



**UNFCCC COP 24
Katowice, Poland**

**Concept Note
Action Event: Building low-carbon and climate resilient
landscapes**

Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action

Saturday, 8 December 2018
15:00 – 18:00

Organised by:
Climate Advisers,
Environmental Defense Fund, Meridian Institute,
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO),
Government of Norway,
International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN),
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP),
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP),
World Wildlife Foundation (WWF)

MPGCA Land Use: Building low-carbon and climate resilient landscapes

Description

Land use practices and loss of ecosystems are a major source of emissions, but also key to achieving the Paris Agreement. This event will showcase how conservation, restoration and improved land practices can build low-carbon and resilient landscapes, delivering 30% of the mitigation needed by 2030.

Overall Narrative/Background

Terrestrial ecosystems, and how we use them for livelihoods, food and commodity production and other purposes, are major contributors to climate change and yet a key nature-based solution. About 24% of the global annual greenhouse gas emissions come from agriculture, forestry and other land uses including through loss of forests and other ecosystems. At the same time ecosystems and managed landscapes are in the frontline of defence against climate extremes and weather variabilities, providing disaster risk reduction and enhancing resilience of food systems and livelihoods. Conservation, restoration and sustainable agro-sylvo-pastoral and natural resources management – together – could provide 30% of the negative emissions required to keep global temperature rise well below 2 degrees.

Unsustainable land management accelerated by a growing population and changing diets continue to put pressure on agro-sylvo-pastoral and natural ecosystems, while land degradation poses a threat to the viable provision of ecosystems goods and services, resulting in losses of between US\$ 4.3 and US\$ 20.2 trillion a year¹. It is estimated that with current trends of population growth and dietary changes the need to produce 49 % more food by 2050 than in 2012. Public and private deforestation free commitments, together with jurisdictional and landscape approaches for decoupling ecosystem loss from economic development continue to emerge. Furthermore, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) broadly acknowledge nature-based climate solutions such as conservation and restoration, agroecology, climate-smart agriculture, and improved land/ territorial and ecosystem management as the best available solutions for low-carbon and climate resilient livelihoods and economies. Still, the ambition and actionable targets reflected in countries' commitments under the Paris Agreement, and the scale and pace of climate risk driven efforts and investments required across the land-use sectors of the economy, are not enough.

¹ Dave, R., Saint-Laurent, C., Moraes, M., Simonit, S., Raes, L., Karangwa, C. (2017). Bonn Challenge Barometer of Progress: Spotlight Report 2017. Gland, Switzerland. IUCN, 36pp

Objective of the event: Impacts and progress made in 2018

Land use practices, including agriculture, forestry and the management of forests and other ecosystems, are responsible for nearly a quarter (24%) of global emissions while entailing a potential to deliver 30% of the negative emissions required by 2030 through advancing nature-based solutions such as conservation, restoration and improved agro-sylvo-pastoral and natural ecosystem land stewardship. However, achieving the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals requires transformational changes in how we manage our land and how we produce and consume food and other land-use-based commodities. This event will:

1. Reflect on recent and successful public and private and community efforts to transform the way in which we manage natural and productive landscapes, by bringing state and non-state actors to discuss success factors to achieve low emissions and resilient development pathways.
2. Highlight innovative and integrative approaches to ecosystem conservation and restoration to improve the management of natural and productive landscapes to enhance carbon storage and sequestration, while strengthening social and ecological adaptive capacity and boosting resilient and sustainable agricultural productivity.
3. Highlight progress by non-state and subnational actors in developing integrated land use policies and practices that address economic, ecological and social goals, across and reflect on how such innovative approaches can continue to enhance actions towards the revision of national commitments under the Paris Agreement.
4. Showcase global, regional and local partnerships and initiatives working in eliminating deforestation and agro-sylvo-pastoral and ecosystem degradation for supply chains, and success factors how to move forward to achieve such commitments.
5. Throughout the session, panellists will reflect on their contribution to ensuring the negative emissions and climate resilience required by 2030, as well as reflect on success factors for leveraging public and private finance and harnessing innovation to foster a transition to low-carbon and climate resilient landscapes. The conclusions of the event will be an input to the Talanoa Dialogue and serve as a useful contribution to the 2020 revision of the NDCs with state and non-state collaboration in a more prominent role.



Types of speakers:

States, subnational and local governments, business, farmers, indigenous peoples and local communities, scientists, NGOs, have a key role in joining efforts to transform our natural and managed landscapes so to sustainably achieve the long-term objectives of the Paris Agreement. Accelerating the pace of change requires bold commitments, together with science-based and at scale actions from all actors. This session will bring representatives from this broad group of stakeholders to jointly reflect on the links among ecosystem conservation and restoration food and commodity production systems, and overall sustainable, low-carbon and climate resilient pathways.

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