

First Meeting of the Trees in Dry Cities Coalition

Monday, 18 March 2024

14:00 – 15:15 CET

Online, [teams link here](#)



The **Trees in Dry Cities Coalition** under the auspices of UNECE's Trees in Cities Challenge and its Tree Policy Action Lab (Tree PAL), highlights the importance of urban trees and nature in dry climates. This coalition aims at supporting 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.

With the participation of government representatives at national and local levels, international organizations, and development banks, the event "**Trees in dry cities: luxury or a fundamental climate and SDG solution?**" organized jointly by **UNECE and WGEO** at COP28 in Dubai played a pivotal role in shaping the discourse around urban trees as a critical nature-based solution for climate resilience and sustainable development. Building upon this momentum, the Coalition seeks to unlock the full potential of urban trees in addressing climate resilience, biodiversity, disaster risk reduction, and the development of sustainable cities.

The First Meeting of the Coalition will convene selected coalition members, policymakers, and experts from all global regions, and will offer an inclusive space for knowledge exchange and collaborative engagement to collectively contribute. The conversation will revolve around targeted topics spark insightful exchanges, sharing expertise, and encouraging collaborative problem-solving within the Trees in Dry Cities Coalition. Also, it will identify needs and opportunities aiming at shaping strategies, fostering sustainable management of urban trees and forests as a crucial climate and SDG solution for dry cities.



AGENDA (ENG)

Welcome and Opening Remarks

14:00 – 14:05 UNECE will set the stage for the Trees in Dry Cities Coalition’s inaugural meeting.

Overview of the Coalition: Vision, Objectives, Structure, etc.

14:05 – 14:25 UNECE will present the proposed informal working arrangement aimed at mobilizing collaborative efforts and action.

- *See the background document: Trees in Dry Cities Coalition Proposed Informal Working Arrangements*

Roundtable discussion: Needs and Challenges

A representative of each participating organization will be invited to speak for 2 minutes to introduce their organization and answer the following question:

- *What are the most urgent needs, challenges and opportunities that the Coalition can address?*

14:25 – 15:00 For example, input may be structured as follows:

Challenge: lack of national support for sustainably managing trees in dry cities;

Need: need to strengthen alignment of local and national policies;

Opportunity: develop guidance for linking local and national policy for trees in dry cities.

Challenge: scarce human, financial and water resources and competing demands;

Need: capacity-building to deliver trees in dry cities with limited resources;

Opportunity: develop a compendium of best practices and innovative approaches.

Proposed way forward and closing

UNECE will present the proposed next steps for the Coalition.

Participants are invited to comment on the proposed framework for a voluntary action plan for the Coalition, that would be developed by UNECE before the next meeting, with opportunities for written input by members of the Coalition on specific voluntary actions.

15:00 – 15:15

The proposed framework includes four pillars of action to support collective efforts to expand and sustainably manage trees in dry cities as nature-based solution:

1. Strengthening local and national policy for systemic approaches
2. Mobilizing and aligning action and cooperation
3. Enhancing knowledge, awareness and capacity
4. Collectively identifying key messages and input into relevant international processes