



FORESTS IN THE ECE REGION

Trends and challenges in achieving the global objectives on forests



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Outline

Background

Progress towards the global objectives in the ECE Region

Challenges and opportunities





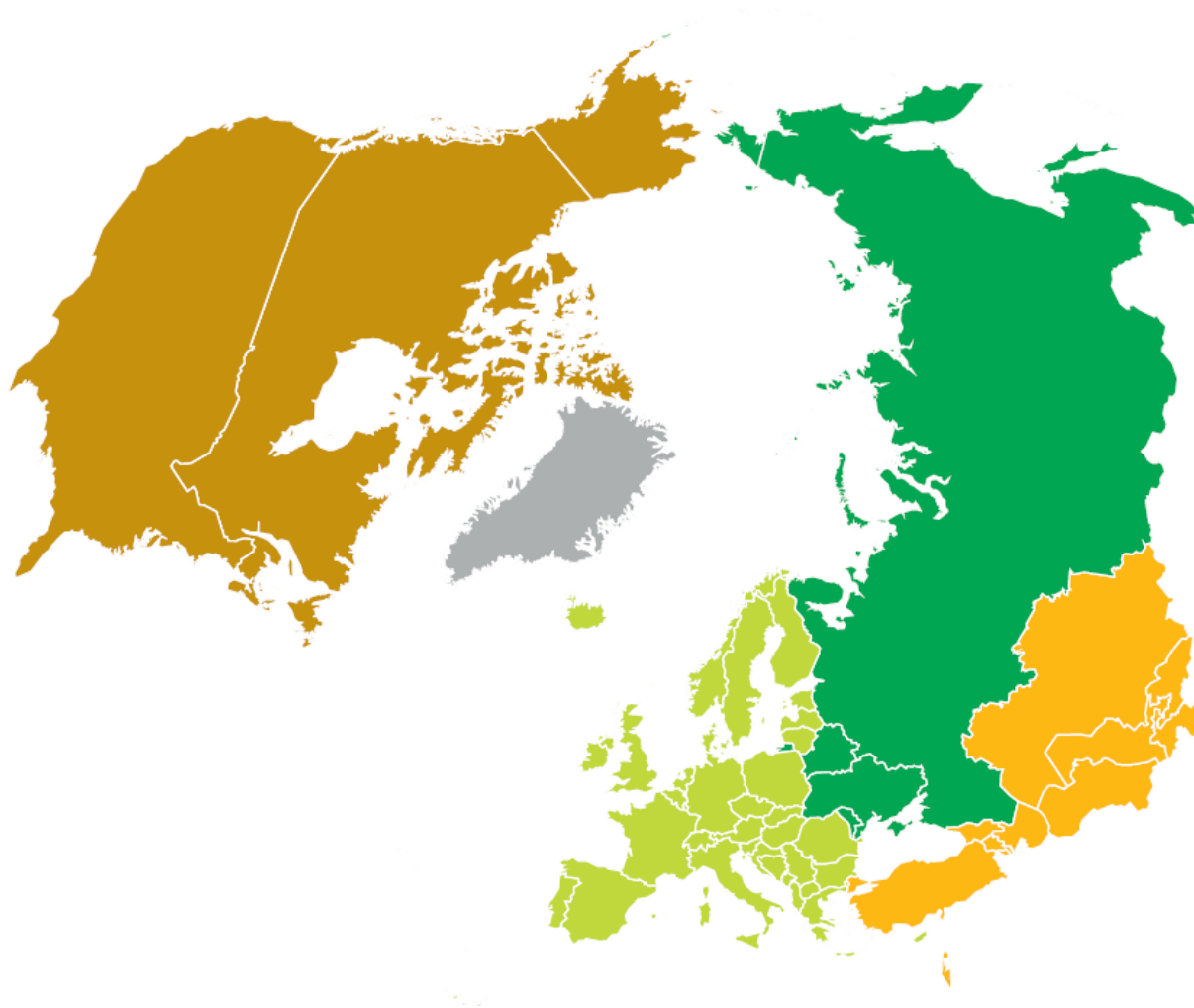
Background






- A contribution to UNFF11, which is reviewing progress towards the global objectives, and considering the post 2015 international forest regime in May 2015
- Mandate from ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI) and FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC)
- Work led by a small expert team, reviewed by countries
- Uses best available data (no special enquiry): FAOSTAT, FRA 2010, pan-European reporting, national data and other sources
- Thanks to Governments of Finland, Germany, Russia, Switzerland, USA, as well as to expert community
- The study breaks down the global objectives into questions which can be answered in an objective way





