



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



CONCEPT NOTE | UN Forum on Forests COP25 Event

Realizing Forest-based Climate Actions: Global Forest Goals, SDGs & the Paris Agreement

Wednesday 11 December 2019, 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

SDG PAVILION @ PAVILION 8, UNFCCC COP25, MADRID, SPAIN

BACKGROUND

Sustainably managed forests play an essential role in regulating and stabilizing the global climate. Through their ecosystem services, forests and trees are a key determinant of local, regional and global precipitation and temperature patterns. There is a growing body of evidence that sustainably managed forests significantly contribute to sustaining food and water security. The world's forests also constitute a vital part of the carbon cycle, absorbing, recycling and storing large amounts of carbon dioxide, thus regulating the accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

At the 2019 Climate Action Summit, 65 countries and sub-national economies committed to cut greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050, including through nature-based solutions such as forests. Under the Paris Agreement, 80% of the Nationally-determined Contributions (NDCs) include land use, land-use change, and forestry-related actions in their commitments to mitigation and 58% include specific policies and measures for forestry.

The UN Strategic Plan for Forests (UNSPF) 2030 serves as a reference for the forest-related work of the UN system to achieve its Global Forest Goals (GFGs) and targets. The UNSPF 2030 and its GFGs provide a framework for forest-related contributions to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and other international forest-related instruments, processes, commitments and goals. The Strategic Plan was crafted by the UN Forum on Forests in January 2017, and subsequently adopted by the UN General Assembly in April 2017.

Since its adoption in 2017, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) has taken significant steps to integrate the UNSPF 2030 into its work, including through the adoption of the CPF Policy Document and the CPF Work Plan 2017-2020, which is aligned with the UNSPF and the Forum's 4POW 2017-2020. The CPF is also preparing its strategic vision towards 2030 in support of the UNSPF 2030. Several CPF member organizations have also made steady progress in integrating the UNSPF 2030 and the GFGs into their work.

This UNDESA SDG Pavilion event will highlight the essential role of sustainably managed forests in accelerating achievement of the SDGs and the objectives of the Paris Agreement, as well as the role and contributions of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and its member organizations to protect and restore forests in implementing the 2030 Agenda, the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2030 and the Paris Agreement.



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OBJECTIVE

To showcase forest-based actions and solutions to climate change, as well as forest-based commitments and contributions to the coherent implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement.

MODALITIES

The presentations by the panelists will be followed by an interactive discussion with participants to share experiences and propose actions for implementing the SDGs, Paris Agreement, and the Global Forest Goals.

TARGET AUDIENCE

Delegates and participants at UN Climate Change Conference COP 25 in Madrid, Spain.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- How can forest-based climate solutions be applied, replicated and upscaled to accelerate the progress in the Paris Agreement, SDG13 and the Global Forest Goals?
- How are the activities of the CPF and its member organizations contributing to the achievement of the Paris Agreement, SDG13 and the Global Forest Goals?
- What measures can be taken to strengthen the involvement and contributions of non-CPF partners and stakeholders in advancing the progress towards the achievement of the Paris Agreement, SDG13 and the Global Forest Goals?

SPEAKERS AND PANEL

Keynote address

- **LIU ZHENMIN**, UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs

Opening remarks

- **MARIA HELENA SEMEDO**, FAO Deputy Director-General for Climate and Natural Resources

Moderator

- **TIINA VAHANEN**, Chief of FAO Forestry Policy and Resources Division, on behalf of the Chair of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests

Panellists

- **GERHARD DIETERLE**, Executive Director, International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)
- **MARTIN FRICK**, Senior Director for Policy and Programme Coordination, UNFCCC Secretariat
- **MICHAEL KLEINE**, Deputy Executive Director, International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO)
- **JAMISON ERVIN**, Manager for Global Programme on Nature for Development, UNDP