



Shared Prosperity Dignified Life



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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), League of Arab States (LAS) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)/West Asia Office

Consultative Meeting on the Environmental Dimension of the Sustainable Development Agenda: The Role of Nature-Based Solutions in Combating Desertification, Conserving Biodiversity and Strengthening Resilience in the Arab Region

Virtual, Wednesday 16 February 2022, 11:30-15:30 (Beirut Time)

Agenda

11:30-11:50	Opening Session
	<p>Welcoming remarks by organizing partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Mahmoud Fathallah, Director, Environmental Meteorological Affairs Department, League of Arab States (LAS) - Mr. Abdul-Majeid Haddad, Deputy Director, United Nations Environment Program Regional Office for West Asia (UNEP-ROWA) - Ms. Reem Nejdawi, Chief, Food and Environment Policies Section, Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability, ESCWA
11:50-12:10	Setting the Scene: SDG15, Global and Regional Processes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Reem Nejdawi, Chief, Food and Environment Policies Section, Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability, ESCWA - Mr. Mahmoud Fathallah, Director, Environmental Meteorological Affairs Department, League of Arab States (LAS) - Mr. Abdelmenam Mohamed, Regional Coordinator for Science, United Nations Environment Program Regional Office for West Asia (UNEP-ROWA)
12:10-13:20	Session I: Accelerating Achievement of SDG 15: Managing Drought and Combatting Land Degradation and Desertification
	<p>Moderator: Mr. Mahmoud Fathallah, Director, Environmental Meteorological Affairs Department, League of Arab States (LAS)</p> <p>Introductory Presentation: Briefing on Regional related processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Nasr Eddin Obied, General Director, Arab Centre for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Ahmed Abdelati Ahmed, Director, Arab Working Group on the implementation of biodiversity and desertification related Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), UNCCD Operational Focal Point & STC of Egypt, Head of Plant Production Department of the Desert Research Center, Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, Arab Republic of Egypt <p>Interventions:</p> <p><i>The Green Dam project as a tool to combat desertification</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Saliha Fortas, Director, The fight against desertification and the green dam, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development general directorate of forests, People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria <p><i>Protected areas in Libya</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Khalifa Jomaa Bou Farraj Amaizig, Director, Human Resources Development Department, Member of the Researchers Evaluation Committee, Agricultural Research Center, State of Libya <p><i>Combating desertification in the Arab region</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Abdul Rahim Loulou, Technical Advisor to General Manager, Arab Centre for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD) <p><i>The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Jean-Philippe Schwab, Partnership Coordinator, UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) <p><i>Forestation needs: the case of Lebanon</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Maya Nehme, Executive Director, Lebanon Reforestation Initiative (LRI), Lebanese Republic <p>Discussion</p>
13:20-14:15	Session II: Accelerating achievement of SDG 15: Investing in Nature-Based Solutions (NBS)
	<p><u>Moderator:</u> Mr. Abdelmenam Mohamed, Regional Coordinator for Science, UNEP-ROWA</p> <p>Introductory Presentation: Potential of nature-based solutions in enhancing implementation of SDG 15 and climate actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tarek Sadek, Water Resources and Climate Change Officer, Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability Cluster, ESCWA - Mr. Abdelmenam Mohamed, Regional Coordinator for Science, United Nations Environment Program Regional Office for West Asia (UNEP-ROWA) <p>Interventions:</p> <p><i>Nature-based solutions: Initiatives from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Abdu Gasem Alsharif, Director-General, General Administration for Environmental Conventions and Climate Change, Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture (MEWA), Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

	<p><i>Moroccan forestation strategy 2020-2030</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Khaled Cherki, Chief of Research and Cooperation, Water and Forestation sector, Ministry of agriculture, Fisheries, Rural Development, Water and Forests, Kingdom of Morocco <p><i>The environmental dimension in the Arab strategy for sustainable agricultural development 2030 and the importance of nature-based solutions</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Ahmed Salem Ahmad, Director, International External Relations Department, Arab Organization for Agricultural Development <p>Discussion</p>
<p>14:15-15:10</p>	<p>Session III: Accelerating Achievement of SDG 15: Strengthening Sectoral Linkages with Biodiversity</p>
	<p>Moderator: Ms. Reem Nejdawi, Chief of Food and Environment Policies Section, Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability, ESCWA</p> <p>Introductory Presentation: The Action Agenda for Nature and People: Trends of international and transnational cooperative initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Philipp Pattberg, Director, Amsterdam Sustainability Institute, and Head of department, Department for environmental Policy Analysis, Institute for Environmental Studies (VU-IVM), Free University of Amsterdam, Netherlands <p>Interventions:</p> <p><i>Overview of IUCN key areas of work in the Arab region in relation to the biodiversity and desertification issues</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Laith AlRahahleh, Consultant at the Drylands, livelihoods and gender program, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) <p><i>National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) of Palestine</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Mazin Qumsiyeh, Director, Palestine Institute of Biodiversity and Sustainability (PIBS), Bethlehem University, State of Palestine - Mr. Issa Albaradeiya, Director General, Environment Resources, Environment Quality Authority, State of Palestine <p><i>Role of young entrepreneurs in harnessing innovative ideas for biodiversity conservation and sustainability of natural resources</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Sakina Benabdelkader, Project leader, Ibn El-Bitar project, Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN), People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria <p>Discussion</p>