The ECE Region



-  ECE East
-  ECE Central
-  ECE South-East
-  ECE West
-  Other





Contributors

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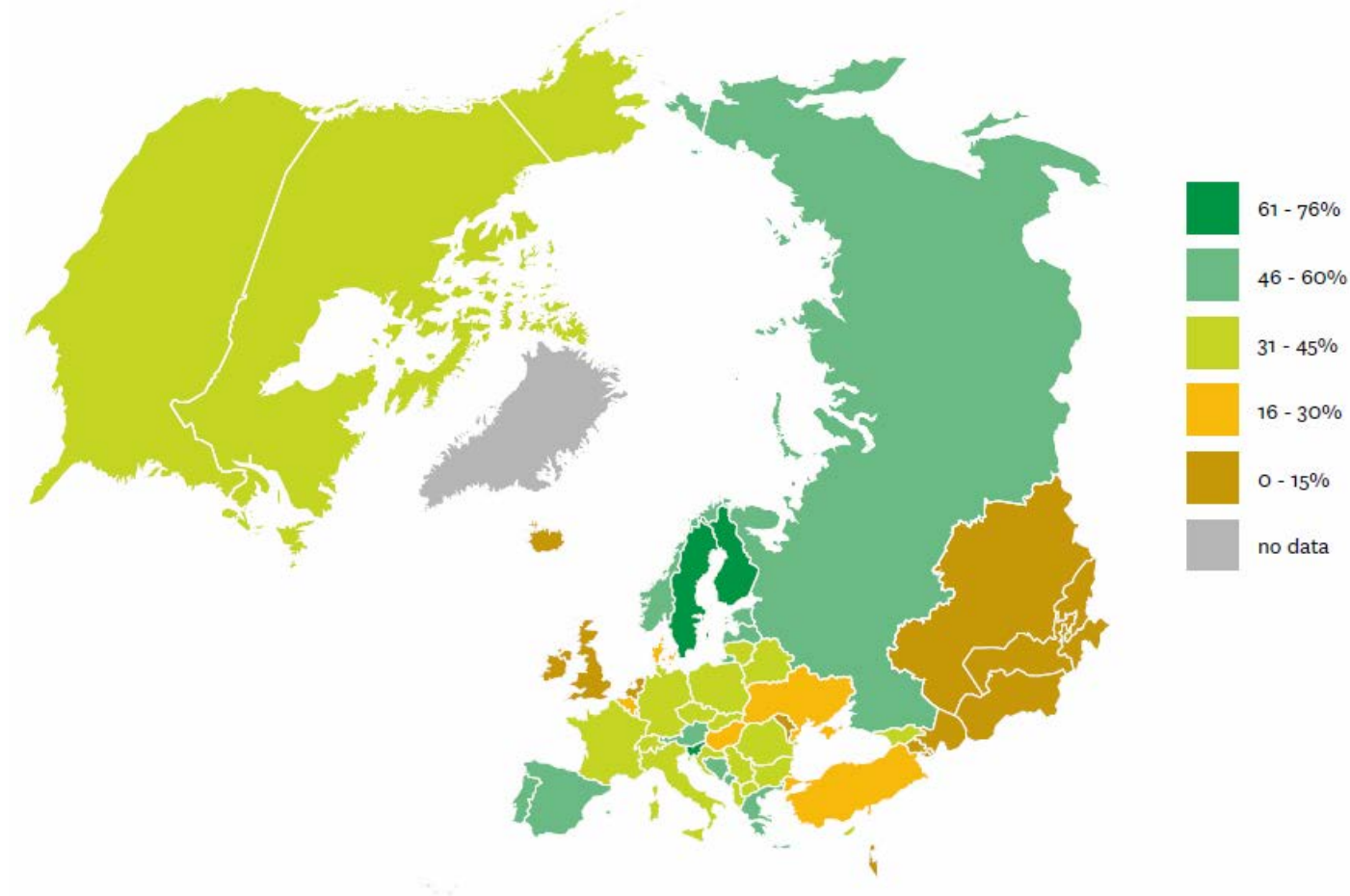


Global objective 1:

reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation



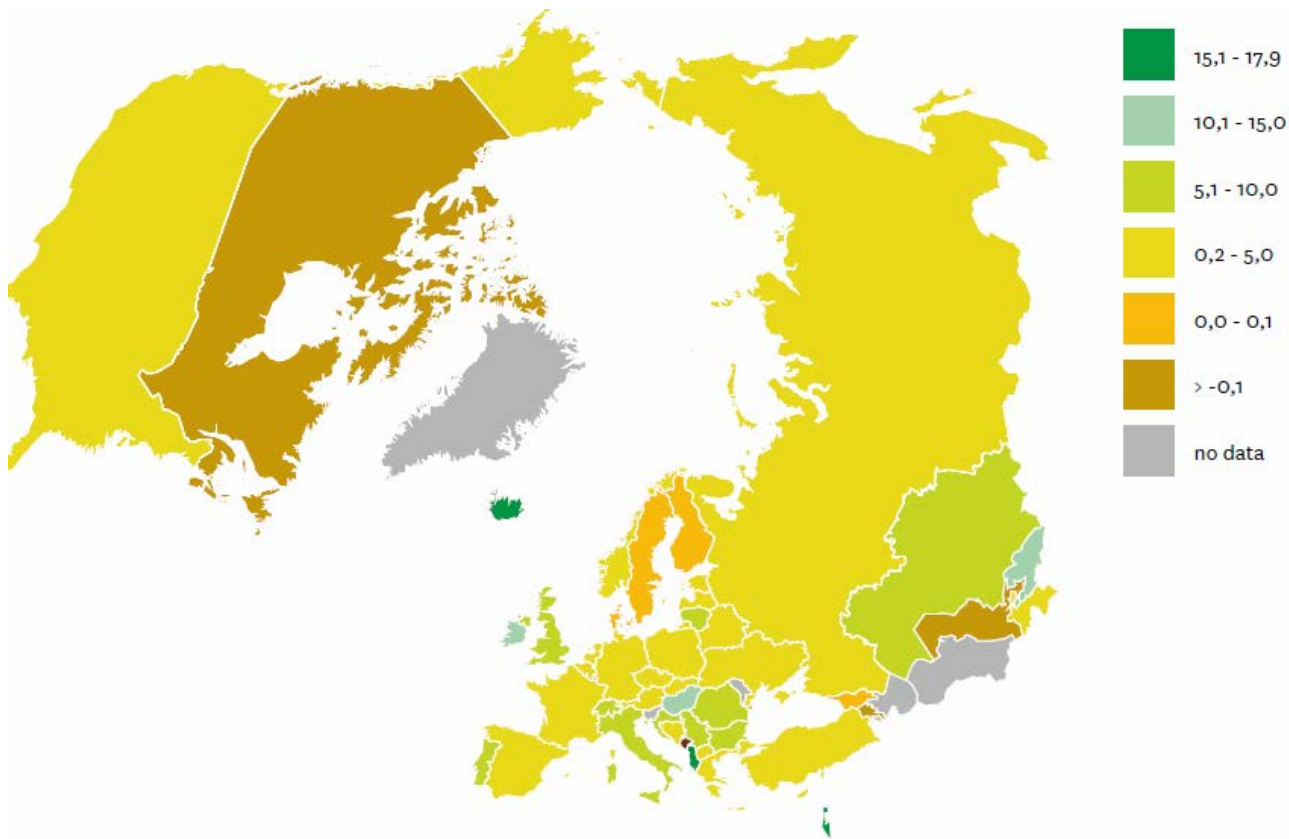
Forest cover 2015: a wide range



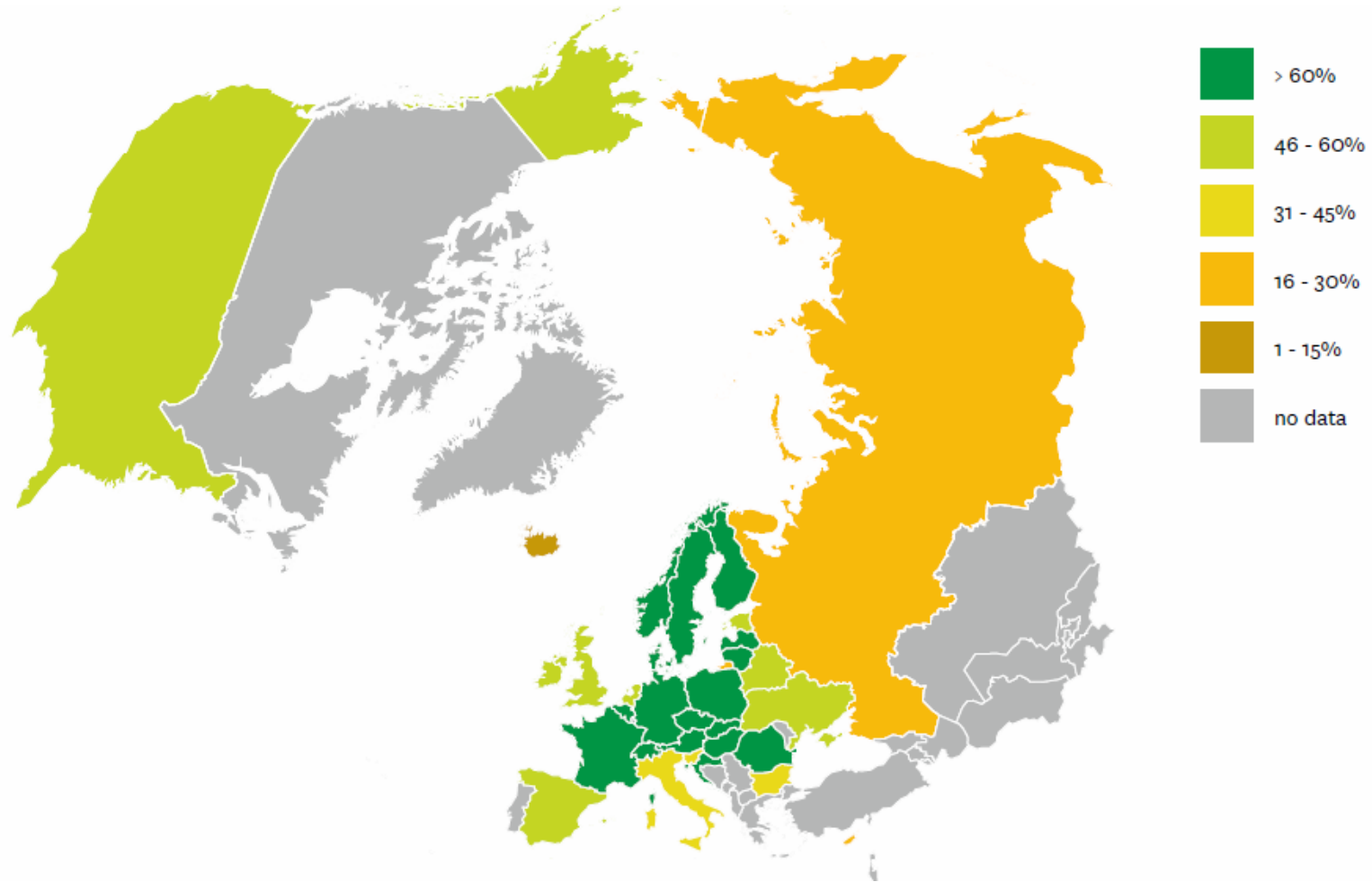
Has forest cover expanded or declined?



ECE Region forest land area increased by 28 million ha (1.8%) between 2000 and 2015. See map (% change 2000-2015)

