Getting Started with the Bonn Challenge

Information package for new and interested pledgers

Contents

1. The Bonn Challenge

The Bonn Challenge is a global effort to bring 150 million hectares of degraded and deforested land into restoration by 2020 and 350 million hectares by 2030.

It is an implementation vehicle for national priorities such as water and food security and rural development while contributing to the achievement of international climate change, biodiversity and land degradation commitments.

The 2020 target was launched at a high-level event in Bonn in 2011 and was later endorsed and extended to 2030 by the New York Declaration on Forests at the 2014 UN Climate Summit.

Underlying the Bonn Challenge is the forest landscape restoration (FLR) approach, which aims to restore ecological integrity while improving human well-being through multifunctional landscapes.

The restoration of 150 million hectares of degraded and deforested lands in biomes around the world – in line with the FLR approach – will create approximately USD 84 billion per year in net benefits that could bring direct additional income opportunities for rural communities. About 90 per cent of this value is potentially tradable, meaning that it encompasses market-related benefits. Achieving the 350 million hectare goal will generate about USD 170 billion per year in net benefits from watershed protection, improved crop yields and forest products, and could sequester up to 1.7 gigatonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent annually.

The Bonn Challenge is not a new global commitment but rather a practical means of realising many existing international commitments, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), CBD Aichi Targets, the UNFCCC REDD+ goal, and the Rio+20 land degradation neutrality goal.

Visit bonnchallenge.org for an up-to-date list of pledges to the Bonn Challenge, links to individual commitments, information on the evolution of the Bonn Challenge and the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration (GPFLR), recent news and updates on events conducted in support of the global restoration goal.

2. What is forest landscape restoration?

FLR is the ongoing process of regaining ecological functionality and enhancing human well-being across deforested or degraded forest landscapes. It is more than just planting trees – it is restoring a whole landscape to meet present and future needs and to offer multiple benefits and land uses over time. It is about:

- **Forests** because it involves increasing the number and/or health of trees in an area;

- **Landscapes** because it involves entire watersheds, jurisdictions, or even countries in which many land uses interact; and

- **Restoration** because it involves bringing back the biological productivity of an area in order to achieve any number of benefits for people and the planet.

It is **long-term** because it requires a multi-year vision of the ecological functions and benefits to human well-being that restoration will produce although tangible deliverables such as jobs, income and carbon sequestration begin to flow right away.

While FLR sometimes involves the opportunity to restore large contiguous tracts of degraded or fragmented forest land, the majority of restoration opportunities are found on or adjacent to agricultural or pastoral land. In these situations, restoration must complement and not displace existing land uses; this results in a patchwork or mosaic of different land uses including: agriculture, agroforestry systems and improved fallow systems, ecological corridors, areas of forests and woodlands, and river or lakeside plantings to protect waterways.

Successful restoration is forward-looking and dynamic, focussing on strengthening the resilience of landscapes and creating future options to adjust and further optimise ecosystem goods and services as societal needs change or new challenges arise. It integrates a number of guiding principles, including:

Focus on landscapes – Consider and restore entire landscapes as opposed to individual sites. This typically entails balancing a mosaic of inter-dependent land uses across the landscape, such as protected areas, ecological corridors, regenerating forests, agroforestry systems, agriculture, well-managed plantations and riparian strips to protect waterways.

- **Restore functionality –** Restore the functionality of the landscape, making it better able to provide a rich habitat, prevent erosion and flooding and withstand the impacts of climate change and other disturbances. This can be done in many ways, one of which is to restore the landscape to the original vegetation, but other strategies may also be used.

- **Allow for multiple benefits –** Aim to generate a suite of ecosystem goods and services by intelligently and appropriately increasing tree cover across the landscape. In some places, trees may be added to agricultural lands in order to enhance food production, reduce erosion, provide shade and produce firewood. In other places, trees may be added to create a closed canopy forest capable of sequestering large amounts of carbon, protecting downstream water supplies and providing rich wildlife habitat.

- **Leverage suite of strategies –** Consider a wide range of eligible technical strategies for restoring trees on the landscape, ranging from natural regeneration to tree planting.

- **Involve stakeholders –** Actively engage local stakeholders in decisions regarding restoration goals, implementation methods and trade-offs. It is important that the restoration process respects their rights to land and resources, is aligned with their land management practices and provides them benefits. A well-designed process will benefit from the active voluntary involvement of local stakeholders.

- **Tailor to local conditions –** Adapt restoration strategies to fit local social, economic and ecological contexts; there is no "one size fits all".

- **Avoid further reduction of natural forest cover –** Address ongoing loss and conversion of primary and secondary natural forest.

- **Adaptively manage –** Be prepared to adjust the restoration strategy over time as environmental conditions, human knowledge and societal values change. Leverage continuous monitoring and learning and make adjustments as the restoration process progresses.

Visit InfoFLR.org for detailed information on how countries are incorporating restoration in their global biodiversity, development and climate change targets; updates and analysis from countries that have applied the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM) at the national and sub-national level; news on restoration programmes and successes from around the world; the latest scientific knowledge underpinning restoration and more.

3. Making a pledge to the Bonn Challenge

1. EXPRESS INTEREST
Consult with IUCN, the Secretariat of the Bonn Challenge, through its global and regional offices to define a pledge and identify synergies with existing national and sub-national restoration programmes. Contact us.

