



World Environment Day 2021

Virtual Conference on

Ecosystem Restoration in the Global South

Monday, 7 June 2021 | 3:00-5:00 PM (GMT+5)



BACKGROUND

Our planet is under increasing threats from ecological degradation, declining biodiversity, worsening desertification and frequent extreme weather events pose severe challenges to human survival. Particularly, 1 billion people in over 100 developing countries are locked in the cycle of poverty and environmental degradation made worse by the effects of climate change. On the other hand, healthy ecosystems and their services provide opportunities for sustainable economic prosperity while at the same time providing defense against the negative effects of climate change. When applicable, Ecosystem Restoration should be an important component of conservation and development efforts so that the livelihoods of people depending on these degraded ecosystems can be sustained in a changing climate.

A wealth of knowledge, experience, and good practices has been accumulated by many of developing countries in the domain of ecosystem restoration. As an example, the Chinese Ecosystem Research Network (CERN) has established a unique approach of integrating monitoring and research with demonstration and national policy setting which directly supports decision-making for ecosystem management. Times has come to promote South-South exchange and cooperation,

as a complement to North-South cooperation, to bridge science and policy gaps in achieving sustainable development goals and climate targets. This must involve support in financing, technology and capacity building to help developing countries transition to green and low-carbon development.

In recognition of this, and in commemoration of World Environment Day 2021 themed with 'Ecosystem Restoration', COMSATS Centre for Climate and Sustainability (CCCS) in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme-International Ecosystem Management Partnership (UNEP-IEMP) will organize a virtual conference on "Ecosystem Restoration in the Global South" on 7 June 2021 to celebrate the continuous efforts around developing regions in conserving and restoring ecosystems and spearheading post-COVID-19 recovery.

Embracing the theme of Ecosystem Restoration this virtual conference will bring together key experts in the fields of ecosystem restoration, conservation and sustainable management from the Global South to share good practices and lessons learnt of ecosystem research and management, as well as to explore partnership opportunities to further collaborate on the topics of ecosystem restoration.

Meeting Link:


<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYtfuiprj4qGNIF5uQmMBChqeLYmkqkUBQG>

for any query, please contact

Mr. Saifullah Dilazak, Program Officer
Email: saif.cccs@comsats.org



MALIK AMIN ASLAM



Malik Amin Aslam is the Special Assistant (rank of Federal Minister) to the Prime Minister of Pakistan on Climate Change. He is honorarily serving as the elected Global Vice President of IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature). He has previously chaired the flagship “Green Growth initiative” for the KPK province in Pakistan – which included the mass forestation “Billion Tree Tsunami” project.

He served as Member of Parliament from 2002-07 and from 2004-07 as Minister of State for Environment and, in this capacity, has been the architect of the country’s National Policies on environment and climate change. Malik Amin Aslam has worked as the Prime Minister’s special envoy for reform of the UN governance system. He has also had the privilege of chairing the G77+China negotiations group and leading Pakistan’s climate change negotiations at various COP meeting since 1999.

He has been chosen to serve on the high level “International Advisory Council” for the Eco-Forum Global – an environmental think-tank advising the Government of China. Mr. Malik is an electrical engineer with an MBA from McGill University and an MSc from Oxford University.

MS. KERSTIN STENDAHL




Ms. Kerstin Stendahl is Head of the Ecosystems Integration Branch supporting and servicing Regional Seas, Poverty and Environment Action for Sustainable Development Goals and the International Ecosystems Management Partnership. Prior to the current post, she was the Deputy secretary of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) from Jan 2017 until March 2020 She joined UNEP in Nov.2012 served as Deputy executive secretary, UNEP/ Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. Before she joined UNEP, she was the

Director of International Affairs, Ministry of Environment, Finland

In fact, Kerstin started her UNEP career as a Junior Professional Officer in the Convention on Biological Diversity Secretariat in Montreal 1996-1998.

DR. LINXIU ZHANG



Dr. Linxiu Zhang, TWAS Fellow, UNEP senior staff and Director, UNEP-International Ecosystem Management Partnership (UNEP-IEMP), a joint center between the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and UNEP. She is leading the implementation of UNEP’s flagship programme focusing on the nexus of climate change, ecosystem services and sustainable livelihoods (CEL) through South-South cooperation. She is affiliated with the Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research as a senior research fellow of CAS and a professor at the University of Chinese Academy of Sciences (UCAS). Her research interest is on policy relevant studies relating to poverty alleviation and sustainable livelihoods, poverty-environment dynamics, climate change adaptation and gender. She is the winner of TWAS “Celso-Furtado Prize” in Social Sciences and “Fudan Management Excellence Award”.

AMBASSADOR SHAHID KAMAL




Ambassador Shahid Kamal is Advisor at the Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS). He is the Founder and Head of COMSATS Centre for Climate and Sustainability, a network of the Global South, which he set up in 2019 to focus on inter-connections of climate change and sustainable development.

