



United Nations  
Climate Change Secretariat

Executive Secretary



## **COP 24 Side Event**

### **“Fostering biodiversity and green infrastructure based on ecosystem services for mitigation and adaptation to climate change”**

**Date and Time:** Wednesday, 05 December 2018, 18:00- 19:30

**Location:** Room Pomorze Climate Action Room1, Pavilion A(Katowice, Poland)

#### **Background**

Unsustainable exploitation of the natural resources threatens life and economy worldwide. The rate and magnitude of climate change induced by increased greenhouse gas emission accelerates biodiversity loss and intensifies the negative effects of climate change. In order to progress towards sustainable solutions it is important to adjust strategies that foster biodiversity and green infrastructure based on ecosystem services for mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

It is of business interest to support ecosystem services conservation and demonstrate the growth of economy is compatible with emission reduction and green investments. Strategies being developed by ITAIPU make business sense while conserving and protecting environment.

As a hydroelectric power plant, the production of energy using renewable sources has avoided the emission of 87 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> if generated by mineral coal and 38 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> if generated by gas. Furthermore, it has recovered and conserved 123 hectares of the Atlantic Forest, fixating 5,6 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent, helping to restore biodiversity.

ITAIPU has shown progress towards the 2030 Agenda by implementing many actions. As an example, there are the implementation of a biodiversity corridor that interconnects the protected areas of the ITAIPU reservoir to the Iguazu National Park; the creation of the spawning channel that promotes connectivity among populations of migratory fish, connecting the Paraná River (downstream the plant) to the reservoir; the ex situ conservation of threatened species of Atlantic Forests, such as harpy eagle and jaguars, among others; and additional programs related to ecosystem services, water security and sustainable regional development. The effectiveness of the environmental management system and conservation efforts are possible to be mensurated, as it is shown by some initiatives that develop patterns to measure sustainable management and biodiversity in the territory.



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## Summary

The special event will discuss how companies and institutions understand and integrate sustainable actions in order to face ambitious challenges and cope with mitigation and adaptation to climate changes and biodiversity conservation. The discussion intends to show that business companies play a very important role in achieving the sustainable development goals by developing green infrastructure based on ecosystem services, promoting clean energy solutions and climate security, in addition to increasing its own value to the community.

Panelists will show practical examples of biodiversity monitoring, researching and conservation while linking them to the development of green infrastructure and its multiple benefits related to water quality, wild life, energy and climate change. Topics to be discussed during the event will include best practices related to Climate Action, (SDG 13), Life on Earth, (SDG 15) and their interlinkages, focusing especially on Water (SDG 6) and Energy (SDG 7).

## Opening remarks

Thiago de Araújo Mendes, Secretary of Climate Change and Forests (Ministério do Meio Ambiente)

## Speakers

- Jimmy Carlos Melgarejo Sosa, Manager of the Department of Environmental Protection of ITAIPU-Paraguay
- Haroldo Virgilio, Manager of the Division of Operational Support of ITAIPU-Brazil
- Maria Alice Alexandre, Executive Director of LIFE Institute
- Alex Guerra Noriega, General Director of Private Institute for Climate Change

## Closing remarks

Cristina Goralewski, President of the National Forestry Institute of Paraguay

## Important Information

- Total time of the side event: 90 minutes
- Proposed time for each presentation: 10 minutes
- Q & A : 20 minutes
- Presentations can be submitted in PPT or PDF format
- Simultaneous translation available: English – Spanish - Portuguese