2. SIGN AN EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
A template has been provided in Annex 1.

3. PREPARE AND CONFIRM A CONTRIBUTION
- Provide information about:
  - Status of the contributor(s)
  - Location and number of hectares
  - Stakeholder support
  - Anticipated types of restoration strategies

Some contributors prefer to carry out FLR assessments to confirm the nature of the restoration potential and strategies before confirming their contributions.

4. CONFIRM THE CONTRIBUTION

5. PUBLICISE THE CONTRIBUTION
- Identify, organise or agree to participate in a high-profile event
- Notify the media

6. ANNOUNCE THE TARGET AT A HIGH-PROFILE EVENT

7. PREPARE TO RESTORE
- Map the potential using an FLR assessment
- Assess the economic benefits, presence of success factors, and carbon mitigation potential
- Define the restoration strategies
- Build capacity
- Develop or reinforce policies, institutions and programmes
- Identify and mobilise investment opportunities

8. RESTORE
- Initiate a suite of restoration strategies
- Disseminate best practices
- Scale up successful models

9. TRACK PROGRESS
- The Bonn Challenge Barometer of Progress, under development by IUCN and partners, will help countries track progress on their restoration interventions, publicise progress on commitments and unlock international support to address bottlenecks

4. Promoting a pledge

Review and enhance your pledge page on the official Bonn Challenge website

The Bonn Challenge website bonnchallenge.org provides pledgers with a space to promote their commitment. Each pledge-maker has a dedicated page summarising the number of hectares committed, anticipated restoration strategies and benefits and links to media articles on the pledge. Adding content to, and refining this page, will allow you to showcase your restoration ambition to potential partners and donors.

Suggested content includes:

1. A video of the pledge announcement
2. Media releases from regional and international sources highlighting the announcement
3. A statement by relevant ministers on why your country has committed to the Bonn Challenge
4. An overview of next steps planned to operationalise the pledge for e.g. conducting a ROAM assessment, setting up a fund to finance restoration interventions
5. Updates, new announcements, articles, and other content should be added on an ongoing basis

IUCN manages bonnchallenge.org, and can help you add or revise any content. Contact us.

Create a restoration profile on the InfoFLR website

IUCN's InfoFLR.org website is an online portal with in-depth information on forest landscape restoration. At the heart of InfoFLR are packages of country information that IUCN has generated and gathered through its work with partners around the world. These profiles include a review of each country's domestic targets, policies and programmes related to restoration and status updates on national restoration opportunities assessments. The site will also provide further analysis on how restoration is dealt with in countries' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and other plans.

The profiles are divided into the following sections:

- Quick Facts on land use, population, GDP and more, to help contextualise the country's goals and programmes. Data from World Bank Indicators and IUCN.
- Bonn Challenge Commitments made by national or subnational governments and any companies, organisations, or associations operating within the country.
- National Restoration Targets are identified by an IUCN review of the country's existing policies, programmes and initiatives. These targets are examples of both planned and ongoing FLR implementation, which could ultimately be pledged to a global effort like the Bonn Challenge to help fulfil the country's international climate change, biodiversity and land degradation commitments.
- FLR Assessments highlight outputs from the country's ongoing or completed restoration opportunities assessments, including an overview of the undertaking,

maps of areas identified for FLR interventions, and the people and organisations involved in the assessment process.
- News and Media is an aggregation of all news articles, announcements, publications, videos and photos relating to the country.

Governments and others making pledges to the Bonn Challenge are encouraged to work with IUCN to develop their respective profiles on the website by providing:

1. Links to and a summary of existing national and sub-national policies in place to facilitate the achievement of Bonn Challenge pledges
2. An overview of current and planned on-the-ground restoration interventions
3. Case studies of successful restoration programmes
4. Results of national and sub-national ROAM processes
5. Updates from the ROAM process such as photographs, videos and other documentation from stakeholder dialogues, specific outputs showcasing the involvement of women and youth in the decision-making process, capacity-building workshops for local communities, outreach materials, etc.
6. Review and approval or updates of other country profile text

The Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration (GPLFR)

The Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration (GPFLR) is a worldwide proactive network that unites influential governments, major UN and non-governmental organisations, companies and others with a common cause to transform landscapes through restoration. Since its establishment in 2003, the GPFLR has been building support for restoration with key decision makers, both at the local and international level, and providing information and tools to catalyse and reinforce the restoration of lost forests and degraded lands around the world. IUCN is the Secretariat for the GPFLR and actively links national and regional efforts to the global momentum generated by member organisations of the GPFLR.

Joining the GPFLR is not mandatory for those participating in the Bonn Challenge, though it is welcomed. Governments and others may also choose to join the GPFLR without making a Bonn Challenge pledge. The GPFLR is a voluntary consortium of governments, international and non-governmental organisations and research institutes.

Joining the GPFLR is an expression of support for the FLR principles:
- Promoting active engagement, negotiation and collaboration between all stakeholders
- Restoring an agreed, balanced package of forest functions
- Working across landscapes
- Continuously learning and adapting

It also signals support for the 3 GPFLR strategic objectives:
Fill key knowledge gaps and facilitate knowledge exchange
Advance policy on landscape restoration
Secure new contributions to the Bonn Challenge target.