Ambassador Kamal has been a career diplomat of Pakistan, served as Ambassador to Germany, Sweden & Finland. He held senior positions at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Prime Minister’s Office, Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in Jeddah, and diplomatic

missions in Paris, New York and Washington.

In addition to his work in international relations and diplomacy, Ambassador Kamal has taken keen interest in areas of climate change, higher education, technology and entrepreneurship. Ambassador Kamal established the Centre for Climate Research & Development at COMSATS University in Islamabad, and was instrumental in setting up the Centre for Entrepreneurial Development at the Institute of Business Administration in Karachi. He participated in the UNFCCC led negotiations on climate change from 2007 to 2012 and was member of Pakistan delegation at UN Climate Summit Conferences in Copenhagen (2009) and Paris (2015).

MR. JAMIL AHMAD



Mr. Jamil Ahmad is Director, Intergovernmental Affairs, UN Environment Programme, New York. He leads work on sustainable development and the environment in support of the organization’s policies and programmes.

As an advocate of sustainability, he regularly engages with think tanks, universities, and research institutes, speaks to civil society groups, official delegations, students and other stakeholders about environment, climate change and sustainable development. He has been representing the UN Environment in international events and conferences.

A senior career diplomat, Mr. Jamil Ahmad entered the Foreign service of Pakistan in 1986 and has served in several duty stations in Asia, Europe and Africa with rich experience of bilateral and multilateral affairs. He participated in numerous important UN and other intergovernmental meetings. He was lead negotiator of G77 and China for Climate Change.

DR. ERNEST FOLI

Dr. Ernest Foli is a Principal Research Scientist and former Deputy-Director at the CSIR-Forestry Research Institute of Ghana. He holds a PhD and MPhil in Forestry from the

University of Aberdeen, UK. He has 33 years' experience in forestry research and has held several management positions during this period. His current field of interest is Forest Landscape Restoration for climate change mitigation and adaptation. With more than 18 years' teaching experience he currently coordinates a postgraduate programme in Climate Change and Integrated Natural Resources Management.



Dr. Foli was one of the 15 eminent scientists appointed by the UN General Assembly to draft the 2019 Global Sustainable Development Report. He has made significant contribution to science with about 215 scientific outputs, including 33 peer-reviewed journal articles, 14 books, 10 manuals/Policy Briefs, 63 scientific reports, and about 95 conference papers. He is a member of 12 International Professional Associations/Committees/Boards and 24 local/national Associations/Boards/Committees.

MS. GUOQIN WANG

Ms. Guoqin Wang is a Programme Manager of UNEP's International Ecosystem Management Partnership. She has been working at this global center of UNEP on South-South Cooperation as a founding member since 2010. In 2014-2016, she was the project manager of GEF funded EbA South project, responsible for this global project management in the domain of Ecosystem-based Adaptation and South-South Cooperation. Prior to this, Guoqin worked with the Chinese Ecosystem Research Network as a project officer in 2008-2010, responsible for international cooperation activities and outreach. Guoqin holds a Masters in Ecology from the South China Botanical Garden, Chinese Academy of Sciences.



DR. LIU YU

Dr. Liu Yu is an Associate Professor of the Institute of Geographical and Natural Resources Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences, and Deputy Director of the Synthesis

Center of Chinese Ecosystem Research Network (CERN). He has over 10 years of experiences on monitoring and research on Loess Plateau restoration under China's Grain for Green programme. Dr. Liu is experienced in soil erosion and eco-hydrological monitoring and modeling, and application of remote sensing for ecosystem observation and assessment. He focused on the relationship between landscape pattern and earth surface processes, and ecosystem services flow in the context of landscape change. He got his Ph.D on landscape ecology from the Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences.



MR. MAURICIO ANDRÉS VALENCIA CAMELO

Mr. Mauricio Andrés Valencia Camelo is an Environmental Engineer, Specialist in the Environmental Impact Study Projects, and Master in Environmental Management. Currently Working as Director in CIF. Research Experience, associated with the formulation and direction projects, with knowledge in the diagnosis and implementation of environmental management systems, aimed at finding solutions to environmental problems and minimization of impacts as reforestation productively, planning the sustainable use of natural resources.



DR. LUCY AMISSAH

Dr. Lucy Amissah is an Ecologist, and a Senior Research Scientist with the CSIR-Forestry Research Institute of Ghana (FORIG). She holds a Ph.D in Forest Ecology and Forest Management from the Wageningen University, the Netherlands. Dr. Lucy Amissah has over twenty years' experience in research and development with specialization in technology in forest ecology, landscape restoration, biodiversity conservation and fire management. Her research focuses on studying the impacts of disturbances on tree distribution and plant diversity, and how the characteristics of species influence their responses to these disturbances. In addition, her past



research has focused on assessing the tolerance of individual species to drought as well as phytoremediation potential of tree species on mined sites. Other research areas include the study of impacts of fire on farming systems and socio-economic status of farmers in forest fringe communities and on conservation efforts including conservation of endemic species and community involvement in forest landscape restoration.

