

CIVIL SOCIETY ADVISORY GROUP (CSAG) PANEL AT ITTC-61

Forests in the Global Biodiversity Agenda: Insights from UNFF Major Groups at CBD SBSTTA-27

Fernanda Rodrigues, UNFF Women Major Group / Forest Women's
Network (Brazil)

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INTRODUCTION

- On 25 September, the International Arrangement on Forests Major Group Internal Coordination Mechanism convened the global webinar “Understanding the CBD Forest Biodiversity Agenda - Stakeholder perspectives”
- The event was organised in preparation for the 27th meeting of the Convention on Biological Diversity’s (CBD) Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA)
- The webinar drew strong interest, with 281 participants registered from over 90 countries.
- Speakers included Jamal Annagylyjova (CBD Secretariat), Malgorzata Buszko-Briggs (FAO), Viviana Figueroa (International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity), Elena Kreuzberg (Global Forest Coalition), Mia Crawford (Farmers and small landowners) made an introductory remark. The event was facilitated by Fernanda

KEY MESSAGES FROM STAKEHOLDERS DURING THE WEBINAR

Forests and biodiversity: Forests harbour most of the planet's terrestrial biodiversity, sustain livelihoods for hundreds of millions of people, and are central to cultural identity. Protecting forest biodiversity must remain high on the political agenda.

Democratic space and inclusion: Stakeholders stressed that shrinking democratic space makes inclusive decision-making more important than ever - "nothing about us without us."

Forest biodiversity in the CBD: Participants welcomed the update of the expanded program of work on forest biodiversity, urging alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and stronger links with other global instruments, including the UN Strategic Plan for Forests.

Strengthening UN cooperation: Stakeholders called for stronger recognition of the UN Forum on Forests and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests in CBD processes, noting that effective

CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY SBSTTA 27TH

- SBSTTA precedes CBD COP 17 in Armenia (2026)
- National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAPs) to be delivery by all members according to Global Biodiversity Framework
- February 2026 is the deadline to delivery the 7th national report
- Challenges around implementation and financial resources remain
- Monitoring framework is the key to track implementation of NBSAP

FORESTS IN THE GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY AGENDA: MAIN CHALLENGES

- Unify indicators at national level to respond to the diversity of frameworks
- Lack of financial resources: to collect and process data, to implement actions on the ground
- Sustainable forest management is key to promote the conservation of forests also keep primary forest (landscape approach / spatial planning)
- Adaptation to climate change
- Implementation of a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach and the full and effective participation of IPLCs, women, and youth in CBD meetings, implementation, and in national and global monitoring and reporting

FORESTS IN THE GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY AGENDA: MAIN OPPORTUNITIES

- SFM is key to biodiversity conservation: spatial planning (landscape approach) is very important in this context considering set aside areas and management areas
- Improve communication to larger audience around the importance of SFM to forest biodiversity conservation as well as to promote economic development and social benefits;
- Agreement's implementation through women organizations and other civil society initiatives.
- Connecting forest with health (One health)
- Bringing science and policy together for biodiversity