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

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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<tr>
<td>9:30-9:45</td>
<td><strong>Welcome and overview of EGM</strong></td>
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<td>Mr. Liu Zhenmin, Under-Secretary-General, UN-DESA</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:45-11:00</td>
<td><strong>SESSION 1</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Progress: where are we?</strong></td>
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<td>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?</td>
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<td><strong>Moderator:</strong></td>
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<td>UN-DESA Statistics Division</td>
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<td><strong>Lead presenters:</strong></td>
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<td>IUCN</td>
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<td>11:00-11:15</td>
<td><strong>Coffee break</strong></td>
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<td>11:15-12:15</td>
<td>SESSION 2</td>
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<td>12:15-13:15</td>
<td>SESSION 3</td>
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<td>13:15-14:30</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>14:30-16:30</td>
<td>SESSION 4</td>
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Holistic and integrated approaches to achieving SDG 15
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.
What are good practices in employing these approaches at scale?
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?
How can we achieve a more holistic accounting of the value of nature and its ecosystems, and what role can governments play?
What changes are needed in governance institutions and structures at all levels to enable greater efficiency and effectiveness in achieving SDG 15?
How can we change the narrative of how we approach SDG15 to capture a more holistic way of thinking?

Moderator:
UNEP

Lead presenters:

16:30-16:45   Coffee break

16:45-18:00   Reflections on day 1 discussions and development of key messages
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?
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?

Moderators from sessions 1-4
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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| 9:00-9:15 | Presentation of key messages from day 1 and overview of day 2  
UN-DESA Division for Sustainable Development |
| 9:15-10:30 | 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?  
Moderator:  
FAO  
Lead presenters: |
| 10:30-10:45 | Coffee break |
| 10:45-11:45 | 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?  
Moderator:  
Wildlife Conservation Society |
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<th>Discussion</th>
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<tr>
<td>11:45-12:45</td>
<td>SESSION 7</td>
<td>Mountains</td>
<td>What successes and challenges are unique to mountain ecosystems?</td>
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<td>In terms of co-benefits or trade-offs? How can they be leveraged towards progress?</td>
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<td>Moderator:</td>
<td>Mountain Partnership</td>
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<td>12:45-14:00</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>14:00-15:00</td>
<td>SESSION 8</td>
<td>Land and soils</td>
<td>What successes and challenges are unique to this area?</td>
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<td>How can SDG accelerators and integrators like SDG 15.3 contribute to the</td>
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<td>achievement of the 2030 Agenda?</td>
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<td>Moderator:</td>
<td>UN Convention to Combat Desertification</td>
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<td>15:00-16:30</td>
<td>SESSION 9</td>
<td>Means of implementation</td>
<td>Paragraphs 60 to 71 of the 2030 Agenda address means of implementation and</td>
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<td>global partnerships for the SDGs, including finance, technology, capacity</td>
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<td>building, trade, and systemic issues. Targets 15a to 15c outline specific</td>
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<td>measures for implementing SDG15. This session will take stock of the provision</td>
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<td>of official development assistance (ODA) and public expenditure on</td>
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<td>conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems, highlight</td>
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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.
What are good models of putting ODA as well as domestically mobilized public resources to work towards SDG 15?
How can they complement each other?
How can the private sector be more fully engaged and accountable?
How can partnerships with NGOs accelerate progress?
What advances in science, technology and data can help to accelerate progress in implementation?

Moderator:
UNDP

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<td>17:45-18:00</td>
<td><strong>Closing and next steps</strong></td>
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