



CONCEPT NOTE

**Dialogue with CPF Heads and UNFF partners on:
Achieving globally agreed goals on forests, climate change, and biodiversity
Item 6 - High-level segment, including a forest partnership forum with the Collaborative Partnership on
Forests, non-governmental organizations, and private sector chief executive officers**

Thursday 9 May 2024, 3:00-5:30 PM, CR 4, UNHQ, New York

I. Background

The world is battling against the effects of multiple global crises. These include climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, global economic inflation, increased commodity prices, armed conflicts, and instability, exacerbating poverty, hunger, malnutrition, and gender and socioeconomic inequalities. These global crises negatively impact natural resources, including forests, and human health and well-being, particularly in the most vulnerable communities.

According to the World Meteorological Organization, 2023 was the warmest year on record¹. In 2023, extreme heat impacted health and helped fuel devastating wildfires. Intense rainfall, floods, and rapidly intensifying tropical cyclones left a trail of destruction, death, and substantial economic losses. Moreover, as per the United Nations Environment Programme's "State of Finance for Nature 2023"², close to \$7 trillion is invested globally each year in activities that have a direct negative impact on nature from both public and private sector sources - equivalent to roughly 7 percent of global Gross Domestic Product.

In the face of these interlinked crises and the multiple benefits of forests to address them, there has been growing recognition in various intergovernmental fora of the need to accelerate action to halt and reverse the continued trend in deforestation, forest degradation, and unsustainable consumption and production practices, which continue to threaten forests' essential economic, social, environmental, and cultural values. All four goals and 23 Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework targets are linked to forests. In particular, target 2 is the restoration of 30 percent of all degraded ecosystems by 2030, and target 10 aims to sustainably manage forestry and other areas under agriculture, aquaculture, and fisheries by 2030. In December 2023, the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change adopted a decision on the outcome of the first global stocktake. It emphasized the importance of conserving, protecting, and restoring nature and ecosystems towards achieving the Paris Agreement temperature goal. This can be done by protecting terrestrial and marine ecosystems acting as sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases and by conserving biodiversity, including by halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation by 2030, in alignment with the Global Forest Goals (GFGs) of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests (UNSPF) 2030³.

¹ <https://wmo.int/news/media-centre/wmo-confirms-2023-smashes-global-temperature-record>

² <https://www.unep.org/resources/state-finance-nature-2023>

³ A/RES/71/285 and E/RES/2017/4

Forests are pivotal for achieving most, if not all, of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and, when sustainably managed, may positively contribute to climate change adaptation and mitigation, biodiversity conservation, and land restoration. The UNSPF's GFGs are aimed at supporting the achievement of globally agreed-upon forest goals, including those in the Paris Agreement and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

The UNSPF is a reference framework for the United Nations system's forest-related work, fostering enhanced coherence, collaboration, and synergies among United Nations bodies and partners. It also serves as a framework to strengthen the coherence of and guide and focus the work of the international arrangement on forests and its components. It includes a target to increase forest area by 3% worldwide by 2030, signifying an increase of 120 million hectares. It builds on the vision of the 2030 Agenda, recognizing that real change requires decisive, collective action within and beyond the UN System.

Promoting and implementing Sustainable Forest Management worldwide will not only advance the achievement of the GFGs but also contribute to the accomplishment of the SDGs and globally agreed goals in climate change and biodiversity. Since the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) comprises sixteen international organizations with substantial programs on forests and given the importance of including civil society's views and ideas in discussions of themes related to the planet's health, this dialogue provides an excellent opportunity to discuss strategy and action aimed at reversing the current situation.

Finally, the importance of the UNFF partners cannot be overemphasized. According to the UNSPF, regional and subregional bodies and processes provide a crucial bridge between international policies and national actions and are important partners in implementing the strategic plan and achieving its global forest goals and targets. Moreover, the effective implementation of sustainable forest management depends on the contributions of all relevant stakeholders, including forest owners, indigenous peoples, local communities, local authorities, the private sector (including small, medium, and large forest-based enterprises), non-governmental organizations, women, children, youth, and scientific, academic, and philanthropic organizations at all levels.