Please email GPFLR@iucn.org for more details and to enquire about membership.

5. Linking country and regional processes

Regional collaboration is critical to the success of the Bonn Challenge, allowing countries to share valuable technical expertise, field experiences with implementing restoration programmes and solutions to common challenges. A growing suite of "home grown" high-level processes is emerging in support of the Bonn Challenge, driven by the political will of countries and regional institutions.

These include Latin America ministerial dialogues held in El Salvador in August 2015, Panama in August 2016, Honduras in June 2017 and events in Guatemala in 2018 and Cuba in 2019. In Africa, the July 2016 high-level dialogue held in Kigali, Rwanda resulted in the signing of the Kigali Declaration on Forest Landscape Restoration in Africa that was subsequently endorsed by the Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC). In July 2017, ministers from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) met in Malawi to explore avenues for cooperation on and expansion of FLR interventions in the SADC region. In March 2017, under the umbrella of Silva Mediterranea, nine countries (Algeria, France, Iran, Lebanon, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia, and Turkey) signed the Agadir Commitment and announced their intent to increase restoration efforts in support of the Bonn Challenge and SDG 15. In May 2017, the first regional dialogue held in Palembang, South Sumatra, Indonesia created a valuable foundation for regional collaboration on the Bonn Challenge.

As the Secretariat of the Bonn Challenge, IUCN supports countries through the process of planning and executing regional roundtables on the Bonn Challenge. Broadly, these regional processes should focus on:

> Establishing information sharing mechanisms for countries to exchange technical expertise, lessons and solutions for successful restoration programmes
> Organising annual events to assess regional progress on the Bonn Challenge and identify a roadmap for the next 12 months

How to host a ministerial dialogue on the Bonn Challenge

1. Contact the Bonn Challenge Secretariat

As the Secretariat of the Bonn Challenge, IUCN can support countries keen to host a ministerial roundtable on the Bonn Challenge with conceptualising and executing the event. IUCN will work collaboratively with the host country to:

> Determine regional restoration priorities (e.g. financing, national priorities, specific gaps in technical expertise) and design an agenda that facilitates constructive dialogue on these topics
>
> Prepare knowledge products to inform policymakers attending the roundtable
>
> Provide communications and promotional support

Build a participant list that includes high-level speakers and ministers from participating countries and Bonn Challenge champions, and extending invitations to them

Identify pathways to link regional dialogue to global discourse on restoration

IUCN has supported the organisation of ministerial roundtables on the Bonn Challenge in Latin America, Africa and Asia. For each event, IUCN deploys a team of staff from the closest regional office, its FLR Hub in Washington D.C., U.S.A. and its Headquarters in Gland, Switzerland. Contact us.

IUCN will liaise with other organisations supporting the event to gather their inputs. The sections below provide specifics on how this will work for communications and logistics.

2. Identify a date and venue

Dates and venues should be selected keeping in mind the need to accommodate the schedules and geographical spread of ministers from various countries. An ideal venue is centrally located, easily accessible by flight and capable of hosting 30-50 delegates in addition to support staff.

Video conferencing facilities and the technical systems needed to make visual presentations, show videos, offer robust internet, etc. are necessary for a successful interactive discussion.

The ideal duration for a ministerial dialogue is 1-2 days of discussion and a field trip to showcase on-ground restoration efforts by the host country. Having the field trip before the roundtable offers a good opportunity for networking and enhancing familiarity between participants in advance. Dates should be selected taking into account country- and region-specific holidays.

3. Determine key objectives

Each ministerial dialogue should result in 1-2 key outcomes that countries can focus on prior to the next session. These objectives should be 'big picture' oriented and geared at increasing momentum on FLR and the Bonn Challenge. By identifying interim goals and milestones that can be measured between sessions, countries can ensure sustained progress on FLR. For example, countries in Asia could choose to sign a regional declaration on the Bonn Challenge that identifies tangible steps on increasing inter-agency cooperation on FLR.

See the Kigali Declaration on Forest Landscape Restoration in Africa.

4. Prepare an agenda

A suitable breakdown for a 2-day dialogue is for the first day to focus on thematic areas of interest to participant countries, for example, sharing experiences with leveraging finance for FLR, creating synergies between projects conducted to meet national and international commitments and identifying solutions to implementation hurdles.

The second day can then be oriented towards determining next steps for the region, for example, negotiating a regional declaration on the Bonn Challenge. Alternatively, a 1-day event can deal with 3-4 key topics over the day.

Example of an agenda for a similar event can be found in Annex 2.

5. Invitees

The invitee list should comprise:

> National environment or forestry ministers from participating countries or their assigned representative

> Representatives from ministries for agriculture, wildlife conservation, rural development and climate change

> Academic institutions and / or NGOs that provide technical and implementation support to environment programmes in respective countries

A sample invitation letter can be found in Annex 3.

