



**SDG 15 DAY:
FOCUS ON FORESTS
IN THE 'SUPER YEAR' FOR NATURE
AND BEYOND
WHAT'S NEXT?**

WEBINAR | 2 NOVEMBER 2020 | 10 AM - 1 PM



UNECE



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

PROGRAMME

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

10:00 - 10:20

- Ms. Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
- Ms. Mette Wilkie, Director, Forestry Division, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

KEYNOTE SPEECH

10:20- 10:30

- Mr. Jochen Flasbarth, State Secretary at the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of Germany

FOREST RESOURCES ASSESSMENT 2020 - KEY FINDINGS FOR THE UNECE REGION

10:30- 10:45

- Mr. Anssi Pekkarinen, Senior Forestry Officer, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- Mr. Roman Michalak, Economic Affairs Officer, UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section

THEMATIC DISCUSSION I: FORESTS AND CLIMATE ACTION

10:45 - 11:15

Forests act both as a cause and a solution for rising greenhouse gas emissions. On the one hand, a substantial proportion of greenhouse gas emissions globally is associated with deforestation and forest degradation, and on the other, forests act as carbon sinks. This is why restoration and sustainable management of forest ecosystems is central to reducing the impact of climate change. This panel will explore the mitigation potential of wood products and wood energy and highlight some of the ongoing efforts to restore degraded forest ecosystems in the UNECE region.

Introduction and moderation: Ms. Maria Sokolenko, Deputy Head of Analytical Unit, Federal Forestry Agency of the Russian Federation

- Mr. Werner Kurz, Senior Research Scientist, Canadian Forest Service (Natural Resources Canada)
- Mr. Boris Erg, Director of the Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia for the International Union for Conservation of Nature
- Ms. Paola Deda, Director of Forests, Land and Housing Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

THEMATIC DISCUSSION II: FORESTS AND BIODIVERSITY

11:15-11:45

Biodiversity is crucial to healthy and functional forest ecosystems. The wide variety of forest animals and organisms perform pollination, seed dispersal, herbivory and other crucial roles that affect natural regeneration and carbon storage. When these organisms disappear from forests, these functions are lost with them, with significant implications for forest health, the climate, and livelihoods of millions of people worldwide. This panel will reflect on the state of forest biodiversity and highlight the role of sustainable forest management in biodiversity conservation.

Introduction and moderation: Ms. Musonda Mumba, Chief, Terrestrial Ecosystems Unit, United Nations Environment Programme

- Mr. Ben Gunneberg, CEO, Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification
- Mr. William Baldwin-Cantello, Chief Advisor on Forests, World Wildlife Fund
- Mr. Alexander Trepelkov, Officer in Charge, United Nations Forum on Forests

THEMATIC DISCUSSION III: FINANCING

11:45-12:15

As governments around the world continue to tackle the devastating consequences of the COVID-19 outbreak, the UN Secretary General invited countries to refrain from making policy and investment decisions that will exacerbate existing crises such as air pollution and the climate emergency – not least because deforestation, pollution, biodiversity loss are all contributory factors to the spread of the virus. With an eye on the future of financing for nature restoration, this panel session will review some of the financing strategies and mechanisms available to countries in the UNECE region.

Introduction and moderation: Ms. Lyubov Poliakova, Head of International Cooperation, Science and Public Relations Division, State Forest Resources Agency of Ukraine

- Ms. Drita Dade, Senior Natural Resources Management Specialist, World Bank
- Mr. Ulrich Apel, Senior Environmental Specialist, Global Environmental Facility
- Mr. Hossein Moeini-Meybodi, Senior Forestry Officer, United Nations Fund on Forests

THEMATIC DISCUSSION IV: PARTNERSHIPS FOR SDG 15

12:15-12:50

Forging strong and effective partnerships across the UN, non-governmental sector and the private sector holds the key to unlocking progress on meeting the targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including SDG 15. This panel will provide an overview of some ongoing and planned initiatives within the forest sector and facilitate a discussion on how to step up joint efforts in the coming Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

Introduction and moderation: Ms. Marta Gaworska, Head of International Cooperation, State Forests Poland

- Mr. Bruno Pozzi, Director, United Nations Environment Programme Regional Office for Europe
- Mr. Gerald Miles, Vice President, Government Partnerships, Environmental Defense Fund
- Mr. Paul Trianosky, Chief Conservation Officer, Sustainable Forestry Initiative
- Ms. Tricia Carey, Director of Global Business Development, Lenzing Fibers

CONCLUSIONS AND Q&A

12:50-13:00