15:10-15:30	Key Messages on the Way Forward to Achieve SDG15 and Concluding Remarks
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Moustafa Fouda, National Focal Point on Convention on Biological Diversity and Advisor to the Minister of Environment for Biodiversity, Arab Republic of Egypt - LAS, UNEP-ROWA, ESCWA

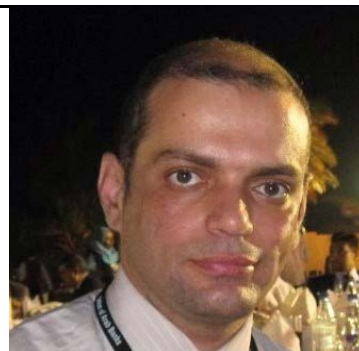
Annex
Speakers short bios

Mr. Mahmoud Fathallah

Director, Environmental Meteorological Affairs Department, League of Arab States (LAS)

Mahmoud Fath-Allah is a senior economist at the League of Arab States (LAS) in Cairo. He has a wide range of experience in both academic and applied economic policy. He also worked for several organizations including the Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade in Egypt, The Information and Decision Support Center for the Egyptian Cabinet, the United Arab Emirates University, UNDP, and USAID Projects .

Fath-Allah holds Ph. D. in economics from the Faculty of Economics and Political Science (FEPS), Cairo University, and he is an active member of economic societies.



Mr. Abdul-Majeid Haddad

Deputy Director, United Nations Environment Program Regional Office for West Asia (UNEP-ROWA)

Mr. Haddad has over 22 years of expertise in the fields of sustainable development, environmental management, and climate change. He also worked at UN Environment Headquarters in Kenya as Global Task Manager for Capacity Building for implementation of Rio Conventions on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Biological Biodiversity (CBD) and Combating desertification (UNCCD).

Mr. Haddad holds a Doctorate degree in Biology from the University of York, UK.



Ms. Reem Nejdawi

Chief, Food and Environment Policies Section, Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability, ESCWA

Mrs. Reem Nejdawi works for the UN-Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) since 2011 as the Chief of Food and Environment Policies Section in Beirut, Lebanon. She also worked as the Executive Director of ESCWA Technology Centre, in Amman, Jordan. She has over twenty years of professional development experience in the Arab region covering issues related to policy design; implementation and monitoring of developmental programs and projects as well as policy advice .

She holds a master's degree in International Trade from Eastern Michigan University, USA



Mr. Abdelmenam Mohamed

Regional Coordinator for Science, United Nations Environment Program Regional Office for West Asia (UNEP-ROWA)

Abdelmenam Mohamed has over 15 years of experience in catalyzing Science for Environmental Policy to promote environmental sustainability and support well-informed decision-making at national and regional levels.

Abdelmenam worked as Environment Specialist with UNDP Libya. Currently, he is working as the Regional Coordinator and Science Advisor for West Asia Office where he is responsible for strengthening the Science-Policy Interface and data and information for decision-making. Mr. Abdelmenam holds a doctorate in Natural Sciences from the University of Lüneburg /Germany.



Mr. Ahmed Abdelati Ahmed

Director, Arab Working Group on the implementation of biodiversity and desertification related Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), UNCCD Operational Focal Point & STC of Egypt, Head of Plant Production Department of the Desert Research Center, Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, Arab Republic of Egypt



Ms. Saliha Fortas

Director, The fight against desertification and the green dam, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development general directorate of forests, People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria






Mr. Khalifa Jomaa Bou Farraj Amaizig

Director, Human Resources Development Department, Member of the Researchers Evaluation Committee, Agricultural Research Center, State of Libya

Mr. Amezek is an activist, green-cord vegetation observer, and academic researcher in ecological care and development. He is the Director of the Human Resources Development Department and a member of the Research Evaluation Committee at the Agricultural Research Center, Libya.

Mr. Amezek holds a master’s degree in Plant Pathology from the Jordanian Unieristy and a degree in English.