6. Public relations, branding and communications

A communications package that can be disseminated to the media and used to promote the event by partner organisations should be created. This can include, for example:

> A press note summarising the event objectives to be shared by the media prior to the event

> A press release prepared after the event with highlights and outcomes from the session

> A web story that can be released on the host government and partner organisation websites prior to the event

> o Sample pre event web stories can be viewed at: bit.ly/2a8knaF and bit.ly/2ppsogp

> Sample social media posts (Facebook and Twitter) that can be used prior, during and after the event to promote it, provide live updates and showcase key action items agreed upon

> o IUCN's Global Forest and Climate Change Programme (GFCCP) can use its Twitter and Facebook accounts to help promote the event and provide updates during the sessions

> o IUCN can also use the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration (GPFLR) social media accounts to promote the event

> Images and video clips from the event should be prioritised, and IUCN recommends budgeting for and hiring outside professionals

Prior to the event, IUCN can create a page on www.bonnchallenge.org to announce the dialogue. IUCN will work with government representatives to ensure that content accurately reflects the objectives of the host country.

On-site branding for the event will need to reflect the involvement of core partners and acknowledge the support of donors. Relevant logos and usage guidelines should be submitted by partners in advance so that all branding can be planned accordingly. This includes, but is not limited to, material such as: Save the Date cards, invitations, agendas, folders, USBs, etc. that are disseminated to participants and banners placed in high-visibility areas at the venue, the stage, podium, etc.

Event organisers should be prepared for the announcement of new pledges to the Bonn Challenge to take place at the event. New restoration commitments are a key goal of Bonn Challenge roundtables and entail:

Recording the pledge on video

- o Video documentation of a pledge allows IUCN, as the Secretariat of the Bonn Challenge, to highlight a country's restoration ambition. It is also useful documentation for the government to use while spreading awareness on its restoration efforts. An example of a pledge announcement video can be viewed at: bit.ly/2txY4WS

Issuing a press release and disseminating it to local media

- o Press releases will need to be signed off on by the host country and partner organisations

- o IUCN can help draft a press release for commitments announced at a regional Bonn Challenge roundtable and work with government and partner representatives to secure approvals

- o Approved quotes will be needed from government representatives of pledging countries

- o Examples of press releases can be viewed at: bit.ly/2bFsdLC, bit.ly/2pkL4SR, bit.ly/2m2tuwA, bit.ly/2t90F6q

Social media promotions

Updating the Bonn Challenge website

Creating a profile for the new pledger on www.InfoFLR.org

7. Identifying an organizing committee and support staff

An organising committee comprising representatives from the host country government, IUCN, and any other key organisers should be formed to oversee planning and implementation. The committee can be supported by representatives from other partnering organisations.

Logistics coordinator

- One individual who is overseeing all event logistics
- He / she should delegate to country coordinators (see below) who, in turn, will report back to the logistics coordinator

Country coordinator

- The organisers should identify one person who will coordinate with a defined number of countries on logistics. For example, this individual could liaise with participants from India, Pakistan and Nepal to ensure their flights, transport to and from the airport to the hotel and meeting venue, visas, etc. are in order while a second point of contact can be assigned to Bangladesh, Myanmar and Indonesia.

Communications coordinator

- Responsible for press releases, media outreach, talking points for ministers
- Will coordinate with country coordinators to obtain quotes and approvals for talking points / press releases

Videographer

Rapporteur (per session) and overall final report development

Photographer

8. Dialogue with local NGOs

Local, national and international NGOs play a crucial role in advancing forest landscape restoration efforts by funding impactful projects, providing technical inputs, capacity-building for local communities and institutions and acting as a bridge between communities and government agencies. Typically, these organisations have a close relationship with communities and a wealth of knowledge built over years of engagement with local issues. To harness this knowledge and ensure that restoration programmes are conducted in a participatory manner, Bonn Challenge roundtables should include a space for dialogue with NGOs. This can be achieved by designing short sessions where representatives from key NGOs in the region can provide input on national restoration strategies and raise issues that are of local importance. Additionally, an exhibition space where NGOs can set up booths to showcase their work can help increase engagement.

6. Assessments: from pledge to implementation

A primary tool for building a forest landscape restoration programme from the ground-up is called the **Restoration Opportunities Methodology Assessment** (ROAM), developed by IUCN and WRI. This methodology offers guidance on assessing and laying the groundwork for FLR with practical steps for diverse stakeholders to restore landscapes at any scale.

ROAM can provide vital support to countries seeking to accelerate or implement restoration programmes and landscape-level strategies. The assessment methodology combines a situation analysis of degradation and deforestation with geospatial analysis and biophysical and economic modeling, within a framework that assesses the social, political, and institutional readiness to implement large-scale restoration. A ROAM process is designed to answer a number of important questions relevant to restoring deforested and degraded lands, including:

- What are the drivers of deforestation and degradation?
- What is the extent and location of degradation and restoration opportunities?
- Which types of restoration activities are ecologically, economically and socially viable?
- Which FLR interventions are anticipated to be the highest-value, most appropriate, and most successful at meeting the goals and needs of stakeholders in the assessment areas?
- What policy, financial and social incentives exist or are needed to support restoration?

Applying ROAM can deliver several main outputs:

1. A theory of change for deforestation and drivers of degradation;
2. Priority restoration areas identified and described;
3. Priority restoration interventions identified and described;
4. Expected costs and benefits for each type of restoration intervention quantified;
5. Quantified ecosystem services benefits expected of restoration interventions, such as carbon sequestration, water quality and quantity, and benefits for biodiversity;
6. Analysis of finance and investment options for restoration in the assessment area; and
7. A diagnostic of the presence of key success factors and identification of strategies to address major policy, legal and institutional bottlenecks.

