



FOREST WEEK

2 - 6 November 2020

Online panel session: Forest Landscape Restoration

Item 2: Forests in a decade of Action

Documentation: [ECE/TIM/2020/3](#), ECE/TIM/2020/Inf.2

4 November 2020, **11:45-13:00 CET**

The United Nations (UN) Decade on Ecosystem Restoration was declared by the General Assembly in 2019 and set a direction for all UN entities from 2021 through 2030. The Decade on Ecosystem Restoration aims to massively accelerate the global restoration of degraded ecosystems in order to tackle climate change, enhance food security, provide clean water and protect the planet's biodiversity.

The Joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section has been working extensively on forest landscape restoration (FLR) in the recent years in support of the global Bonn Challenge¹ and the regional restoration initiative ECCA30². For instance, the Joint Section offers policy advice and capacity building on FLR practices to governments in the UNECE region.

Recently announced pledges by countries in the Caucasus and Central Asia are now followed by accelerated political support for FLR that led to the development of a country-owned Strategy for landscape restoration and greening of the infrastructure of Central Asia and the Caucasus, which aims to align the restoration efforts with the development of infrastructure in the region. Further, countries of Eastern and South-East Europe will have an opportunity to join the ECCA30 and the Bonn Challenge at the 2021 Ministerial Roundtable.

The COVID-19 pandemic has created new challenges for humanity to overcome, while it also posed new opportunities for re-evaluating the importance of nature and restoring precious forests, landscapes, and ecosystems overall. Now is the right moment for Governments in the UNECE region, international organizations and other stakeholders to prioritize restoration in their green recovery plans.

¹ Bonn Challenge – global effort to bring 150 million hectares of deforested and degraded land into restoration by 2020 and 350 million hectares by 2030. More information here: <https://infoflr.org/bonn-challenge>

² ECCA30- regional initiative to restore 30 million hectares by 2030 in Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia. More information here: <https://infoflr.org/bonn-challenge/regional-initiatives/ecca30>



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This panel session aims to raise awareness on the ongoing forest landscape restoration efforts in the UNECE region, showcase achievements and challenges faced by governments. It also aims to discuss possible opportunities for funding forest landscape restoration efforts in the post-COVID-19 period, as well as aligning the development of green infrastructure.

Forest Landscape Restoration 4 November 2020, 11:45-13:00 CET Programme and tentative agenda

Ms. Musonda Mumba, Chair of the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration (moderator)	
11:45-12:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Elke Steinmetz, the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of Germany• Mr. Humberto Delgado Rosa, Director, European Commission• Mr. Boris Erg, Director, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)• Ms. Liubov Poliakova, State Forest Resources Agency of Ukraine• Ms. Paola Agostini, the World Bank
12:45-12:55	Questions and Answers
12:55-13:00	Closing remarks