PROF. TERENCE FORRESTER

Prof. Forrester, who is Director of UWI SODECO, is a Physiologist and Academic Physician whose research focus is broadly, direct biological contributions to human resilience. More recently Professor Forrester has been addressing translation research to enhance human resilience through environmental interventions. Current area of work is restoration and preservation of mangrove forests along the Jamaican coast which has embedded within interventions to enhance positive and mitigate or remove negative drivers of human resilience.



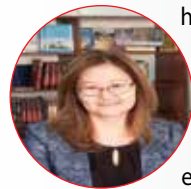
DR. MAHER J. TADROS

Dr. Maher J. Tadros is Professor in Vegetation Ecology and Management in Departments of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE) and Plant Production, Faculty of Agriculture, Jordan University of Science and Technology. Ph.D in forestry and natural resources, Purdue University (2003), USA. MSc and BSc in plant production (1995, 1997) University of Jordan. Research interest in vegetation ecology and management, conservation, drought and salinity stresses. Experience in desert plants propagation. Assistant dean (2013-2018) and DNRE Chairman (2006-2008). Several projects Environmental Impact Assessment on nationally and internationally levels such as Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Pakistan. Consultant in the IUCN, UNDP and HFJBD.



DR. DINARA ABIYEVA

Dr. Dinara Abiyeva, Managing Director of GIS-Centre, JSC "Institute of Geography and Water Security." She has considerable experience in various fields – from education to work experience in international level (GEF/WB, UNDP) and national research centers, private sector (software and environmental companies). Most of her work is devoted to geographic information systems.



Dr. Abiyeva is a Principal Investigator and a participant of numerous projects related to development Web-GIS services (products, tools, and applications) that contribute to the implementation of new approaches to research on the green economy, water resources, mapping and assessment of essential areas of ecosystem services in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

DR. RANGIKA BANDARA

Dr. Rangika Bandara is Senior Lecturer, Department of Zoology and Environmental Management, University of Kelaniya. She earned her BSC degree in Forestry and Environment Science with first class honors from University of Sri Jayawardenapura in 2005. She earned both of her Master of Science degree in Forestry and Environment Science in 2008 from Louisiana State University, USA and Ph.D. in Forestry and Environment Science in 2011 from the same University. She was awarded Graduate Student Merit Honor Award in 2009 and in 2011 by Gamma Sigma Delta, the Honor Society of Agriculture, Louisiana State University Chapter. She specialized in forestry, forest products certification and marketing, environment management and ecotourism. Dr. Bandara is a consultant in cleaner production, eco-design and chemical leasing. At present she is serving as the symposium coordinator of the 4th International Research Symposium on Pure and Applied Sciences (IRSPAS – 2019) organized by the University of Kelaniya.



Opening session Moderated by Dr. Linxiu Zhang, Director, UNEP-IEMP

15:00-15:05 - **Welcome Remarks**
Ambassador Shahid Kamal, Head of CCCS

15:05-15:10 - **Introductory Remarks**
Kerstin Stendahl, Head of Ecosystems Integration Branch, UNEP

15:10-15:20 - **Keynote Address**
Malik Amin Aslam, Minister for Climate Change/Special Assistant to the Prime Minister, Ministry of Climate Change, Pakistan

Session 1: Moderated by Ambassador Shahid Kamal, Head of CCCS

15:20-15:30 - **Best Practices & Success Stories of Ecosystem Restoration in China**
Ms. Guoqin Wang, Programme Manager, UNEP-IEMP

Session 2: Approaches and Actions by Global South for Ecosystem Restoration (8 minutes for each presentation) 15:30-16:30

Moderated by Dr. Ernest Foli, Principal Research Scientist, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Ghana

Dr. Yu Liu, Deputy Director, Synthesis Center of Chinese Ecosystem Research Network (CERN), Chinese Academy of Sciences

Mr. Mauricio Andrés Valencia Camelo, Environmental Engineer, International Centre for Physics (CIF), Colombia

Dr. Lucy Amissah, Senior Research Scientist, CSIR-Forestry Research Institute of Ghana (FORIG)

Prof. Terrence Forrester, Director, UWI Solutions for Developing Countries (UWI SODECO) University of the West Indies. Mona Campus, Jamaica

Dr. Maher J Tadros, Professor in Vegetation Ecology and Management Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Jordan University of Science and Technology

Dinara Abiyeva, Managing Director of GIS-Centre, JSC 'Institute of Geography and Water Security, Kazakhstan

Dr. Rangika Bandara, Senior Lecturer, Department of Zoology and Environmental Management, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka

Session 3: Open discussions 16:30-16:50

Moderated by Dr. Ernest Foli (CSIR, Ghana) & Dr. Linxiu Zhang (UNEP-IEMP)

Moderated discussions on (but not limited to):

- Existing knowledge and good practices for ecosystem restoration in the Global South
- Gaps and opportunities to collaboration and joint actions
- Way forwards

Closing Remarks 16:50-17:00

Mr. Jamil Ahmad, Director, Intergovernmental Affairs, UNEP Office, New York