

livelihoods. However, deforestation and habitat loss and fragmentation have been threatening the existence of countless plant and animal species leading to species extinction and ecosystem degradation. Conservation and restoration of forest ecosystem is essential for preserving biodiversity and safeguarding the ecosystem services.

Forests also play a crucial role in regulating the water cycle and help mitigate water scarcity by enhancing water retention, filtration, and infiltration. However, deforestation and land use changes have disrupted hydrological processes in many parts of the world, leading to water scarcity, soil erosion, and increased vulnerability to droughts and floods. Forest conservation measures such as riparian buffer zones, watershed management, and reforestation projects can significantly contribute to improved water quality and quantity and reduce the risk of water-related disasters such as floods and droughts.

The triple planetary crisis represents a serious threat and challenge to forests and forest sector. New solutions are needed to tackle biodiversity loss and mitigating climate change, these will require changes in forest management and investments in forest-based solutions – these can generate multiple biodiversity and social benefits through the conservation, management, and restoration of ecosystems. However, the level of investment in forests and forest sector needs to be increased.

Innovation is crucial for forest sector. It is paving the way for early wildfire detection, digitalization & automation in timber trade, carbon sinks-aerial photography and for better data to inform evidence-based decision-making. Decisions based on data and analysis produce better outcomes and help to find the adequate solutions to the threats posed by global environmental challenges including triple planetary crisis.

In conclusion, forests offer versatile solutions to address interconnected planetary crises, including climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution,

What changes and steps are required to mobilize increased finance to invest in forests-based solutions to harness their full potential to tackle the triple planetary crisis?

How could the UN Forum on Forests contribute to accelerate urgent and transformative actions to tackle the triple planetary crisis?

The Moderators will, then, open the floor for interactive discussion on the questions mentioned above.

During the HLS Roundtable, information on the opening of the list of speakers will be circulated to Permanent Missions in advance. For speaking during the HLS Roundtable, the priority will be given to delegations speaking on behalf of a group of States and representatives at the Ministerial and Director-General levels and above, pursuant to customary protocol. Other requests will be added to the list if time permits. The maximum duration of each intervention is three minutes for individual delegations, and four minutes for delegations speaking on behalf of a group of States. Delegations are reminded to e-mail a copy of any prepared statement to estatements@un.org at least two hours before the meeting, including the title and date of the meeting, as well as the name and delegation of the speaker.

The time limit will be strictly enforced. Interactive discussions are strongly encouraged.

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