



FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION AND THE BONN CHALLENGE IN THE CAUCASUS AND CENTRAL ASIA

PREP MEETING | 27 APRIL 2018 | PLAZA HOTEL | BISHKEK

Preliminary Programme

8:45 – 9.00	Registration
9:00 – 9.30	OPENING REMARKS Ms. Theresa Loeffler, UNECE/FAO, overview, norms for the meeting and introductions of participants conducted by facilitators
9:30 – 10:00	Presentation Opportunities and challenges for forest restoration in the Caucasus and Central Asia Dr. Niels Thevs, Central Asia Programme Coordinator, World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) Q&A
10:00 – 10:30	Presentation Getting Started with the Bonn Challenge Ms Salomè Begeladze, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Q&A
10:30 – 11:00	COFFEE BREAK
11:00 – 11:45	Group work – country sharing: Identifying key visions, existing work/targets, challenges and opportunities for forest restoration/the Bonn challenge
11:45 – 12:30	Group work: Rapid presentation of country sharing for peer review
12:30 – 13:30	LUNCH BREAK
13:30 – 14:15	Case study Mongolian experiences with Forest Landscape Restoration and the Bonn Challenge Dr. Tungalag Ulambayar, Advisor to the Ministry of Environment and Tourism of Mongolia Q&A and peer review of relevance by other country representatives.
14:15 – 15:00	Case study Forest Landscape Restoration in Kazakhstan (TBC) Q&A and peer review of relevance by other country representatives.
15:00 – 15:30	COFFEE BREAK
15:30 – 16:30	Group Work: Identifying next steps and information needs for countries prior to the Astana Ministerial Roundtable in June
16:30 – 17:30	Next steps Feedback and closing remarks

Contact:

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The workshop will be jointly facilitated by Peter O'Hara and Nato Kirvalidze. Note that interpretation will be provided in Russian and English.



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Background

The Bonn Challenge, launched in 2011 and extended by the 2014 New York Declaration on Forests, is a global effort to bring **150 million hectares of deforested and degraded land into restoration by 2020 and 350 million ha by 2030**. The Bonn Challenge serves as an open, voluntary and flexible discussion and exchange platform for concrete action and cooperation to facilitate the implementation of forest landscape restoration. To date **47 contributors** have pledged more than **160 Mha** to the Bonn Challenge.

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.

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.

Rational of the preparatory meeting for the Ministerial Roundtable

The Ministerial Roundtable held 21-22 June 2018 in Astana, Kazakhstan, is the first opportunity to align national and regional efforts in the Caucasus and Central Asia with the international Bonn Challenge.

The preparatory meeting in Bishkek is intended to provide background information about the Bonn Challenge and the opportunity it bears for countries in the Caucasus and Central Asia. During the meeting, the potential for forest landscape restoration at a national level and the commitment process will be discussed along with needs and priorities of participating countries. Countries will have the opportunity to get clarifications from forest landscape restoration experts, researchers and the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section.

The objectives of the meeting to prepare for the Ministerial Round table are to:

- Exchange experiences on forest landscape restoration in participating countries as well as capacity-building needs and priorities;
- Train national experts responsible for the preparation of the Ministerial Roundtable on forest landscape restoration under the Bonn Challenge;
- Discuss strategies and approaches for unlocking financial resources required for restoration;
- Brief participants about the process of country commitments under the Bonn Challenge and the support UNECE/FAO can provide.

Participant selection and preparatory questions

One national expert from each country (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) was invited to the meeting. Participants are expected to report back to and brief the invited Ministers for the Ministerial Roundtable (21-22 June, Astana). Participants are invited to answer the following questions from their country perspective during the workshop:

- What forest landscape restoration efforts are ongoing in your country?
- What are the greatest challenges to achieve forest landscape restoration in your country?
- What are the national targets on forest landscape restoration?
- What are the capacity-building needs in this regard?

Note: Please bring a paper map of your country if possible, it will assist to explain country context.