



PEEPAL BABA, Give Me Trees Trust (India)



MIREILLE JAZI, Lebanon Reforestation Initiative (Lebanon)



CRAIG BEATTY, World Wildlife Fund (USA)

# FOREST RESTORATION: A PATH TO RECOVERY AND WELL-BEING

*Alumni Engagement Webinar*



21 March  
International Day of Forests

**THURSDAY, MARCH 18**  
**10 AM – 12 PM Eastern Time (GMT- 4)**  
**[TO REGISTER FOR THE WEBINAR, CLICK HERE](#)**



INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION



*The International Day of Forests 2021 webinar is hosted by the U.S. Forest Service's International Seminar on Forest Landscape Restoration Alumni Network*

Resilient communities around the globe know when we restore our natural landscapes, we restore ourselves.

On 21 March, the U.S. Forest Service joins the global community to celebrate [International Day of Forests](#) and the contributions of forests to our lives. This year, the United Nations also welcomes the start of the [Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030](#).

Join us to commemorate International Day of Forests' 2021 theme, forest restoration: a path to recovery and well-being, on **18 March from 10:00 AM - 12 PM (Eastern Time)**. This virtual conversation will create an opportunity to connect with passionate stewards of nature, dialogue with leaders of forest landscape restoration, and find inspiration in global stories.

[Click here to register](#). Then join our discussion leaders—Peepal Baba, Mireille Jazi and Craig Beatty—to explore this topic. [Read more about each expert on page 2].

## About the Forest Landscape Restoration Alumni Network

Since the launch of the International Seminar on Forest Landscape Restoration in 2015, the seminar has provided opportunities for restoration practitioners from around the globe to connect with each other and with the domestic U.S. Forest Service.

As part of our initiative to continue to foster our community engagement with each of you, our participants, speakers, organizations, and networks; we have launched our new Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) Alumni Network. Due to the unprecedented times we live in with the COVID-19 pandemic, the FLR team is dedicated to creating a space where alums and other natural resource managers can gather and meet virtually to exchange ideas.

The FLR Seminar team invites you to join our network to reconnect with each other, reminisce of our times in Portland, Bend and John Day, Oregon, to remember the good times and shared laughter we all experienced while learning from each other about landscape management, to seedling and nurseries, controlled burns, and community engagement.



**Swami Prem Parivartan (also known as 'Peepal Baba')** has been planting trees since he was 11 years old. Born in 1966, in the town of Chandigarh, in an army doctor's family, he spent his early years in Pune, where he was inspired by his schoolteacher Mrs. Williams and his grandmother to plant trees. Seeing how trees were being chopped down ruthlessly for 'development', he decided he would take up planting trees as his life's mission. Since then, he has traveled all over the country on his motorbike, inspiring volunteers and planting millions of trees all across India. In 2010, his organization Give Me Trees Trust achieved the mark of having planted and successfully cared for 20 million trees on Indian soil.

The media gave him the name 'Peepal Baba' in the 1980's, since he has planted more than 12 million Peepal trees (also known as '*Ficus Religiosa*', 'Sacred Fig', 'Bodhi Tree'). The Peepal tree is one of the most beneficial trees for the Indian ecosystem and is considered sacred in many religions. Lord Buddha is said to have attained enlightenment under the Peepal tree, hence it is also referred to as the Bodhi Tree.

**Mireille Jazi** is the Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist and Gender Focal Point at the Lebanon Reforestation Initiative NGO since 2016.

She is interested in the sustainable management of natural resources and gender mainstreaming for equal integration of men and women in the forestry sector.

She graduated as an agricultural engineer from the Lebanese University Faculty of Agricultural and Veterinary Sciences (2004-2009) and got her M.Sc. in Geo-information in Environmental Management from the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM) institute of Chania, Greece in 2012.

She has conducted gender analysis and awareness sessions, designed specific activities to promote civic participation of women in rural areas, and developed along with the team a gender sensitive outreach strategy for the NGO. LRI targeted vulnerable local communities and refugees and now several women champions encourage other community members to challenge themselves and join restoration work to improve their livelihoods and their environment.

**Craig Beatty** is the manager of forest strategy and research at World Wildlife Fund (WWF) in Washington, D.C. In this position, he provides technical and scientific leadership to the organization's major forest initiatives. His work includes helping develop a corporate framework for setting science-based targets for nature, creating methods and tools to estimate conservation and restoration impact, and exploring the role forests play in human health. Craig also acts as an adviser on restoration at WWF due to his extensive background and fieldwork in forest landscape restoration (FLR).

Before joining WWF, Craig road-tested the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology for six years as part of the Global Forest Conservation Program at the International Union for Conservation of Nature. He has facilitated national and subnational assessments of restoration opportunities in dozens of countries and developed seminal guidance on integrating biodiversity considerations into FLR assessment and planning.

With a strong background in geography and ecology, Craig also led the development of the Restoration Opportunities Optimization Tool with the Natural Capital Project—a spatial decision-support tool that identifies areas where restoration actions can have the most impact on people and nature. In addition, Craig partnered and traveled with the US Forest Service International Programs to deliver the FLR seminar from 2015-2019.

Craig earned a Bachelor of Science in biology from the University of South Florida and a master's degree of Science in Environmental Science and Policy from George Mason University.