

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FORESTS



TUESDAY

21 March 2023

10 a.m – 1 p.m. EST

CR6 | UN Web TV

The 2023 theme is “Forests and Health”, and aims to highlight how forests sustain all aspects of our health, from clean air and water to providing essential food, fuel, medicines and income.

Restoring the health of our forests and sustainably managing them is crucial to support livelihoods, mitigate climate change, safeguard biodiversity and reduce the risk of future pandemics.



Opening Session

Opening remarks: Ms. Juliette Biao, Director, UN Forum on Forests Secretariat, DESA

- **H.E. Ambassador Lachezara Stoeva**, President of the UN Economic and Social Council
- **H.E. Ambassador Zéphyrin Maniratanga**, Chair of the UN Forum on Forests 18/19 Bureau
- **Mr. Li Junhua**, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, DESA

Panel Session

Chair: Mr. Javad Momeni, Vice-Chair of the UN Forum on Forests 18/19 Bureau

- **Ms. Halka Otto**, Senior Liaison Officer, FAO Liaison Office in New York
- **Mr. Oswald Chanda**, Director, Water Development and Sanitation, African Development Bank
- **Ms. Emily Nobel Maxwell**, Director, Cities Program, The Nature Conservancy, New York
- **Ms. Sandra Suppa**, Head of Corporate Communications, Faber-Castell AG
- **Ms. Charitie Ropati**, Researcher, Griffin Lab, Columbia University
- **Mr. Thomas Harris**, International Forestry Students’ Association
- **Mr. Alexander Buck**, Executive Director, International Union of Forest Research Organisations
- **Dr. Mark Ashton**, Senior Associate Dean, The Forest School, Yale School of Environment
- **Dr. Kathleen Wolf**, Research Social Scientist, University of Washington

General Discussion

Chair: H.E. Ambassador Zéphyrin Maniratanga, Chair of the UNFF 18/19 Bureau

- Statements by Member States, accredited IGOs, United Nations entities and Major Groups.

Forest film showcase

- **Healthy Forests for Healthy People** (FAO)
- **Why Trees** (UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section)
- **RESTORE: The Dry Corridor** (UNEP | UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration)

Moderator: Ms. Juliette Biao, Director, UN Forum on Forests Secretariat, DESA