



UN-DESA Division for Sustainable Development Goals

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	Welcome and opening address Mr. Elliott Harris, Assistant-Secretary-General for Economic Development and Chief Economist, UN-DESA
9:45-11:00	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. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Where has there been notable progress towards SDG 15 targets, and where have trends been in the opposite direction? 2. Are there particular regions where the situation is especially encouraging (or worrying)? 3. How can we improve the indicator set used to track progress towards SDG 15, given that several are Tier III and others Tier II?



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	<p>4. What are the most important synergies across the targets of SDG 15, and what does this imply for cooperation going forward?</p> <p>5. What are the most important interdependencies between SDG 15 and other SDGs? Where do these point to synergies to be captured, where to possible trade-offs? How to capture the former, minimize the latter?</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Ms. Francesca Perucci, Assistant Director, UN-DESA Statistics Division</p> <p><u>Lead presenters:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Tom Brooks, Chief Scientist, IUCN • Dr. Deon Nel, Global Conservation Director, WWF International • Mr. Pierre Boileau, Head, Global Environment Outlook, UN Environment
11:00-11:15	Coffee break
11:15-12:15	<p>SESSION 2</p> <p>Forests</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How can the implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2030 leverage and accelerate the progress in SDG15 and other SDGs? 2. How can efforts to halt and reverse deforestation be accelerated by strengthening positive links between agriculture and forests? 3. What policy changes could help to increase investments in forests and sustainable landscape management? 4. Which are the most critical interlinkages of SDG15 with other goals and targets (GFGs, Aichi Targets, climate goals) in terms of co-benefits or trade-offs? How can they be leveraged towards progress? <p><u>Moderator:</u> Mr. Manoel Sobral Filho, Director, UNFF Secretariat</p> <p><u>Lead presenters:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Eva Muller, Director, Forestry Policy and Resources Division, FAO • Mr. Steffen Dehn, International Forestry Students' Association and UNFF Major Group Focal Point for Children and Youth • Mr. John Parrotta, Vice-President, International Union for Forest Research Organizations
12:15-13:15	<p>SESSION 3</p> <p>Biodiversity</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the changes in policy and implementation that could help reduce incentives that lead to biodiversity loss, and increase biodiversity investments? 2. Which are the most critical interlinkages with other goals and targets in terms of

	<p>co-benefits or trade-offs? How can they be leveraged towards progress?</p> <p>3. How can the post-2020 global framework for biodiversity that will be developed under the Convention on Biological Diversity, in follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, be more effectively linked to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its national implementation?</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Ms. Amy Fraenkel, Director, Division for Mainstreaming, Cooperation and Outreach Support, Convention on Biological Diversity</p> <p><u>Lead presenters:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Cristián Samper, President and CEO, Wildlife Conservation Society • Sir Bob Watson, Chair, Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services • Mr. Mark Zimsky, Biodiversity Focal Area Coordinator, Regional Coordinator, Latin America, Global Environment Facility
13:15-14:30	Lunch break
14:30-16:30	<p>SESSION 4</p> <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> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are good practices in employing these approaches at scale? 2. 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? 3. How can we achieve a more holistic accounting of the value of nature and its ecosystems, and what role can governments play? 4. What changes are needed in governance institutions and structures at all levels to enable greater efficiency and effectiveness in achieving SDG 15? 5. How can we change the narrative of how we approach SDG15 to capture a more holistic way of thinking? <p><u>Moderator:</u> Mr. Jamil Ahmad, Director a.i. and Head of Intergovernmental Affairs, UNEP</p> <p><u>Lead presenters:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Juha Siikamaki, Chief Economist, IUCN • Ms. Cécile Bibiane Ndjebet, Director, African Women's Network for Community

	<p>Management of Forests (REFACOF), Cameroon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Sonali Senaratna Sellamuttu, Senior Researcher and Head of Office, International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Lao PDR • Ms. Alessandra Alfieri, UN Statistics Division • Ms. Maria Rivera, Senior Advisor on SDGs, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands • Ms. Wei Zhang, Environment and Production Technology Division (EPTD), IFPRI
16:30-16:45	Coffee break
16:45-18:00	<p>Reflections on day 1 discussions and development of key messages</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What progress has been achieved in supporting a transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies for the achievement of SDG 15? 2. What are the prospects for success by 2020, and 2030? 3. 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><u>Moderator:</u> Ms. Carla Mucavi, Director, FAO Liaison Office, UNHQ, New York</p> <p><u>Lead speakers (moderators from sessions 1 to 4 to present key messages):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Francesca Perucci, Assistant Director, UN-DESA Statistics Division • Mr. Manoel Sobral Filho, Director, UNFF Secretariat • Ms. Amy Fraenkel, Director, Division for Mainstreaming, Cooperation and Outreach Support, Convention on Biological Diversity • Mr. Jamil Ahmad, Director a.i. and Head of Intergovernmental Affairs, UNEP

DAY 2	
Time	Session
9:00-9:15	<p>Setting the tone for day 2: keynote address</p> <p>Ms. Cristiana Paşca Palmer, Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity</p>
9:15-10:30	<p>SESSION 5</p> <p>Custodians of terrestrial ecosystems</p> <p>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</p>

