



UNECE



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Forest Congress for the Caucasus and Central Asia

28 – 31 May 2019, Karven Four Seasons Hotel, Sary Oy village, Issyk-Kul region, Kyrgyzstan

Background

The Forest Congress for the Caucasus and Central Asia will be covering recent forest developments while strengthening regional cooperation and outline strategic common approaches for future projects.

The Forest Congress will focus on three main topics:

- **STATE OF FORESTS OF THE CAUCASUS AND CENTRAL ASIA**

The report *The State of Forests of the Caucasus and Central Asia* (SoCCAF) will be launched presenting the forest resources and the forest sector of the region, including trends and challenges, policies and institutions, as well as the policy responses in place or planned to address the challenges.

- **NATIONAL-LEVEL FOREST MONITORING SYSTEMS**

All participating countries of the UNECE/FAO, UNDA project *Accountability Systems for Sustainable Forest Management in the Caucasus and Central Asia* will present their criteria and indicators' (C&I) sets for sustainable forest management. These national-level C&I sets were developed between 2016 and 2019 and will set the basis and framework for forest monitoring systems at the national level and for international forest reporting.

- **FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION**

The road to implementation of forest landscape restoration to fulfill the country pledges¹ towards the Astana Resolution² will be mapped out and funding opportunities will be discussed. Countries will present their forest landscape restoration projects and approaches as well as their strategies to implement pledges to achieve the restoration of over 2.5 million hectares by 2030 as a contribution to the Bonn Challenge.

Participation

Country delegations will be invited to prepare a national poster on their forest sector which will be presented over the whole period of the Congress and discussed at a session. Ministries responsible for forestry from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan are invited to the Forest Congress. In addition, participants reflecting a range of expertise and experiences related to forest policy and management, forest information, forest landscape restoration as well as forest and/or climate financing are expected. The Congress seeks to balance a multi-stakeholder mix from governments, NGOs, academia, private sector, international organisations and agencies as well as from central and local level, young and old, male and female.

¹ http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/timber/meetings/2018/20180621/Astana_Roundtable_Summary_Report_ENG.pdf

² http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/timber/meetings/2018/20180621/Resolution_ENG.pdf

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	Tuesday 28 May Monitoring Systems	Wednesday 29 May Monitoring and State of Forests	Thursday 30 May Forest Landscape Restoration	Friday 31 May
M O R N I N G	<p>Registration at 9.15 Start sharp at 9.30</p> <p>I. Preliminaries Welcome and opening remarks Mr. Eldiar Sheripov, <i>State Agency on Environment Protection Kyrgyzstan</i> Mr. Ekrem Yazici, <i>Deputy Head UNECE/FAO FTS</i></p> <p>Key note speech on linking C&I to the national forest strategy, Mr. Tamer Otrakcier</p>	<p>Registration at 9.15 Start sharp at 9.30</p> <p>III. Interactive launch of the SoCCAF study Kick-off presentation by Mr. Roman Michalak, <i>UNECE/FAO</i></p> <p>National Perspectives, national experts from all CCA countries</p>	<p>Registration at 9.15 Start sharp at 9.30</p> <p>Opening of the Forest Landscape Restoration day Welcome by the host country, <i>UNECE/FAO, IUCN</i></p> <p>FLR – a holistic approach What is degradation and how to address it? Mr. Niels Thevs, <i>ICRAF</i> The many faces of FLR and ROAM, Mr. Roman Volosyanchuk, <i>IUCN</i> International targets and indicators aligned with FLR, Mr. Roman Michalak, <i>UNECE/FAO</i></p>	<p>Field trip day (Visit to the Grigoriev Gorge and the local forestry department)</p>
	<p>Break 11.00 - 11.30</p>	<p>Break 11.00 - 11.30</p>	<p>Break 11.00 - 11.30</p>	
	<p>II. Sharing – country presentations of C&I sets Armenia – Mr. Areg Karapetyan, <i>National Focal Point to UNDA project, Director of “Hyantar” SNCO</i> Georgia – Mr. Carl Amirgulashvili, <i>Head of Forest Policy Service</i> Kazakhstan – Mr. Maxat Yelemessov, <i>Head of Forestry and Protected Areas</i> Kyrgyzstan – Ms. Suizanna Seideeva, <i>project coordinator</i> Uzbekistan – Mr. Abduvokhid Zakhadullaev, <i>State Committee on Forestry</i></p>	<p>III. Interactive launch of the SoCCAF study To be continued</p> <p>Panel 1 – Addressing challenges, moderated by Mr. Mati Valgepea</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – How to increase benefits provided by forests to society? – How to improve monitoring of forests? – How to strengthen forest sector institutions and improve funding? 	<p>Panel: Road to implementation national perspectives Moderated by Mr. Maxat Yelemessov</p> <p>Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Achievements since the Astana Ministerial Roundtable – Hurdles for implementation. – Which policies can enable FLR? – National perspectives and strategies for implementation. 	
<p>Lunch 13.00 - 14.00</p>	<p>Lunch 13.00 - 14.00</p>	<p>Lunch 13.00 - 14.00</p>		
<p>II. Sharing – country presentations of C&I sets To be continued</p> <p>Peer-review of the sets and discussion</p>	<p>IV. Forest degradation and restoration Degradation and restoration indicators, presentation, Mr. Michael Köhl, <i>University of Hamburg</i></p> <p>Examples of forest regeneration monitoring and forest landscape restoration in Russia, Ms. Irina Vukolova</p> <p>Panel 2 – Forest Degradation, moderated by Mr. Vardan Melikyan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – What are key drivers and types of forest degradation? – What are the major needs of countries in preventing degradation and promoting restoration of forest ecosystems? 	<p>Panel: Road to implementation international perspectives Moderated by Mr. Eldiar Sheripov Panellists: <i>IUCN, World Bank, FAO, GIZ</i></p>		
<p>Break 15.30 - 16.00</p>	<p>Break 15.30 - 16.00</p>	<p>Break 15.30 - 16.00</p>		
<p>Impacts of C&I processes, presentation, Ms. Stefanie Linser, <i>BOKU</i></p> <p>Comparison of the SFM vision at the beginning and end of the project – poster exhibition.</p>	<p>V. Reflection session about the projects and the way forward UNDA follow up, feedback, evaluation and reflection; other areas for cooperation and upcoming projects.</p>	<p>The way forward Presentation of the Bonn Challenge Barometer, Mr. Roman Volosyanchuk, <i>IUCN</i></p> <p>Peer-to-peer exercise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – How are other countries tracking progress? – What are further support needs? <p>Wrap up and conclusions Needs assessment and way forward</p>		
<p>Close 17.30</p>	<p>Close 17.30 Networking Dinner</p>	<p>Close 17.30</p>		