

REGIONAL FORUM

ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE UNECE REGION

GENEVA | 1-2 March 2018



Sustainable
Forest
Management
and
the SDGs



ROUNDTABLE 1- Sustainable Management of Forests and Ecosystems

1 March, 15:00 – 16:30

Room 3, International Conference Center Geneva (CICG)

Interpretation in French and Russian will be provided

Background

Forests are essential ecosystems for human wellbeing as well as the transition to a green economy. Countries in the UNECE region are concerned with and work for the **sustainable management of forests**, to make sure they continue to deliver ecosystem services such as water and air purification, soil protection, biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation. The economic value of these services is enormous, and has to be accounted for if we want our economy to be sustainable and decision-making to be informed.

Forests are also essential when we consider the wealth they can generate through wood production, especially now that the world needs green and sustainable products that minimize the impact on the environment and are recyclable and clean. As many see the bioeconomy as one of the key contributors to a sustainable and unpolluted world, countries in the UNECE region work at identifying new wood products, promoting the sustainable use of wood and its derivatives, and sharing that knowledge amongst countries in the region.

Sustainable Management of Forests (SFM) is crucial to make sure that forests continue to remain healthy and productive, thus contributing to several SDGs. However, the continued and increased pressure on forests ecosystems and the multiple demands posed on forests to deliver ecosystem services requires policy makers to look closely at SFM and make key decisions on priorities for action.

This roundtable, organized jointly by UNECE and FAO, will examine the role of sustainable forest management and practices in different areas of development and the achievement of forest-related SDGs. Questions proposed for this roundtable allow

participants to identify and discuss policies and practices in the areas of **energy, water, climate change, sustainable cities, ecosystem management and services, sustainable economic growth and sustainable consumption and production** related to, and dependent on, sustainable forest management.

The roundtable will address these questions by identifying practical examples of policies and tools already used by some countries to enhance the contribution of sustainable development to forest-related SDGs, assess their replicability in other contexts, and exchange lessons learnt.

Objectives of the roundtable

The objectives of this roundtable are to:

- Exchange experiences, propose solutions to address identified problems and anticipate future developments on issues related to **Sustainable Forest Management and its links to other SDGs**; and
- Identify main lessons and compile a set of key action areas and good practices that can be shared with a wider audience.

Format of the roundtable

Roundtables offer **unique peer learning opportunities**. While **case studies** will be used to provide examples on how countries or stakeholders have addressed a specific problem, **all participants are expected to contribute to the discussions** by offering information on relevant case studies, sharing their own experiences, discussing challenges and solutions and making relevant recommendations. There will be only short (2-3 minutes) presentations of each case study, as information on cases will be distributed to participants ahead of the meeting, to allow all participants to have a chance to contribute to the discussion.

Key questions for the roundtable

- How could policy makers use Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) policies and tools to increase climate resilience and integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning (13.1; 13.2)?
- How could SFM contribute to and influence energy policies to increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix (7.2)?
- How could policy makers enhance SFM to protect and restore water related ecosystems (6.6), reduce the degradation of natural habitats and halt the loss of biodiversity (15.5)?
- How could policy makers further promote SFM to achieve sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources (12.2) and encourage companies to adopt sustainable practices? How could SFM support the bio-economy, improve progressively global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation (8.4)?
- How could sustainable forest management make cities more resilient (SDG11)?

Moderator and rapporteur

The moderator of this roundtable is **Mr. Thomas Haußmann**, Senior Officer, Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Germany

The rapporteur is **Mr. Christoph Dürr**, International Forest Policy Adviser, Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN), Switzerland

Case studies

SFM for SDG7 **A journey through the wood value chain: the case of Austria**
Ms. Lisa Lehner, Forest Policy Officer
Federal Ministry of Sustainability and Tourism

SFM for SDG8 **Forest products and the bio-economy: the case of Finland**
Dr. Liisa Saarenmaa, Deputy Director General
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland

SFM for SDG11 **Sustainable forest management for cities: "Green belts" in Kazakhstan**
Mr. Maxat Yelemessov, Head of Forestry and Protected Areas Unit at the Forestry and Wildlife Committee
Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan

SFM for SDG12 **IKEA's Wood Direction towards sustainability for people, planet and society**
Ms. Jeanette Ulfshög Martinie, Sustainability Policy & Engagement Manager
IKEA of Sweden AB - Inter IKEA Group

SFM for SDG13 **Carbon forests in Poland**
Mr. Andrzej Konieczny, Director-General of the State Forests
The State Forests National Forest Holding, Poland

SFM for SDG15 **INTEGRATE – a European-wide network to enhance nature conservation in sustainably managed forests**
Mr. Tomáš Krejzar, Director of the Department of Forest Policy and Economics
Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic

Participants

- Representatives of countries involved in work on sustainable forest management as well as other relevant SDGs
- Representatives of Permanent Missions
- Other regional or sub-regional organizations
- Non-governmental organizations
- Stakeholders from the private sector

Outcome and next steps

The roundtable will allow an open exchange of experiences on **how Sustainable Forest Management is an essential element to achieve SDGs**, and thus facilitate peer learning. The roundtable will also result in some recommendations that the **rapporteur** will bring to the attention of the RFSD plenary session on 2 March 2018.

The discussion at the plenary session will be captured in a Chairperson's summary, to be transmitted to the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (9-18 July, New York) as the contribution from the UNECE region.