



United Nations  
**FORUM ON  
FORESTS**



15  
LIFE  
ON LAND



# FORESTS AND LIFE ON LAND

**3 December 2017 | 10:30 -13:30 | Karura Forest**

A Side Event on Sustainable Development Goal 15 “forests and life on land” is being hosted by the governments of Kenya, Brazil, China and Norway will held on 3 December 2017 at the Kenya Forest Services Headquarters in Karura. This side event comes at a time when member States are focused on the environment and the overarching theme of pollution being discussed by the 2017 United Nations Environment Assembly.

The UNEA-3 Event offers an opportunity for initiating discussions to amplify and capture the importance of forests in the lead up to the thirteenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF13) which will be held in May 2018 and to the July 2018 High Level Political Forum on Forests (HLPF 2018) which will be held under the auspices of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

Forests cover 30 per cent of the Earth’s land area and provide essential ecosystem services. They contribute to soils and water conservation and clean air. Forest also prevent land degradation desertification and reduce the likelihood of floods, landslides, avalanches, droughts, dust-storms, sandstorms and other natural disasters.

Forests are home to an estimated 80 per cent of all terrestrial species and contribute substantially to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to the conservation of biodiversity.

In September 2015, member States negotiated and agreed on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to help the world move to a more sustainable future. During the processes of developing the SDGs, the importance of forests stood out in a very significant manner due to their overwhelming provision of forest goods and services. Indeed, the importance of forests is evidenced by the multiplicity of their presence in the indicators for tracking achievement of many SDG targets. In particular, SDG 15 “Forests and life on land” exemplifies the importance that United nations attaches to forests.

The 2017 United Nations Environment Assembly aims to deliver a number of tangible commitments to end the pollution of our air, land, waterways, and oceans, and to safely manage our chemicals and waste. This side event aims to contribute to this discussion by asking discussants to reflect on the following five areas under SDG15:

- (i) Forests in the economic context of countries;
- (ii) Conservation and protection of nature and biodiversity for posterity
- (iii) Importance of forests as a key source of energy for millions of households globally particularly developing countries
- (iv) Forests and climate change and Sustainable Forest Management.

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