



**UNECE**



**Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations**



**Green Forest Jobs:**  
Exploring opportunities and  
increasing the capacity of UNECE  
member States

Programme

17-18 September 2018

Room XI

Palais des Nations  
Geneva, Switzerland



More information & online registration: <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=48714>

## Scope and objective

Despite multiple forest functions, the forest sector is not commonly perceived as a sector creating a variety of jobs. However, although the decline in the number of forest workers over the past several decades is a fact, the growing demand for sustainable products and ecosystem services has driven an increase in new tasks and occupations associated with forests.

The creation of new forest jobs needs, therefore, to be placed in the context of all forest values, which embrace a broad range of tasks and functions. For instance, the increase in environmental and health awareness brings opportunities for developing new jobs beyond forest operations, traditionally associated with forest sector jobs.

At the same time, it is important to consider how to make new forest jobs safe, well paid and more attractive to women and young workers in order to ensure the resilience and flexibility of working teams and promote the development of new occupations. In addition, a better understanding of the needs for skills development related to these new jobs is crucial.

For this reason, the *Expert Workshop on Green Forest Jobs* will explore how the forest sector can adapt to the emerging trends and seize related opportunities.

The *Workshop* will build on the work of the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Green Jobs in the Forest Sector (Joint ILO/UNECE/FAO Expert Network) and is a contribution to the implementation of the *Rovaniemi Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy*, in particular *Pillar C – Decent Green Jobs in the Forest Sector*.

The *Workshop* also contributes to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, since the analysis of the potential and promotion of green forest jobs will lead to an increase of decent employment opportunities, resource efficiency and development of low-carbon, sustainable economic activities.

The *Workshop* will also discuss the first draft of the *Guidelines for Green Forest Jobs*. The *Guidelines* are being developed by the Joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section, under the guidance of the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Green Jobs. They will be presented for consideration to the joint session of the UNECE Committee on Forests and Forest Industry and the FAO European Forestry Commission, to take place in November 2019.

### The *Workshop* will feature:

- Presentations on green forest jobs, related concepts and trends.
- Identification of forest related activities with the highest potential for the creation of green forest jobs.
- Focused discussions on job opportunities in health, wellbeing and forest recreation; and forest ecosystem management sectors.
- Detailed review of the content of the draft *Guidelines for Green Forest Jobs*.

The *Workshop* is organised in the framework of the UNECE project “Improving the capacity of the UNECE member States to create green jobs in the forest sector”, funded by the Swiss Confederation. The *Workshop* is addressed to experts from the forest sector, as well as to those working in employment, education and forest related social and economic areas. Participants will be invited to contribute to the discussion by showcasing challenges and good practices from their own experience.



Monday, 17 September 2018

## Introduction and the green forest jobs concept



### 10:00 - 10:10 Introduction by the moderator

**Ms. Gerda Jimmy** works at the Federal Office for the Environment Switzerland and is responsible for issues related to the promotion of skills and competences in the forestry sector. Previously, she worked at the Federal Office of Sport in the area of physical activity and health. She holds a PhD in Physical Activity Science and MScs in Public Health and in Physical Education.



### 10:10 - 10:20 Opening remarks UNECE/FAO

**Ms. Paola Deda** is the Chief of the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section in Geneva. Prior to that, she held different positions within the United Nations, including: the United Nations Department of Economic Affairs (DESA), New York, the Division for Sustainable Development; the Secretariats of two UNEP Biodiversity Conventions in Montreal and Bonn; the UNEP Environment Management Group and UNECE in Geneva. Before joining the UN she worked as a researcher at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver and the University of California at Berkeley. She holds a PhD in territorial/environmental planning.

### 10:20 - 10:50 Green jobs – International Labour Organisation perspective

**Mr. Waltheri Katajamäki** works at the International Labour Office (ILO) as a Technical Officer on Rural Economy. Before moving to his current position, he worked for several years at the ILO's Enterprises Department and the ILO Country Office in Zambia. Mr. Katajamäki holds social sciences degrees from the Universities of Helsinki and Liverpool.



### 10:50 - 11:20 Trends in Green Forest Jobs

**Ms. Kathryn Fernholz** is Executive Director of Dovetail Partners, an environmental organization. She has extensive experience in land use, development, and sustainability topics. Her expertise includes diverse forest, food, and responsible sourcing certification programs, including auditing and standard setting systems as well as emerging green development opportunities and supporting policies. She has been one of the authors of the UNECE Forest Products Annual Market Review since 2010.

