



Special event, Monday 2 May 2022, 17:30-19:00

**Heads of CPF Agencies Dialogue
with representatives of Major Groups**

**Climate Change, Conflicts and Food Insecurity
- forest solutions to tackle effects of crises**

Forests sequester carbon, support the livelihoods of billions of people and act as vital reservoirs for biodiversity. However, as a valuable resource, sometimes multiple stakeholders have divergent priorities for the same forestland. When one group - whether inadvertently or deliberately - withholds access to a forest resource or to the decision-making process from another user group, non-violent or violent conflict may occur.

Conflict can also lead to the inequitable distribution of benefits, disputes over land rights and access, and a lack of engagement with the forest management process. It is estimated that between 1970 and 2008, 29 to 56 percent of all civil conflict globally involved natural resources including forests. However, inclusive forest governance arrangements have the potential to contribute to peacebuilding and lasting peace in post-conflict zones.

Issues pertaining to natural resources and conflicts are closely linked with food security, migration, and social coherence. In some regions, studies show, that devastating conflicts have led to widespread food insecurity, massive displacement, degradation and productivity loss of forests, rangelands and other ecosystems. Conflicts often lead to food insecurity not only in the affected areas. Even more so if the conflicting parties are prominent players in the global trade of food and agricultural products.

At the same time, climate change impacts natural resources and people. There is increasing evidence that the loss and degradation of ecosystems, including forests, increases the vulnerability of people to climate change, especially Indigenous Peoples and local communities. Forest ecosystem services enhance the adaptive capacity and resilience of people and ecosystems through e.g. water and temperature regulation, flood-risk reduction, nutrient cycling, pollination, resource provision and cultural services. The role of forests and trees in enabling people to adapt to climate change and enhancing the resilience of farming systems, other economic sectors and human infrastructure is increasingly recognized and included in national adaptation plans.



But forests are being lost at the rate of 10 million hectares each year through deforestation. (FAO's Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020). Deforestation is one of the ways in which humanity is transforming the planet. Land use change is considered as one of the planetary boundaries that humanity should respect in order to maintain a “safe operating space” for the planet. In addition to the land system, deforestation relates to other planetary boundaries, including biosphere integrity, climate change and freshwater use.

Halting deforestation could positively contribute to a safer operating space and thus preventing dangerous thresholds, feedbacks and uncertainties. In addition, halting deforestation is potentially one of the most cost-effective actions for mitigating climate change if efforts ramp up. According to a recent estimate, halting deforestation could cost-effectively avoid emitting 3.6 +/- 2 GtCO₂e per year between 2020 and 2050, equivalent to 14% of the additional mitigation needed by 2030 to keep planetary warming below 1.5 °C.

The frequency and intensity of the impacts of the climate crisis, conflicts and other humanitarian emergencies, and economic slowdowns and downturns, have increased in the last twelve years since the 2009 financial crisis. While each of these drivers is unique, their interaction creates multiple, compounding effects, especially in low- and middle-income countries. 70% of these countries are affected by at least one of the drivers. And the majority of undernourished people live in countries affected by multiple drivers. It is in these countries that one finds the highest levels of food insecurity and malnutrition.

This Dialogue's objective is to explore how the complex interrelation of the impacts of the climate crisis, conflicts and other humanitarian emergencies, biodiversity as well as food insecurity can be addressed by solutions that include forests. It is organized to provide a space for an interactive exchange between major groups representatives and heads of agencies of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

The Dialogue will be shaped around the following questions:

1. How do conflicts impact forests and where are the knowledge and evidence gaps?
2. Are there any success stories of post-conflict transformations where the forest sector contributed substantially to build peace, food security and at the same time respond to climate and biodiversity challenges?
3. Are current efforts properly harnessing all of forests' potential to provide solutions to mitigate the effects of and to adapt and build resilience to climate change, including the issue of migration?
4. How can we best address trade-offs and maximize synergies between agrifood systems and forests to truly meet the challenge of producing sufficient, safe and healthy food for a growing population, while turning the tide on deforestation and conserving biodiversity?



Format

- Opening (5 min)
- Moderated discussion between CPF and major group representatives
 - First question on climate change (25 min)
 - Second question on conflicts (25 min)
 - Third question on food security (25 min)
- Video message compilation (2 times x 3 min)
- Closing (5 min)

Proposed Panellists

Moderator: James Astill

In-person:

- FAO Helena Semedo, Deputy Director-General and CPF Chair (confirmed)
- ITTO Sheam Satkuru, Executive Director (confirmed)
- ICRAF Tony Simons, Executive Director CIFOR-ICRAF and Director General ICRAF
- IUFRO John Parrotta, President
- CIFOR Robert Nasi, Director General and CPF Vice-Chair (video message or in person, tbc)
- Representative of Women: Cécile Ndjebet, African Women's Network for Community Management of Forests (REFACOF) (confirmed)
- Representative of Youth: Vanessa Nakate, Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth (tbc)

To be confirmed if in person, live online or video message:

- UNDP Achim Steiner, Administrator
- UNEP Inger Andersen, Executive Director
- UNFCCC Patricia Espinosa, Executive Secretary
- UNCCD Ibrahim Thiaw, Executive Secretary
- CBD Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Executive Secretary
- UNFF Juliette Biao Koudenoukpo, Director
- GEF Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson
- CITES Ivonne Higuero, Secretary-General
- IUCN Dr Bruno Oberle, Director General
- World Bank Juergen Voegelé, Vice President for Sustainable Development



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Background

In order to strengthen collaboration between CPF member organisations and stakeholder groups to achieve the Global Forest Goals, the CPF Dialogue was established. The Dialogue intends to facilitate collaboration and communication between the Partnership and interested parties including major groups and other stakeholders and aims to bring together a broad range of expertise, resources and perspectives to enhance collaborative actions.