



CONCEPT NOTE

Promoting synergies: Sustainable Land Management, Forest Financing and the SDGs

A UNCCD COP 14 Side Event

Thursday 12 September 2019, 13:00 – 15:00 hrs, ROOM MET-07

India Expo Centre and Mart, New Delhi, India

INTRODUCTION

The role of forests in combating desertification/land degradation and drought (DLDD), achieving land degradation neutrality (LDN) and sustainable land management (SLM) is undeniable. Forests affect rainfall patterns and support freshwater availability, provide wood for fuel and other human needs, are home to 80% of terrestrial biodiversity, sequester carbon and offset greenhouse gas emissions. Activities to achieve LDN targets, to scale up and facilitate effective financing for combating DLDD and achieving SLM are directly linked to implementation of the 2030 Agenda and achieving the SDGs. In order for such activities to be accelerated and amplified, cross-sectoral coordination between natural resource sectors, including forests is of vital importance.

In 2017, the UN General Assembly adopted the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2030 to provide a global framework to sustainably manage forests and trees outside forests. At the heart of the Strategic Plan are six Global Forest Goals and 26 associated targets to be achieved by 2030, which support the objectives of the International Arrangement on Forests and aim to contribute to progress on the SDGs, the Rio conventions and other international forest-related instruments, and processes.

Recognising the importance of means of implementation, the Plan calls for a combination of actions to mobilize resources, by all stakeholders and from all sources, public and private, domestic and international, bilateral and multilateral. In this regard, the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network (GFFFN) of the UN Forum on Forests, works to facilitate access to and effective use of funding for forests, including through sharing data and best practices on forest financing. The network helps countries to mobilize resources for sustainable forest management and implementation of the Strategic Plan by facilitating access to existing and emerging financing mechanisms including the Global Environment Facility, the Green Climate Fund, the LDN Fund and other sources.

At the 14th session of the UN Forum on Forests in May 2019, the need to enhance coordination and communication in the implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests, the Paris Agreement, the post-2020 biodiversity framework and land degradation neutrality initiatives was highlighted. Given that mobilizing financing for sustainable development is a priority action area for all segments of the development community and one possible way of improving synergies between UNFF, the UNCCD and SDGs could be through collaboration between the UNFF GFFFN and the resource mobilization strategies under the Rio Conventions, as well as in the context of the GEF-7. Other areas of collaboration include sharing data on forest financing



OBJECTIVE AND KEY ISSUES

The UNFF Secretariat has a long-standing relationship with the UNCCD Secretariat, through the Collaborative Partnership of Forests (CPF), as well as bilaterally through its MoU signed at COP13 in Ordos, China. This side event will aim to promote greater awareness of the potential synergies with the work of the GFFN, the Global Forest Goals of the UNSPF 2030, land degradation neutrality and the SDGs, as well as the Secretariats of the UNFF and UNCCD. A new UNCCD brochure on “Forest and trees at the heart of land degradation neutrality” will also be launched at the side event.

Presentations at the side event will address the following issues:

- What measures has your government/organization taken to integrate the GFGs and targets into your sustainable land management policies and programmes?
- How can we enhance the role of forests in combating desertification/land degradation and drought and achieving land degradation neutrality?
- How can forest policies and actions, be better aligned with sustainable land management policies and actions, and vice versa?
- How to promote greater collaboration between the GFFN and the UNCCD’s resource mobilization and information/data sharing activities?
- How can the CPF and its members help enhance cooperation and coordination on SFM and SLM?

PANELISTS

Featured speakers include:

- Mr. Khalid Cherki, Vice-Chair of the UNFF14/15 Bureau, Chief of Studies, Programing and Cooperation Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Rural Development, Water and Forests, Government of Morocco
- Mr. Noyal Thomas, Inspector General of Forests, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India
- Mr. Gustavo Fonseca, Director of Programs, Global Environment Facility (GEF) Secretariat and Vice Chair of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF)
- Mr. Sasha Alexander, Policy Officer, UN Convention to Combat Desertification Secretariat
- Dr. Marieta Sakalian, Senior Programme Management Officer, Coordinator, Healthy and Productive Ecosystems Programme, UN Environment Programme
- Mr. Godwin Kowero, Executive Secretary -CEO, African Forest Forum

Mr. Hossein Moeini-Meybodi, Senior Programme Management Officer, UNFF Secretariat will moderate the panel.

OUTCOME

Key points and proposals emerging from this discussion will be shared with the upcoming 15th session of UN Forum on Forests in May 2020.

FOCAL POINT

All inquiries about this side event should be addressed to Ms. Mita Sen, UNFF Secretariat, at sen@un.org.