



LAUNCH OF THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S FORESTS 2020 FORESTS, BIODIVERSITY AND PEOPLE

A JOINT EVENT OF FAO AND UNEP
22 MAY 2020, 10:00-11:00 CET

The State of the World's Forests 2020: Forests, Biodiversity and People (SOFO 2020), jointly prepared by FAO and UNEP, will be launched with a high-level event and a panel discussion on 22 May - the International Day for Biological Diversity.

CONTEXT

Forests cover just over 30 percent of the global land area, yet they provide habitat for the vast majority of the terrestrial plant and animal species known to science. Unfortunately, forests and the biodiversity they contain continue to be under threat from actions to convert the land to agriculture or unsustainable levels of exploitation, much of it illegal.

However, not all human impacts on biodiversity are negative, as shown by the many concrete examples in SOFO 2020 of recent successful initiatives to manage, conserve, restore and sustainably use forest biodiversity.

The State of the World's Forests 2020 assesses progress to date in meeting global targets and goals relating to forest biodiversity and describes the effectiveness of policies, actions and approaches for conservation and sustainable development alike, illustrated by case studies of innovative practices and win-win solutions.

SOFO 2020 highlights that solutions that balance conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity are critical – and possible.

The event will feature a presentation of the key messages of SOFO 2020, followed by a high-level panel discussion on the implications of these.

PROGRAMME [60 minutes, interpretation in French and Spanish]

Welcoming remarks/setting the scene:

- **Qu Dongyu**, Director-General, FAO
- **Inger Andersen**, Executive Director, UNEP

Presentation of the key findings of SOFO 2020:

- **Mette Wilkie**, Director, Forestry Policy and Resources Division, FAO
- **Will Simonson**, Senior Programme Officer for Climate Change and Biodiversity, UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre

Panel discussion moderated by **Eduardo Mansur**, Director, Land and Water Division, FAO.

Panelists:

- **Qu Dongyu**, Director-General, FAO
- **Inger Andersen**, Executive Director, UNEP
- **Siti Nurbaya Bakar**, Minister of Environment and Forestry, Indonesia
- **Marieme Bekaye**, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, Mauritania
- **Sam Kanyamibwa**, Founder and Executive Director of Albertine Rift Conservation Society
- **Marianna Muntianu**, Young Champion of the Earth 2019, Russian Federation

Closing remarks:

- **Maria Helena Semedo**, Deputy Director-General FAO, Climate and Natural Resources