



UNECE engagement @COP28

Trees in dry cities: luxury or a fundamental climate and SDG solution?

6 DECEMBER 2023 | 14:30 – 16:30 | WGEO PAVILION | EXPO CITY | DUBAI

In our urban era, we must deliver climate adaptation and mitigation in cities, along with the SDGs and other global goals. Cities are where most people live and where most emissions are generated. Local, national and international action is needed to achieve this.

Urban trees and nature are a powerful nature-based solution for these challenges. They can cool our cities up to 8 degrees Celsius, while reducing energy consumption. They increase resilience to floods and landslides, improve physical and mental health, and their beauty and shade can make neighborhoods and cities more vibrant. Benefits outweigh costs by a factor of 5 to 1 and simultaneously deliver local, national and global goals.

These benefits can be particularly relevant in dry cities, many of which experience heat and weather extremes. Yet cities facing water stress and scarcity also face greater challenges in sustaining and expanding urban trees and nature. Many of the challenges and opportunities for urban trees as a nature-based solution require national action and support.

This session will introduce this topic to policymakers with a high-level panel discussion on promoting Trees in Dry Cities as a nature-based solution for climate adaptation and mitigation. It will provide a platform for knowledge sharing and best practice exchange, with insights from dry countries/cities in different global regions (e.g., Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America), with a second panel discussion on delivering Trees in Dry Cities, which will explore concrete tools and local needs and challenges in more detail.

It will also invite to join a Trees in Dry Cities Coalition by UNECE and WGEO under the auspices of the Trees in Cities Challenge and its Tree Policy Action Lab (Tree-PAL), in collaboration with the WGEO Cities Platform, highlighting the importance of urban trees and nature in dry climates. This coalition would support peer exchange, technical cooperation, and city pilots that inform national policy dialogue and recommendations to systemically drive and scale the sustainable management of urban trees and forests as a climate and SDG solution for dry cities.

Agenda (ENG)

6 DECEMBER 2023 | 14:30 – 16:30 | WGEO PAVILION | EXPO CITY | DUBAI

14:30 – 14:45

Opening

H.E. Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, Chairman, World Green Economy Organization

Ms. Tatiana Molcean, Executive Secretary of UNECE

14:45 – 15:45

High-level panel: Trees in Dry Cities to deliver national SDG and climate objectives

Moderator: United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

H.E. Muawieh Radaideh, Minister of Environment, Jordan

H.E. Aziz Abdukhakimov, Minister of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change, Uzbekistan

Mr. Adalberto Maluf, National Secretary for Urban Environment and Environmental Quality of the Brazilian Ministry of Environment and Climate Change

Mr. Francesco Corvaro, Special Envoy for Climate Change, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

Ms. Nouzha Bouchareb, former Minister of National Territorial Planning, Urban Planning, Housing and City Policy of the Kingdom of Morocco

Mr. Aly Abousabaa, Director of the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas and Regional Director, Central and West Asia and North Africa, CGIAR

15:45 – 16:25

Trees in Dry Cities for climate resilience – planning and mobilizing action and finance at local, national and international levels

Moderator: World Green Economy Organization

Ms. Xenya Scanlon, Chief of Communications, External Relations and Partnerships, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

Mr. Ricardo Rio, Mayor of Braga, Portugal

Ms. Christine Peterson, Director of International Trade & Investment, Mayor's Office City of Los Angeles

Hon. Pedro Roque (Portugal) Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM) Vice-President and President of the PAM 3rd Standing Committee

Mr. Stephen O'Driscoll, Head of Environment, Climate and Social Policy, European Investment Bank

16:25 – 16:30

Closing

World Green Economy Organization and UNECE

Further Information:

www.unece.org

Contact:

Ms. Liliana ANNOVAZZI-JAKAB

Chief, UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section, Forests, Land and Housing Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Phone: +41 (0) 76 691 1571

E-mail: liliana.annovazzi-jakab@un.org



UNECE

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
Telephone: +41 (0) 22 917 1234
www.unece.org



WORLD GREEN ECONOMY
ORGANIZATION