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ACADEMY

Invitation to international technical webinar

Wednesday 11 November 2020 | 14:30 - 15:30 CEST

## Open and Transparent Forest Data: Innovation and Technology for Climate Action



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### BACKGROUND

A key pillar of the Paris Agreement is the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF), which aims to raise ambitions for climate action through transparent country reporting. The development of National Forest Monitoring Systems (NFMS) with open and transparent data can enable action for forest and climate. In light of the climate emergency, it is time to scale up efforts toward accurate, open and transparent forest data, to catalyze higher ambitions under the Paris Agreement. The FAO eLearning Academy webinar “*Open and Transparent Forest data: Innovation and Technology for Climate Action*” highlights global and national efforts’ on forest monitoring that support the implementation of the transparency framework under the Paris Agreement.

This international technical webinar is part of the series organized by the **FAO eLearning Academy**, **Agreenium** (l’Institut agronomique, vétérinaire et forestier de France) and **UN-ESCAP** (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific). These webinars are an opportunity for all of us to share experiences and lessons learnt, discuss challenges, and propose innovative solutions and models. They aim to provide a holistic

and comprehensive view of current trends in thematic areas related to global challenges, by combining development research and innovation perspectives.

The main objective of these technical webinars is to give practitioners the opportunity to interact with international experts, United Nations officers, University professors, researchers and fellow participants, throughout the world. Webinars can be attended as interactive online sessions on Zoom, where sharing perspectives and asking questions to experts is encouraged. These sessions are also recorded and therefore available at any time, through the FAO elearning Academy: [elearning.fao.org](http://elearning.fao.org).

## OBJECTIVES OF THIS SESSION

- Describe the project: “Building global capacity to increase transparency in the forest sector” (CBIT-Forest)” and its contribution to the transparency framework under the Paris Agreement;
- Share experience from Bangladesh on data management and transparency; and
- Present latest open data resources and their uses, and raise awareness on innovations that promote transparency and contribute to the Paris Agreement.

## SPEAKERS

This technical webinar will be delivered by **Ms Rocío Córdor-Golec** (FAO), **Mr Anssi Pekkarinen** (FAO), **Ms Ellen Bruzelius Backer** (NICFI), **Ms Yelena Finegold** (FAO), **Mr Julian Fox** (FAO), **Mr Karl Morteo** (FAO), **Ms Mariam Akhter** (Forest Department of Bangladesh), and moderated **Emily Donegan** (FAO) and by **Ms Cristina Petracchi**, Leader of the FAO eLearning Academy.



Anssi Pekkarinen  
Senior Forestry Officer  
FAO



Rocío Córdor-Golec  
Forestry Officer  
FAO



Julian Fox  
Senior Forestry Officer  
FAO

**Anssi Pekkarinen** is a Senior Forestry Officer at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and coordinator of the Global Forest Resources

**Rocío Córdor-Golec** is leading the "Building global capacity to increase transparency in the forest sector (CBIT-Forest)" global project of the FAO

**Julian Fox** has 20 years experience in forest monitoring as a manager of international and national projects, researcher, teacher,

Assessment programme. Pekkarinen studied in the University of Helsinki, Finland and holds a D.Sc. in Forest mensuration and management. He is specialized in forest inventory, remote sensing and geographic information systems. Before joining FAO in 2009, Pekkarinen worked as a research scientist at the Finnish Forest Research Institute (1996-2005) and Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (2005-2008). Pekkarinen has more than 25 years of experience in analyzing forest resource information with remote sensing and field inventory data and he is one of the founding members of FAO's Open Foris Initiative.

financed by the CBIT trust fund of the GEF. She is coordinating activities to make forest data more transparent, accessible and available and helping developing countries meet the Paris Agreement's enhanced transparency framework (ETF), in collaboration with key international stakeholders. Rocío has 20 years of experience working at the national and the international level on measurement, reporting and verification under the UNFCCC and currently supporting the ETF implementation at the FAO. Rocio holds a Masters Degree in Environmental Science and a PhD in Forest Ecology.

and technical specialist. He also has 7 years experience living and working in developing countries managing projects in Papua New Guinea and Zambia. Julian holds a PhD in forest monitoring. Dr Fox is Team Leader, National Forest Monitoring (NFM), Forestry Division, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). As Team Leader NFM, Julian coordinates global normative NFM work, global NFM tools (Open Foris and SEPAL), and a significant portfolio of country support activities of the NFM team (active in forty-five countries).