<p>Mr. Abdul Rahim Loulou</p> <p>Technical Advisor to General Manager, Arab Centre for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD)</p> <p>He studied soil science at California Polytechnic State University, USA and previously worked with the Food and Agriculture Organization as a soil expert.</p>	
<p>Mr. Jean-Philippe Schwab</p> <p>Partnership Coordinator, UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)</p> <p>Jean-Philippe Schwab is an international professional specializing in environmental diplomacy and sustainable development. He is currently the Partnership Coordinator for the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030, after working as Assistant to the Executive Director of UNEP and as Desk Officer for sustainable economics, biodiversity, and oceans at the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs.</p> <p>His holds a double-degree Master of Arts (MA) in International Relations and Political Science at Sciences Po Stasbourg, Viadrina University Frankfurt (Oder), and the National Autonomous University of Mexico.</p>	
<p>Ms. Maya Nehme</p> <p>Executive Director, Lebanon Reforestation Initiative (LRI), Lebanese Republic</p> <p>Maya joined the Lebanon Reforestation Initiative in 2011 and is currently the LRI Director. She holds a Dual Title PHD in Entomology and Comparative and International Education from Penn State University. Also holds a PMP certification.</p>	

<p>Mr. Tarek Sadek</p> <p>Water Resources and Climate Change Officer, Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability Cluster, ESCWA</p> <p>Tarek Sadek is a First Economic Affairs officer (Water Resources and Climate Change) at ESCWA since May 2007.</p> <p>Mr. Sadek has 25 years of experience in the field of climate change, environmental engineering, water resources management and planning, hydrogeology, water quality and environmental aspects. From 1999 to 2006, he was the Director of National Water Resources Plan project – Planning Sector, Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation (MWRI), Egypt. He holds a Doctorate in Environmental Engineering from the University of Melbourne, Australia in 1998</p>	
<p>Mr. Abdu Gasem Alsharif</p> <p>Director-General, General Administration for Environmental Conventions and Climate Change, Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture (MEWA), Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.</p> <p>Mr. Abdu Gasem Al Shareef Al Assiri was also FAO Coordinator & FAO Representative in UAE FAO Subregional Office for the GCC States and Yemen, SNG Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).</p>	
<p>Mr. Khaled Cherki</p> <p>Chief of Research and Cooperation, Water and Forestation sector, Ministry of agriculture, Fisheries, Rural Development, Water and Forests, Kingdom of Morocco</p>	
<p>Mr. Ahmed Salem Ahmad</p> <p>Director, International External Relations Department, Arab Organization for Agricultural Development, Republic of Sudan</p>	

Mr. Philipp Pattberg

Director, Amsterdam Sustainability Institute, and Head of the Department for Environmental Policy Analysis, Institute for Environmental Studies (VU-IVM), Free University of Amsterdam, Netherlands.

He acts as department head, Department of Environmental Policy Analysis, Institute for Environmental Studies (IVM), where he leads a team of more than 25 researchers. He specializes in the study of global environmental politics, with a focus on climate change governance, biodiversity, forest and ocean governance, transnational relations, public-private partnerships, network theory, and institutional analysis.



Mr. Laith Al Rahahleh

Consultant at the Drylands, livelihoods and gender program, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Mr. Laith Al Rahahleh is a consultant at IUCN, prior to that he was a National consultant at FAO-Amman office and has a wide experience in integrated forest fires management and climate risk analysis.

Mr. Rahahleh holds a Doctorate degree in Forestry and Bioresources program from the University of Eastern Finland, School of Forest Sciences.



Mr. Mazin Qumsiyeh

Director, Palestine Institute of Biodiversity and Sustainability (PIBS), Bethlehem University, State of Palestine.

Mazin Butros Qumsiyeh is a Palestinian scientist and author, founder, and director of the Palestine Museum of Natural History (PMNH) and the Palestine Institute for Biodiversity and Sustainability (PIBS) at Bethlehem University and is specializes in cultural heritage biodiversity issues. He also serves on the board of a number of Palestinian youth and service organizations such as Al-Rowwad Children Theater and Siraj Center. Currently, he volunteers his expertise to promote environmental education programs in addition to his own activism for human rights.



<p>Mr. Issa Albaradeiya Director General, Environment Resources, Environment Quality Authority, State of Palestine</p>	
<p>Ms. Sakina Benabdelkader Project leader, Ibn El-Bitar project, Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN), People's Democratic Republic of Algeria.</p> <p>She is a Biologist and project leader of Ibn AlBitar. The main objectives of her project are the preservation and valorization of the natural resources in medicinal and aromatic plants. She has been selected and invited to participate in several national and international events as the best young women-project leader. She was crowned by the national award "The Woman Entrepreneur 2017" and the regional award "The Best Idea 2016". She is an ambassador and member with several foundations that promote Biodiversity Conservation, Sustainable development, youth and women in "sciences, Business and innovation", Peace, Entrepreneurship, and leadership.</p>	
<p>Mr. Moustafa Fouda National Focal Point on Convention on Biological Diversity and Advisor to the Minister of Environment for Biodiversity, Arab Republic of Egypt</p> <p>Mr. Moustafa Fouda held the position of Head of the Nature Protection Sector - Environmental Affairs Agency from 2000 AD until 2010. He has been a biodiversity advisor to the Minister of Environment since 2010 AD until now, and a director of many projects and a national focal point for many international agreements, the most important of which is the Convention on Biological Diversity. Fouda taught science courses related to the marine environment at the universities of Sultan Qaboos, Al-Azhar, Ain Shams, and the Suez Canal. He also supervised more than 100 master's and doctoral theses and published several research papers in scientific journals.</p>	