



The role of forest management in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

8 November 2018, 9:00 - 12:00, Plenary

Scope and objective of the panel discussion

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a collection of 17 global goals set forth in the UN resolution: “Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” (otherwise known as “the 2030 Agenda”). While the SDGs are broad and interdependent, expressing global aspirations for human development and for nature, each goal has separate targets and indicators addressing specific dimensions of sustainable development. The sustainable management of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, forests among them, can contribute substantially to achieving many of the SDGs. Likewise, the pursuit and ultimate fulfilment of the SDGs will affect forests through both the protection and the sustainable use of these important ecosystems. The exploration of the many ways in which forests can contribute to the SDGs, and the management actions needed to achieve these contributions, is the central focus of this session.

The UNECE region encompasses 1.89 billion hectares of forest lands, or 42% of the world’s total. The amount and types of benefits these forests provide to people across the region varies considerably, ranging from direct economic benefits from forest products to the provision of a diverse set of ecosystem services and preservation values. Many of these benefits are under-recognized if they are recognized at all. And, in general, forests are an undervalued asset in achieving the SDGs and the aspirations they embody. Some examples of forest contributions to the SDGs to be considered in this session include:

Clean water and sanitation (SDG 6). Trees and shrubs influence water filtration, stream-flows, precipitation, evapotranspiration, infiltration and groundwater recharge. The opportunity and challenge here is to better integrate the supply of water-related ecosystem services into forest management actions (and related funding schemes) without compromising other forest values and uses.

Affordable and clean energy (SDG 7). Wood energy is the most important source of renewable energy in the UNECE region. In many places, notably in rural areas in countries in economic transition, wood is the only affordable source of energy for heating and cooking. Despite its importance, wood energy is often under-used or misused, resulting in air pollution and the degradation of forest resources. Better utilization of forests can directly contribute to achieving SDG 7, but this will require attention to sustainable forest management precepts and the impact of increased wood demand on resource and land-use patterns.

Sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11). Trees in cities serve as natural air conditioners, cooling the air by as much as eight degrees Celsius, help filter harmful pollutants from the air, sequester carbon, and have been linked to improved physical and mental health. Urban (and rural) planning policies in the UNECE region support the



COMMITTEE ON FORESTS AND THE FOREST INDUSTRY
5-9 NOVEMBER 2018 | VANCOUVER | CANADA
BUILDING THE FUTURE WITH FORESTS

expansion of green spaces in and around human settlements. Also, innovative technologies are being developed to use wood as a sustainable, low-carbon construction material for urban multi-storey structures. These are still at an early stage of development, and the future potential of wood as a renewable construction material is large.

Responsible consumption and production (SDG 12). The sustainably managed forests of the UNECE region provide more than 65% of the global production of industrial roundwood, which is used as a raw material for paper and wood products. Wood from the UNECE region has a small ecological and carbon footprint - forests of the region are a net sink of Green House Gases. Paper can be recycled up to seven times, with more than 70% of paper recycled in many member States, and recycling of solid wood is becoming increasingly common.

Climate Action (SDG 13). Forests are a safe, natural means of carbon capture and storage and therefore an essential strategy to address climate change. At the same time however, changing conditions are negatively impacting forest health and disturbance processes in some places and could undermine the climate benefits from sustainable forest management, while in other places they may accelerate forest growth. These facts point to the complex challenges and opportunities facing forest managers as climate change, and our responses to it progress over the coming decades.

These are just a few examples. As our understanding of forest ecosystems increases so too does our recognition of the ways in which forests benefit humanity in general, and the ways in which they can contribute to the SDGs in particular. These benefits are felt at the economic, social and even spiritual level, and they often accrue to some of our most vulnerable populations living in rural and indigenous communities. In some cases, the benefits flow automatically, but in others they require specific management actions. Likewise, sometimes there are trade-offs between different objectives and stakeholders, but in many cases win-win solutions can be found. Finding these solutions and thereby achieving the full potential of forests for humanity will require specific management actions guided by knowledge, wisdom and the consideration of the interests of all people and perspectives. “Maintaining and enhancing the economic, social and environmental values of all types of forests, for the benefit of present and future generations” is the challenge and core objective for sustainable forest management, a topic which is explicitly addressed in **SDG 15—Life on Land**.

Speakers in this session will address the linkages between forests and the various goals set forth in the SDGs, focusing on the ways in which forests and forest management may contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and on the risks, trade-offs, and opportunities involved. The discussion section will consider the processes that will be needed to realize the forest sector’s full potential. Since this is not just an issue for national governments alone but will require the voluntary actions of private citizens and local bodies across the region, the perspectives of forest owners (both private and public) relative to the SDGs will also be addressed.

This session is part of the seventy-sixth session of the UNECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry, organised in Vancouver, Canada, from 5-9 November 2018. The outcomes of this panel discussion will be concisely summarized in the report of the session. The detailed moderator’s summary will be published on the website.