## Coffee break

### 11:50 - 12:20 Green forest jobs – Addressing challenges related to the forest sector employment

**Mr. Andras Bernasconi** studied forest engineering at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) in Zürich, Switzerland. He did a specialisation in forest planning and obtained a PhD in Sustainable Forest Management. Since 1992 he is co-owner and project leader with Pan Bern AG in Bern. He is the Leader of the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Green Jobs in the Forest Sector (Joint ILO/UNECE/FAO Expert Network).



### 12:20 - 13:00 Discussion

## Lunch break

## Health, well-being and forest recreation



### 15:00 - 15:10 Introduction by the session facilitator

**Mr. Josef Herkendell** is a forester with working experience at the European Commission and the European Environment Agency and professional qualifications in environmental sciences, development cooperation, climate change and renewable energies. He is an author of several publications. He is also a lecturer at several universities in Europe, partner in scientific European projects and scientific adviser to a private foundations in Germany.

### 15:10 - 15:40 Case study: Health care in the forest

**Ms. Franziska Krainer** works as project manager in the department of communication of the Austrian Centre for Forests. Her main task is the project "Green Care FOREST", which focuses on social sustainability. She holds a master's degree in wildlife ecology and has professional experience in nature education as national park ranger in the National Park Neusiedler See-Seewinkel, Austria and as team leader in the Natural History Museum Graz, Austria.



### 15:40 - 16:10 Case study: Nature, Health & Wellbeing Ireland

**Ms. Shirley Gleeson** is a Nature and Wellbeing Consultant, certified Forest Therapy Guide, Mentor, and Trainer (with the Association of Nature and Forest Therapy Guides and Programs), and founder of Nature Health and Wellbeing Ireland. Shirley holds master's degrees in health promotion and social work. Shirley has extensive expertise in designing and delivering evidence based nature interventions to enhance mental and physical health.

## Coffee break

### 16:40 - 17:20 Exploring the potential for future green forest jobs – working groups

### 17:20 - 18:00 Results from the working groups and closing of the session



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Tuesday, 18 September 2018

## Optimal forest ecosystems functioning

### 10:00 - 10:10 Introduction by the session facilitator

**Mr. Diarmuid McAree** is a Forestry Consultant and Advisor, and a former Chief Forestry Inspector of the Irish Forest Service. He is a Director of Crann - Trees for Ireland, an NGO that promotes the planting of the right trees in the right places. He is an occasional lecturer in the University College Dublin, Ireland and the Deputy Leader of the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Green Jobs in the Forest Sector (Joint ILO/UNECE/FAO Expert Network).



### 10:10 - 10:40 Case study: Management of forest ecosystem services and green forest jobs

Mr. Georg Winkel is Head of the European Forest's Research Programme Resilience and the European Forest Institute's office in Bonn. He holds a MSc in Forest Sciences, and a PhD and Habilitation degree in forest and environmental policy. He is also affiliated with the University of Freiburg. His expertise and interests are in inter- and transdisciplinary research relating to forest and environmental topics. He has led and contributed to various European research projects and has been active at the science-policy interface.

### 10:40 – 11:10

### Case Study: Project Learning Tree Canada places 1,000 youth in Green Jobs using Sustainable Forestry Initiative's broad network.

**Mr. Jason Metnick**, Senior Vice President, oversees the supply chain assurance work related to demonstrating Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) Standards as proof points for responsible forestry. This includes increasing certified supply and enhancing the sourcing of products from sustainable sources. Jason has worked at SFI since 2001, and holds a Bachelor of Science in Forestry from Northern Arizona University, USA.



## Coffee break

### 11:40 - 12:20 Exploring the potential for future green forest jobs – working groups

### 12:20 - 12:50 Results from the working groups

### 12:50 - 13:00 Conclusion and closing of the session

## Lunch break

## Supporting further development of green forest jobs



### 15:00 - 15:20 Introduction to the Guidelines for Green Forest Jobs by the session facilitator

**Mr. Peter Poschen** is a forester by training with over 35 years of experience on 5 continents. From 2006-2016 he coordinated the Green Jobs Program of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and wrote a number of reports and a book on green jobs. He is currently Professor in the Environmental Governance, International Post-Graduate Program at the University of Freiburg, Germany.

### 15:20 - 16:20 Review of draft *Guidelines for Green Forest Jobs* – working groups

## Coffee break

### 16:50 - 17:20 Results from the working groups

### 17:20 - 17:50 Improving the capacity of UNECE member States to create green forest jobs: next steps

### 17:50 - 18:00 Conclusion and closing of the session by the moderator

Contact at the Joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section

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