



Marrakech
Partnership



Forests Action Day

Sunday, November 12, 2017

Overall narrative

The scientific evidence is clear: *forests are a critical part of the answer to our climate challenge*, both because of the emissions reductions that can be achieved by ending deforestation and because of the additional carbon that can be sequestered from the atmosphere through improved forest management and reforestation. In order to prevent global temperature increases of more than 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, all sectors need to accelerate their efforts to decarbonize. Forests already remove from the atmosphere more than a quarter of carbon dioxide emissions emitted by fossil fuel combustion, but the contribution of forests to achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement could be much larger. Ending deforestation, improving management of forest carbon stocks, and restoring degraded and deforested lands could reduce total net emissions by up to 30%, buying valuable time to complete the energy transformation that will be required to avoid dangerous warming that crosses planetary thresholds. Unfortunately, much of this evidence is still unfamiliar to the broader climate change community. At the same time, forests also provide services that are essential for human societies to thrive, adapt, and achieve climate resilient societies. This includes important non-carbon climate benefits, like their role in sustaining livelihoods, providing water and food security, and regulating global rainfall patterns.

Thus, forests are essential for the success of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) providing a window of opportunity for a “triple win”: eliminate deforestation, boost agricultural productivity, and reduce poverty. A Global Platform for the New York Declaration on Forests (NYDF) has been established to support and accelerate achievement of the global forest goals embedded in the NYDF endorsed by national and sub-national governments, companies, indigenous peoples and civil society organizations. The Forests Action Area of the MPGCA shows that *much more is possible if we act together*. If we are to change our current emissions trajectory fast enough, we need to create a narrative of *both* differentiated responsibility and inclusion, where the bigger emitters lead but also where all contributions – by all countries and non-state actors, regardless of stage of development or size, are recognized. On the road to the Facilitative Dialogue in 2018, state and non-state actors need to continue to come together to demonstrate progress in the forest sector and inspire others to join the momentum and accelerate the pace of change.

Master of Ceremonies: Frances Seymour, Distinguished Fellow, World Resources Institute



Events

Time: 10.00 – 10.30 Room 5	Forests Day Opening Plenary
Short description High-level speakers providing the opening impetus to the Forest Day and its climate actions. <i>Master of Ceremonies:</i> Frances Seymour, Distinguished Fellow, World Resources Institute <i>Opening remarks:</i> H.E. Frank Bainimarama, Prime Minister of Fiji and COP 23 President* H.E. Barbara Hendricks, German Minister of Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety* Rukka Sombolinggi, Secretary General, Indigenous Peoples' Alliance of the Archipelago (AMAN)* *Speakers TBC	

Time: 10.35 – 11.20 Room 5	Setting the scene: Paris Agreement: Unlocking the potential of forests to achieve a 1.5 degree and climate resilient world
Short description Forests are critical to address climate change. Addressing deforestation could reduce emissions by 24-30% and over the next decade. Forests also sustain human societies by supporting livelihoods, providing water and food security, and regulating global rainfall patterns. Moderator: H.E. Manuel Pulgar-Vidal, WWF Global Climate and Energy Lead and former Minister of Environment for Peru and COP 20 President Speakers: Giacomo Grassi, Scientific Officer, Institute for Environment and Sustainability, Joint Research Centre of the European Commission Deborah Lawrence, Professor of Environmental Sciences, Univ. of Virginia; Eva Muller, Director of Forestry Policy and Resources Division, FAO; Bronson Griscom, Director of Forest Carbon Science, The Nature Conservancy	



Time: 11.25-12.35 Room 5	Progress on implementation of climate action in forest protection and restoration
Short description Climate action in forests is already underway. Most countries that submitted NDCs have included forests in their contributions, yet few NDCs have forest sectoral targets. Many are now committing resources to support action to reduce deforestation and expand restoration. Despite this progress, enhanced ambition is urgently needed. Moderator: Inger Andersen, Director General, IUCN Speakers: María Victoria Chiriboga, Undersecretary of Climate Change, Ecuadorian Ministry of Environment; H.E. Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Indian Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change*; H.E. Marcelo Mena Carrasco, Chilean Minister of Environment; H.E. Dr. Gemedo Dalle, Ethiopian Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change*; Karin Kemper, Senior Director of Environmental and Natural Resources, World Bank *Speakers TBC	

Time: 14.00-15.10 Room 5	Enabling conditions to advance implementation and enhance Nationally Determined Contributions
Short description Governance, corruption, limited capacities and scarce funding are challenges for the forest sector. Addressing these challenges will require leadership by forest countries, but also enhanced international support to scale up climate action and strengthen forest governance in developing countries. Moderator: Mario Boccucci, Head, UN-REDD Programme Secretariat Speakers: Charlotte Streck, Co-Founder and Director, Climate Focus Juan Chang, Senior Forest and Land Use Specialist, Green Climate Fund Davyth Stewart, Head of Project Leaf, Interpol Roberto Espinoza, Technical Adviser, Asociación Interétnica de Desarrollo de la Selva Peruana (AIDSEP)	



Time: 15.15-16.25 Room 5	New Developments in eliminating deforestation from key supply chains
Short description Agricultural commodity production drives 70% of tropical deforestation. Demand for these products could grow by 50% by 2050. A <i>triple win</i> (ending deforestation, boosting agricultural productivity and reducing poverty) can and must be achieved by decoupling commodity production from deforestation. Moderator: Jeff Seabright, Chief Sustainability Officer, Unilever Speakers: Fernando Sampaio, Executive Director of PCI Strategy, State of Mato Grosso, Brazil Daan Wensing, Program Director Global Landscapes & Deforestation Commodities, IDH Cynthia Ong, Executive Director, Forever Sabah Frederick Kugan, Deputy Director, Forestry Department of Sabah, Malaysia Dr Christopher Stewart, Head of Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability, OLAM Darlington Tuagben, Managing Director of Forest Development Authority, Liberia H.E. Vidar Helgesen, Norwegian Minister of Climate and Environment Discussants: Kevin Rabinovitch, Global Vice President of Sustainability, Mars Inc. Laura Phillips, Senior Vice President for Global Sustainability, Walmart	

Time: 16.30 – 17.25 Room 5	New platforms for forest action and advocacy: Indigenous peoples' and religious leadership
Short description Culture and religion inspire ambition to protect the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities – groups that manage about 25% of the world's tropical forests. Their land and resource rights are thus crucial to protect forests and the services (livelihoods, clean air and water) they provide. Moderator: Bianca Jagger, Founder, President and Chief Executive of the Bianca Jagger Human Rights Foundation* Speakers: Rev. Fletcher Harper, Executive Director of GreenFaith	



Sônia Guajajara, National Coordinator, Articulation of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil (AIPB)
Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim, Co-Chair, International Indigenous Peoples' Forum on Climate Change

*Speakers TBC

Time:

17.30-18.00

Room 5

Closing Plenary: Where are we going now? Lessons Learned, opportunities and challenges

Short description

High-level speakers will wrap up the day by highlighting the linkages from the forest actions in support of climate and the Facilitative Dialogue in 2018 and emphasizing that *much more is possible if we act together.*

Master of Ceremonies: Frances Seymour, Distinguished Fellow, World Resources Institute

Closing remarks:

California Governor Jerry Brown

H.E. Siti Nurbaya Bakar, Indonesian Minister of Environment & Forests*

*Speakers TBC



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