



21 March  
International Day of Forests

FOREST RESTORATION

## A path to recovery and well-being

### Concept Note and Programme INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FORESTS

“Forest restoration: a path to recovery and well-being”

Virtual event on Zoom

19 March 2021 | 11:00 – 13:45

- 11:00 – 12:00 CET  
**High-Level Session - Celebration Event**
- 12:00 – 13:45 CET  
**Special Technical Session**
  - 12:10 – 12:55  
Building Back Better: Fostering the Transition to bloom the Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems
  - 13:00 - 13:45  
Sustainable financing for achieving Forest and Landscape Restoration (FLR) at scale: Making FLR a Reality

## Background

There has never been a more urgent need to restore damaged ecosystems than now. Just months before the launch of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, the International Day of Forests (IDF) celebrates a path to recovery and well-being where forest and ecosystems restoration play a crucial role. Aside from providing health benefits such as fresh air, nutritious foods, clean water and space for recreation, forests are one of the key players in the fight against climate change and other global challenges.

Supporting all life on Earth, for our planet and people to heal, our forests and ecosystems must heal. It is therefore crucial to restore our forests that are one of the basic blocks to build back better livelihoods, economic prosperity and healthy nutrition.

Following the rallying call of the Decade of Action and the recent global circumstances, we must concentrate our joint efforts to ensure a global sustainable and healthy recovery.

This year's IDF will be divided in a high-level celebration, followed by a special technical session.

See [key messages](#) for IDF 2021.

# High-level Opening Ceremony of the International Day of Forests

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**Date:** Friday, 19 March 2021 from 11:00 to 12:00 CET

**Duration:** 1 hour

**Modality:** Interactive, moderated dialogue among the speakers

**Moderator:** Fiona Harvey, Journalist, the Guardian

**Zoom link:** [https://fao.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_jcDkDDYgTsm3pikFi1t-sQ](https://fao.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_jcDkDDYgTsm3pikFi1t-sQ)

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## Programme

- **Video spot**

- **Opening remarks: Forest restoration is a key player in the path to recovery and well-being**  
QU Dongyu, Director-General, FAO

- **Every tree counts to restore forest biodiversity**  
H.R.H. Princess Basma Bint Ali, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

- **Pledging to regreen our continents**  
H.E. Claude Nyamugabo Bazibuhe, Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development, Democratic Republic of Congo

- **Engaging and empowering people to sustainably use forests is a key step towards positive change**  
H.E. Andrea Meza, Minister for Environment and Energy, Costa Rica

- **Forest restoration for the well-being of people and environment**  
H.E. Malik Amin Aslam, Advisor on Climate Change and Environment, Pakistan

- **Restoring degraded lands at a huge scale**  
H.E. Marieme Bekaye, Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development, Mauritania

- **European Green Deal: role of forests globally**  
Jutta Urpilainen, Commissioner, International Partnerships, European Commission

- **Closing remarks**  
Mette Løyche Wilkie, Director, Forestry Division, FAO

**Master of Ceremony:** Tiina Vähänen, Deputy Director, Forestry Division, FAO

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After the break, Ismahane Elouafi, Chief Scientist, FAO will launch the special technical sessions that will continue until 13:45.

Interpretation will be available in the six official FAO languages.

**Contact:** [Tiina Vähänen](#), Deputy Director, Forestry Division, FAO

## Special Technical Session A

### BUILDING BACK BETTER: FOSTERING THE TRANSITION TO BLOOM THE DRYLAND FORESTS AND AGROSILVOPASTORAL SYSTEMS

19 March 2021 | 12:10 - 12:55

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## Background

Feeding a growing world population by 2050, accommodating non-food agricultural commodities and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 will not be possible without a global transformation in food production systems. The way we produce our food matters and dietary choices can help reduce emissions and pressure on land. Healthy and productive dryland landscapes are the basic blocks to build back better for livelihoods, economic and healthy nutrition.

Indeed, dryland forests and agrosilvopastoral systems should spearhead these efforts as they play a pivotal role in coping with climate vulnerability and sustaining local communities. Drylands are currently home to about 25 percent of the global population, containing 44 percent of the world's agricultural land (of which 58.4 percent in Africa) and supplying about 60 percent of the world's food production. Drylands also provide essential plant materials utilized as fuel, building materials and medicines.

A business-as-usual approach is no longer an option for a food-secure future under climate change. This event builds on the realization that the identification, implementation and scaling up of traditional and innovative best practices and the consequent knowledge sharing are at the basis of ensuring a food-secure future. Building on existing capacities and establishing and assessing the current baselines is a must to define context-specific solutions to current and future challenges.

All parties involved will have the aim of enabling sustainable dryland food production systems and associated livelihoods while alleviating poverty and reducing the risk of conflict and disasters. This necessarily requires a participatory transformation in land and natural resource management.

COVID-19 highlights the need for flexible adaptation approaches with climate change. Weather-related shocks affecting dryland systems could increase in frequency and intensity, and compounded crises could become more frequent. Best practices, traditional knowledge and science can all contribute to providing adaptation and resilience-building options. Champions are needed to advocate and promote the transformational change in the management of dryland food production systems by facilitating the creation of shared vision and raising awareness on sustainable innovations.

## Objectives of the Session

This session aims to highlight the approach proposed in the working paper "Building climate resilient dryland forests and agrosilvopastoral systems: An approach for context-dependent economic, social and environmentally sustainable transformations" as it offers an opportunity for decision-makers, planners and practitioners to contribute to the achievement of multiple SDGs, while ensuring dryland food production systems remain productive and continue feeding and ensuring healthy communities and the world under a changing climate.

