



International Conference Halting Deforestation and Increasing Forest Area – from Aspiration to Action

Youth Uniting Sectors to Halt Deforestation

Monday, February 19, 9:00-5:30, FAO HQ – Iran Room & Ethiopia Room

Lead Organizations: International Forestry Students Association (IFSA), Global Landscapes Forum (GLF), Collaborative Partnerships on Forests (CPF)

Focal point (lead person): Khalil Walji, (IFSA/FAO) Salina Abraham (IFSA/GLF)

Concept:

Youth and young people are integral to the scaling up of promising landscape level restoration efforts and successful outreach and transmission of these methods to the local level. As most pressing landscape challenges of today are intergenerational, we are offering a 1-day youth session for students across sectors – forestry (IFSA), agriculture (YPARD, IAAS, CSAYN), and biodiversity (GYBN). Designed by youth for youth, this session seeks to bridge the wide gap between global agendas the realities of young people. Session participants will develop their knowledge and skills, amplify the messages of the deforestation conference through creation of an online course, and contribute to drafting a work plan for youth contributions to the UN Strategic Plan for Forests for 2017-2030 (UNSPF).

The session provides training on three integral components of combating deforestation; the landscape approach, effective communication, and the role of gender in natural resource management, through workshops facilitated by experts. Further, the session will provide a practical exercise on “scaling out” by giving youth delegates the opportunity to curate educational content around the conference themes and key messages. A 2-hour consultation and planning meeting will feed participant knowledge into the Major Group Children and Youth (MGCY) work plan to the UNSPF. This consultation aims to produce concrete, thought out implementation strategies to be expanded on, and finalized through presentation to the member states of the UN Forum on Forests in May 2018.

In all, the session will build capacity and demonstrate the power of individual and collective action, with the ultimate goal of empowering young people to act and accelerate progress towards the 2030 Agenda.

Session objectives:



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- **Train participants** on needed skills to solve today’s environmental challenges.
 - How to ‘think and act landscape’, communicate effectively, and consider gender and stakeholder consultation in project design.
- Clearly communicate **complicated global agendas** and their relevance to youth.
- Map out concrete activities and projects for **youth action** towards a better planet.
 - Operationalize the UNFF MGCY 2018-2022 Work Plan to the UNSPF
- Expand and deepen a cross-sectoral **community of practice** within the ‘Youth in Landscapes’ Initiative.
- Engage a broader audience by producing content for a 5-day online [“short course” on halting deforestation](#) from the conference key messages.

Programme Agenda

More information on session resources and speaker information can be found on the CPF website under [‘Session Details.’](#)

Time	Session Description	Location
9:00 - 10:00	Welcome and Opening Session	Iran Room
	<p>Gain valuable insight from leading professionals on the current international climate as well as which skills and competencies young people need to tackle pressing problems. These statements will instruct, inspire, and empower for an exciting day to come!</p> <p><i>Featuring: Khalil Walji (FAO/IFSA), Alexander Buck (IUFRO), Cora van Oosten (Wageningen University), Mr. Jeffrey Campbell (FAO), Courtney Paisley (YPARD), Kai Lintunen (Finnish Forestry Society), Salina Abraham (GLF/IFSA).</i></p>	
10:00 - 10:30	Interactive Coffee Break	
10:30 - 11:50	“Think Landscape” Get Restoration Ready	Iran Room
	<p>There are increasing conflicts among competing land uses - agriculture, forestry, mining, housing, biodiversity - which hamper positive progress. Striking a balance requires a transdisciplinary landscape perspective. Learn to ‘think and act landscape’ through a short training usually reserved for experienced professionals.</p> <p><i>Facilitated by Cora van Oosten – Wageningen University.</i></p>	



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12:00 - 1:00	Lunch	
1:00 - 2:15	Gender in Resource Management	Iran Room
	<p>We understand the need for gender equality but may fail to understand the full complexity of gender and its relevance in natural resource management. This session provides new insight, tools, and resources for accounting gender dimensions.</p> <p><i>Facilitated by Taylor Tondelli – FAO Forestry</i></p>	
2:15 - 3:30	Youth Action Planning Session	Iran Room
	<p>Youth, like all stakeholders, must mobilize to deliver concrete actions for the benefit of forests and society. This planning session introduces participants to the UN Strategic Plan for Forests (UNSPF) and the supporting Children and Youth work plan. Together we'll map out tangible implementation strategies and actions.</p> <p><i>Facilitated by Steffen Dehn (IFSA/UNFF), Maximilian Schubert (IFSA/YIL)</i></p>	
3:30 - 4:00	Interactive Break	
4:00 - 5:00	Youth Action Planning Session	Ethiopia Room
5:00 - 6:00	Short Course Planning - CORE TEAM ONLY	Ethiopia Room