

Title	Restoring Forests for Building Peace and Future	
Organizer	Korea Forest Service, AFoCO, and UNCCD	
Type of event	Discussion forum	
Venue	Room 109	
Date/Time	Wednesday, 19 June; 11:00-12:30	
Event description		
<p>In 2015, the United Nations (UN) Member States adopted the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to end poverty, promote peace, and preserve the planet for future generations. Forests can play an important role in achieving the SDGs. Particularly, forests can provide a means to build peace and help reduce conflict and disputes across borders. Forests are where humans and other living things coexist in harmony. Land degradation, such as deforestation, in conflict zones is an emerging global issue that requires much attention. Conflicts often cause land degradation, such as loss in vegetation cover and soil erosion. There are only 11 out of 162 countries that are actually free from conflict. During the past three decades, more than 200 million people are living in conflict situations. In this context, collaboration and partnership in restoring degraded land and forests can bring various short-term and long-term environmental and socioeconomic benefits. There are a number of success stories where environmental cooperation contributed to peace and confidence-building in cross-border areas, including Peace Parks in South Africa, the Cordillera del Condor Peace Park, the Pantanal, and a tri-lateral cooperation in South Caucasus. This event will showcase relevant examples and explore ways to promote peace and build confidence in conflict-affected areas through forest and land restoration, including through LDN implementation.</p>		
Time	Speaker / Panelist	Theme
11:00-11:15	Mr. Sunggil Lee	Opening
11:15-11:30	Dr. Utchang Kang (UNCCD Secretariat)	Concept of the Peace Forest Initiative
11:30-11:45	Mr. Htain Lin (Mangrove Service Network of Myanmar)	AFoCO's experience with cross-border project implementation to rehabilitate degraded forest ecosystem in Asia
11:45-12:00	Dr. Jay Samek (Research Scientist, Michigan State University)	A historical perspective on conflict in Southeast Asia, the impacts on forest and land cover and on forest people's livelihoods
12:00-12:15	TBD (Hans Siedel Foundation)	Forest rehabilitation and peace building on the Korean Peninsula
12:15-12:30	Malkhaz Dzeladze (REC Caucasus)	Fostering confidence building in South Caucasus