



DESA



Global Policy Dialogue Series

Version 25 May 2021

Strengthening Sustainable Forest and Ocean Management to Mitigate Climate Change

Building a Global Coalition for Sustainability after COVID-19 *Session 3 of the UN DESA Global Policy Dialogues for Climate Action*

Wednesday, 26 May 2021, 8:00-9:30 a.m. EDT

Background

In line with the United Nations Secretary-General's priority to build a "global coalition for carbon neutrality,"¹ the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) is hosting a four-part series to discuss ways the world can place climate action at the heart of recovering better from the COVID-19 crisis. Beginning in March with a focus on food and water, and in April on energy and transport, the series continues to showcase key areas that the Department has been supporting to achieve the shared goals of the Paris Agreement on climate change and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The next session in May, will focus on forests and the ocean, followed by climate financing and digital solutions, in June. The four-part series brings together leading voices in these fields to make the connections between these issues and discuss practical solutions.

With the support of the UN Forum on Forests, this third session will bring together leading voices in the fields of forest and ocean ecosystem restoration and management. Experts from the UN system will discuss practical solutions and ways to reform these systems to minimize their effect on the environment, in the context of recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic. Cross-cutting issues such as financing, governance, gender, data and statistics will be part of the discussion, as well as how the world can best make systemic transformations to a more sustainable world while leaving no one behind.

Additionally, the session will move forward the recommendations from the [UN Forum on Forests](#) (April 2021), and support the upcoming [UN Biodiversity Conference](#) (Kunming, October 2021), [UN Ocean Conference](#) (Lisbon, 2022 tbd), and [UN Climate Change Conference](#) (Glasgow,

¹ <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2021-01-11/secretary-generals-remarks-the-one-planet-summit-bilingual-delivered-scroll-down-for-all-english>

November 2021). It will also support the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, UN Decade for Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, [Global Forest Goals Report 2021](#) and UN DESA's upcoming policy briefs related to climate action, such as SDG-climate synergies and transport in the context of COVID-19.

To enhance engagement, participants will be invited to submit questions online at the time of registration, and in the webinar and Facebook chat during the event. The results of the discussion will be shared with UN leadership and will be used to support future UN DESA policy briefs on the economic and social impacts of the pandemic, pandemic recovery, and UN DESA's support to the Decade of Action to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals.

Date and time

This session, the third of four dialogues in the series, will be held on Wednesday, 26 May 2021, from 8:00-9:30 a.m. EDT.

Location

The events will be held on UN DESA's Zoom account and streamed to UN DESA's [Facebook channel](#). Events will be held in English with live captioning available in six UN languages.

Moderator

The climate journalist Nicholas Kusnetz of Inside Climate News will moderate the discussions.

Event format

- I. **Welcome** (2 minutes)
UN DESA

- II. **Introductory remarks**
Ms. Ligia Noronha, Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the UN Environment Programme New York Office (5 minutes)
Mr. Peter Thomson, UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean (5 minutes)

- III. **Discussion 1: Forest Restoration and Sustainable Management as an Economic and Environmental Recovery Pathway** (40 minutes)

Panelists:

- **Ms. Mariama Djambony Badji (Senegal)**, Co-founder and CEO of DNA Snarl, a construction company committed to using natural and local materials; UN Young Leader for the Sustainable Development Goals

- **Mr. Mario Boccucci**, Head of Secretariat, UN-REDD Programme
- **Mr. Giovanni Soliman Bete Reyes (Philippines)**, President of the Philippine Indigenous Peoples Community- Conserved Territories and Areas Consortium
- **Ms. Kitty Sweeb (Suriname)**, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Suriname to the UN, and Chairperson of the UN Forum on Forests
- **Ms. Mette Wilkie**, Director, Forestry Division, Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO)

Guiding questions:

- How do the restoration and sustainable management of forests help address the climate change and biodiversity crises?
- How can we mitigate the climate impacts on forests and forest recovery?
- What are examples of good programmes/projects that are leading the path to achieve reductions in emissions from deforestation?
- How do we ensure that sustainable forest management is inclusive and includes the perspectives of indigenous persons and other vulnerable groups?

IV. Discussion 2: Bringing to Scale Ocean-based Solutions for Mitigating Climate Change
(30 minutes)

Panelists:

- **Mr. Carlos M. Duarte**, Distinguished Professor at King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- **Ms. Amy L. Kukulya (USA)**, Research Engineer in development and operations of autonomous underwater systems (AUVs) at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
- **Mr. Luis Lombana (Spain)**, CEO of Ficosterra, a marine biotech company manufacturing Nutrialgae, a sustainable algae-based fertilizer, in Mexico; winner of UNDP's 2020 Ocean Innovation Challenge
- **Ms. Courtney Boyd Myers (USA)**, CEO and co-founder, AKUA, a kelp-farming company

Guiding questions:

- What are some of the innovative ways that scientists are tracking the health of the ocean, and what are some of the most interesting new findings?
- What are examples of innovative approaches to marine and coastal ecosystem restoration that can sustain livelihoods and advance the blue economy?

- How should countries and the private sector best identify, finance and mentor ocean scientists and invest in sustainable ocean management systems?
- Are there specific challenges or opportunities towards addressing these and reversing the declining health of the ocean resulting from the experience with COVID-19?

V. **Conclusion**

Moderator