



CPF
Collaborative Partnership
on Forests

UNITED NATIONS FORUM ON **FORESTS** 20TH SESSION



Concept Note

Enhancing the role of natural forests through facilitating synergies between the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the UN Strategic Plan for Forest 2017-2030

Side Event at the 20th Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests

Thursday, 8 May 2025, 1:15-2:30 pm (EDT)
Conference Room B – UN Headquarters, New York

Duration: 75 min **Language:** English (no simultaneous interpretation)

Organizers: UN Convention on Biological Diversity Secretariat, UN Forum on Forests Secretariat, and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Participants:

- **Moderator: Mr Chetan Kumar**, Global Head, Forest and Grasslands (IUCN)
- **Ms Maureen Whelan**, Manager, International Affairs, National Capital Region Trade, Economics and Industry Branch, Canadian Forest Service
- **Mr Andrés Napuri Pita**, Second Secretary, Sustainable Development, Climate & Environment, Permanent Mission of Peru to the United Nations
- Additional countries TBC
- **Mr Minoru Takada** Deputy Director, UNFFS
- **Ms Jamal Annagylyjova**, Forest Biodiversity and Ecosystem Restoration Officer, CBD

- **Ms Malgorzata Buszko-Briggs**, Senior Forestry Officer, FAO
- **Mr Shyam Paudel**, Inter-Regional Adviser, UNFFS

Background: Rapid land use change and continuing deforestation and forest degradation urge global action to maintain and restore ecosystem integrity, to bring the loss of areas of high biodiversity importance, including ecosystems of high ecological integrity, close to zero by 2030 while respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities. Primary or high-integrity forests support broader genetic diversity, are more resilient to climate change, and provide nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches for climate change adaptation and are important for human health.

The 19th session of the UNFF adopted Resolution E/2024/42-E/CN.18/2024/9, suggesting enhancing cooperation, coordination, coherence and synergies among the Rio Conventions on forest-related issues at all levels, in alignment with their respective mandates. The CBD COP decision 16/30 requested the Secretariat to strengthen collaboration with the UNFF and within the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, to support the coherent implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030, the Convention and the Framework.

To respond to those requests, the secretariats of the CBD and UNFF and FAO initiated the joint initiative under the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to facilitate biodiversity mainstreaming in forestry and coherent implementation of national forest commitments as guided by two global policy documents, the UN strategic plan for forests 2017-2030 and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

The joint initiative will (i) facilitate collaboration among countries and agencies to collectively elevate the recognition of natural forests, especially primary forests, within the framework of the three Rio Conventions, the UN Forum on Forests and the Sustainable Development Goals and (ii) identify opportunities for coherence and synergies for enhanced actions on conservation of forest biodiversity and (iii) enhance the role of sustainably managed forests and trees outside forests in biodiversity conservation.

Objective: The side event will present preliminary outcomes of the regional-level assessment of gaps and opportunities and the way forward for coherent implementation of the Global Forest Goals (GFGs) of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Summary presentation on concrete actions - as described in the NBSAPs submitted by countries - that integrate biodiversity considerations in forest management practices, as well as pressures and threats to forest biodiversity, and capacity needs to address these challenges will be presented by FAO.

A few countries selected for the national case studies will be invited to present the challenges and opportunities for the synergies at the national level including policy and target setting, monitoring framework and resource mobilization. During the interactive discussion, participants will be invited to share their perspectives, and experiences, and provide feedback and recommendations for the preliminary outcomes of assessment.

As an outcome of the side-event, the initiative will work to refine the set of recommendations for policy-makers on how to achieve a higher degree of coherency in forest-related commitments in two intergovernmental processes.

Expected outcomes: The CBD-UNFF initiative on forest policy coherence is a contribution to the Collaborative Partnership on Forest Joint Initiative on forest biodiversity and therefore informs the discussion on agenda item 3 (b) *Contributions of and enhanced cooperation with partners to achieving the thematic priorities: (i) Contributions of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, its member*

organizations and the United Nations system to achieving the thematic priorities; progress on the workplan of the Partnership.

The side-event will present the result of the analysis on the synergies between the Global Forest Goals and the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans guided by the KM-GBF and will invite participants to share their feedback and recommendations.

The event will directly contribute to the discussion under the agenda item 3 (c) *Interlinkages between the global forest goals and targets and the Sustainable Development Goals under review by the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2025 and 2026, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.*

The side-event will also present preliminary findings from the analysis of updated National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) submitted under the KM-GBF, with a focus on three key areas: 1) threats to forest biodiversity, 2) forest-related actions as well as 3) challenges and capacity gaps. The event aims to support the effective integration of forest-related considerations into national biodiversity strategies, thereby strengthening the contribution of forests to the achievement of the KM-GBF targets and broader global biodiversity commitments.

It will directly inform the discussion under agenda item 3 (c) *Interlinkages between the global forest goals and targets and the Sustainable Development Goals under review by the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2025 and 2026, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.*

Agenda | Detailed Run of Show and Moderator's Script

Time	Mins	Item	Speaker	PPT	Details, script and potential questions
1:15 – 1:20	5	Opening and presenting of objectives and panelists	Minoru Takada, UNFF Secretariat		Framing of the session.
1:20 – 1:28	8	Presentation: Initial findings of the assessment	Jamal Annagylyjova, CBD	yes	
1:28 – 1:36	8	Presentation: Analysis of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans	Malgorzata Buszko-Briggs, FAO	yes	Present forest-related aspects as identified in NBSAPs, focusing on three key aspects: 1) forest biodiversity threats 2) forest actions and strategies 3) challenges and capacity gaps
1:36 – 2:10	34	3-4 representatives of Member States reflecting	Canada Peru		

		and providing feedback on the assessment	Additional countries TBC		
2:10 – 2:28	28	Interactive discussion & Closing Remarks	Moderator: Chetan Kumar, IUCN		<p>Moderator to take statements from floor. Questions may also be taken from the floor and directed to the presenters and/or panelists as appropriate (max. 3mins per response).</p> <p>Conclude with recommendations and suggested next steps to harmonize forest and biodiversity efforts in relation to GFG 5.</p>
2:28- 2:30	2	Closing remarks and vote of thanks.	Shyam Paudel		Thank panelists.