	<p>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.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How can custodians of terrestrial ecosystems be empowered to play a stronger role in achieving SDG15 - including local communities and Indigenous Peoples, primary and small-scale producers, farmers, pastoralists, foresters and fisherfolk, women and youth? 2. How can custodians of terrestrial ecosystems be more effectively supported in balancing the need to address poverty, hunger, secure livelihoods and opportunities for development with the need to save the environment, addressing environmental degradation and a changing climate? 3. What policy and legislative framework changes and investments are needed to further strengthen existing mechanisms and partnerships to provide an enabling environment for custodians of terrestrial ecosystems to effectively up-scale more sustainable practices? <p><u>Moderator:</u> Mr. Ewald Rametsteiner, Senior Forestry Officer, FAO strategic programme to make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable</p> <p><u>Lead presenters:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Mehmet Mustafa Gozukara, Director-General, Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs, Turkey • Ms. Gertrude Kabusimbi Kenyangi, Executive Director, Support for Women in Agriculture and Environment, Uganda • Ms. Joji Carino, Senior Policy Adviser, Forest Peoples Programme, Philippines
10:30-10:45	Coffee break
10:45-11:45	<p>SESSION 6</p> <p>Wildlife poaching and trafficking</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are new international mechanisms or organizations needed to respond to the mandates of the UN Convention on Transnational Organized Crime and the UN Convention against Corruption? 2. What new national policies would allow countries to deliver rapidly on SDG Target 15.7? 3. What regulatory frameworks at the national level would allow countries to address the illegal taking, trafficking, and marketing of illegal wildlife products? 4. 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><u>Moderator:</u> Dr. Elizabeth Bennett, Vice President, Species Conservation, Wildlife Conservation Society</p> <p><u>Lead presenters:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. John Scanlon, Special Envoy, African Parks, and former Secretary-General of CITES • Dr. Samuel Kasiki, Kenya Wildlife Service • Ms. Midori Paxton, Head of Ecosystems and Biodiversity, UNDP
11:45-12:45	<p>SESSION 7 Mountains</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How can the role and value of mountains be included in development strategies and policy development across sectors? 2. How can the data collected for the Mountain Green Cover Index feed into national planning and policies? 3. How can the Framework for Action on mountains contribute to achieving progress in SDG15 and the other SDGs? 4. Which adaptation measures can prevent the loss of biodiversity and the effects of climate change in mountains? <p><u>Moderator:</u> Dr. Andrew Taber, former Executive Director, The Mountain Institute, and former Chair of the Mountain Partnership</p> <p><u>Lead presenters:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Ruth Turia, Director, Forest Policy and Planning National Forest Service, Papua New Guinea Forest Authority • Ms. Hanta Rabetaliana, World Mountain People Association, Madagascar
12:45-14:00	Lunch break
14:00-15:00	<p>SESSION 8 Land and soils</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What successes and challenges are unique to this area? 2. How can SDG accelerators and integrators like SDG 15.3 contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda? 3. 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? 4. How can the Land Degradation Neutrality Fund serve as an innovative funding model to achieve the SDGs, especially SDG15.3?

	<p><u>Moderator:</u> Mr. Melchiade Bukuru, Chief of Office, UNCCD Liaison Office</p> <p><u>Lead presenters:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Edward B. Barbier, Department of Economics, Colorado State University, and Senior Scholar, School of Global Environmental Sustainability • Dr. Deborah Bossio, Lead Soil Scientist, The Nature Conservancy • Dr. Dan Pennock, University of Saskatchewan, Member of the Global Soil Partnership Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils
15:00-16:30	<p>SESSION 9</p> <p>Means of implementation</p> <p>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 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> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are good models of putting ODA as well as domestically mobilized public resources to work towards SDG 15? 2. How can they complement each other including through multi-stakeholder partnerships that engage local communities and the private sector? 3. What capacity development is needed to ensure that these initiatives can adapt innovative finance and technical solutions that are institutionally sustainable? 4. What advances in science, technology and data can help to accelerate progress in implementation? <p><u>Moderator:</u> Mr. Tim Scott, Senior Policy Advisor, Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, UNDP</p> <p><u>Lead presenters:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Katia Karousakis, OECD Environment Directorate • Dr. Malan Lindeque, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Namibia • Ms. Mirna Ines Fernández, Global Youth Biodiversity Network, Steering Committee Member • Ms. Larissa Stiem-Bhatia, Research Coordinator, TMG Research gGmbH – Think Tank for Sustainability
16:30-16:45	Coffee break

16:45-17:45	<p>Reflections on day 2 discussions and development of key messages</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 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? 2. 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><u>Moderator:</u> Mr. Shantanu Mukherjee, Chief, Policy and Analysis Branch, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, UN-DESA</p> <p><u>Lead speakers (moderators from sessions 5 to 9 to present key messages):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Ewald Rametsteiner, Senior Forestry Officer, FAO strategic programme to make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable • Dr. Elizabeth Bennett, Vice President, Species Conservation, Wildlife Conservation Society • Dr. Andrew Taber, former Executive Director, The Mountain Institute, and former Chair of the Mountain Partnership • Mr. Melchiade Bukuru, Chief of Office, UNCCD Liaison Office • Mr. Tim Scott, Senior Policy Advisor, Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, UNDP
17:45-18:00	<p>Closing: next steps and the 2018 HLPF thematic review of SDGs</p> <p>Ms. Marion Barthelemy, Director, Office of Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development, UN-DESA</p>