

**Peer Learning Round Table**



## Life on Land: SDG 15

Session 6: In-person: Palais des Nations, Tempus Room 2; Virtual: Zoom

Simultaneous interpretation: English, French and Russian

# Action to protect and restore terrestrial ecosystems

Thursday, 7 April 2022, 10:00 – 12:00

## Guiding questions for round table

- |                   |                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Question 1</b> | <i>What policy instruments have proven most effective in contributing to ecosystems restoration? How can their implementation and impact be measured?</i>                              |
| <b>Question 2</b> | <i>How has cooperation been fostered to protect biodiversity across countries? What are the enabling conditions to strengthen transboundary cooperation?</i>                           |
| <b>Question 3</b> | <i>How can ecosystems restoration policies facilitate access to resources, improve livelihoods and provide economic opportunities particularly for women and disadvantaged groups?</i> |
| <b>Question 4</b> | <i>How to mobilize sufficient financial resources for the protection and restoration of diverse ecosystems</i>                                                                         |
| <b>Question 5</b> | <i>Which ecosystem restoration solutions would be the most effective in your country to address the climate crisis?</i>                                                                |

## Scenario

Online:

<https://zoom.us/j/94767631967?pwd=U2YySkJZdzhiZGc3NUk4NTd5RERUZz09>

Meeting ID: 947 6763 1967

Passcode: 065599

*Co-facilitators: The co-chairs of the Issue based coalition on Environment and Climate change*

Ana Luiza M. Thompson Flores, Director, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe

Marco Keiner, Director, Environment Division, UNECE

Bruno Maggy G. Pozzi, Director, Europe Office, UNEP

**10:00 - 10:10      *Opening***

**10:10 – 11:40      *Roundtable on actions to protect and restore terrestrial ecosystems:***

*(presentations followed by Q&A)*

**Carpathian Convention as the regional mechanism for strengthening implementation of environmental policies,**

Eliška Rolfová, Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic, Carpathian Convention, currently Chair of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Biodiversity

**Mura-Drava-Danube transboundary biosphere reserve,**

Gordana Beltram, Nature Conservation Unit, Directorate for the Environment, Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, Republic of Slovenia

**The role of the youth in action to protect and restore terrestrial ecosystems**

Alicia May Donnellan Barraclough, Youth representative, UNESCO Man and Biosphere programme

**Sustainable land management technologies supporting national restoration efforts and land degradation neutrality efforts,**

Nino Chickovani, Head of Land Resources Protection Division,  
Ministry of Environment of Georgia

**Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity to improve  
regulating and supporting ecosystem services and restoration:  
Lessons from Uzbekistan,**

Jahongir Talipov, Head of the International Cooperation and  
Projects Department, State Committee on Ecology and  
Environmental Protection of Uzbekistan

**Unlocking private finance for nature global lessons for the  
region,**

Jonathan Gheysens, Programme Officer, UNEP

**Recommendations from the civil society for the forthcoming EU  
Nature Restoration Law**

Sergiy Moroz, Policy Manager on Water and Biodiversity,  
European Environmental Bureau

**11:40 -11:55      *Discussion on lessons learned and the future opportunities***

*Discussants:*

Ambassador Igli Hasani, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and  
Environmental Activities

Jeff Jeter, Biodiversity Lead, European Bank for Reconstruction  
and Development

**11:55 – 12:00      *Concluding remarks and closing of the event***

## **Background**

Whilst there has been commendable progress in increasing areas protected for nature conservation – in line with SDG 15 and targets adopted under the Convention on Biological Diversity – biodiversity continues to decline in the Europe and Central Asia region. In June last year, UNEP, FAO and partners launched the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, which aims to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems.

Ecosystem restoration contributes to the achievement of all the SDGs and will be an essential element of the implementation

of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Healthy ecosystems are needed to conserve biodiversity, tackle climate change and provide ecosystem services to people who are dependent on the resources.

Transboundary cooperation for ecosystem restoration, with the involvement of relevant stakeholders, is crucial to enhance connectivity between ecosystems and habitats and maintain their health and integrity.

Gender-inclusive restoration initiatives can facilitate access to resources and provide an opportunity for women's economic empowerment, which ultimately enhance sustainable livelihoods.

Adequately financed ecosystem restoration policies need to take into account socioeconomic aspects, including concerns and inputs of disadvantaged groups, in order to ensure long-term effectiveness and promote the equitable sharing of benefits. As the financing gap to reach SDG 15 is huge, private investments at large scale are needed to upscale existing restoration initiatives and address the climate crisis.

The purpose of the session is to inspire and catalyze restoration action across the region, and to contribute to the achievement of the targets of SDG 15 while leaving no one behind. The session will review approaches that work and share experiences from different countries, in particular those building upon transboundary cooperation or addressing the protection of key biodiversity areas.

## Organizers

### Lead organizers

The Co-Chairs of the Issue-based Coalition on Environment and Climate Change: UNECE, UNEP and UNESCO

**Contributors:** WHO, FAO, IOM and other members of the Issue-based Coalition on Environment and Climate Change

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