II. Objectives

The main objectives of the Dialogue are to identify transformative policies and actions that can accelerate progress towards achieving the globally agreed goals and targets on forests, climate change, and biodiversity through joint and individual efforts by the CPF and its member organizations, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector.

III. Programme and Modalities of the Dialogue

The discussions will be conducted by two Moderators who will pose each of the following questions to one speaker.

- How can sustainable agriculture and agroforestry be reconciled with sustainable management and conservation of forests while increasing food production?
- What actions and steps can we take to ensure that trade in forest products and tree species is legal and sustainable in support of the Global Forest Goals, the SDGs, and other globally agreed-upon goals on forests, biodiversity, and climate change?
- How do sustainably managed tropical forests help mitigate many global crises?
- How can science and information change the behavior of producers and consumers?
- What changes and steps are required to mobilize additional finance to invest in forests to harness their full potential to meet globally agreed goals?

- What are the main challenges countries encounter in adopting national forest legislations that address domestic issues, such as law enforcement, and the triple planetary crisis?
- What role can the forest-related private sector play in supporting governments in combatting deforestation, biodiversity loss, land degradation, and the adverse effects of climate change?
- How can forest-related regional and subregional entities contribute to implementing the UN Strategic Plan for Forest and achieving the Global Forest Goals, the SDGs, and globally agreed-upon goals on forests, biodiversity, and climate change?
- How can Major Groups and other Stakeholders contribute to transformative policies and actions that accelerate progress towards achieving the globally agreed-upon goals on forests, climate change, and biodiversity, focusing on science-based solutions and equity and inclusion?

The speakers will have three minutes each to respond. After the initial intervention by the speakers, the moderators will open the floor for interactive discussion on the questions mentioned above and reactions to the interventions by the speakers. **Delegations are invited to express their interest in intervening during the Dialogue through the e-Speakers module on the e-deleGATE ahead of UNFF19.** Information on the opening of the list of speakers will be circulated to Permanent Missions in advance. For the interactive part of the Dialogue, priority will be given to delegations speaking on behalf of a group of States and representatives at the Ministerial and Director-General levels and above, as well as CPF members who did not speak and did not attend at the principal level. Other speakers will be added to the list if time permits. The maximum duration of each intervention is three minutes. Delegations are reminded to e-mail a copy of any prepared statement to estatements@un.org at least two hours before the meeting, including the title and date of the meeting, as well as the name and delegation of the speaker. **If there are a high number of requests for the floor, the Chair may further limit the duration of the interventions.** The time limit will be strictly enforced. Interactive discussions are strongly encouraged.

The Dialogue will be moderated by Her Excellency Ms. Aurélie Flora KOUMBA-PAMBO, Ambassador-at-large of Gabon, in charge of Climate, Environment, and Sustainable Development, and Mr. WU Zhimin, Director, Forestry Division, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). It includes the following Speakers:

- Mr. Robert Nasi, Director General, Center for International Forestry Research, and Chief Operating Officer, Center for International Forestry Research-World Agroforestry Centre (3 minutes)
- Ms. Ivonne Higuero, Secretary General, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, and CPF Vice-Chair (3 minutes)
- Ms. Sheam Satkuru, Executive Director, International Tropical Timber Organization (3 minutes)
- Mr. John Parrotta, President, International Union of Forest Research Organizations (3 minutes)
- Mr. Christian Peter, Global Manager for Environment and Forests, World Bank (3 minutes)
- H.E. Mr. Antonio Herman Benjamin, Justice, Superior Tribunal de Justiça (National High Court of Brazil) (3 minutes)
- Mr. David Brand, Convening Chair, International Sustainable Forest Coalition (3 minutes)
- Mr. Sunpil JIN, Vice Executive Director, Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO) (3 minutes)
- Ms. Mia Crawford, Forest Director, EU and International Affairs, Federation of Swedish Family Forest Owners, and Head of Delegation of the World Farmers Organisation to UNFF19 (3 minutes)

IV. Coordinators of the Dialogue

For further information, please contact Ms. Barbara Tavora Jainchill (tavora-jainchill@un.org), Ms. Njeri Kariuki (kariuki@un.org), and Mr. Ryo Nakamura (nakamura@un.org) at the UNFF Secretariat.