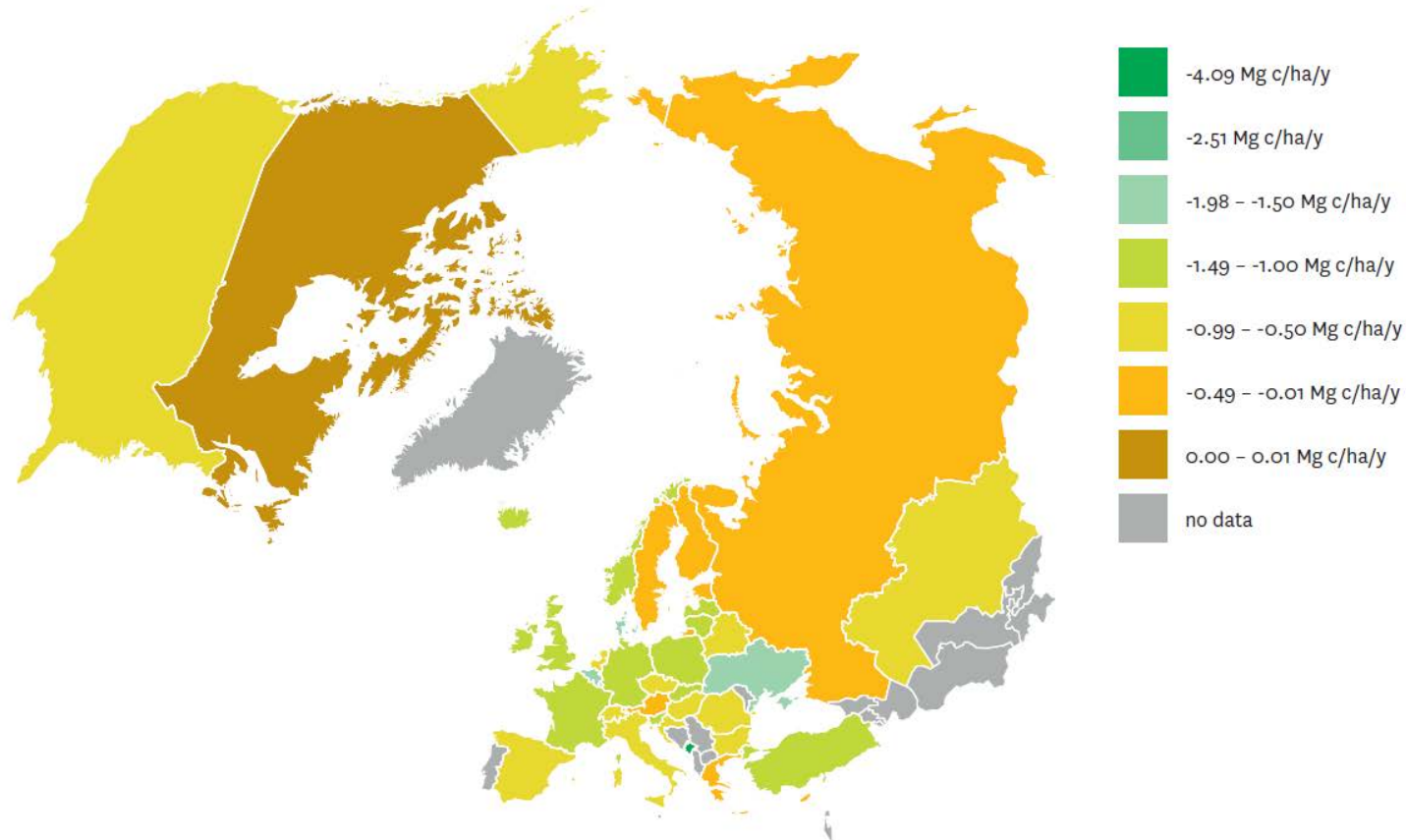


Ratio of fellings to net annual increment, 2010



What are the major forest-related biomass and carbon stocks and flows?

C stock in forests: 64.3 Gt, in products >5 Gt. Forest biomass sink: 255 million tons C/year. Map: per ha living forest biomass sink, 2012





What is the area of sustainably managed forest?

Three approaches to measuring area of sustainable managed forest:

- Management plans: 80% of ECE Region forests are already covered by a management plan or equivalent
- Certification: 383 million ha under PEFC and/or FSC, + 52% in 7 years . 88% of world's certified forests are in the ECE Region
- Criteria and indicators processes: membership of processes such as Montréal Process and FOREST EUROPE is an indication of policy concern for SFM. Almost all ECE countries are members of one or more processes.

Conclusion: sustainable forest management is important to governments and forest managers, and there has been significant progress in demonstrating SFM





How much « forest degradation »?

Major problems of definition and measurement, but:

- Growing stock/hectare rising (indicates overcutting not widespread)
- Damage by fire (6-7 million ha/year)
- Insects and diseases (>30 million ha)
- Weather events becoming more frequent
- Fragmentation due to urban expansion
- Pollution by mining, nuclear radiation, war (e.g. landmines)



Global objective 2:

enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest dependent people



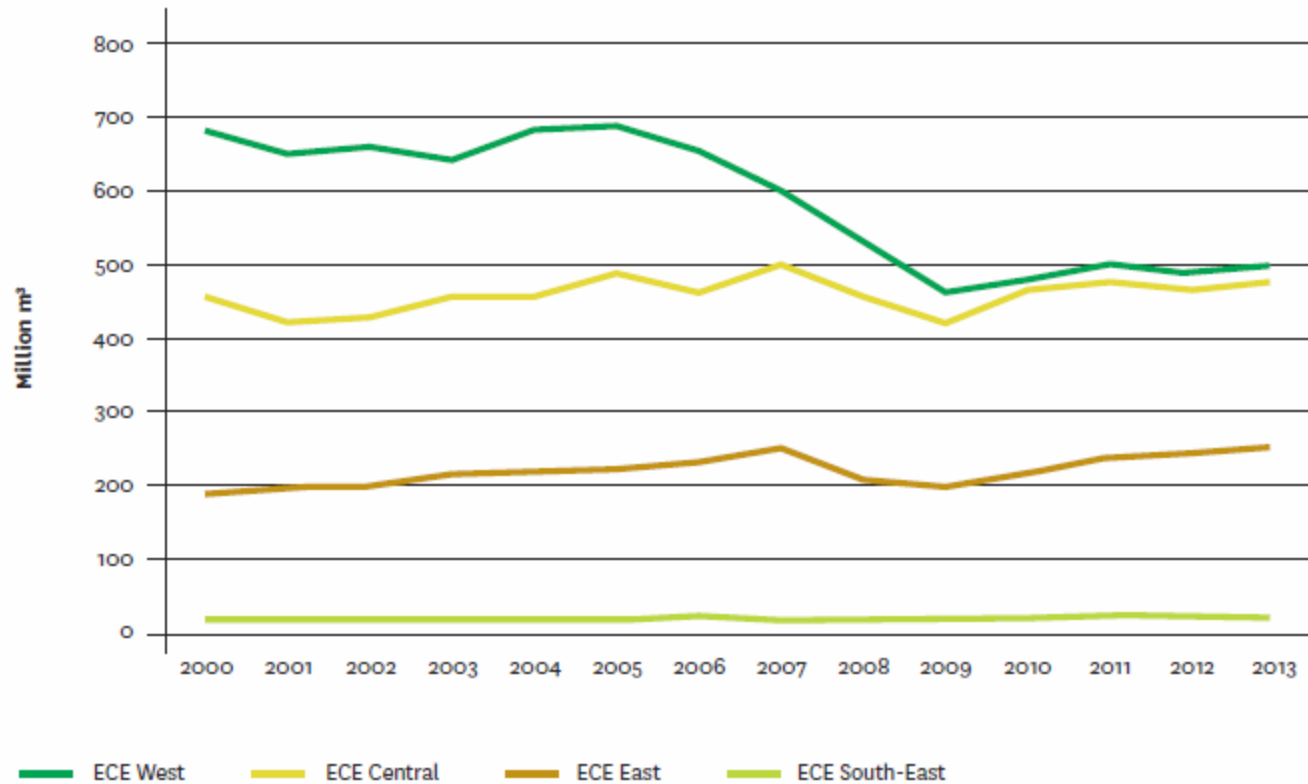


Have economic benefits from ECE forests increased or decreased?

- Total income generated by the forest sector has declined 23 percent since 2000
- Employment in the forest sector has fallen by a similar amount, with particularly sharp declines in ECE West following the 2008 recession
- Though very difficult to measure, economic activity associated with forest-based recreation and tourism has likely increased significantly
- Forest remain a source for non-wood forest products

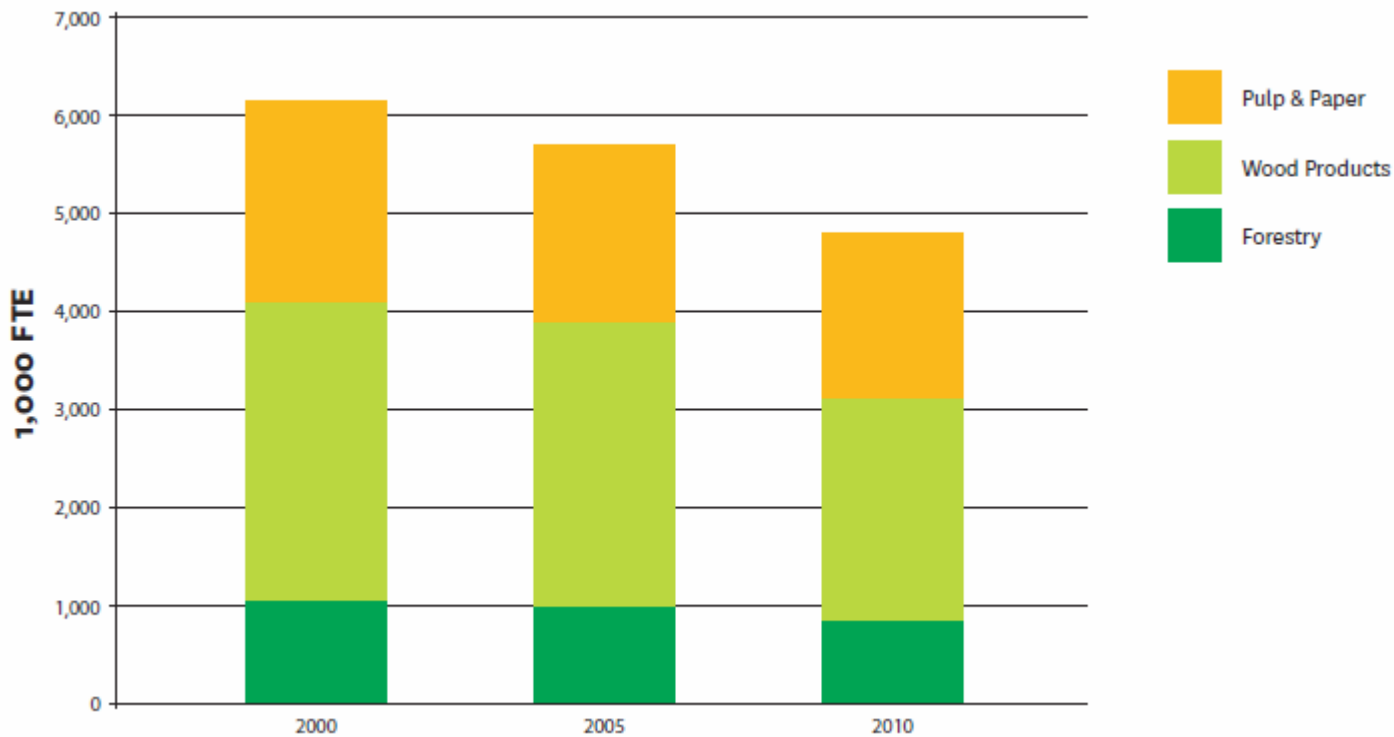


Removals are stable (except ECE West)