COMMITTEE ON FORESTS AND THE FOREST INDUSTRY
5-9 NOVEMBER 2018 | VANCOUVER | CANADA
 BUILDING THE FUTURE WITH FORESTS

Programme and tentative timetable

Introduction and presentation of key concepts

9:00 – 9:05	OPENING Welcome from the moderator, introduction of the topic, panellists and panel Mr. Hosny El Lakany
9:05 – 9:25	Setting the scene – Forests and Sustainable Development Goals– keynote Mr. Guy Robertson Q&A

Series of presentations on the contribution of forests to SDGs; each presentation followed by Q&A

09:25 – 09:45	SDG 6 – Clean water and sanitation – forests and water (study) Mr. Alessandro Leonardi Q&A
09:45 – 10:05	SDG 7 – Affordable and clean energy – forests and energy (study) Mr. Francisco Aguilar Q&A
10:05 – 10:25	SDG 11 – Sustainable cities and communities – forests and cities Ms. Matilda Van Den Bosch Q&A
10:25 – 10:45	SDG 13 – Climate action – forests and climate Mr. Werner Kurz Q&A
10:45– 11:15	SDG15 – Life on land – reaching the SFM and SDGs from ownership perspective (study) Ms. Zuzana Sarvašová, Mr. Andrzej Konieczny Q&A

Panel discussion

11:15 – 11:20	Statement – Youth perspectives Mr. Adam Polinko
11:20 – 11:55	Questions will be determined by the moderator and focus on: Forests and the SDGs – Expectations, Risks and Possibilities Opportunities and challenges from the forest owners/managers perspective ...
11:55 – 12:00	Open floor for the plenary Conclusions and closing of the session

Further Information:
www.unece.org/forests/coffi2018
 Contact at the Joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section
 Roman Michalak / Theresa Loeffler
 Tel.: +41 229172879 / +41229174157
 E-mail: roman.michalak@un.org / theresa.loeffler@un.org



COMMITTEE ON FORESTS AND THE FOREST INDUSTRY
5-9 NOVEMBER 2018 | VANCOUVER | CANADA
BUILDING THE FUTURE WITH FORESTS

Biographies of speakers



Dr. Hosny El-Lakany is an Adjunct Professor at the Department of Forest Resources Management and Director of International Program, Faculty of Forestry, UBC. He is also a Distinguished Forestry Professor at Alexandria University, Egypt. Dr. M. Hosny El -Lakany holds a B.Sc. in Agriculture and a M.Sc. in Forestry from Alexandria University, Egypt; a Ph.D. in Forestry from UBC and a D.Sc. from Laval University, Quebec. His professional career spans over 40 years, as professor at Alexandria University and the American University in Cairo, then as the Assistant Director-General / Head of the Forestry Department of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Part of his responsibilities as ADG, was to advise the FAO Director-General on policy and political matters related to Forestry and Sustainable Development. He was the inaugural chair of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) comprised of 14 International Organizations in support of the United Nations Forum on Forests.



Dr. Guy Robertson is the National Sustainability Program Leader with the U.S. Forest Service's Research and Development Office in Washington D.C. His main area of expertise is forest economics, but more recently his focus has shifted to broad-scale resource assessments using criteria and indicators to consider the ecological, social and economic dimensions of forest sustainability. Guy grew up in Portland Oregon and did his graduate work at the University of Washington in Seattle (MA in international studies, PhD in forest economics). Since then he has worked for the U.S. Forest Service in Juneau Alaska and Washington D.C.



Dr. Alessandro Leonardi is the Managing Director and co-founder of ETIFOR | Valuing Nature (www.etifor.com). He holds a PhD in environmental economics, is currently a Project Manager at University of Padua, and has been a consultant for the UNECE. He specializes in integrated financing and Market Based Instruments for nature conservation, with a specific experience on water related ecosystem services. Since 2015, Alessandro manages the ECOSTAR | Natural Talents initiative, a partnership among universities and environmental business across the EU and USA, promoting entrepreneurship in forestry and nature-based businesses, through training and start-ups acceleration (www.ecostarhub.com).



Dr. Francisco Aguilar is an Associate Professor of Forest Economics and lead author of the UNECE/FAO Forest Products Annual Market Review chapter on Wood Energy. He studies sustainable wood utilization including energy and material uses applying various econometric techniques accumulating 20 years of experience in the forest sector and over 50 scientific publications. He is the sole editor of the book "Wood Energy in Developed Economies" published by Taylor & Francis, Associate Editor with Forest Science, and has consulted on wood energy development projects with the European Commission and the UN Development Account among



COMMITTEE ON FORESTS AND THE FOREST INDUSTRY
5-9 NOVEMBER 2018 | VANCOUVER | CANADA
BUILDING THE FUTURE WITH FORESTS

other private and public agencies. He has served on the Board of Envest Microfinance since 2007 promoting sustainable microfinance around the world.



Dr. Matilda Van Den Bosch is a doctor in medicine as well as in landscape planning and public health. She works as an assistant professor at The University of British Columbia, Canada, where she holds a joint appointment between the School of Population and Public Health and the Department of Forest and Conservation Sciences. She investigates how exposure to natural environments can protect and improve human health and how this displays in various populations across various socioeconomic conditions. Results from her studies may be used for healthier urban planning with improved conditions for both people and natural ecosystems. Matilda works as a consultant for numerous international organizations, including WHO, the UN Environmental Program, the US Environmental Protection Agency, and the Climate Change and Innovation Bureau Health Canada. She is the editor of the recently published Textbook of Nature and Public Health by Oxford University Press.



