



Global Webinar
Socio-Ecological Connectivity –
Bridging Land Restoration, Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Action

Organisers: CLLC, UNCCD, CMS

Date: 30 June

Time: 16:00-17:30 CEST (90 minutes)

Target Audience: National focal points (UNCCD, CMS, CBD), policymakers, land-use planners, restoration practitioners, conservation NGOs, scientific community, donors

Zoom registration link:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_VSAy8ZBeSxaPyU1rXo577A

Background:

Land degradation, desertification and fragmentation are accelerating globally, threatening biodiversity, ecosystem services and human well-being. Ecological connectivity — the unimpeded movement of species, connection of habitats without hinderance and the flow of natural processes that sustain life on Earth — is a critical foundation for resilience in the face of these challenges.

The [Global Land Outlook \(GLO\) Thematic Report on Ecological Connectivity](#), launched at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in 2025, reframes ecological connectivity through a land-systems and restoration lens, demonstrating how restoring degraded lands, managing multifunctional landscapes, and addressing fragmentation can simultaneously advance land, biodiversity, climate, and sustainable development goals. It explores how sustainably managing healthy landscapes and restoring degraded land and water resources can reconnect fragmented ecosystems ('restore to connect'), while enhancing connectivity can increase landscape resilience to degradation and climate change ('connect to restore').

This webinar aims to raise awareness of the GLO's key messages, connect them to on-the-ground examples and global initiatives, and explore how global policy processes can benefit from and reinforce this integrated perspective.

DRAFT AGENDA

Moderator: Gabriel Oppler, International Policy and Partnerships Specialist, CLLC

Opening and Framing	
Welcome (10 min)	TBC: Ms. Andrea Meza Murillo, Deputy Executive Secretary, UNCCD TBC: Andrew Raine, CMS Executive Secretary or Anouska Kinahan, Coordinator, GPEC
Opening Poll (5 min) “When you hear ‘ecological connectivity’, what comes to mind? How do you think of the relationship between conserving and restoring connectivity” <i>(Results used to frame the discussion and highlight diversity of perspectives across land and biodiversity communities)</i>	Gabriel Oppler
Presenting the GLO Thematic Report on Ecological Connectivity	
Insights from the Global Land Outlook Thematic Report on Ecological Connectivity and Land Restoration (15 min)	Mirja Stoldt, Programme Officer, UNCCD
Interactive reflection (5 min) - Chat or poll: <i>“Which land-based interventions offer the biggest connectivity gains in your work (e.g. restoration, spatial planning, sustainable agriculture, infrastructure planning)?”</i>	Gabriel Oppler
From Concepts to Action: Case Studies	
Lightning Case Studies (20 min) “Planning for Connectivity for Jaguars in South America” “Trame Verte et Bleue: The Green and Blue Infrastructure Initiative for biodiversity preservation and restoration”	Rafael Antelo, Wildlife Connect Leader, WWF Bolivia Florent Merle Deputy director, International Affairs Office français de la biodiversité, French Agency for Biodiversity

[“Freshwater connectivity in the Zambezi River Basin: Equitable and sustainable water use for current and future generations”]	Felix Ngamlagosi, Executive Secretary, Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM)
Moderated Q&A (10 min) Presenters respond to questions raised by participants.	Gabriel Oppler
Current and Future Policy Directions	
(20 min) – Opportunities for aligning UNCCD, CBD, CMS, and IPBES processes: What does stronger recognition of connectivity mean for national policies, targets, and reporting? (7 min) – Accelerating policy coherence through the GPEC (7 min) – Looking forward to UNCCD COP17 (5 min)	Aaron Laur, Manager, International Connectivity Program, CLLC Anouska Kinahan, Coordinator, Global Partnership on Ecological Connectivity Sasha Alexander, Policy Officer, UNCCD
Q&A, time permitting	
Closing	
Key Takeaways and Thank You (5 min)	Gabriel Oppler