ROAM is not a sequence of steps or an exercise, but rather and iterative process along a theory of change for deforestation and degradation. Preferably ROAM builds on successful dialogue and collaborative structures that are already in place in the assessment area, and is by definition a multi-stakeholder participatory process.

Box 1: Malawi addresses gender inequality, biodiversity conservation and food security

In Malawi, ROAM is helping the government operationalise its 4.5 million hectare Bonn Challenge pledge with an emphasis on enhancing food security, addressing gender inequality and conserving biodiversity. Eighty percent of Malawi's population is smallholder farmers living in extreme poverty. The situation has been exacerbated by a prolonged El Nino drought, and women have been disproportionately impacted. Currently, Malawi ranks 173 out of 188 on the UN's Gender Inequality Index (GII). To address these pressing issues, Malawi's ROAM assessment included a biophysical and socio-economic spatial analysis to understand where, why and what proportion of the population was food insecure, and to determine how FLR interventions could help mitigate this. Estimates of the benefits of FLR on food security were provided so decision-makers could prioritise these landscapes. The assessment also resulted in a Gender Action Plan for gender-responsive FLR interventions, factoring in the unique needs of women and girls to ensure that they benefit equitably from interventions. Additionally, the assessment yielded valuable data on how Malawi's Bonn Challenge commitment could facilitate the achievement of its Aichi Targets, with projections showing that Malawi could meet its biodiversity targets if it fulfilled 10% of its restoration commitment.

A ROAM process includes the following elements:

Preparation, consultation and planning

Beginning ROAM involves a series of discussions, meetings and preliminary analysis to do a situation analysis of deforestation and (drivers of) degradation and to help prepare and plan the assessment, culminating in an inception workshop (at a national or sub-national level) to share the assessment plan and seek high-level endorsement of the assessment work.

One of the primary objectives is to ensure the involvement of a diverse and representative set of key partners and stakeholders in the ROAM process, from national-level government partners to local community stakeholders, so that proposed interventions can be as diverse as possible and may enjoy wide support and ownership along a widely accepted theory of change for degradation. What is the objective for applying an FLR approach? What function has been lost, either socially, ecologically or economically? The answer is the foundation for the entire ROAM process.

These activities, events and expected outputs are further described as follows:

- **Situation analysis, stakeholder engagement and coordination:** This includes finding an institutional home for the assessment, establishing a team to coordinate and lead it, doing a situation analysis of deforestation and degradationand defining the outputs and scope of the assessment.
- **Preparatory analysis:** This includes using GIS-based analysis to estimate the extent and location of possible FLR opportunity area in the assessment area(s). It also includes a preliminary list of successful FLR activities to date that may inform the ROAM process.**Inception workshop(s):** The FLR situation analysis and objectives, methodology and organisation of ROAM are presented to high-level and other necessary stakeholders with an overview, discussion, and revision of the theory of change, proposed assessment process, expected outcomes and plan. Stakeholders

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also agree on the successful restoration activities to build on, as well as validate and provide input on the Potential FLR Maps.

Data collection and analysis

These are core activities of ROAM involving the collection and analysis of relevant data.The consultative, stakeholder-driven approach underlying ROAM continues throughout this process. Building on the theory of change identified at the start and the set of indicators or proxies describing the (drivers of) degradation (e.g. erosion, loss of cover), as well as those describing the objectives for landscape restoration (e.g. food security), a multi-criteria analysis is used to identify and prioritise the most appropriate FLR opportunities. Current land use mapping takes places if there is none available to identify the current land-use types. Overlaying the multi-criteria maps with land-use land cover maps will provide information on appropriate technologies needed to go from degraded and deforested state to restored and conserved state. These are called **transitions**.

This phase also includes a cost benefit analyses which compares the net present values and costs (NPVs) of different restoration transitions throughout a time horizon for social, environmental and economic features. These transitions can be designed in combination with farmer businesses or business models. If desired, financing and return-on-investment analysis on different locally-appropriate business models is performed. Analysis of national and sub-national policies, assessing the extent to which key success factors and enabling conditions are in place to facilitate restoration at scale is also performed. These findings and recommendations are in a comprehensive report that acts as a roadmap for a government or organisation initiating a restoration programme

These activities and expected outputs are further described as follows:

- **Refinement of restoration opportunity areas(s):** Where needed, field and desk surveys are undertaken to verify spatial data quality and to procure additional data as required for the successful identification of restoration opportunities areas at the appropriate scale.
- **Multi-criteria analysis of functional degradation and restoration scenarios:** Spatial data are collected, parameterized and then analysed to create maps of functional degradation based on stakeholder inputs and user-defined criteria. Multi-criteria spatial data analysis is used to help identify and prioritise restoration intervention areas and to facilitate the design of technological packages and economic analysis for each land use land cover class.
- **Forest landscape restoration interventions and technological packages:** The multi-criteria spatial analysis in combination with the current land-use land cover of the assessment area, will provide the input criteria needed to design the FLR transitions and the FLR interventions. This is needed to carry out a cost-benefit analysis.
- **Economic cost-benefit analysis:** Field surveying, market and value-chain analysis, and desk-based research is conducted to generate an economic overview of livelihoods and potential impacts from restoration.
- **Modeling and optimising investment in livelihoods, ecosystem services and biodiversity impacts from different restoration transitions:** Spatially explicit analysis and optimisation using data from the economic analysis and GIS-based

modeling platforms such as InVEST and ROOT to model anticipated impacts from different restoration transitions.

