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Ministry of Agriculture,  
Forestry and Fisheries



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## **Demonstrating the impact of cross-sectoral collaboration and co-creating knowledge for halting deforestation and forest degradation in Africa**

*Date : 21 August 2025, 17:00 – 18:00 (Japan time) /10:00-11:00 CEST*

*Format: In person and webinar*

*Organized by: Forestry Agency of Japan, FAO, ITTO, and UN-REDD/AFF initiative*

*Languages: English and Japanese*

*Location : Yokohama, Japan, at S-08, [Pacifico Yokohama](#) Exhibition Hall D*

*Webinar registration: <https://bit.ly/TICAD9-def>*

### **Background**

Africa is home to some of the largest and most biodiverse forest biomes in the world. Ranging from the tropical moist forests in the Congo Basin and the Upper Guinea forests of West Africa over Southern Africa's woodlands to the mountainous forests of East Africa, forests in Africa are as diverse as they are significant to the continent's economies, societies and people. Not only do Africa's forests generate income and employment from the sale and exchange of sustainable wood and non-wood forest products, but they also provide vital ecosystem services. For instance, Africa's forests help to control the climate acting as carbon sinks and coolants that contribute to regulating rain fall and minimizing extreme weather, and they serve as hosts to the continent's rich biodiversity. They thereby secure the livelihoods of millions of people, including farmers, who rely on these ecosystem services for their agricultural productivity.

Yet, despite their importance, Africa's forests are disappearing at an alarming rate. Africa is the region with the highest deforestation rate worldwide. In the period 2015-2020, nearly half of global deforestation took place in Africa. Deforestation and forest degradation are thereby increasingly threatening the continent's delicate ecosystem equilibrium with possible dramatic impacts for food security, economic development and poverty alleviation.

Halting deforestation and forest degradation has therefore become a priority of many African governments as they advance their sustainable development agendas. Across the African continent, governments are actively engaged in developing and/or implementing their halting deforestation strategies, while engaging with international partners to enhance impact and scale.



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These efforts are closely aligned with key international and continental initiatives, including the African Union's Agenda 2063, which envisions an environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient Africa and calls for the transformation and industrialization of economies through value addition to natural resources, alongside urgent action on climate change and environmental protection; Paris Agreement on Climate Change, under which forest protection is integral to achieving nationally determined contributions (NDCs) for emissions reduction; The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which sets targets for halting biodiversity loss and restoring degraded ecosystems, including forests.

This session situates itself within these broader political and institutional commitments by showcasing innovative, evidence-based solutions for forest conservation. These include collaborative initiatives developed between African countries and international partners, through knowledge co-creation and technical cooperation. The event will explore transformative forest conservation strategies by highlighting solutions harnessing balanced conservation and production practices as well as forests' essential roles in biodiversity, climate mitigation, and adaptation, and food security. One initiative is the Solutions-tree which has been developed by FAO with support from the government of Japan and UN-REDD to assist countries in identifying solutions to underlying deforestation drivers. First pilots in Benin and Guinea have demonstrated the Solutions-tree's use for developing halting deforestation strategies. The session will also feature insights from Ghana on the perspectives of cost-effective forest interventions, to inform economically viable and impactful strategies. The session will also highlight ITTO's important work of supporting Western African countries, including Cote d'Ivoire and Togo, in scaling sustainable agroforestry systems and rehabilitating degraded forests for increased food security.

## Objectives

- Demonstrate the wide range of African governments' actions and solutions to halting deforestation and forest degradation
- Showcase how collaboration and co-creating knowledge with African countries are advancing the halting deforestation agenda
- Raise awareness of existing solutions and tools that have been developed by international organizations to support African countries in turning the tide on deforestation and forest degradation
- Foundation laid for a regional exchange to broaden engagement and forge partnerships to address deforestation in the region



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## Agenda

Time	Agenda item	Speaker
00:00-00:05	<b>Welcome</b> Welcoming the participants, introducing the agenda and speakers	Moderator Ms Jennifer CONJE Director of the Forest Management, ITTO
00:05-00:10	<b>Opening remark</b>	FAO Mr Alue Dohong, Assistant Director-General and FAO Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific (tbc)
00:10-00:25 (15')	<b>Key note to set the scene: Innovative solutions to halt deforestation and agricultural solutions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The role of Africa's forests for food security, economic development and poverty alleviation</li> <li>• Deforestation and forest degradation trends</li> <li>• Momentum for halting deforestation</li> <li>• Need for cross-sectorial collaboration</li> <li>• Introducing the Solutions-tree and importance of identifying cost effective solutions for REDD+</li> </ul>	FAO Ms Serena Fortuna, Senior Forestry Officer and Team leader, Halting Deforestation, Degradation, and Emissions team, Forestry Division
00:25-00:45 (5' per panellist)	<b>Panel discussion: Realizing forest solutions - A future with reduced deforestation through sustainable agriculture</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• African Forest Forum (AFF) (halting deforestation for Africa's sustainable development and food security goals)</li> <li>• Ghana (cost effectiveness in REDD+ solutions)</li> <li>• Benin (Identifying solutions for halting deforestation)</li> <li>• Cdl or Togo (Video presentation on agroforestry actions to halt deforestation); Q&amp;A followed by ITTO</li> </ul>	<b>Prof Labode Popoola</b> , Executive secretary of African Forest Forum (AFF)  <b>Ms Roselyn Fosuah Adjei</b> , Former REDD+ Focal Point. Director of Forestry Commission Training Centre of Ghana. REDD+, Forest Governance and Climate Policy Expert.

	<p>Some key questions may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- (To AFF) Why is halting deforestation and forest degradation fundamental to achieving Africa's sustainable development and food security goals?</li> <li>- How can continental and regional forest strategies be better aligned with climate, agricultural, and food systems goals to deliver synergistic outcomes? Can you share specific examples?</li> <li>- (To Ghana) Ghana has been a frontrunner in implementing REDD+ in Africa. What lessons have emerged around identifying cost-effective solutions? How can identifying cost effective solutions advance actions at scale? How are the costs and benefits of REDD+ perceived by national stakeholders, and how is this influencing uptake and long-term sustainability of actions?</li> <li>- (To Benin) Can you elaborate on the Solutions-tree approach and how it has supported the REDD+ strategy development? How can such knowledge, that was evidence based and cocreated with African countries, advance policy actions to halt deforestation at scale?</li> <li>- (To Cdl or Togo) What are the key success factors for scaling up sustainable agroforestry systems and rehabilitating degraded forests in Western Africa? How do these approaches contribute not only to halting deforestation, but also to rural livelihoods and food security?</li> </ul> <p>(To all) What are some of the biggest challenges or barriers that remain in implementing halting deforestation solutions at scale? What are some of the most promising opportunities for</p>	<p><b>Mr Awessou Kohomlan Beranger:</b> Senior Officer of Water, Forests and Hunting, Ministry of Living Environment and Transport in charge of Sustainable Development of Benin</p> <p><b>Côte d'Ivoire or Togo:</b> Video presentation supported by <b>ITTO - Mr Polycarpe Masupa Kambale,</b> Projects Manager, ITTO</p>
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	scaling up these solutions across the continent in the coming years?	
00:45-00:55 (10')	<b>Q&amp;A</b> From the floor	Audience
00:55-01:00	<b>Closing remarks</b>	MAFF Mr. KOCHI Kiyotaka, Director of the International Forestry Cooperation Office, Planning Division, Forestry Agency, from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan (tbc)