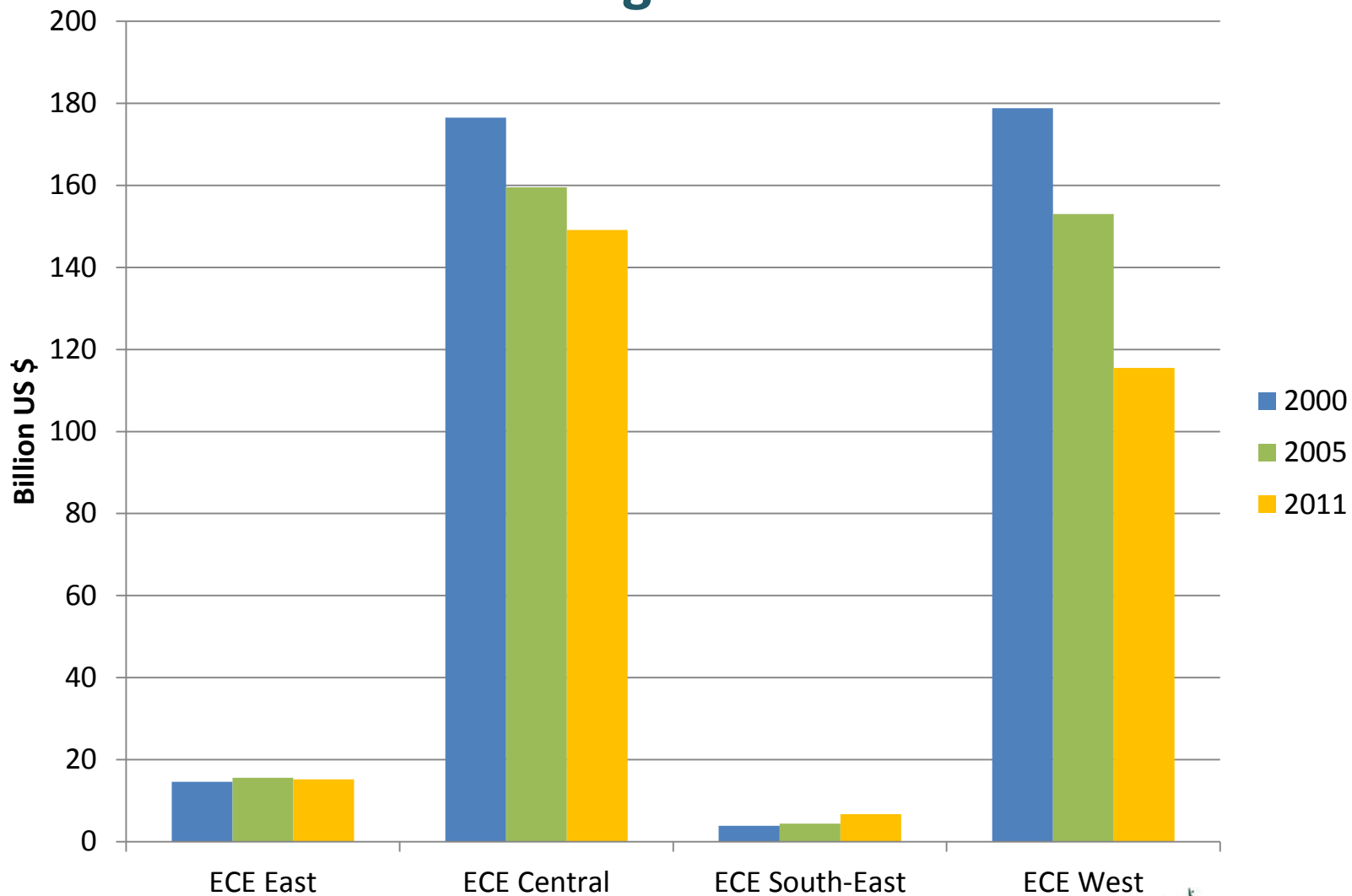


But employment is falling

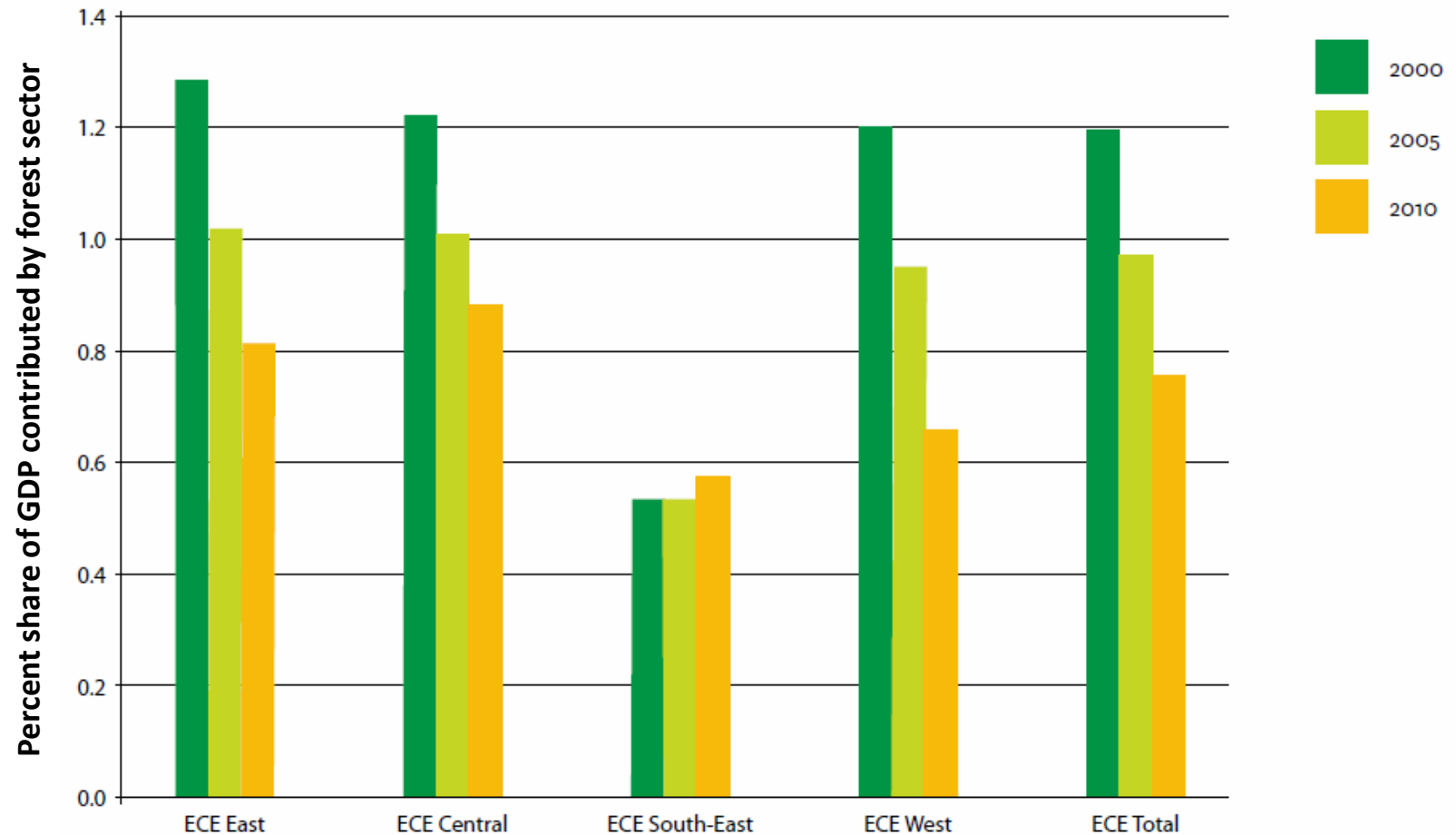
ECE region, forest sector



Total income generated by the sector is also falling



And so is the share of GDP contributed by the sector





Have social benefits from ECE forests increased?

Precise definition and quantitative measurement is difficult, but:

- Significant increases in the use of forests by citizens is likely given increases in population, income and mobility
- The social benefits of forests are increasingly considered in forest planning and management activities
- However, forest degradation and biodiversity loss may compromise the provision of social benefits
- Safety and health of workers are an ongoing cause of concern





Have environmental benefits from ECE forests increased?

- Area of protected forest increasing
- Environmental benefits are increasingly considered in forest planning and management activities
- Conservation credit exchanges and payments for ecosystem services are much discussed but still relatively rare in practice
- Elevated forest disturbance processes and forest fragmentation from development are threatening forest biodiversity and the provision of environmental benefits





Have livelihoods of forest dependent people improved?

- Long-term declines in forest employment were significantly accelerated by the 2008 recession (particularly in ECE West)
- The fall in employment is especially damaging to remote forest-dependent communities.
