

Item 2 (a) Forests in the decade of Action: Keynote presentation

Draft Strategy for landscape restoration and greening the
infrastructure of the Caucasus and Central Asia



78th session of the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry

4-6 November 2020, Geneva, Switzerland

UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration

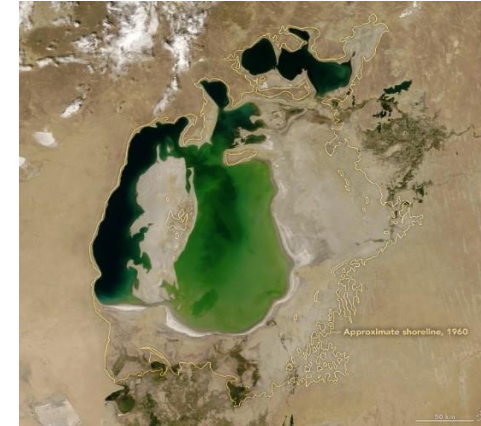


The links between the environment and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

Source: <https://www.decadeonrestoration.org/what-ecosystem-restoration>



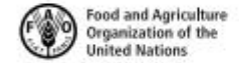
- The Caucasus and Central Asia is a subregion of harsh climate and fragile ecosystems, which has not, so far, featured strongly in global discussions on climate change
- Over past centuries, already fragile landscape and ecosystems of the Caucasus and Central Asia have been degraded by human activities and changing climate



Main challenges in the forest sector for the Caucasus and Central Asia identified by the Study



- To maintain and restore existing forests, reducing illegal logging and overgrazing
- To increase the benefits provided by forests to society
- To improve the information base for SFM
- To identify and apply best practice in forest management
- To ensure an intersectoral basis planning and improve coordination of the various agencies
- To develop strategies for progress towards SFM and implement them fully.
- To improve organization and coordination of international support [...] to ensure the sustainability



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Why the work on the Strategy for landscape restoration and greening the infrastructure was initiated?

