

Biodiversity – Implications of the Global Framework for Biodiversity for forests in the ECE region



Monday, 20 November 2023

10:30– 13:00 CET

San Marino, Kursaal Convention Centre, Room Arengo

Conserving biodiversity and ensuring healthy ecosystems are essential to meet the needs of present and future generations, support climate change and the sustainable development goals yet they are imperilled by current human activity. Already 25 percent of species are threatened and an estimated 1 million species face extinction, which is tens to hundreds of times higher than the average over the past 10 million years¹. 75 percent of the land surface is significantly altered, over 85 percent of wetlands have been lost, as well as approximately half of the live coral cover on coral reefs. Also, half of the global GDP depends on biodiversity and its ecosystem services².

In December 2022, countries adopted the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). Almost half of its Targets are closely related to sustainable forest and wildlife management, as part of the solutions to biodiversity loss, ecosystem degradation and the climate crisis. Forestry, even though not always explicitly mentioned, is very relevant to, for example, ecosystem restoration (Target 2), protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (Target 3), impacts of climate change on biodiversity (Target 8), sustainable forest management (Target 10), and benefits from green spaces by mainstreaming the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity (Target 12). Cities and local authorities play key roles in conserving, restoring and reducing threats to biodiversity, which is also recognized in the GBF.

Therefore, the implementation of the GBF targets will impact the forests in the UNECE region. While it might be too early to fully assess how the implementation of GBF targets will affect member States and organisations, this timely event will attempt to explore the implications of the GBF for forests of the UNECE region, present different perspectives at local and national levels and provide an opportunity to discuss the related current and future opportunities and challenges.

For more information and registration please visit: <https://unece.org/forests/events/foresta-2023-joint-session-ece-committee-forests-and-forest-industry-and-fao>

¹ IPBES (2019): Global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. E. S. Brondizio, J. Settele, S. Díaz, and H. T. Ngo (editors). IPBES secretariat, Bonn, Germany. 1148 pages. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3831673>

² World Economic Forum (2020) Nature Risk Rising: Why the Crisis Engulfing Nature Matters for Business and the Economy https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_New_Nature_Economy_Report_2020.pdf



UNECE



**Food and Agriculture Organization
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AGENDA

Moderator: Mr. Keith Anderson

Setting the scene

Ms. Paola Deda, Director, UNECE Forests Land and Housing Division

Mr. Zhimin Wu, Director, FAO Forestry Division

The Global Biodiversity Framework and Forests

Ms. Jamal Annagylyjova, Forest Biodiversity Officer, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

Status and trends on forest biodiversity in the world and the region

Mr. Thomas Hofer, Senior Forestry Officer, Food and Agriculture Organization

Ms. Helga Pülzl, Assistant Director for Policy Support, European Forest Institute

10-minute Q&A and interventions

Implications for countries, cities, and the private sector

Mr. Tomáš Krejzar, Director of Department of Forest Policy and Economics, Ministry of Agriculture, Czechia

Mr. Keith Anderson, International Forest Policy Advisor, Swiss Federal Office for the Environment

Prof. Yasin Çağatay Seçkin, Project Advisor & Coordinator, Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality

Ms. Eva Zabey, CEO, Business for Nature

10-minute Q&A and interventions

Monitoring progress in forest biodiversity

Mr. Thomas Haußmann, Head of Liaison Unit, Forest Europe

Mr. Anthony Daniel, Urban Forestry Expert, City of Montreal

Mr. Jérémy Casteuble, Head of the Biodiversity Unit, Expertise France

Prof. Dr. Michael Köhl, Professor of Global Forestry, University of Hamburg

10-minute Q&A and moderator's conclusions
