

Forests and Green Jobs

Side Event

12th Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF12)

Programme

4 May 2017, 13.15-14.45

ECOSOC Chamber, United Nations Headquarters
New York, United States



Scope and objectives

The Pan-European and North-American regions are rich in forest resources with a forest area of 1.89 billion hectares – an astounding 41.4% of the global total, and the majority of the global wood based production. There is increasing recognition of the value of natural capital and forest ecosystem services, as **forests in this region provide numerous economic, social and environmental benefits to people.**

The **persistent declines in forest sector employment throughout the traditional forestry occupations** in the Pan-European and North-American regions have reduced forest economic benefits for local communities as well as the employee income level. In addition, although production volumes have been relatively stable, wood harvesting and forest products industries are subject to ongoing productivity gains from technology development, leading to a decline in forestry jobs.

These trends challenge the forest sector but can also offer opportunities, as **forest derived goods and services contribute much more to society than their reported value.** These opportunities can be enhanced by the transition towards a green economy and the path to sustainable development.

Therefore, despite the declining trends in traditional economic activities in the forests of the region, the lifestyle and needs of the population in the region encourage **the development of economic activities in new forest occupational areas, such as recreation, eco-tourism, well-being services and other activities not related to wood production.** In addition, **forest management activities, based on the principles of sustainable forest management, increasingly recognise social values** in forest planning and monitoring activities, especially in urban and peri-urban forests, as a way of enhancing the lives of urban populations through the provision of environmental and social benefits.

The **social aspects of sustainable forest management, including the promotion of green forest jobs** were highlighted in **Madrid Ministerial Resolution 1** adopted at the FOREST EUROPE Seventh Ministerial Conference, held in 2015. Furthermore, the **Rovaniemi Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy**, adopted by the UNECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI) and the FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC) in 2013, outlines actions to strengthen decent green jobs in forest sector and their particular social aspects.

Scope and objectives

The UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section and FOREST EUROPE invite you to a side event on “Forests and Green Jobs” during the 12th session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF12), on 4 May 2017 from 13.15 to 14.45 in the ECOSOC Chamber at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. This side event will address how the forest workforce can adapt to the trends in the forests sector to enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits of forests.

The event will analyse the current trends in the forest sector workforce and discuss options for the sector to “greening” its workforce and for the development of new skills required for these jobs. Finally, it will showcase how the collaboration of stakeholders at the regional level can trigger policy solutions for the sustainability of forest jobs, which would contribute to the continuous provision of forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits.

The event will feature:

- An overview of social aspects of the forest sector workforce in view of the implementation of the Rovaniemi Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy and the Madrid Ministerial Resolution
- An analysis of existing and future green jobs in the forest sector
- The presentation of activities on social aspects of sustainable forest management, the forest sector workforce and the promotion of forest green jobs in the FOREST EUROPE process
- The presentation of regional cooperation activities among International Labour Organization (ILO), United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and FOREST EUROPE in the area of green jobs in the forest sector
- A discussion on the promotion of green jobs in forest sector in the Pan-European and North-American regions

Speakers will include experts from international organisations and governments.

Delegates will be invited to make interventions on green jobs trends and policies developing in their countries and activity areas.



Programme

Friday 4 May

- 13:15 - 13:20 Opening remarks by UNECE and FAO, *Ms. Eva Müller, Director of the Forest Economics, Policy and Products Division, Food and Agricultural Organization*
- 13:20 - 13:25 Opening remarks by FOREST EUROPE, *Ms. Ludmila Marusakova, Head of the Liaison Unit Bratislava, FOREST EUROPE*
- 13:25 - 13:40 Social aspects of the forest sector workforce, *Ms. Paola Deda, Chief of the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section*
Questions from the floor
- 13:40 - 13:55 Green jobs in the forest sector, *Mr. Diarmuid McAree, Deputy Leader of the UNECE/FAO/ILO Team of Specialists on Green Jobs in the Forest Sector*
Questions from the floor
- 13:55 - 14:10 Promoting forest green jobs and the social dimension of sustainable forest management in the FOREST EUROPE process, *Ms. Ludmila Marusakova, Head of the Liaison Unit Bratislava, FOREST EUROPE*
Questions from the floor
- 14:10 - 14:20 Regional cooperation among ILO, UNECE, FAO and FOREST EUROPE in the area of green jobs in the forest sector, *Mr. Ekrem Yazici, Deputy Chief of the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section*
- 14:20 – 14:40 Comments from the floor
- 14:40 - 14:45 Closing of the session

Ms. Liubov Poliakova, Head, International Cooperation, Science and Public Relations Division of the State Forest Resources Agency of Ukraine, will moderate the event.

The meeting will be held in English.

The provisional programme and the meeting documents will be available on the meeting webpages at:

<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=45640#/>

<http://foresteurope.org/event/11852/>

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