



CPF

Collaborative Partnership
on Forests

The role of forests in time of crisis: sustainable production and consumption patterns to turn the tide on deforestation

Side Event to the high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF) 2021,
organized by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests

Tuesday, 6 July 2021, 7:30-9:00 a.m. EDT // 13:30-15:00 CEST

Registration: https://fao.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_lmyuWpN7RtKeSYXHKHgU7A

Meeting ID: 956 7978 6301 Passcode: 18084501

I. Background

The COVID-19 pandemic has added an extra dimension of urgency to efforts aimed at tackling global challenges such as poverty eradication, climate change, biodiversity loss and inequity. Recognizing that the pandemic is the result of a breakdown in the relationship between humans and nature, the focus of responses should, in turn, aim to achieve greater sustainability of production processes and consumption so as to improve human health and promote a greener and fairer economy.

While some regions have slowed or reversed the trend of deforestation, the world has failed to meet SDG target 15.2 that called for the halt of deforestation by 2020. An estimated 420 million hectares of forest – the area of India and Portugal combined – have been lost through deforestation since 1990. Sustainable production and consumption (SDG 12) globally are an integral part of transforming agricultural and food systems to become more sustainable, climate-smart and deforestation-free.

Deforestation and other land-use activities account for 11 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions; it is unlikely, therefore, that climate goals can be met without halting deforestation. The global community cannot allow the pandemic to reverse progress made in protecting forests, reducing and reversing forest loss and degradation and boosting the sustainable production and trade of agricultural and forest products. Forest landscapes and trees must be at the heart of solutions as we look towards a resilient, sustainable future and to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, implementing the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 and its Global Forest Goals, and meeting other international forest-related commitments and goals.

The growing awareness for sustainability is one of the most promising opportunities deriving from the pandemic as we build back better. Now is the time to shift to more sustainable and environmentally friendly ways of living and economic development that builds on renewable, circular, bio-based, low-carbon materials that derive from sustainable production.

Forest products have been categorized as essential in many countries in the COVID-19 pandemic and wood-derived products are benefiting from an increasingly positive image. Wooden buildings, furniture





and fiber-based materials to replace plastic are in trend. This positive momentum for the forest sector can be used to shift consumption of products from unsustainable sources to forest products from sustainably managed forests, and agricultural commodities from deforestation-free production.

Multiple factors lead to the conversion of forests to agriculture land. To successfully protect forests globally and manage them sustainably, agricultural commodities must be produced as sustainable as possible without destroying forests. The demand for palm oil, soya and cocoa is an important driving factor of agricultural expansion. Deforestation-free certified agricultural commodities must become a necessity in the eyes of consumers.

In September 2019, the United Nations Secretary-General called for scaling up action to “turn the tide on deforestation”, stating that “we must halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and change the way we farm”.

In April 2021, at the margins of the sixteenth session of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF 16), the CPF launched its joint statement “[Challenges and Opportunities in Turning the Tide on Deforestation](#)”. The statement builds on the outcomes and recommendations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests International Conference “From Aspiration to Action – working together to halt deforestation and increase forest area” held in 2018. Halting deforestation is an essential lever in the Decade of Action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) by 2030, and for confronting the “quadruple planetary emergency,” comprising a climate crisis, a nature crisis, an inequality crisis and a global health crisis. It requires concerted action by governments, the private sector and civil society to achieve transformational change in food systems and to promote sustainable agricultural and forest value chains that halt deforestation.

UNFF 16 held technical discussions on the implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2030 with a focus on its thematic priorities: (i) reversing the loss of forest cover; (ii) enhancing forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits; and (iii) mobilizing financial resources and strengthening scientific and technical cooperation; promoting governance frameworks to advance implementation; and enhancing cooperation, coordination and coherence, for sustainable forest management. During UNFF16, the flagship publication “Global Forest Goals Report 2021” was launched. According to the report, while the world had been making progress in key areas, such as increasing the forest area, such advances are being threatened by the overall worsening state of the natural environment, including land degradation and droughts, pests and invasive species, fires and storms.

UNFF16 also held a High-level Round Table on major forest-related developments, and highlighted the critical importance of preservation, conservation and restoration of nature, in particular, forests, for preventing infectious and zoonotic diseases through “one-health approach”, and offsetting many of the social, economic and environmental impacts of the pandemic and other global challenges, building on the findings of the assessment of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on forests and forest sector.





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II. Objectives of the event

Member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) propose to hold a side event to promote the role of forests in time of crisis with a focus on sustainable production and consumption patterns to turn the tide on deforestation. The main objective of the event is to showcase how consumption and production can contribute to turning the tide on deforestation in the time of crisis.

III. Programme

Opening by the **UN Forum on Forests Secretariat (tbc)**

Keynote speech by Maria Francesca Spatolisano, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)

Panelists:

Moderated panel discussion by **Musonda Mumba, Vice-Chair of the CPF and Director Rome Centre for Sustainable Development Nature, Climate and Energy, UNDP (tbc)**

- **Mette Wilkie, Chair of the CPF and Director of the FAO Forestry Division**, on the role of forests in time of crisis: sustainable production and consumption patterns to turn the tide on deforestation
- **Ghana (tbc)**, on deforestation-free supply chains and sustainability in the cocoa production in the country
- **Germany (tbc)**, on consumer countries driving demand on agricultural commodities and responsibility towards ecosystem and livelihood protection
- **Tropical Forest Alliance, World Economic Forum (tbc)**, on the business case for deforestation-free commodities

Panelists will address the guiding question “How can consumer demand shift production patterns to become more sustainable/deforestation free?” in their initial remarks. Following the initial remarks, the floor will be open for an interactive discussion.

IV. Registration

The event registration is open at

https://fao.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_lmyuWpN7RtKeSYXHkHgU7A.

V. Organizers

Member Organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, <http://www.cpfweb.org/en/>

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