energy Enquiry. The bi-annual intervals allowed for monitoring of long-term developments. • Promoted innovative and traditional use of wood in construction. • Increased awareness of the relevance of wood energy in the region and disseminated information about developments in wood energy with regards to the forest and energy sectors. 	
Sample Activity	
<p>The UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section, with the encouragement of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, and in collaboration with the International Energy Agency (IEA), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the European Commission (EC) launched a "Joint Wood Energy Enquiry" in June 2006.</p> <p>Wood energy data are often scattered or lost within renewable energy statistics, making it difficult to assess and evaluate the real role of wood as a renewable source of energy. The Enquiry aims at improving knowledge and understanding of wood energy consumption and tries to shed light on the potential and future perspective of wood energy in the region. It collects data of both sources and uses of wood and promotes cooperation between the energy and forest sectors, providing a comprehensive framework on the role of wood energy in member States.</p> <p>This information promotes the efficient use of wood energy, hence the use of low carbon material. Improved use of wood energy does not only contribute to a low carbon economy, but also strengthens the local economy and creates jobs in rural areas.</p>	



Activities not addressed so far

- B.1.4: [...] Establish targets for the use of wood in construction.
- 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.
- B.3.2: Promote international cooperation and experience sharing on the development of specific adaptive management regimes.



Pillar C: Decent green jobs in the forest sector	
Goal: The workforce is able to implement sustainable forest management, and the forest sector contributes to achieving the social goals of the green economy by providing decent jobs	
Objectives Contributed to	4 out of 6 (66.6%)
Actions contributed to	6 out of 19 (31.6%)
Activities	
Publications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Resource Assessment + Database • Promoting sustainable building materials and the implications on the use of wood in buildings • Study on Forest Sector Workforce • Study on Green Jobs in the Forest Sector
Workshops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution to the Forest Europe Workshop on Green Economy and Social Aspects of Sustainable Forest Management • Forest Products Markets and Forest Sector Workforce in the Balkans • Threats to sustainability of the Forest Sector Workforce • Promoting Green Jobs in the Forest Sector
Results achieved	
<p>The activities by the Joint Section:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided information and data on forests and forest industry, for example, FRA and pan-European reporting contributed to improve monitoring and analysis of the forest-sector workforce, including gender aspects, occupational safety and health of the forest-sector workforce. • Highlighted the need for improvement of information related to the social dimension of SFM and provided specific recommendations on each of its aspects. 	
Sample Activity	
<p>The study on the Forest Sector Workforce (to be published in 2018) was prepared based on the existing data and the overview of literature on the following aspects of the forest sector employment: age, gender, minorities, occupation risks and safety measures, health and well-being of forest workers, organisational and social aspects of the forest work. The study provides a comprehensive overview of different aspects of the forest sector workforce. In this way, the study contributes to sharing information about the forest sector workforce, which may allow for the identification of areas requiring attention of policy maker in order to achieve the social goals of the green economy.</p>	
Activities not addressed so far	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C.1.5: Increase investment in the education and training of contractors, forest workers and forest owners as well as key personnel along the processing stages (operators, engineers, designers, developers, architects etc.). • 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. • C.3.1: Develop and share best practice for environmentally efficient, productive, safe and sustainable forest operations. 	



- C.3.2: Identify changes in forest operations which might be necessary for sustainable forest management (workshop).
- C.3.3: Review challenges and dilemmas connected to forest operations (reconciling different management goals, mobilizing sufficient operational capacity for sustainable forest management).
- 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.
- C.5.2: Monitor the situation of forestry education and stimulate exchange between member States on this matter.



Pillar D: Long term provision of Forest Ecosystem Services	
Goal: Forest functions are identified and valued and payments for ecosystem services (PES) are established, encouraging sustainable production and consumption patterns	
Objectives Contributed to	3 out of 4 (75%)
Actions contributed to	3 out of 15 (20%)
Activities	
Publications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Value of Forests, Payments for Ecosystem Services in a Green Economy Forests and Water: Valuation and Payments for Forest Ecosystem Services + Database
Intergovernmental meetings, policy and market dialogues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee and Commission session market and other panel discussions
Workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forests, water and ecosystem services
Results achieved	
<p>The activities by the Joint Section:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offered insights into and reviewed approaches to the valuation of and payment for ecosystem services schemes, with one focus being forests' hydrological functions. Increased awareness about the need to address how to harmonize the methodology and definitions used and which services to be covered. 	
Sample Activities	
<p>In 2014, the Joint Section, jointly with UNEP, published the study paper “The Value of Forests, Payments for Ecosystem Services in a Green Economy” based on their knowledge on forest ecosystem services and cooperation with other partners.</p> <p>The study reviews approaches to the valuation of and payment for different forest ecosystem services as it explores the range of forest environment services through fourteen detailed case studies, which examine best practice in promoting PES. Political and public relations implications of PES are discussed at length, and recommendations include the need for clarity about where PES may be a useful tool in moving towards a green economy and where other methods may be more appropriate.</p> <p>During the Working Party, the secretariat organized a roundtable discussion on “Approaches to the valuation of forest ecosystem services in the ECE region”, contributing to the overall goal of pillar “D” of the Rovaniemi Action Plan that “forest functions are identified and valued and payments for ecosystem services (PES) are established, encouraging sustainable production and consumption patterns”.</p> <p>Approaches to the valuation of and payment for different ecosystem services were shared by member States and stakeholders. The roundtable allowed for thorough discussion on the matter. Participants of the roundtable found that the value of wood products account for more than 80% of the monetised value generated. The issue of valuing ecosystem services is receiving increasing policy attention. Despite many scientific studies undertaken in the field of valuing ecosystem services, data are often not of sufficient quality of coverage for use in national or international statistics. The roundtable recognized that there are many important values that are not currently incorporated in the valuation system and many challenges remain. Generally, participants stressed the need to discuss how to harmonize the methodology and definitions used and which services to be covered.</p>	



Activities not addressed so far

- D.2.5: Capitalize on success stories for PES in the forest sector and use them to raise public awareness.



