

**Conference to mark the
International Day of Forests 2022
“Forests and sustainable production and consumption”**



To mark the **International Day of Forests (IDF)**, the **Federal Agency for Forestry (Rosleskhoz)** and the **FAO Liaison Office with the Russian Federation** supported by the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Russia Office** and the **UN Information Centre in Moscow** are holding an *in-person and virtual conference*

**on Friday, 18 March 2022
from 11.00 to 13.00 (Moscow time)**

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The conference is aimed at raising the general public awareness of the importance of forests of the North for the human life and sustainable development.

It will bring together representatives of state executive bodies, the academia, private sector, and NGOs. Experts from the Russian forest industry, FAO, UNEP and UNECE will make their presentations. Simultaneous interpretation into Russian and English will be provided during the conference.

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Programme

Moderator: **Oleg Kobiakov**, Director, FAO Liaison Office with the Russian Federation

11.00 – 11.30	<i>Opening remarks</i> Ivan Sovetnikov Head, Federal Agency for Forestry Vladimir Kuznetsov Director, UN Information Centre in Moscow Vladimir Moshkalo Head, UNEP Russia Office
11.30 – 11.35	<i>Watching the video for the International Day of Forests 2022</i>
11.35 – 11.45	<i>On the forestry agenda of the Arctic Council</i> Nikolay Korchunov , Ambassador at Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia, Senior Arctic Official to the Arctic Council
11.45 – 11.55	Acting Director of FAO Forestry Division (<i>to be confirmed</i>)
11.55 – 12.05	Head of the joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section (<i>to be confirmed</i>)
12.05 – 12.15	Representative of the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East (<i>to be confirmed</i>)
12.15 – 12.25	Vladimir Kirakosyan , Chairperson of Forestry Committee of the Republic of Armenia
12.25 – 12.35	Alexander Dragun , First Deputy Minister of Forestry of the Republic of Belarus
12.35 – 12.55	Discussion
12.55 – 13.00	Closing remarks by Moderator

Background information:

In 2012, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed March 21 [the International Day of Forests \(IDF\)](#). On each International Day of Forests, countries are encouraged to undertake local, national and international efforts to organize activities involving forests and trees.

The theme for 2022 is “Forests and sustainable production and consumption.” In Russia, the IDF will celebrate the role of northern forests.

Boreal and temperate forests grow on a vast area in Eurasia and North America, where they form a natural zone, extending from the boreal North to the temperate South.

Zones with similar characteristics are present in mountainous regions between higher and lower areas.

Boreal forests predominate in seven countries of the Northern Hemisphere where they surround the Arctic Ocean basin. Temperate forests prevail in 48 countries, most of which are located in the Northern Hemisphere. In the Southern Hemisphere temperate forests grow in New Zealand and Chile, but they can be found in Australia and Argentina, as well. Both boreal and temperate forests are present in many countries of the Northern Hemisphere.

Together, boreal and temperate forests represent the main pillar of the global forest cover. They account for almost half (48 percent) of the world's total area covered by forests, and more than a quarter of the carbon stocks in living biomass.

Both boreal and temperate forests play an important role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and implementing regulations of other international agreements, including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the Paris Agreement withing the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests. This kind of forest is a key source of food, income and livelihood for indigenous and local people, as well as a source of economic benefits and ecosystem services on both national and global level. They are the habitat of biological species, absorb carbon and are a potentially sustainable source of a variety of products and services demanded by humanity.