



**CPF**  
Collaborative Partnership  
on Forests

**6 November 2021**

**15.00–16.15 GMT**

High-level dialogue

# Upscaling actions to turn the tide on deforestation



**The Collaborative Partnership on Forests High-level dialogue at COP 26 will take place virtual and live at the Lomond Auditorium in Glasgow during UNFCCC COP26, on Saturday, 6 November, 15:00 – 16:15 Glasgow time (GMT) / 16:00 – 17:15 Rome time (CET).**

At a time of unprecedented climate, health and economic crises, forests offer hope to heal people, the environment, and the economy. Yet, we are not on track to meet the goals of halting deforestation and forest degradation. An estimated 420 million hectares of forest – an area the size of India and Nigeria combined – have been lost through deforestation since 1990.

Turning the tide on deforestation is a top priority for the UN Secretary-General, who in 2019, initiated a discussion on how to accelerate efforts to halt deforestation and restore forests, through ambitious, concerted action and advocacy across and beyond the UN system. It is also a top priority for the UNFCCC COP26, where more than 100 world leaders promised to end and reverse deforestation by 2030 pledging more than \$20 billion of public and private funds under the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land.

Forests have a massive climate change mitigation potential which can only be realised by reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation while at the same time storing carbon from the atmosphere through conservation, restoration, and sustainable management as encouraged through Article 5 of the Paris Agreement. A range of nature-based solutions can cost-effectively provide up to one-third of the climate-change mitigation needed between now and 2030 to stabilize global warming below 1,5 °C. Of these, reducing deforestation and forest degradation are among the most effective and mature options.

A strong implementation ally is the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), consisting of 15 international organisations, who are spearheading the efforts to halt deforestation globally. The existing global forest goals and targets, as well as the outcomes and recommendations of the International CPF Conference “From Aspiration to Action – working together to halt deforestation and increase forest area” held in 2018 and the Leadership Dialogue on Halting Deforestation during the UN Climate Change Conference COP25 in Madrid, are setting the frame for these efforts. In 2021, the CPF released the latest scientific findings and key messages as a joint statement “[Challenges and Opportunities in Turning the Tide on Deforestation](#)” at the 16th session of the UN Forum on Forests.

Much progress has been made since, despite the restrictions of the pandemic: FAO published the 2020 Global Forest Resources Assessment providing the latest data on changes in forest area over time and for forest-related SDG indicators; new remote sensing technology improved our data and understanding about forest cover; and a coalition on Halting Deforestation and Conversion from Agricultural Commodities was formed under the UN Food Systems Summit.

## Objective of the High-Level Dialogue

Leaders of UN agencies and other CPF members will outline their enhanced ambition and individual or joint actions to accelerate efforts in turning the tide on deforestation. The discussion will be based on the joint CPF statement "[Challenges and Opportunities in Turning the Tide on Deforestation](#)" and will guide identification of actions to accelerate addressing deforestation, including the announcement of the launch of the CPF *Joint Initiative on Turning the Tide on Deforestation*.

## Format of the High-Level Dialogue

The event is planned as a high-level moderated 75-minutes dialogue. The High-level Dialogue will be moderated by the Chair of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests. The session will be held in a hybrid format. The COP26 Presidency will be invited to frame the event and highlight COP26 efforts in addressing deforestation (and the "forest pledge" to be launched on 2 Nov).

Heads of the participating CPF member agencies will address the event as panellists responding to the following framing questions:

1. What are the most urgent actions for the CPF and its members to scale up efforts to halt deforestation and degradation?
2. Which incentives have to be placed throughout value chains to enhance deforestation-free production?
3. What needs to change to enable us to fully use the massive mitigation and adaptation potential of forests as envisaged in Article 5 of the Paris Agreement?

Opening remarks:

- **Mr. Liu Zhenmin**, UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs (virtual)
- **Dr. QU Dongyu**, FAO Director-General (virtual)

Special guest speaker:

- HL representative of the COP26 Presidency, United Kingdom (tbc)

High-level panel:

- **Ms. Inger Andersen**, UNEP Executive Director
- **Mr. Carlos Manuel Rodriguez**, Global Environment Facility (GEF) CEO and Chairperson
- **Mr. Tony Simons**, CIFOR-ICRAF Executive Director and ICRAF Director General
- **Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema**, CBD Executive Secretary (virtual)

Moderation:

- **Ms. Mette Wilkie**, Chair of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and Director of the FAO Forestry Division (virtual)

Organizers: [Collaborative Partnership on Forests](#), [event website](#)

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Event website: <https://www.un.org/esa/forests/events/high-level-dialogue-of-the-collaborative-partnership-on-forests-upscaling-actions-to-turn-the-tide-on-deforestation/index.html>

Event livestream: [www.youtube.com/c/COP26](http://www.youtube.com/c/COP26) (COP26 YouTube channel)



## The Collaborative Partnership on Forests presents:



Mr. Liu Zhenmin

**Mr. Liu** has more than 30 years of experience in the diplomatic service, with a strong focus on the promotion of bilateral, regional and global issues. He was deeply involved for 10 years in climate change negotiations including the conclusion of the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement. He also widely participated in the international activities on the protection of our planet including Antarctica and the oceans. He served as Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of China and as Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations Office at Geneva and Other International Organizations in Switzerland. As Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, Mr. Liu guides UN Secretariat support for the follow-up processes of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. He also oversees the substantive services to many intergovernmental processes, including the annual meetings of the Second and Third Committees of the General Assembly, the meetings of the Economic and Social Council, including its Development Cooperation Forum, and the work of the subsidiary bodies of ECOSOC, including the UN Forum on Forests.



