

## Report on Global Commons Session – Global Forum and Water and Humanity

<b>Title of the Session:</b>	<b>Visualising and Mobilising Action Defending the Global Commons</b>
Chair:	Jean-Eric AUBERT
Moderator:	idem
Introduction of the Session's topic:	Global Commons are usually perceived as the Ocean, the Space, etc. that belong to the Humanity as a whole, and engage it and all its members in their preservation. The Climate Change issue makes the latter a Global Common in the true sense. So, let's see how the Humanity can be mobilized for climate preservation – notably from the mitigation viewpoint – at different levels, from the global level to the local one, through specific examples and initiatives.

<b>Panelist:</b>	Olof LINDEN, Expert G20, Emeritus Professor World Maritime University
<b>Title of the presentation:</b>	G 20 Global Land initiative
Outline/ Issues addressed:	Launched by G20 Leaders in Riyadh in 2021. The Initiative focus on reducing land degradation and enhancing conservation of terrestrial habitats and builds on existing commitments with the ambition to achieve a 50 percent reduction in degraded land by 2040. The Initiative which is directly responding the SDG15 has three objectives: i) conservation of ecosystems; ii) promote sustainable land management; and iii) restoration of degraded land. The Initiative is showcasing methods and approaches through building information sharing hubs, engaging the private sector and civil society, and sharing knowledge and building capacity.
<b>Key-Takeaways:</b>	A global initiative with high ambitions that aims at mobilizing thousands and thousands of communities of all sorts throughout the world (private sector, academics, civil society, etc.) with a diverse scope of instruments (web information, show cases, capacity building...). Key performance indicators are settled. Will be important to monitor how the G20 objectives of land preservation will be gradually achieved around the globe.

<b>Panelist:</b>	Juha ALATALO, Professor Qatar University
<b>Title of the presentation:</b>	Swedish experiences with land and climate issues
Outline/ Issues addressed:	The presentation discussed the lobbying made by forest companies in Sweden for reducing significantly the forest preservation quotas envisaged initially by the government. The latter bent on the industry's demands and acted <i>in fine</i> in contradiction with its engagements made vis a vis the global community.
<b>Key-Takeaways:</b>	Even in countries that are usually considered particularly keen and proactive on ecological and climate-related

	discipline, resisting to industrial lobbies is not easy. Changing industrialists' behaviors – of the forest sectors as of other ones – would require strong and firm financial and tax measures in order to penalize anti ecological projects.
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<b>Panelist:</b>	Sanith WIJEYERATNE CEO, Carbon Consulting Company (Private) Limited – Sri Lanka
<b>Title of the presentation:</b>	The PLANT Initiative in Sri Lanka
Outline/ Issues addressed:	In 2020, The Wildlife and Nature Protection Society of Sri Lanka ( WNPS) established a land Trust called PLANT (Preserving land and nature (guarantee) limited) to operate under the auspices of the WNPS. This was a landmark new visionary initiative set up with the aim of acquiring privately owned lands for the purpose of conservation (outright or on a long-term lease) and to collect funds through the Trust, and the WNPS, to purchase lands for the purpose of conservation. So the main legal vehicle is a non-profit trust that works hand in hand with private owners to help preserve private lands or will use its own funds to purchase land to be held a part of the trust for conservation. PLANT hopes to have 1000 Acres under its coverage within early 2023.
<b>Key-Takeaways:</b>	Even in a difficult political and economic context, it appears possible to take important initiatives for land preservation and restauration, based on clever non-profit/private partnership. They should inspire other actors in the country and elsewhere.

<b>Panelist:</b>	José Miguel LAMEIRAS, Professor, University of Porto, Portugal
<b>Title of the presentation:</b>	Basic solutions for land preservation and restauration
Outline/ Issues addressed:	The presentation focuses on two key ideas: 1. Make cities more permeable and infiltrate and store water underground 2. Plant more trees and restore degraded ecosystems
<b>Key-Takeaways:</b>	Both ideas were illustrated with examples from Portugal, providing methods that are replicable all around the globe.

<b>Issues raised during discussions with audience</b>	How to disseminate and scale up – “contaminate” broadly in the good sense of the term – initiatives needed to fight efficiently against climate change and its negative consequences? Will global mechanisms such as the G20 initiatives be efficient enough for creating the needed global dynamics?
<b>Conclusions of the session</b>	Need to mobilizing all means -- including notably social medias and their transformative power – in order to increase global awareness and develop competences facilitating appropriate projects throughout the globe, down to the local level.