- Rural depopulation and endemic poverty affect many remote forest communities
- Issues with indigenous peoples involving land ownership, traditional rights, and poverty are ongoing
- Many forest owners have small holdings that lack economies of scale and therefore economic viability





Does the forest sector contribute to climate change mitigation?

- Forests sequester carbon and store it over long periods. Over ten years, ECE forests sequestered about 13 billion tons carbon, worth about \$130 billion*
- Wood products store carbon over their life in use
- Forest products may substitute for non-renewable materials
- Wood energy may substitute for fossil fuels
- There is potential to develop all of these strategies, but trade-offs with other forest management objectives (e.g. biodiversity conservation) must be considered

* *At \$10/ton carbon*



Global objective 3:

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





Has the area of forests protected for biodiversity conservation increased?

- The area of forests protected for biodiversity has increased over 20 years, to about 12% in 2015
- In some ECE countries, international commitments, notably the Aichi targets, are being approached, but in others much remains to be done
- Integrated forest management approaches, emphasizing biodiversity, have expanded in the ECE Region
- There is more deadwood standing and lying in ECE Region forests





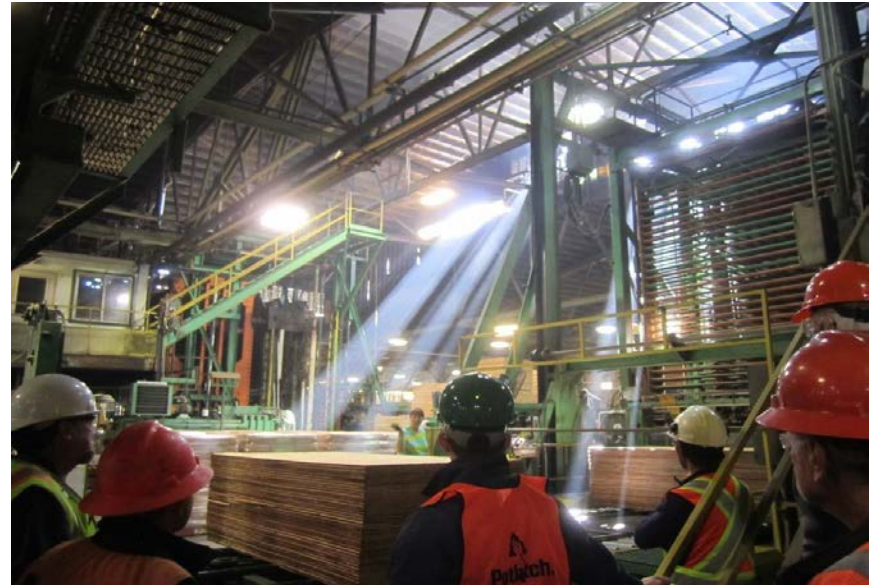
Has the share of consumption of products from sustainably managed forests increased?