- **Financing analysis:** Working with stakeholders including those from the private sector (farmers, commodity companies, and others), a suite of investment packages or bankable projects are developed. Using the CBA output and Economic Report, Return on Investment metrics, investment opportunities for local and external financers and the potential role and need for public sector financing will be identified.
- **"Restoration Readiness" assessment:** An analysis of national and sub-national policies and the extent to which key success factors and enabling conditions including capacity and resources for implementation of FLR are in place to facilitate restoration at scale.
- **Gender assessment:** The roles and responsibilities of women and girls throughout the assessment area are researched and defined. This includes an assessment of the current decision-making and institutional power of women, their representation in governance at different administrative levels, and the institutional and capacity gaps that could be addressed.
- **Development of a draft final report and recommendations:** Findings and analysis described above are assessed and analysed together with key stakeholders, to develop recommendations for highest-value FLR interventions. Findings will be presented in a comprehensive report to be validated and finalised in the validation process of ROAM.

Box 2: Colombia identifies roadmap for improving water security

In Colombia, IUCN is assisting the government in identifying areas where interventions to restore degraded landscapes in Antioquia can contribute to water and food security, ecosystem-based adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and sustainable livelihoods. The application of ROAM is providing valuable insight into the importance of FLR in post-conflict Colombia, and is especially relevant to avoid degradation, restore ecological integrity, and provide alternative livelihoods for displaced people. Ultimately, this assessment will support Colombia in achieving its Bonn Challenge pledge of one million hectares by 2020.
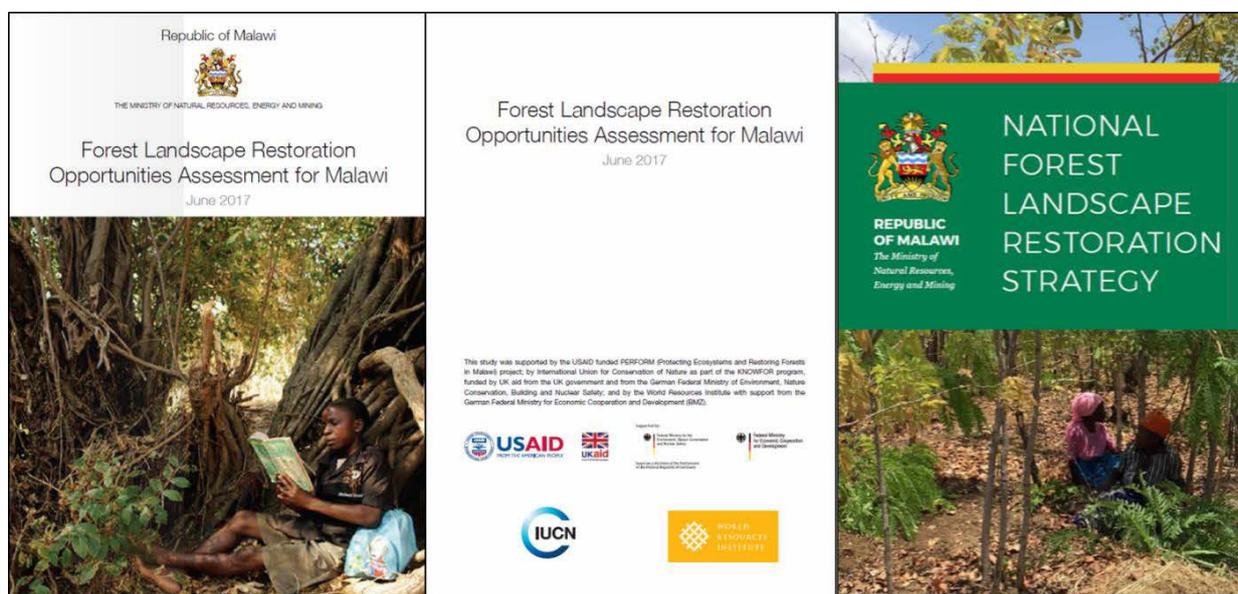
Validation of results and recommendations

The validation process plays a critical part in ensuring the credibility and impact of the ROAM assessment, outputs, and uptake of the findings in policies, legislation and FLR implementation. While key decision-makers will have been kept abreast of developments from the outset, it is particularly important that they be involved in this phase in order to strengthen ownership of the assessment results and help set the stage for policy uptake of the recommendations that emerge.

Activities and expected outputs are further detailed as follows:

- Validation workshop: Key senior-level departmental staff, leading experts and other important stakeholders (e.g., local farmers' union, chamber of commerce, indigenous peoples' or community-based federations) are brought together to critically assess the key conclusions and recommendations. Where earlier engagement focused on

methodological and process issues, here the overriding focus is on assessing whether the overarching conclusions and recommendations make technical, political, cultural and institutional sense, and whether or not specific elements of the assessment need to be further refined.

