

Peer Learning Round Table



Life on Land: SDG 15

Session 7: Palais des Nations, Tempus Room 3

Simultaneous interpretation: English, French and Russian

Urban forests for future proof cities

Thursday, 7 April 2022, 10:00 – 12:00

Guiding questions for round table

Question 1

*What national and local **policies and tools** are currently available to support urban and peri-urban forestry so that it can effectively contribute to achieving agenda 2030, the Paris Agreement, and other global, national, and local goals?*

Question 2

*What **financing sources** and **financial mechanisms** have been used and are available to implement sustainable urban and peri-urban forestry in cities?*

Question 3

*How can **cooperation** be enhanced across sectors and boundaries, including with private owners and the community, to advance sustainable urban forestry as an integrative solution?*

Policy actions for discussion

Opening

- Ms. Paola Deda, Director, Forests, Land and Housing Division, UNECE
- Ms. Tiina Vahanen, Deputy Director, Forestry Division, FAO

Moderator's welcome

- Mr. Simone Borelli, Urban Forestry Officer, Forestry Division, FAO, Moderator

Policy action 1

*What national and local **policies and tools** are currently available to support urban and peri-urban forestry so that it can effectively contribute to achieving agenda 2030, the Paris Agreement, and other global, national, and local goals?*

Presentation: European Commission Directorate-General for Environment

- Mr. Benjamin Caspar, Environmental Policy Advisor, Directorate-General for the Environment, European Commission

Moderated Discussion

- Mr. Andria Basilaia, Deputy Mayor, and Mr. Giga Gigashvili, Head of Environmental Protection Department, City of Tbilisi, Georgia
- Ms. Patrizia Heidegger, Director for Global Policies and Sustainability, European Environmental Bureau
- Mr. Graham Alabaster, Chief, Geneva Office, UN Habitat

Policy action 2

What **financing sources** and **financial mechanisms** have been used and are available to implement sustainable urban and peri-urban forestry in cities?

Presentation: Forestami / Milano

- Ms. Maria Chiara Pastore, Scientific Director, ForestaMi, Milano

Moderated Discussion

- Mr. Erion Veliaj, Mayor City of Tirana, Albania
- Mr. Keith Anderson, International Forest Policy Advisor, Federal Office for the Environment, Switzerland
- Mr. David Elliott, Chief Executive, Trees for Cities

Policy action 3

How can **cooperation** be enhanced across sectors and boundaries, including with private owners and the community, to advance sustainable urban forestry as an integrative solution?

Presentation: Management of Golovec urban forests

- Mr. Andrej Verlič, Head, Nature Protection Unit, City of Ljubljana, Slovenia

Moderated Discussion

- Ms. Carine Saloff-Coste, Head of Green Spaces and Environment Department, City of Paris, France
- Ms. Bianca Baerlocher, Director General, ArboCityNet
- Ms. Isabelle Dela Paz, Internal Councilor, International Forestry Student Association

Closing remarks

- Mr. Simone Borelli, Urban Forestry Officer, Forestry Division, FAO
- Ms. Liliana Annovazzi-Jakab, Chief, UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section

Moderator

Moderator

Mr. Simone Borelli, Urban Forestry Officer, Forestry Division, FAO

Background

Two-thirds of humanity will live in cities by 2050; achieving national sustainable development objectives and the SDGs depends on healthy and resilient cities. Responsible for around 75% of global CO₂ emissions, cities are also at the forefront of fighting climate change while being particularly vulnerable to its impacts.

Sustainable urban forestry is an integrative and cost-effective nature-based solution to these challenges and can help develop greener, healthier, and more resilient cities. Trees and forests in urban and peri-urban areas create and enhance habitats, constitute a pool of biodiversity, improve soil quality, and contribute to land restoration. They also provide vital benefits for health and wellbeing, sustainable development, climate adaptation and mitigation, and disaster risk reduction. Importantly, sustainable urban forestry contributes not only to sustainable local development and quality of life, but also to achieving national objectives and global goals, including most SDGs.

While there is an urgent need to expand the urban forest cover in our urban and peri-urban areas, afforestation and tree planting interventions should be adequately designed and include provisions for sustainable, long-term management. This ensures that the benefits are optimized over time. Yet despite the large potential benefits across the SDGs, cities face an array of legal, financial, and other resource constraints to implementing sustainable urban forestry based on long-term plans. Furthermore, management is complicated by a diverse patchwork of public and private owners. Integrated long-term planning, finance, and multi-stakeholder cooperation is critical to overcome traditional silos and the many challenges faced by sustainable urban forestry practitioners.

Organizers

Lead organizers

UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section and the FAO Forestry Division

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