**Elena Bruzelius Backer**  
Policy Director  
Norway's International  
Climate and Forest Initiative

**Ellen Bruzelius Backer** is working at Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative, where she is the Policy Director for Environmental Integrity. She works with issues related to MRV, transparency, carbon accounting and other topics intersecting with



**Karl Morteo**  
Information Technology  
Officer  
FAO

**Karl Morteo** has over 30 years of experience developing and supplying IT solutions & services. He is currently working at FAO where he is leading the development of the flagship Hand-in-Hand geospatial platform, which



**Yelena Finegold**  
Forestry Officer  
FAO

**Yelena Finegold** is a Forestry Officer on the National Forest Monitoring (NFM) team at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). She works on technical solutions for measuring and reporting forest changes,

the environmental integrity of REDD+ accross NICFI's portofolio. She holds a Master's Degree in Political Science from the University of Oslo, and has previously worked with the Norway's greenhouse gas inventory, the AFOLU sectors in particular, and with negotiations at the UNFCCC and other internatinal negotiations.

brings together technical units from across the Organization and integrates data from UN system, international organizations, NGOs and space agencies. Karl is a Cloud Architect, Scrum Master, PRINCE2 project manager and an ITIL practitioner. He graduated from the University of Leeds with a bachelor's degree in Computational Science and a master's degree in Intelligent Knowledge Based Systems at Cranfield Institute of Technology.

including deforestation, forest degradation and restoration. She develops tools in the SEPAL platform, which allows users to easily access, process and analyze satellite imagery using an open source cloud computing power for land monitoring applications. She has supported countries in Africa and Asia in quantifying activity estimates for REDD+ reporting. She holds an MSc in Geographic Information Science and specializes in land use change, geospatial analysis and remote sensing.



**Mariam Akhter**  
Assistant Chief Conservator  
of Forests  
Forest Department of  
Bangladesh

**Mariam Akhter** is serving as Assistant Chief Conservator of Forests at the Forest Department of Bangladesh under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. She has 20 years of experience in forest resource assessment and monitoring. She also worked at FAO for 4 years and coordinated the implementation of Bangladesh UN-REDD National Programme and National Forest Inventory



**Emily Donegan**  
NFI Programme Support  
Specialist  
FAO

**Emily Donegan** joined FAO in 2013. Her work focuses on forest monitoring, REDD+ and climate change. She is currently working on the CBIT-Forest project to deliver forest knowledge and training materials such as the e-learning course "Forests and Transparency under the Paris Agreement". Emily is interested in climate action, biodiversity, research and



**Cristina Petracchi**  
Leader of the FAO eLearning  
Academy  
(FAO)

**Cristina Petracchi** heads the FAO eLearning Academy. She manages and coordinates the design, development, delivery and language adaptations of an extensive portfolio e-learning courses and blended learning programmes for the benefit of FAO member countries, and is responsible for the creation of University Masters' and Post Graduate Degree Programmes. She engages actively in

(USAID supported). She was actively involved in developing the Forest Reference Emission Level and establishing the Bangladesh Forest Information System. Currently she is involved with planning and project development for forest restoration, biodiversity conservation and enhancement of forest cover. She is a forester and holds a PhD in Geoscience.

communicating science and promoting knowledge exchange. She holds a master's in Environmental Sciences with a focus on soils and a bachelor's in Plant Sciences. She is from Northern Ireland.

consolidating partnerships across United Nations agencies, academic institutions and universities, regional organizations, CSOs and NGOs, for capacity development initiatives. In addition to a University Degree in Biological Sciences, Ms Petracchi holds a PhD in Nutrition and Food Science, and has several years of experience of capacity development activities, in a number of countries.

## HOW TO ATTEND

The webinar is free and open to everyone, provided you have the link to the platform. To join the webinar session on Zoom, kindly register [here](#).

We suggest you to use Google Chrome in order to join the webinar. We also recommend you to check your time zone [here](#).

**Please feel free to share this invitation with your colleagues.**

## PARTNERS

**Agreenium** - l'Institut agronomique, vétérinaire et forestier de France  
**AgroParisTech** - Institut des sciences et industries du vivant et de l'environnement  
**CIHEAM** - International Center for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies  
**CIRAD** - Agricultural Research Centre for International Development  
**CREA** - Council for Agricultural Research and Economics  
**FFI** - Future Food Institute  
**IFAD** - International Fund for Agricultural Development  
**IGNOU** - Indira Gandhi National Open University  
**INRA** - Institut national de la recherche agronomique  
**Montpellier SupAgro** - Institut national d'études supérieures agronomiques de Montpellier  
**NEPAD** - New Partnership for Africa's Development  
**SUN Movement** - Scaling Up Nutrition Movement  
**UNDP** - United Nations Development Programme  
**UNESCAP** - United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific  
**WB** - World Bank  
**WFP** - World Food Programme

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