- Finalisation of findings and recommendations report. Requested revisions to the Findings and Recommendations Report agreed at the Validation Workshop are undertaken.

Initiating a ROAM process

- To initiate a ROAM process, Contact us.
- Provide contact details for respective government authorities that will lead the assessment so an IUCN ROAM Coordinator can contact them
- Working with a regional IUCN office, the global ROAM coordinator will liaise with government representatives to determine the scope of the assessment and the budget required

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Box 3: Costa Rica achieving its climate and biodiversity commitments with FLR

In Costa Rica, the restoration assessment process identified areas that, if restored, will help Costa Rica achieve its commitments under the country's Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action (NAMA), NDC, REDD+ Strategy, and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). Areas of opportunity were determined according to six criteria of key importance to the country: biodiversity recovery, sustainable wood production, resilience, soil conservation, food security, and provision of water services. Prioritising which areas to restore was then based on the impact of these services in relation to the recommended restoration actions. One million hectares of this opportunity area represents Costa Rica's pledge to the Bonn Challenge.

7. Resources

1. *A guide to the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM): Assessing forest landscape restoration opportunities at the national or sub-national level* | IUCN Methodology: bit.ly/2bPMf2k (EN), bit.ly/2caf0Lq (FR), bit.ly/2uszv9W (Bahasa Indonesian), bit.ly/2bPNNJY (ES), bit.ly/2biJA2L (PT), bit.ly/1nhSOyx (RU)

2. *Gender-responsive restoration guidelines: A closer look at gender in the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology* | IUCN Methodology: bit.ly/2u7xIYP (ENG)

3. Uganda ROAM Report | Application of IUCN Methodology: bit.ly/2tyzXY1 (ENG)

4. Rwanda ROAM Report | Application of IUCN Methodology: bit.ly/2sqbfsM (ENG)

5. Malawi ROAM Report | Application of IUCN Methodology: bit.ly/2u5kbmt (ENG)

6. *The Bonn Challenge: Catalysing leadership in Latin America* | IUCN Forest Brief: bit.ly/2tv4BR6 (ENG), bit.ly/2svE8Pf (ES)

7. *Africa and the Bonn Challenge: A demonstration of leadership* | IUCN Forest Brief: bit.ly/2dsy6IB (ENG)

8. *The Bonn Challenge in Asia: Driving leadership on forest landscape restoration* | IUCN Forest Brief: bit.ly/2tyAvNw (ENG)

9. *Restoration of forest ecosystems and landscapes as contribution to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets* | Information document prepared by IUCN for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) COP13: bit.ly/2tuGjXE (ENG)

10. *Forest landscape restoration: meeting national and international biodiversity commitments* | IUCN Forest Brief: bit.ly/2t9T9IJ (ENG)

11. *Intensive restoration assessment helps structure landscape-level incentives programme in Brazil* | IUCN Forest Brief: bit.ly/2uss9n4 (ENG)

12. *Deriving landscape benefits through forest and farm producer organisations* | IUCN Forest Brief: bit.ly/2ttqPTZ (ENG)

13. *Making forest restoration a good investment for Guatemalan farmers* | IUCN Forest Brief: bit.ly/2e001C5 (ENG)

14. *Mobilising public and private stakeholders for landscape restoration in Brazil* | IUCN Forest Brief: bit.ly/2dhzg8Y (ENG)

8. Contact us

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Annex 1. Pledge letter template

This letter should be modified as needed. IUCN can provide assistance if desired.

[Date]

Dear [X]

Subject: [X]'s pledge to the Bonn Challenge

I am writing this letter to confirm that [X] has committed to bringing [X] million hectares into restoration by [2020/2030] as part of the Bonn Challenge.

This pledge to the Bonn Challenge includes [*name of related domestic programmes or other activities*] that is aimed at:

- Objective 1
- Objective 2
- Objective 3

Achieving our Bonn Challenge pledge will contribute to multiple domestic and international targets including obligations under [*e.g. national and international targets this will contribute to e.g. national rural development and poverty alleviation schemes, NBSAPs, NDCs, etc.*]

[X] hereby confirms its willingness to work with IUCN to define and achieve its Bonn Challenge commitment and requests IUCN's assistance in:

Identifying / organising a high-profile event to announce the pledge

Conducting a detailed assessment of restoration potential and determining a suite of interventions aligned with the forest landscape restoration (FLR) approach.

[X] will be the point of contact for our pledge to the Bonn Challenge. His / her contact details are as follows: [X]

Yours sincerely,

[X]

