



CONCEPT NOTE | UNFF Secretariat Side Event on Forests

Towards strengthening forest-based climate actions beyond 2024

14 November 2022, 2:30-3:30pm Egypt time

UN-DESA SDG PAVILION AT COP27, SHARM EL SHEIKH, EGYPT

Introduction

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. Despite their importance to combat climate change, the full potential of forests continues to remain untapped.

In accordance with the provisions of ECOSOC resolutions 2015/33 and 2021/6, the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) will conduct a midterm review (MTR) of the effectiveness of the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF) in achieving its objectives at UNFF19 to be convened in 2024. The review will consider, among others, the effectiveness of the work of the UNFF and its Members and progress made in the implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests (UNSPF) and its Global Forest Goals (GFGs), including contributions of forests to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The first global stocktake (GST) of the implementation of the Paris Agreement is also currently underway and will conclude at UNFCCC COP28 in 2023 with the aim to assess the global progress towards achieving the purpose of the Agreement and its long-term goals¹. The GST facilitates the assessment of global collective progress on mitigation, adaptation, and means of implementation and support. The outcomes of the GST will inform countries on updating and enhancing, in a nationally determined manner, their climate actions and support, as well as on enhancing international cooperation for climate action.

Objective

The UNFF Secretariat side event aims to seize the opportunities provided in the ongoing preparations for the IAF MTR and the GST of the Paris Agreement, and identify forest-based actions to be undertaken by countries and stakeholders beyond 2024 in support of the implementation of the UNSPF 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 enhancing forest-based climate actions. The event will be held in an in-person format. The event will be held in English.

Target audience

Delegates and participants at the UN Climate Conference COP27. All attendees must be accredited through their own delegation/entities.

¹ <https://unfccc.int/topics/global-stocktake>

Questions for discussion

- How can forest-based climate solutions be applied, replicated and upscaled to accelerate the progress in the implementation of the Paris Agreement, and achievement of the SDGs and the Global Forest Goals?
- What forest-based climate policies and measures should be strengthened through the midterm review of the International Arrangement on Forests and the global stocktake of the Paris Agreement?

Programme of the event

2:30-2:35 - Opening remarks

- **Mr. Li Junhua**, UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs (video message)

2:35-2:40 - Keynote address

- **H.E. Ambassador Zéphyrin Maniratanga**, Chair of the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Session of the UNFF

2:40-3:25 – Panel discussion

Panellists:

- **Ms. Florika Fink-Hooijer**, Director-General for Environment, European Commission
- **Mr. Agustín Ávila Romero**, Director General of Policies for Climate Action, Mexico
- **Mr. Peter Nduati**, Deputy Chief Conservator of Forests, Kenya
- **Mr. Dheeraj Mittal**, Assistant Inspector General of Forests, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, India
- **Mr. Donald Cooper**, Director of the Transparency Division, UNFCCC Secretariat

Moderator:

- **Ms. Juliette Biao**, Director of the UNFF Secretariat

3:30 – Closing

Registration

Those COP27 delegates and participants who wish to attend this event can register at: https://forms.microsoft.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=2zWeD09UYE-9zF6kFubccM_qSctTp5FuwDDr4exvkBUOTFQQ1pKUUtFTUNWUktBRVBUNjl2VkpMMC4u

Contact person

Mr. Ryo Nakamura, UNFF Secretariat/UN DESA, nakamura@un.org