

First Meeting of the Network of Experts on Sustainable Urban Forestry

Tuesday, 19 October 2021, 15:00-16:30 CEST



Trees in Cities Challenge

Background

Two-thirds of humanity will live in cities by 2050, and achieving national sustainable development objectives and the SDGs depends on healthy and resilient cities. Responsible for around 75% of global CO₂ emissions, cities are also at the forefront of fighting climate change while being particularly vulnerable to its impacts. Trees and forests in and around urban areas are simple and cost-effective nature based solutions to these challenges. They provide vital benefits for health and wellbeing, climate adaptation and mitigation, biodiversity, and resilience.

Sustainable urban forestry is needed to unlock these benefits, contributing not only to sustainable local development and quality of life, but also to achieving national objectives and global goals. Integrated long term planning and timely action is critical to unlock these multiple benefits, overcoming traditional silos and challenges faced by sustainable urban forestry practitioners.

The Network of Experts on Sustainable Urban Forestry provides a forum for knowledge exchange and capacity-building as well as peer to peer learning to strengthen sustainable urban forestry. This includes both horizontal engagement across disciplines and sectors, as well as vertical engagement with various levels of government to provide support to practitioners to identify, share, and adopt best practices and replicable solutions. By engaging a diverse group of stakeholders, it will also facilitate the identification of needed policy actions to enhance the enabling environment for sustainable urban forestry at the local, national, and regional levels.

Objectives and Format

The first meeting of the Network of Experts on Sustainable Urban Forestry will invite participants to provide input to the organization of the network, to ensure that it is responsive to the needs and priorities of all stakeholders who are driving and shaping sustainable urban forestry in cities. The meeting will also include a session to identify opportunities for peer exchange and learning. Therefore and in addition to a case study, sessions will request active engagement and input from members of the network to inform the organization of the network going forward.

The meeting will be held virtually via Microsoft Teams, in English only.

Participation by invitation only. If you would like to attend the event, please write an email to Daniel Griswold (daniel.griswold@un.org).

Meeting Agenda (ENG | MS Teams)

- 10' **Opening 15:00**
- Ms. Liliana Annovazzi-Jakab, Chief of Section, UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section, Forests, Land and Housing Division, UNECE
- 20' **City Case Study**
- Networks and collaboration for sustainable urban forestry*
- Presentation by Helsingborg, Sweden
 - Mr. Elias Halling, Landscape Architect, City Planning Department

 - Moderated Discussion
 - Moderator: Mr. Oliver Wolf, Consultant, UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section, Forests, Land and Housing Division, UNECE
- 20' **Input to the Organization of the Network**
- Participant input on the scope, objectives, and activities of the Network of Experts*
- Moderated Discussion

 - Moderator: Mr. Daniel Griswold, Associate Economic Affairs Officer, UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section, Forests, Land and Housing Division, UNECE
- 20' **Opportunities for Peer Exchange and Learning**
- Participant input on opportunities for peer exchange and collaboration through the network and in future meetings*
- Moderated Discussion

 - Moderator: Mr. Daniel Griswold, Associate Economic Affairs Officer, UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section, Forests, Land and Housing Division, UNECE
- 10' **Closing 16:30**