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Concept Note

Second Expert Group Meeting on Forest Landscape Restoration in the Tropics

11–13 June 2019, Lüderenalp, Switzerland

Input into the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration

Background:

A global analysis by the World Resources Institute estimates the global forest and landscape restoration (FLR) opportunity at more than 2 billion hectares of land worldwide, with 1.5 billion hectares suited for mosaic-type restoration and 0.5 billion hectares for large-scale forest restoration. Worldwide, a number of initiatives have been launched in the last few years to address forest degradation, including the Bonn Challenge to restore 150 million hectares by 2020; the New York Declaration on Forests to restore 350 million hectares by 2030; Aichi Biodiversity Target 15; Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 15; and Global Forest Goal 1 of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 (UNSPF) to prevent forest degradation and contribute to the global effort to address climate change.

Leading organizations have prepared a series of policy and technical guidelines on the restoration of degraded forests and lands over the past two decades. The ITTO Guidelines for the Restoration, Management and Rehabilitation of Degraded and Secondary Tropical Forests, developed in cooperation with CIFOR, FAO, IUCN, WWF International and others, were published in 2002. More recently, IUCN's Restoration Opportunity Assessment Methodology (ROAM) were released in 2014, representing an approach to identifying and analyzing forest landscape potential and opportunity at the national and subnational levels; FAO's Global Guidelines for the Restoration of Degraded Forests and Landscapes in Drylands were published in 2015; and IUFRO's Practitioner's Guide on Implementing Forest Landscape Restoration were produced in 2017.

IUCN and the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration (GPFLR) are implementing the Collaborative Partnership on Forests¹ (CPF)'s Joint Initiative on Forest Landscape Restoration 2018–2019. The CPF has mandated ITTO to help take stock of the ongoing FLR programmes of CPF members and to play an instrumental role in developing a comprehensive set of voluntary FLR guidelines in the second year of the initiative (i.e. 2019).

¹ The Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) is an informal voluntary arrangement among 14 international organizations and secretariats with substantial programmes on forests. These agencies share their experiences and build on them to produce new benefits for their respective constituencies. They collaborate to streamline and align their work and to find ways of improving forest management and conservation and the production and trade of forest products.

The overall objective of developing the voluntary FLR guidelines is to contribute to the implementation of effective policies and actions for a wide range of stakeholders of the CPF and the GPFLR. The new voluntary guidelines will provide guidance at the policy and technical/operational levels on restoring degraded (production, protection) forests and forestlands in all tropical forest biomes.² The focus will be on restoring functional forest ecosystems within landscapes so that forests can co-exist in a landscape mosaic with other land uses.

To this end, the First FLR Expert Group Meeting was conducted in Bangkok, Thailand, on 14–16 November 2018. Co-organized by ITTO and the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO), this meeting convened restoration experts from member countries, international and regional organizations and non-governmental/civil-society organizations and reviewed existing FLR tools and guidelines developed by selected CPF and GPFLR members. The scope and key elements of the new voluntary FLR guidelines were discussed in the framework of GPFLR's 2018 Principles for FLR. The results of the first meeting were presented to a wider audience at the Global Landscapes Forum in Bonn, Germany, on 2 December 2018.

The Second FLR Expert Group Meeting will be co-convened on 11–13 June 2019 in Lüderenalp (Wasen im Emmental), Switzerland, by the Government of Switzerland, ITTO and AFoCO with support from the Bern University of Applied Sciences, Switzerland.

Objectives:

The main objectives of the Second FLR Expert Group Meeting are to:

- I. Review concepts and approaches on degraded tropical forest landscapes and tropical forest landscape restoration, management objectives, and short-, mid- and long-term investment strategies for developing sustainable supply chains of goods and services produced on restored forest lands.
- II. Review policy and implementation principles and associated guidelines for tropical forest landscape restoration to efficiently operationalize the GPFLR's 2018 Principles for FLR, taking into account the guidance of existing FLR guidelines developed by CPF/GPFLR members.
- III. Review the selection criteria for successful tropical forest landscape restoration (TFLR) cases in the three tropical regions with a view to defining best ways to use such cases and good practices from the field for learning and inspiration.

Dr Jürgen Blaser (Bern University, Switzerland) and Dr Cesar Sabogal (Peru, formerly at CIFOR and FAO) will be resource persons at the meeting.

To facilitate an interactive discussion on policy and implementation principles and guidelines, a supporting background paper will be circulated three weeks before the meeting.

The expected outputs of the Second FLR Expert Group Meeting will be shared at the Global Landscapes Forum in Bonn on 22–23 June 2019, the 55th Session of the International Tropical Timber Council in Lomé, Togo, on 2–7 December 2019, and other forums, including relevant CPF meetings.

It is expected that the new TFLR policy and implementation principles and associated guidelines will contribute to enhancing the important FLR work stream embedded and commissioned by the CPF and the GPFLR.

Language of the Meeting: English

² The new guidelines will focus primarily on forest lands; other land-use categories (*sensu* IPCC)—cropland, grassland and settlement—will not be addressed directly by FLR interventions.

Sponsorship:

The second FLR Expert Group Meeting is being organized jointly by the Government of Switzerland (SDC, Global Program Climate Change and Environment), ITTO and AFoCO, with support from the School of Agricultural, Forest and Food Sciences, HAFL - Masters Programme, Bern University of Applied Sciences, Switzerland. A limited number of sponsorships is available to cover part of the travelling, accommodation and other costs for selected experts at the meeting.

Meeting venue:

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