



COP30 FOREST PAVILION:

A Shared Commitment to Our Planet

2025 UN Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP30) 10-21 November 2025, Belém, Brazil

Sustaining Boreal and Temperate Forests through Intergenerational Collaboration in a Changing Climate

November 14, 2025, Time 1: 30 PM - 2: 20 PM

Leads: Canada and International Forestry Students' Association

Format: Hybrid

Concept Note

I. Background

Boreal and temperate forests are among the most significant forested landscapes globally. These forests are critical carbon sinks, biodiversity reservoirs, and sources of livelihoods for millions worldwide. These forests play a pivotal role in mitigating climate change through carbon sequestration and regulating hydrological cycles, while also supporting cultural, economic, and social values for local communities. However, these ecosystems face increasing pressures due to climate change, wildfires, pests, industrial logging and biodiversity loss.

Recent studies indicate that boreal forests are warming at nearly twice the global average rate, resulting in increased fire frequency, pest outbreaks, and permafrost degradation. Similarly, temperate forests are experiencing altered species composition, shifts in growing seasons, and vulnerability to extreme weather events. These changes threaten forest resilience, ecosystem services, and the well-being of communities dependent on forests.

Intergenerational collaboration ensures that knowledge and experiences from older generations are combined with the innovation, energy, and new ideas of younger generations. This side event recognises that sustaining boreal and temperate forests demands collaboration across generations. Senior foresters and researchers hold invaluable experience in management practices, policy processes, and traditional forest wisdom. Meanwhile, youth bring energy, digital innovation, and forward-looking

perspectives. When these strengths converge, they create powerful pathways for forest and climate resilience

As the world intensifies efforts to meet its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) has emerged as a crucial bridge between mitigation, adaptation, and socio-economic resilience. This panel discussion, “Sustaining Boreal and Temperate Forests through Intergenerational Collaboration in a Changing Climate”, will serve as a platform to unite different generations, from experienced policymakers and researchers to youth advocates and Indigenous Peoples, to share perspectives, lessons, and visions for the future of forest stewardship. Through the exchange of real-world experiences, success stories, and traditional as well as emerging practices, the dialogue will illuminate how intergenerational collaboration can translate into tangible outcomes for sustainable forest management and climate resilience. The session aims to identify practical and innovative solutions that strengthen forest resilience and support sustainable landscapes. This approach enhances sustainable forest management, climate resilience, and inclusive decision-making.

II. Objectives

- To highlight regional experiences and lessons from boreal and temperate forest management under changing climatic conditions.
- To demonstrate youth engagement and leadership in advancing SFM, forest restoration, and climate resilience.
- To facilitate intergenerational and regional dialogue between youth, policymakers, and practitioners on advancing inclusive forest governance.
- To identify opportunities to integrate youth-driven initiatives and develop a shared vision for strengthening SFM as a pathway to a climate-resilient future.

III. Programme/Schedules of Events/Speakers

Mode of Delivery: Panel Discussion

Time: 50 mins

Probable Speakers:

Moderator- International Forestry Students’ Association (IFSA)

Speaker 1- Mid- to late career representative from a national government/scientist/forester

Speaker 2- Indigenous Person

Speaker3- Youth

Time	Activities	Speaker
01:30 PM - 01:35 PM	Welcome and Objectives	Moderator
01: 35 PM - 02:05 PM	Interactive facilitated dialogue around tailored questions with panelists 3 min/question/ speaker	Speaker 1 Speaker 2 Speaker 3
02: 05 PM - 2:15 PM	Q/A	Moderator/ Speaker
02:15 PM - 02:20 PM	Closing Remarks	Moderator

Guiding Questions:

1. How are young professionals and students contributing to climate-resilient, sustainable forest management and restoration in boreal and temperate regions? Can you highlight how youth are integrating into well-established systems to influence SFM practices, restoration strategies, or climate policy discussions in your region? (Youth)

From your organisation's experience, how are you contributing to sustaining boreal and temperate forests in the face of climate change? (Mid- to late career)

How are Indigenous People applying their traditional knowledge to contribute to the sustainable management of boreal and temperate forests amid challenges of climate change? (IP)

2. What challenges do young people and IPs face in engaging meaningfully in forest governance, and how can institutions help address them? (Youth and IP)

Could you share specific initiatives that your organisation has undertaken to actively involve and support youth in forest management and climate resilience? (Mid- to late career)

3. How can intergenerational partnerships enhance sustainable forest management in practice and accelerate climate action in boreal and temperate regions? In your experience, what are the barriers preventing intergenerational cooperation in the forestry sector, and how can they be overcome? (All)
4. What shared message should this intergenerational panel send to COP30 negotiators and forest leaders about sustaining northern forests? (All)

IV. Expected main messages

1. Sustaining boreal and temperate forests in a changing climate requires strong intergenerational partnerships that bridge experience with innovation.
2. Youth engagement is vital for advancing climate-resilient SFM, and youth voices must be integrated into planning, policy, research, and field implementation.
3. Stronger platforms are required for youth and experts to share knowledge and best practices for climate-resilient forest management in boreal and temperate regions.

V. Focal Point/Contact

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