



The Future of Forests

Monday, 22 November 2021 – 10:30-13:00 CET

Background

We are living in a fast-changing world – not only is our reality fundamentally different from two or even one generation ago, but technological and environmental changes are happening faster than ever before, affecting how we conduct our daily lives.

With a global pandemic that caused widespread disruption to economies and societies, and with climate change accelerating, it is increasingly uncertain what the future will look like in one, two and more decades. What is certain is that the forest sector of the region faces many complex challenges. It needs to find the right balance for forests' contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation, and find the right incentives to scale up the next generation of forest products in order to replace emissions intensive and non-renewable materials in a range of sectors.

In this context, the present decade is of particular importance as it marks the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. Forests are one of the essential ecosystems for our planet, making reforestation, afforestation and sustainable forest management crucial for the Decade's success. Forests also provide health benefits for everyone, such as fresh air, nutritious foods, clean water, non-toxic materials and space for recreation.

Demand for wood and other forest products and services, including biodiversity conservation and carbon sequestration, is rising and changing. As a result, the choices facing forest managers and policymakers are becoming more complex. With rapid urbanization, cities and local governments increasingly understand the benefits of planting trees in urban areas and increasing access to green spaces for city dwellers.

The session will explore these interconnected issues through key presentations, which aim to: (1) launch the ECE/FAO Forest Sector Outlook Study; (2) understand the role of forests in a changing climate; (3) explore the potential of innovative next-generation forest products; and (4) discover the benefits of planting trees in urban areas and how to achieve a Green Recovery by linking national policies and local action.

Agenda (ENG | RUS | FRE | SPA - Zoom)

10:30-10:35 5 min	Welcome Ms. Liliana Annovazi-Jakab, Chief, UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section
10:35-11:45 70min	The future of forests in a changing climate <i>Keynote Speech: Climate(s) of the future – predicted conditions and their impact on the biosphere, and forests in particular</i> Ms. Almut Arneth, Head, Global land ecosystem modelling, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology <i>Forest development and management under changing climatic conditions</i> Mr. Mart-Jan Schelhaas, Researcher at Wageningen Environmental Research <i>The new UNECE/FAO Forest Sector Outlook Study</i> Mr. Kit Prins, Coordinating author of the Forest Sector Outlook Study <i>Moderated Q&A</i>
11:45-12:40 55 min	The future of innovative forest products <i>Mechanically transforming wood into textile fibres without the need for toxic reagents</i> Mr. Janne Poranen, CEO and co-founder, Spinnova Plc. Mr. Vinicius Nonino, New Business Executive Officer, Suzano <i>Transforming non-edible biomass into high performance products to create new value from agricultural residues</i> Mr. Remy Buser, CEO and co-founder of Bloom Biorenewable <i>Using lignin to make batteries more sustainable</i> Mr. Reza Younesi, Associate Professor at the Department of Chemistry-Ångström Laboratory, Uppsala University <i>Moderated Q&A</i>
12:40-13:00 20 min	The future of forests in cities <i>Urban and Peri-urban Forest Ecosystems for Green Recovery – Linking National Policies and Local Action</i> Mr. Cecil C. Konijnendijk, Director, Nature Based Solutions Institute <i>Moderated Q&A</i>

For more information and registration please visit:

<https://unece.org/info/Forests/events/357375>