



UN-DESA Division for Sustainable Development

Sustainable Development Goal 15: Progress and Prospects

*An expert group meeting in preparation for HLPF 2018:
Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies*

14-15 May 2018

United Nations Headquarters, New York
Conference Room 9

| DAY 1 | |
|--------------|--|
| Time | Session |
| 9:30-9:45 | <p>Welcome and overview of EGM Mr. Liu Zhenmin, Under-Secretary-General, UN-DESA</p> |
| 9:45-11:00 | <p>SESSION 1 Progress: where are we? This session will provide an overall assessment with regard to SDG 15, using the best available data. It will rely on both global and regional evidence to present current status and trends with regard to the various targets of SDG 15. Which SDG 15 targets are on track, and which ones are appearing out of reach? Are their particular regions where the situation is especially good (or alarming)? Are there trends with respect to other SDGs that may be considered particularly impactful for SDG 15? How can we promote and communicate an integrated view across the targets of SDG 15, as well as its interrelationships with the rest of Agenda 2030?</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> UN-DESA Statistics Division</p> <p><u>Lead presenters:</u> IUCN</p> |
| 11:00-11:15 | Coffee break |
| | |



| | |
|-------------|--|
| 11:15-12:15 | <p>SESSION 2</p> <p>Forests</p> <p>What progress has been achieved in reversing the forest loss and degradation, increasing the forest area, and enhancing forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits?</p> <p>How can the Global Forest Goals of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2030 leverage and accelerate the progress in SDG15 and other SDGs?</p> <p>How can efforts to halt and reverse deforestation be accelerated by examining the multiple links between agriculture and forests?</p> <p>What policy changes could help to increase investments in forests?</p> <p>Which are the most critical interlinkages with other goals and targets in terms of co-benefits or trade-offs? How can they be leveraged towards progress?</p> <p>How are the synergies and trade-offs with climate change mitigation and adaptation beneficial to progress in this area?</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> UNFF</p> <p><u>Lead presenters:</u> FAO, Collaborative Partnership on Forests</p> |
| 12:15-13:15 | <p>SESSION 3</p> <p>Biodiversity</p> <p>What are the changes in policy and implementation that could help reduce incentives that lead to biodiversity loss, and increase biodiversity investments?</p> <p>Which are the most critical interlinkages with other goals and targets in terms of co-benefits or trade-offs? How can they be leveraged towards progress?</p> <p>How can the post-2020 Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (currently being developed by the Convention on Biological Diversity) be better linked to Agenda 2030 as well as with national implementation?</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Convention on Biological Diversity</p> <p><u>Lead presenters:</u></p> |
| 13:15-14:30 | Lunch break |
| 14:30-16:30 | SESSION 4 |



| | |
|-------------|--|
| | <p>Holistic and integrated approaches to achieving SDG 15</p> <p>Ecosystem approaches require holistic thinking and cross-sectoral actions to achieve success in the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services without compromising or diminishing progress in other areas.</p> <p>What are good practices in employing these approaches at scale?</p> <p>How effective are current approaches based on valuation of ecosystem services, natural capital accounting, etc. in capturing the true value of nature, and integrating them into planning and decision making processes at national and cross-national levels? What challenges must be overcome to make these approaches more effective?</p> <p>How can we achieve a more holistic accounting of the value of nature and its ecosystems, and what role can governments play?</p> <p>What changes are needed in governance institutions and structures at all levels to enable greater efficiency and effectiveness in achieving SDG 15?</p> <p>How can we change the narrative of how we approach SDG15 to capture a more holistic way of thinking?</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> UNEP</p> <p><u>Lead presenters:</u></p> |
| 16:30-16:45 | Coffee break |
| 16:45-18:00 | <p>Reflections on day 1 discussions and development of key messages</p> <p>What progress has been achieved in supporting a transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies for the achievement of SDG 15?</p> <p>What are the prospects for success by 2020, and 2030?</p> <p>What are some of the transformative actions that can be taken by stakeholders at global, regional, national and sub-national levels to accelerate progress towards SDG 15 as well as those closely associated with it?</p> <p>Moderators from sessions 1-4</p> |

