



SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT AND FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION IN THE CAUCASUS AND CENTRAL ASIA

7 MAY 2018 | UNFF13 SIDE EVENT | NEW YORK

Preliminary Programme

7 MAY 2018, Trusteeship Chamber, 1:15-2:30 pm

MODERATED BY

Ms Elke Steinmetz, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of Germany

1:15	OPENING REMARKS Mr Peter Csoka, Team Leader, Statutory Bodies, CPF and Outreach, FAO
1:20 – 1:30	Keynote speech Opportunities and challenges for forest restoration in the Caucasus and Central Asia Dr Niels Thevs, Central Asia Programme Coordinator, World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF)
1:30 – 2:00	Forest Landscape Restoration in the Caucasus and Central Asia: Case Studies <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Forest Landscape Restoration in Uzbekistan Mr Abduvokhid Zakhadullaev, Head of International Relations, State Committee on Forestry of the Republic of Uzbekistan- Forest Restoration and Protection Related Challenges in Armenia Mr Areg Gharabegyan, Advisor of the Minister of Nature Protection of Republic of Armenia Restoration projects and activities of the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia Mr Ekrem Yazici, Deputy Chief of the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section UNECE/FAO forestry projects in the Caucasus and Central Asia with the support of Switzerland Mr Christoph Dürr, Swiss Federal Office for the Environment FOEN
2:00 – 2:25	Moderated Discussion
2:25	CLOSING REMARKS Mr Roman Michalak, Economic Affairs Officer, UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section
2:30 pm	Light reception at the Express Bar

Further Information:

www.unece.org/forests

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Background

Forests play an essential role in achieving sustainable development. They are a key land ecosystem ensuring the conservation of biodiversity and contributing to adaptation of and mitigation to climate change as well as serving as an important source of renewable materials.

Countries in the Caucasus and Central Asia face challenges with addressing multiple threads posed to their forests. High fuel wood demand of the local population and overgrazing puts pressure on forest resources, contributing to illegal logging, overexploitation, degradation and deforestation.

A Ministerial Roundtable on Forest Landscape Restoration and the Bonn Challenge in the Caucasus and Central Asia will be held on 21-22 June 2018 in Astana, Kazakhstan, bearing the first opportunity to align national and regional restoration efforts in the Caucasus and Central Asia with the international Bonn Challenge – a global effort to bring 350 million ha of degraded and deforested land into restoration by 2030. This high-level event is being organized jointly by the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section, in cooperation with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The Ministerial Roundtable seeks to discuss challenges, identify solutions and enhance commitments towards forest landscape restoration in the Caucasus and Central Asia, and will be instrumental in furthering regional efforts. The Bonn Challenge serves as an open, voluntary and flexible discussion and exchange platform for concrete action and cooperation to facilitate the implementation of forest landscape restoration worldwide and unlocking financial resources.

Further information

UNECE and FAO further support the countries in the Caucasus and Central Asia with capacity-building projects, including:

- The project "Accountability Systems for Sustainable Forest Management in the Caucasus and Central Asia", funded by the United Nations Development Account (UNDA). The objective of this project is to strengthen the national capacity of Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan to develop national sets of criteria and indicators and reporting systems for sustainable forest management. The timeframe for the project is 2016-2019;
- The publication of a study paper on the Challenges and Opportunities for Forest Landscape Restoration in the Caucasus and Central Asia;
- The development of a report on the State of Forests in the Caucasus and Central Asia.