Contact: [Fidaa F. Haddad](#), Dryland Forestry Officer, Forestry Division, FAO

# Programme

**Date:** Friday, 19 March 2021 from 12:10 to 12:55 CET

**Duration:** 45 minutes

**Moderator:** Natasha Marwah, Deputy Director for Africa and the Middle East, US Forest Service

**Zoom link:** [https://fao.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_jcDkDDYgTsm3pikFiIt-sQ](https://fao.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_jcDkDDYgTsm3pikFiIt-sQ)

Item	Speaker
Opening remarks – The nexus between the transformational approach and decision-making: the related synergies and trade-offs	Hugo Morán Fernández, Secretary of State for the Environment, Ministry for the Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge, Spain
Presenting the transformational approach and key messages of the publication “Building climate resilient dryland forests and agrosilvopastoral systems”	Fidaa F. Haddad, Forestry Officer, FAO
Transformation is a must in Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems to achieve the 2030 Agenda	Jean-Pascal van Ypersele, Former Vice-Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Professor of Environmental Sciences, University of Louvain, Belgium
Transformation used as a community-based path to recovery and well-being	Lorena Aguilar, Former Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Coordinator of International Cooperation and Research, Costa Rica
Knowledge sharing is key transformational action that must be taken to making every voice count for adaptive management in drylands and agrosilvopastoral systems	Ye Anping, Director, South-South and Triangular Cooperation Division, FAO
The importance of international cooperation and handover to Special Technical Session B.	Natasha Marwah, Deputy Director for Africa and the Middle East, US Forest Service
Closing remarks	Two-minute teaser video for Making every voice count for adaptive management

## Special Technical Session B

### SUSTAINABLE FINANCING FOR ACHIEVING FOREST AND LANDSCAPE RESTORATION (FLR) AT SCALE: MAKING FLR A REALITY

19 March 2021 | 13:00 - 13:45

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## Background

The goals set at the international level for Forest and Landscape Restoration are ambitious. The Bonn Challenge calls for the restoration of 300 million hectares of degraded land by 2030, while target 15.3 of the SDGs focuses on restoring degraded land and achieving land degradation neutrality by 2030.

To meet restoration needs, significant investment in both capital assets and supportive enabling environments is required. It is estimated that USD 36 billion (per year) will be needed to meet the Bonn Challenge target, and more than USD 318 billion (per year) must be invested to reach full land degradation neutrality. Such investments often exceed national budgets and therefore responsible and coordinated investment from the private sector is often required.

Finance for FLR comes from a variety of public, private and civil sources, providing both asset and enabling investments to support the various stages of the FLR process. Private investors may include individuals, companies with corporate social responsibility (CSR) commitments or carbon offset schemes, as for example, cooperatives, non-traditional funding such as crowdsourcing, banks and impact investment funds. They usually seek a social or financial return on their investments. At the local level, mobilizing and accessing finance for FLR faces additional constraints.

To answer the FLR funding challenge, the FAO Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism (FLRM) supports the selection and use of investments to provide appropriate incentives and maximize forest and landscape restoration actions.

## Objectives of the Session

The financing landscape for FLR will be presented and the following two new tools will be released in English and French:

- **The publication “Local financing mechanisms for forest and landscape restoration: A review of local level investment mechanisms”** reviews different financial and market-based mechanisms targeting FLR activities for local level impact. It provides an in-depth study on how these mechanisms support FLR activities on the ground, the diverse incentives they provide for local actors and their conducive conditions. It also describes how these mechanisms can be coordinated for greater impact. Indeed, optimal restoration outcomes (environmental, social and economic) are more likely to be achieved when financial and market mechanisms are applied in a coordinated approach throughout the restoration process.
- **Three e-learning modules on finance for FLR.**

These tools, developed by the FLRM, support access to finance for FLR with a particular focus on how to implement them at the local level. The event will also be the occasion for practitioners to give their feedback on the use of such tools.

Contact: [Mathilde Iweins](#) and [Caterina Marchetta](#), Forestry Division, FAO

# Programme

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**Date:** Friday, 19 March 2021 from 13:00 to 13:45 CET

**Duration:** 45 minutes

**Moderator:** Sara Scherr, President and CEO, EcoAgriculture

**Zoom link:** [https://fao.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_jcDkDDYgTsm3pikFilt-sQ](https://fao.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_jcDkDDYgTsm3pikFilt-sQ)

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Item	Speaker
Objectives of the Session and Agenda	Moderator: Sara Scherr, President and CEO, EcoAgriculture
Introduction and Content – Making the most of available finance for the benefit of FLR – Presentation of the FLR funding landscape and FLRM activities to support countries' FLR financing needs	Christophe Besacier, Forestry Officer, FAO
Local Financing Mechanisms, what did we learn through the Case studies?	Mathilde Iweins, Expert in Financing for FLR, FAO
Supporting sustainable land management through decentralization and a local development fund	Katiella Mai Moussa, Regional Technical Advisor, UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)
The voice of beneficiaries - Support needed by the countries to finance FLR processes	Chadi Mohanna, Director, Ministry of Agriculture, Lebanon
Discussion	Panel
<b>Poll on zoom</b>	
Key messages and conclusion	Sara Scherr, President and CEO, EcoAgriculture