DAY 2

| Time | Session |
|------|---------|
|------|---------|



| | |
|-------------|---|
| | |
| 9:00-9:15 | <p>Presentation of key messages from day 1 and overview of day 2 UN-DESA Division for Sustainable Development</p> |
| 9:15-10:30 | <p>SESSION 5 Custodians of terrestrial ecosystems This session will address the need for more participatory approaches to poverty eradication, sustainable livelihoods and ecosystem conservation. Local and indigenous communities, primary and small-scale producers, pastoralists and fisherfolk are the drivers of solutions to protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, prevent poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and biodiversity loss. They largely depend on these ecosystems for their livelihoods, and recognizing their rights (e.g. with regard to secure land tenure, access to genetic resources and benefit sharing) can stimulate greater progress on all fronts. What legislative, administrative and policy frameworks have proven most effective in this regard? In what ways can indigenous communities be effective in both the short and long term?</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> FAO</p> <p><u>Lead presenters:</u></p> |
| 10:30-10:45 | <p>Coffee break</p> |
| 10:45-11:45 | <p>SESSION 6 Wildlife poaching and trafficking What are the successes and challenges in addressing both the demand and the supply of illegal wildlife products? Which are the most critical interlinkages with other goals and targets in terms of co-benefits or trade-offs? How can they be leveraged towards progress?</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Wildlife Conservation Society</p> |



| | |
|-------------|---|
| | <u>Lead presenters:</u> |
| 11:45-12:45 | <p>SESSION 7 Mountains What successes and challenges are unique to mountain ecosystems? Which are the most critical interlinkages with other goals and targets in terms of co-benefits or trade-offs? How can they be leveraged towards progress?</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Mountain Partnership</p> <p><u>Lead presenters:</u></p> |
| 12:45-14:00 | Lunch |
| 14:00-15:00 | <p>SESSION 8 Land and soils What successes and challenges are unique to this area? How can SDG accelerators and integrators like SDG 15.3 contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda? Which are the most critical interlinkages with other goals and targets in terms of co-benefits or trade-offs? How can they be leveraged towards progress? How can the Land Degradation Neutrality Fund serve as an innovative funding model to achieve the SDGs, especially SDG15.3?</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> UN Convention to Combat Desertification</p> <p><u>Lead presenters:</u></p> |
| 15:00-16:30 | <p>SESSION 9 Means of implementation Paragraphs 60 to 71 of the 2030 Agenda address means of implementation and global partnerships for the SDGs, including finance, technology, capacity building, trade, and systemic issues. Targets 15a to 15c outline specific measures for implementing SDG15. This session will take stock of the provision of official development assistance (ODA) and public expenditure on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems, highlight evidence-based</p> |



| | |
|-------------|--|
| | <p>conservation solutions, including recent scientific and technological advances, effective community management, and innovative partnerships that deliver genuine impact and can be scaled up or replicated for success.</p> <p>What are good models of putting ODA as well as domestically mobilized public resources to work towards SDG 15?</p> <p>How can they complement each other?</p> <p>How can the private sector be more fully engaged and accountable?</p> <p>How can partnerships with NGOs accelerate progress?</p> <p>What advances in science, technology and data can help to accelerate progress in implementation?</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> UNDP</p> <p><u>Lead presenters:</u></p> |
| 16:30-16:45 | Coffee break |
| 16:45-17:45 | <p>Reflections on day 1 and 2 discussions, development of key messages</p> <p>What progress has been achieved in supporting a transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies for the achievement of SDG 15? What are the prospects for success by 2020, and 2030?</p> <p>What are some of the transformative actions that can be taken by stakeholders at global, regional, national and sub-national levels to accelerate progress towards SDG 15 as well as those closely associated with it?</p> <p>Moderators from sessions 5-9</p> |
| 17:45-18:00 | <p>Closing and next steps</p> <p>UN-DESA Division for Sustainable Development</p> |