Pillar E: Policy development and monitoring of the forest sector in relation to a green economy	
<p>Goal: Policies and institutions relevant to the forest sector promote sustainable forest management; policy making is evidence-based, policy instruments are effective, efficient and equitable and monitoring is adequate in order to mainstream the green economy in forest sector policies.</p>	
Objectives Contributed to	6 out of 6 (100%)
Actions contributed to	12 out of 25 (48%)
Activities	
Publications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Resource Assessment + Database • Forests in the ECE Region • Pilot project on the System for the Evaluation of the Management of Forests (SEMAFOR) • Mid-term review of the Rovaniemi Action Plan • Outlook Study
Intergovernmental meetings, policy and market dialogues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee and Commission session market and other panel discussions • Committee and Commission sessions (Integrated Programme of Work 2014-2017 and Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work 2018-2021) • National Forest Policy Dialogue, Ukraine
Workshops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshops under the UNDA project "Sustainable Forest Management for Greener Economies in the Caucasus and Central Asia" • Workshop on Forest Products Statistics for National Statistical Correspondents • Capacity-building for national reporting under JFSQ, JWEE, FRA and pan-European reporting • Meetings of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Forest Sector Statistics • Bioenergy from the Forest Sector - Capacity Building for Information • Workshops under the UNDA project "Accountability Systems for Sustainable Forest Management in the Caucasus and Central Asia" • National Wood Resource and Product Balances
Communication Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Day of Forests (21 March) • Video "Forests in the ECE Region: Trends and Challenges in Achieving the Global Objectives on Forests" • 3rd European Forest Week (Switzerland, 2015) and 4th European Forest Week (Poland, 2017)
Results achieved	
<p>The activities by the Joint Section:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased the capacity of national experts to collect and provide usable data for indicators for sustainable management, harvested wood products and wood energy in the UNECE region and increased capacities to implement sustainable forest management, forest protection and to monitor progress in its implementation. • Included the green economy as one of the main topics of the Integrated Programme of Work 2014-2017 and the Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work 2018-2021. 	



Sample Activities

In 2013, the Joint Section launched a two-year capacity-building project on “Sustainable Forest Management for Greener Economies in the Caucasus and Central Asia” to enhance the contribution of the forestry sector to greener economies through sustainable forest management. The project provided training and advisory services to government officials responsible for the forestry sector, to NGOs, academia, private sector and other stakeholders from forest-related sectors.

The project enhanced the capacity of countries in the Caucasus and Central Asia to increase the potential of their forest sector in "greening" the economy. This activity fell under the Work Area 4 "Capacity-Building" as specified in the Integrated Programme of Work 2014-2017.

The UNDA project “Accountability System for Sustainable Forest Management in the Caucasus and Central Asia” supports the development of national forest reporting systems in the CCA. A functioning reporting system for SFM enables countries to monitor progress on SFM and its implementation. This project assists 5 countries to develop such monitoring or reporting systems. The development of monitoring or reporting systems based on the set of criteria and indicators by countries enhances the capacity of countries to implement sustainable forest management, and forest protection and monitor progress in its implementation.

The Joint Section launched a publication on “Forests in the ECE region: Trends and Challenges in Achieving the Global Objectives on Forests” as a regional contribution to the session of the United Nations Forum on Forests held in May 2015 in New York. The study examines progress of the forest sector in the ECE Region towards the achievement of the four Global Objectives on Forests, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2007. Based on this assessment as well as the forest sector outlooks and policy commitments by ECE member States, thirteen major challenges for the forest sector in the region are identified and analysed. This allows member States and stakeholders to focus on the challenges related to achieving the Global Objectives on Forests.

The Integrated Programme of Work 2014-2017 includes the green economy related to "Linkages between sustainable forest management and a green economy, including: the contribution of forest products and services to a green economy; decent green jobs and employment in the forest sector" (paragraph 2) and addresses monitoring and assessment of components of priority activities identified in the Rovaniemi Action Plan (paragraph 12). The Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work 2018-2021 encompasses in its scope "The contribution of the forest sector in the transition towards a green economy, forest products and ecosystem services, employment and other socio-economic aspects; including economic viability of the sector" (paragraph 2.1). The green economy is reflected in all 4 Working Areas of both Integrated Programmes of Work.

Activities not addressed so far

- E.0.5: Review gender aspects of the forest sector in the green economy, starting from the conclusions and recommendations of "Time for action: changing the gender situation in forestry" by the ECE/FAO team of specialists on women in forestry, 2006, and develop further actions as appropriate.
- 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.
- E.1.3: Create European forest partnership on a voluntary basis to improve coordination and cooperation between international organizations in Europe.
- E.5.4: Establish cross-sectoral working groups, develop contacts with other green economy sectors, and share experience (also international) and identify success factors.