

Draft Agenda
Restoring Land, Securing Futures:
Carbon Farming in Greater Central Asia
Official Launch of the IIASA–UNCCD Report and Policy Dialogue
Organized by the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)
and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

Background

Dryland countries across Greater Central Asia face mounting pressures from land degradation, climate change, biodiversity loss and rising demands on their agricultural systems. At the same time, the region holds considerable potential to enhance soil carbon sequestration, restore degraded landscapes, strengthen rural livelihoods and contribute to global climate and sustainable development goals.

Over the past year, IIASA and UNCCD have jointly carried out a regional feasibility assessment on carbon farming in Greater Central Asia. The resulting report examines the opportunities, constraints, enabling conditions and financing pathways for scaling carbon farming and land restoration across the region.

This side event officially launches the report and offers a platform for dialogue among policymakers, development partners, researchers and practitioners on how to turn emerging evidence into concrete action with particular attention to national policy frameworks, monitoring and reporting systems, regional partnerships for implementation, and opportunities for mobilizing finance.

Objectives

The event brings together policymakers, development partners, climate finance institutions, carbon market actors and researchers in order to:

- present the key findings and recommendations of the joint IIASA–UNCCD report;
- gather national and regional perspectives on the opportunities, risks and enabling conditions for carbon farming;
- explore practical financing pathways and investment opportunities emerging from the report; and
- identify concrete next steps towards a regional partnership for implementation.

Link to the advance copy of the report

<https://www.unccd.int/resources/publications/feasibility-study-prospects-carbon-farming-solutions-greater-central-asia>



Date: 22 August 2026

Time: 15:00–16:30 (Ulaanbaatar time, UTC+8)

Location: MET-01, COP17 Conference Venue, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Language: English

Format: Hybrid — in-person and online participation

Details for joining online:

Meeting link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89652442328?pwd=JCJ4U0sziaVflJtBbCaHaqQLqPq6f1.1>

Meeting ID: 896 5244 2328

Passcode: 402746

15:00–15:15	Opening & Welcome <i>Moderator: Pradeep Monga, Senior Advisor and Emeritus Research Scholar, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)</i> Welcome Remarks Andrea Meza Murillo, Deputy Executive Secretary, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) H.E. Munkhtamir Batbayar, Deputy Minister of Environment and Climate Change of Mongolia
15:15–15:20	Scene Setting: Why Carbon Farming Matters for Greater Central Asia Barron Orr, Lead Scientist for the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
15:20–15:35	Session I — Official Launch of the UNCCD–IIASA Report <i>Chair: German Kust, Principal Researcher, Institute of Geography, Russian Academy of Sciences</i> <i>Format: Presentation of the report followed by a short Q&A</i> Presentation of the Report: Key Findings on Carbon Farming in Greater Central Asia Michael Obersteiner, Director, Environmental Change Institute, University of Oxford, England & Principal Research Scholar, Advancing Systems Analysis Program, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)
15:35–15:55	Session II — From Findings to National Action: National and Regional Perspectives <i>Chair: Elena Rovenskaya, Program Director, Advancing Systems Analysis Program, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)</i> <i>Format: 5-minute interventions. Slides welcome but not necessary.</i>

	<i>Questions to be addressed in the presentations: From your perspective, what are the most promising avenues for developing carbon farming in GCA and/or your country? What are the recent developments in the area of carbon farming in your country that GCA can learn from.</i> Alexey Ivanov, Director, BRICS Competition Law and Policy Centre, HSE University, Russia Mandakh Nyamtseren, Consultant, Institute of Geography & Geoecology, Mongolian Academy of Sciences, Mongolia Goulmara Aguiar, CEO, ORMEX
15:55–16:10	Session III — From Recommendations to Investment. Financing Carbon Farming and Land Restoration at Scale <i>Chair: Alexey Ivanov, Director, BRICS Competition Law and Policy Centre, HSE University, Russia</i> <i>Format: Brief opening reflections by each panelist (2min), followed by a moderated discussion on practical financing pathways emerging from the report. Slides welcome but not necessary.</i> <i>Questions to be addressed: What are the promising avenues for financing carbon farming? Which positive experiences from around the world can be applied and scaled up for GCA?</i> Jahan Shamsiev, Head of Mongolia for EBRD, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) Oyun Sanjaasuren, Senior Advisor, Partnerships and Resource Mobilization, Green Climate Fund (GCF) Radhika Jain, Innovative Financing and Partnerships Officer, The Global Mechanism of the UNCCD)
16:10–16:25	Session IV — Towards Regional Partnerships for Implementation. Safeguards and Next Steps <i>Chair: Olga Andreeva, Programme Officer Scientific Affairs, Science, Technology and Innovation Unit, UNCCD</i> <i>Format: Moderated expert discussion. Slides welcome but not necessary.</i> <i>Questions to be addressed: What the opportunities to implement carbon farming in your countries, which partnerships it requires? Which risks must be managed?</i>



	Rakhim Oshakbayev, Chief Economist, TALAP Center for Applied Research, Republic of Kazakhstan Mohamed Yousif, Professor of Hydrogeology and remote sensing, Head of Geology Department, Water Resources Division, Desert Research Center, Egypt Vivek Saxena, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Chief Wildlife Warden, Government of Haryana, India
16:25–16:30	Wrap Up & Closing <i>Chairs: Pradeep Monga (IIASA)</i> <i>Elena Rovenskaya & Michael Obersteiner (IIASA)</i>