Annex 2. Sample event agenda

Bonn Challenge Asia Regional High-Level Roundtable

9-10 May 2017, Palembang, South Sumatra, Indonesia

Final Agenda

8 May	ARRIVALS AND OPENING OF THE EXHIBITION
All day	Participants arrive in Palembang
14:30	Exhibition officially opened by the Governor of South Sumatra. The exhibition will be located in the Governor's compound "Griya Agung" and will highlight the ecosystem restoration work of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, the Green Growth Programme of South Sumatra and the CSR activities of companies working in the province.
9 May	**SITE VISIT AND WELCOME DINNER**
07:30 – 08:00	Participants gather in the lobby of Aryaduta Hotel.
08:00 – 15:30	Site visit to Sepucuk Village and restoration site. Buses will leave from Aryaduta Hotel at 8:00 AM sharp.
19:00 – 22:00	Welcome Dinner at Aryaduta Hotel, hosted by the Governor of South Sumatra
10 May	**ROUNDTABLE**
07:30 – 08:00	Shuttle buses will leave from the Aryaduta Hotel to the roundtable venue.
08:00 – 09:00	Registration
09:00 – 10:00	**Opening Session:** • Welcome remarks by Mr Alex Noerdin, Governor of South Sumatra • Keynote speech by Mr Jochen Flasbarth, State Secretary, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety, Germany • Keynote speech by Ms Hilde Solbakken, Deputy Chief of Mission, Charge d'Affairs, Royal Norwegian Embassy • Keynote speech by Mr Zhang Xinsheng, IUCN President • Keynote speech by Dr Siti Nurbaya, Minister of Environment and Forestry, Indonesia
10:00 – 10:30	**Group photo/ tea and coffee break**
10:30 – 12:00	**Roundtable Session 1: Achieving Bonn Challenge Targets – Regional Experience:** *Mr Stewart Maginnis, Global Director, Nature-based Solutions Group, IUCN, will start by briefing participants about the Bonn Challenge, including the background to the initiative, the challenges encountered, and existing and potential commitments. Roundtable participants will then be invited to share their experiences of identifying restoration opportunities and addressing the challenges to implementation, beginning with the representatives from Germany, Norway, Indonesia, India and Pakistan.* *Participants may wish to respond to the following issues:* • How are restoration opportunities identified and prioritised? • What are the challenges in moving from assessing restoration opportunities, to developing concrete restoration plans, to implementing these plans?

	• What is the role of national and provincial/state governments in providing an enabling policy environment to facilitate and incentivise forest restoration? • How do challenges and opportunities differ based on the specific national context – policies, regulations, the role of the private sector, etc.? • What are the strategic relations between the Bonn Challenge and related global initiatives, such as the Paris Agreement?
12:00 – 13:00	**Lunch**
13:00 – 14:30	**Roundtable Session 2: Financing Restoration** *Roundtable participants will be invited to speak about their experiences of accessing funding for restoration activities, costs per hectare, and returns achieved, beginning with representatives from Germany, Norway, India and the Indonesian Peatland Restoration Agency.* *Participants may wish to address the following issues:* • How can the Bonn Challenge serve as a platform to facilitate greater access to financing for restoration? • What motivates different actors to engage in and finance restoration? What results are they seeing in line with these motivations/expectations? • How can domestic resources be mobilized or redirected to better support restoration of forest landscapes?
14:30 – 14:45	**Tea and coffee break**
14:45 – 16:00	**Roundtable Session 3: Capturing and Reporting on Progress** *Roundtable participants will be invited to speak about their experiences of monitoring and verifying restoration efforts. The moderator will start by inviting contributions from the Indonesian Ministry of Environment and Forestry (DG of Sustainable Production Forest Management and DG Forestry Planning and Environmental Management), the Governor of South Sumatra, and representatives from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province of Pakistan.* *Participants may wish to address the following issues:* • How can progress on implementation of Bonn Challenge commitments be effectively captured and reported upon? What indicators, tools and approaches are available to assist with monitoring? • How can this be done in a way that is credible yet does not impose an additional burden? Is it possible to build on existing reporting frameworks (e.g. domestic arrangements, Aichi Biodiversity Targets, UNFCCC NDCs, SDGs, etc.)? • How can bottlenecks to implementation be identified so that technical and financial support can be unlocked to address these?
16:00 – 17:30	**Focus on South Sumatra and Indonesia** Partners will give a series of presentations about Forest Landscape Restoration in the province, the activities of the South Sumatra Eco-Region Alliance, and projects elsewhere in Indonesia.
17:30 – 17:45	**Closing remarks, Ministry of Environment and Forestry**
17:45 – 18:15	**Press Conference**

Annex 3. Invitation letter template

This letter should be modified as needed. IUCN can provide assistance if desired.

[Date]

Dear [X]

Subject: Invitation to the Bonn Challenge Ministerial Dialogue

I am delighted to invite you to participate in the Bonn Challenge Ministerial Dialogue scheduled for [date] in [place].

The session will bring together ministers and representatives from [x] countries and is aimed at facilitating regional cooperation on the Bonn Challenge, a global effort to bring 150 million hectares of degraded and deforested land into restoration by 2020 and 350 million hectares by 2030.

The dialogue is being organised by [partner organisations] and its objectives are to:

1.

2.

3.

This will be a three-day event comprising two days of discussions followed by a field trip to [site] on day three. Participation is by invitation only to ministers and designated representatives, senior Bonn Challenge partners from the international community and leaders from major corporates and international organisations involved in forest landscape restoration. A draft agenda and background note are attached for your reference.

Forest landscape restoration (FLR) interventions conducted under the Bonn Challenge have immense potential to contribute to sustainable rural development and climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts. [X] pledges have been made to the Bonn Challenge from the region and we are eager to sustain this momentum.

I look forward to welcoming you to this event and would be grateful if you could confirm your participation and your earliest convenience. You can confirm via email on [address].

Warm regards,
[name]