- Estimated supply of wood from certified forests has increased strongly (+30% between 2007 and 2013)
- Number of chain-of-custody certificates has grown even faster
- Public sector initiatives (EUTR, Lacey Act) are promoting consumption of sustainably produced wood products and discouraging unsustainably produced products
- Green public procurement rules have been changed to allow, in some circumstances, preference for sustainably produced products, such as wood
- Green building initiatives, green private procurement



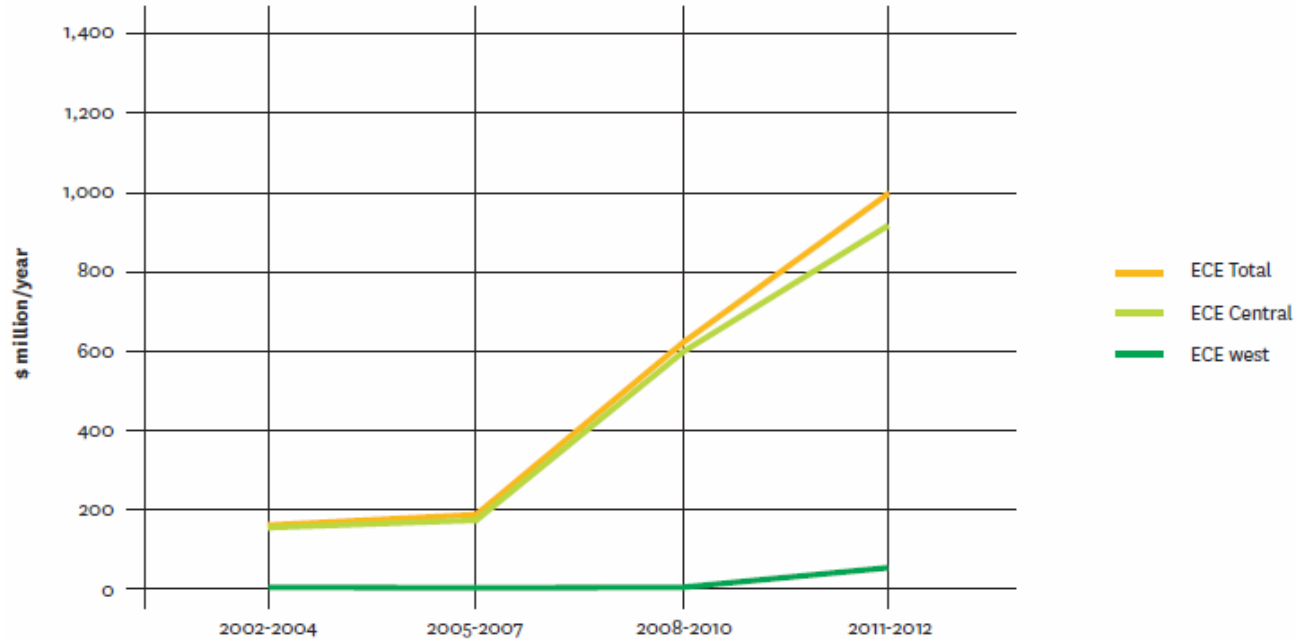
Global objective 4:

reverse the decline in official development assistance for sustainable forest management and mobilize significantly increased, new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of SFM





What are the trends for official development assistance for SFM?



This does **not** include multilateral ODA, or forest related ODA under other headings such as climate change (REDD+) which have also increased





What financial resources, from all sources, have been supplied for SFM inside the ECE Region?

- **Domestic public** financing: budgets for state forest organisations (when not self-supporting), support to R&D, transfer payments (subsidies) to private owners
- **Payment for environmental services** being developed slowly
- Most private financing is from **forest owners themselves**, notably through revenue from wood sales
- Investment from **private financial institutions** (TIMOs, pension funds etc.) is rapidly growing in importance.





Challenges and opportunities for the ECE Region in implementing the Global Objectives





Challenges and Opportunities 1/3

- 1. Protect the forests**
- 2. Contribute to climate change mitigation through carbon sequestration and storage in forests and products, and through substitution.**
- 3. Mobilise significantly more wood for energy, on a sustainable basis**
- 4. Exclude all unsustainably produced forest products from ECE Region markets, while helping countries outside the region to fight illegal logging and other unsustainable practices**
- 5. Promote the consumption of sustainably produced forest products**



Challenges and Opportunities 2/3



- 6. Take the lead in developing the green economy, sharing experience with other sectors, and learning from them**
- 7. Put the forest work force on a sustainable basis, dramatically improving safety and health of forest workers, and providing necessary skills for a changing world**
- 8. Continue to help countries in other regions achieve sustainable forest management**
- 9. Seek mechanisms to finance forest functions on a fair and sustainable basis, for example through valuation of forest benefits and payment for ecosystem services**



Challenges and Opportunities 3/3



- 10. Build capacity throughout the ECE Region**
- 11. Develop a culture of innovation, in the face of structural change**
- 12. Address the social and economic problems of forest dependent people in the ECE Region – remote rural communities, indigenous peoples and forest owners**
- 13. Maintain and improve forest biodiversity, through protected areas and active management**





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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

FORESTS IN THE ECE REGION

TRENDS AND CHALLENGES
IN ACHIEVING THE
GLOBAL OBJECTIVES ON FORESTS



UNITED NATIONS

For more information please visit:
www.unece.org/forests/forestresources/welcome.html