Dr. Werner Kurz is a Senior Research Scientist at the Canadian Forest Service (Natural Resources Canada) in Victoria, BC. He leads the development of Canada's National Forest Carbon Monitoring, Accounting and Reporting System and the Forest Carbon Management Project of the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions. His research focuses on carbon dynamics in forests and harvested wood products and the opportunities of the forest sector to contribute to climate change mitigation. Dr. Kurz co-authored eight reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), published over 140 peer-reviewed scientific papers, and many other reports. He serves as adjunct professor at the University of British Columbia (UBC) and at Simon Fraser University. He obtained his PhD in Forest Ecology from UBC and an honorary doctorate from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences. He is an International Fellow of the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry.



Dr. Zuzana Sarvašová works as a senior researcher at the department of Forest Policy, Economics and Forest Management, National Forest Centre in Slovakia since 2003. Her main interests are forest policy instruments and their implementation and evaluation analysis. She is a member of the expert group on Valuation of and Payments for Forest Ecosystem Services and represents Slovakia in the pan-European process Forest Europe. She was leading the development of several working packages dealing with cross sectoral relationships of forestry with rural development and nature conservation in the frame of international and national research projects. She is a co-author of two EFI/FAO Forestry Policy and Institutions Working Papers on Forest Owners' Organizations in Eastern European Countries and she was the lead-author of the chapter "Organization of Private Ownership" of the UNECE/FAO/COST FACESMAP study on Forest Ownership in the UNECE Region.



COMMITTEE ON FORESTS AND THE FOREST INDUSTRY
5-9 NOVEMBER 2018 | VANCOUVER | CANADA
BUILDING THE FUTURE WITH FORESTS



Dr. Andrzej Konieczny graduated from the Forestry Faculty of Warsaw University of Life Sciences. He holds a doctoral degree in forest sciences. He also completed postgraduate studies in the Master of Business Administration at the University of Illinois in cooperation with the Lublin University of Technology and postgraduate studies in Finance and Accounting at the Faculty of Economics of the University of Białystok. His scientific interests range from forest economics to forest policy and forest law. His entire professional career is related to forests and forestry. For most of his professional life he worked for the State Forests National Forest Holding, an organization that manages about 7,6 million ha of the State-owned forests in Poland. In November 2015, he was appointed to the position of the Undersecretary of State in the Ministry of the Environment, responsible for the forestry in the country. Currently he holds the position of Director General of the State Forests.



Mr. Adam Polinko is a PhD candidate in the Forest Resources Management department at the University of British Columbia. His research background spans from the dry, ponderosa pine forests of the American Southwest to reclaimed mine sites in the Athabasca oil sands region of Alberta. Adam's interests include silviculture, stand dynamics and forest modelling. His PhD research investigates wood quality as a way to meet sustainable forest management objectives, using British Columbia, Canada as an example.

Short introduction of related UNECE/FAO publications

Forests and Water-Valuation and payments for forest ecosystem services

This study seeks to improve the understanding about the ways in which payments for ecosystem services schemes can be applied to forests, in particular focusing on forests' hydrological functions for the mutual benefit of both humans and the environment. In addition, the study covers advances and challenges facing these schemes and provides practical guidance for policymakers and practitioners. Among other things, the study contains the most comprehensive currently available database of case studies on water-related payment for forest ecosystem services schemes in the UNECE region.

Wood Energy in the ECE Region – Data, trends and outlook in Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States and North America

This publication highlights the use of wood for energy and includes the most recent statistics on wood energy markets across the UNECE region. It aims to communicate the relevance of wood energy in the region and help bridge information about the forest and energy sectors. It also intends to offer some of the best-available information on the role that wood energy can play in various sectors to support environmental, energy, and socio-economic strategies toward a greener economy. It focuses on commercial wood energy uses in the UNECE including the



COMMITTEE ON FORESTS AND THE FOREST INDUSTRY
5-9 NOVEMBER 2018 | VANCOUVER | CANADA
BUILDING THE FUTURE WITH FORESTS

energy generated for cooking, heating and electricity generation.

The State of Forest Ownership in the ECE Region

While forest ownership may at first appear to be a relatively straightforward concept, it is actually quite complex, entailing different rights, responsibilities, organizational procedures and understandings that vary considerably depending on country and context. These differences, in turn, will profoundly affect the way forests are managed and thereby the benefits that can be derived from them. The UNECE region is characterized by one of the most diverse ownership structures in the world. Within the two broadest categories of ownership, public and private, forests are owned and managed through a variety of forest ownership and tenure arrangements. Based in large part on national owner surveys, this study seeks to improve our understanding of forest ownership and its linkages to forest management. In particular, the study presents recent information on forests, forest policies and forest management under different ownerships, and it provides descriptions of different public and private forest owners along with their perspectives on forest management.