Dr. Qu Dongyu

**Dr. Qu Dongyu** took office on 1 August 2019 as **Director-General of FAO**. Born in 1963 in Hunan Province, China, Qu studied horticultural science at Hunan Agricultural University, plant breeding and genetics at the graduate school, CAAS. He later added a PhD on agriculture and environmental science at Wageningen University. Before coming to FAO, Qu served as China's Vice Minister of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, promoted inclusive and innovative development and make sure information and communication technologies (ICT) were available in rural areas. As Vice Governor of Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, Qu formulated action plans aimed at poverty reduction, women empowerment, youth startups, agritourism and solidarity between ethnic groups. As FAO DG, Qu makes the full range of his efforts to build a dynamic, open, transparent and deliverable FAO to achieve the 2030 Agenda through the transformation to more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agri-food systems for better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life, leaving no one behind.



Mr. Carlos Manuel Rodriguez

**Mr. Carlos Manuel Rodriguez** is a lawyer by profession, politician by choice, and conservationist at heart. He was elected as CEO and Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility by its governing body, the GEF Council, in June 2020. The former Costa Rican Environment and Energy Minister was a pioneer in the development of Payment for Ecosystem Services initiatives and strategies for forest restoration, ocean conservation, and de-carbonization, and is an internationally recognized expert on environmental policy, multilateral environmental negotiations, and financing for nature conservation. During his three terms as Minister of Environment and Energy, Costa Rica doubled the size of its forests, made its electric sector 100 percent clean and renewable, and consolidated a National Park System that has positioned the Central American country as a prime ecotourism destination. Since the 1992 UN Sustainable Development Summit in Rio, he has participated in all multilateral environmental negotiations, as an expert negotiator in UNFCCC, CBD, and UNCCD, and participated in negotiations for the creation and implementation of the GEF and the Green Climate Fund.



Ms. Inger Andersen

**Ms. Inger Andersen, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme.** Between 2015 and 2019, she was the Director-General of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). She has more than 30 years of experience in international development economics, environmental sustainability, strategy and operations. She has led work on a range of issues including agriculture, environmental management, biodiversity conservation, climate change, infrastructure, energy, transport, and water resources management and hydro-diplomacy. Between 1999 and 2014, Ms. Andersen held several leadership positions at the World Bank including Vice President of the Middle East and North Africa; Vice President for Sustainable Development and Head of the CGIAR Fund Council.



Mr. Tony Simons

**Mr. Tony Simons, Executive Director CIFOR-ICRAF** has worked for over thirty years on issues at the agriculture/forestry interface. This experience has been gained in the private sector (Shell), academia (University of Oxford), official development assistance (ODA/DFID) and R&D (CIFOR-ICRAF). He holds a Bachelor's from Massey University (NZ), a PhD degree from Cambridge University and an Honorary Professorship in Tropical Forestry at Copenhagen University. He has published over 150 research papers and has mentored dozens of young scientists in developing countries. Tony is passionate about the transformative change that private sector can bring to development based on partnerships with CEMOI, MARS Inc, Danone and Unilever. He sits on various Boards and Investment Committees including TEEB, Global Restoration Council, ACTS, Livelihoods Fund, and Tropical Landscape Finance Facility. In 2020, Tony was made a life-time Fellow of Swedish Royal Academy of Agriculture and Forestry.







Ms. Elizabeth  
Maruma Mrema

**Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema**, is the **Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity**. She has worked with the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) for over two decades and has served in various roles, including as Director of the Law Division, Deputy Director of the Ecosystems Division, and Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals. Elizabeth’s work at UNEP has focused on the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws at national, regional and international levels. In 2021, the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law, in collaboration with UNEP, awarded Elizabeth with the Nicholas Robinson Award for Excellence in Environmental Law.

## The Moderator

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Ms Mette Wilkie

**Ms Mette Wilkie**, Chair of the CPF and Director of the FAO Forestry Division, started her career in 1986 as an Associate Professional Officer with FAO in Sierra Leone on a Community Forestry/Fuelwood project. Between 1990 and 1998, she worked as Forest Management Consultant in Asia and Africa and carried out assignments for UN agencies, EU, bilateral development agencies and the private sector.

Ms Wilkie re-joined FAO in 1998 as a Forestry Officer (Forest Management) and in 2004, she was appointed Senior Forestry Officer and leader of FAO’s Global Forest Resources Assessment programme until 2011 when she was appointed Deputy Director, Forest Assessment, Management and Conservation Division. In 2014 she joined the United Nations Environment Programme as Director, Ecosystems Division, based in Nairobi, Kenya. She returned to FAO in 2018 and currently holds the position of Director of the Forestry Division. She holds a Master of Science degree in Environmental Management from Wye College, University of London and a combined Master of Science and Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry from the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University, Copenhagen, Denmark.