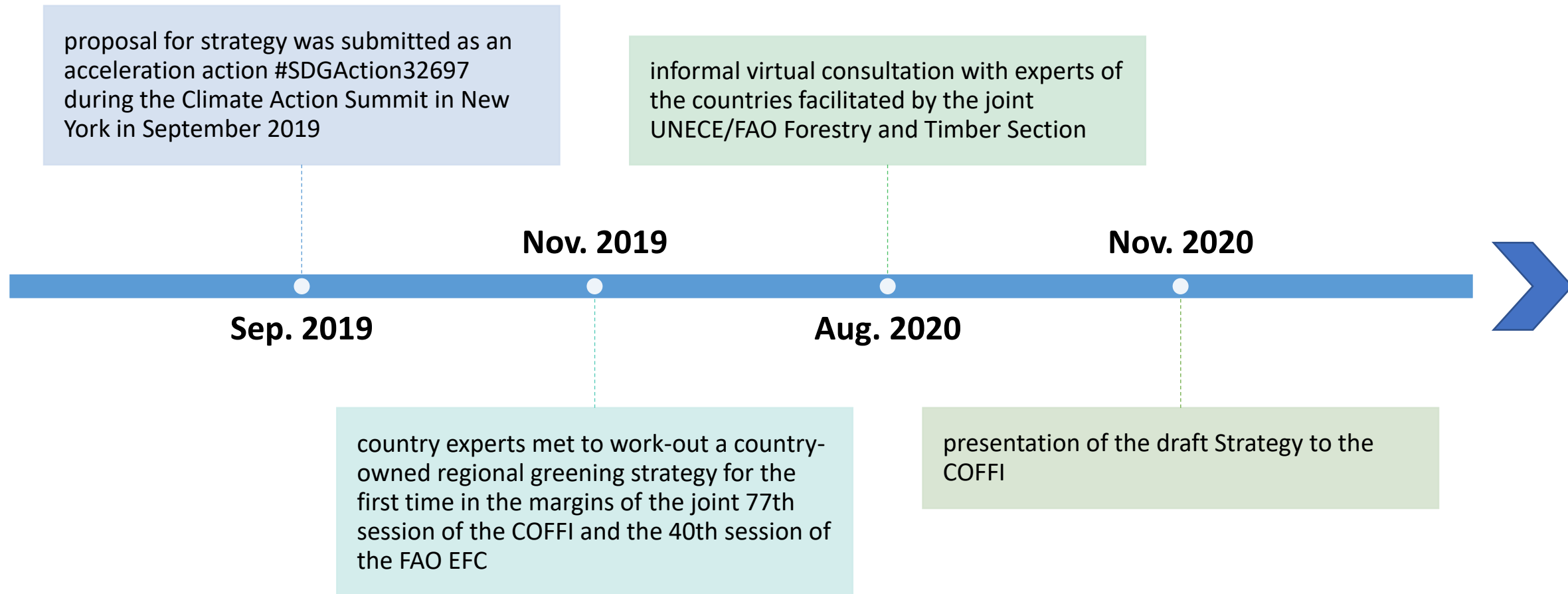


Without concerted action, the situation would lead to increase in:

- Pressures on natural resources;
- Vulnerability of rural population;
- Aggravation of climate change;

All forests and other wooded land in the subregion are publicly-owned and managed through national state forest authorities, which impose specific rules on the land concerned.

Timeline of development of the Strategy





The Strategy is (expected to be):

- Voluntary and non-binding.
- Should be implemented in line with existing national legislations and international (ratified by individual countries) agreements.
- Aims to help countries of the subregion to facilitate financing for forest landscape restoration through national and international funding.
- Countries covered by the Strategy: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, but could also be applicable to other countries with similar challenges.


The Strategy mission

- To ensure sustainable landscape through the restoration and greening of infrastructure, sustainable investments, scaling up national goals and actions in the forest sector and strengthening collaboration in the Caucasus and Central Asia





- The main strategic objective is to ensure and improve sustainable forest management and management of rural landscape.
- The main objective is further developed into four strategic objectives based on common challenges in the subregion.
- Ecological, social and economic principles of the landscape approach are taken into consideration to achieve these objectives and implement country-oriented actions.



Strategic objective 1: Protect what exists

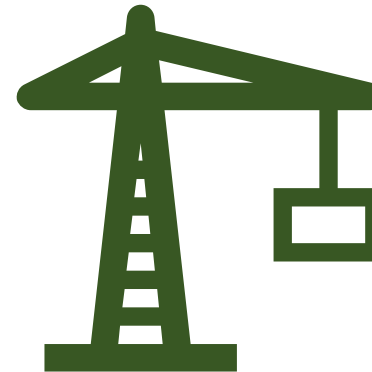
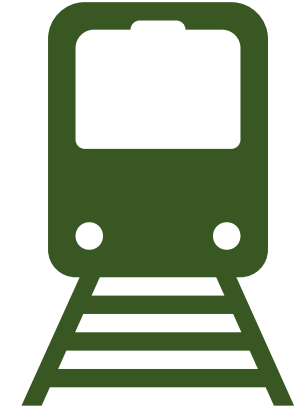




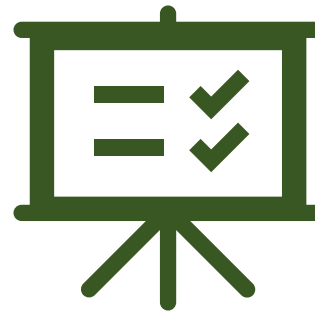
Strategic objective 2: Restore damaged and degraded landscapes



Strategic objective 3:
Ensure that all
infrastructure
investments meet
the highest standards
of sustainability and
resilience



Strategic objective 4:
Improve governance
and access to
financing through
comprehensive nexus
approaches in the
implementation of the
Strategy





Guiding principles

- Take a regional approach
- Build on existing commitments and partnerships
- Assess environmental impact
- Protect biodiversity
- Take an intersectoral approach
- Ensure a participatory approach
- Mainstream gender



How the development of the Strategy may help countries in this regard?



- Raising awareness of all UNECE member States on efforts for forest landscape restoration and sustainable management of forests in the Caucasus and Central Asia and support needed from the Secretariat
- Getting a common understanding on what could be done for to scale up landscape restoration and greening infrastructure in CCA
- Strengthening cooperation among countries in the region
- Expressing needs for support in funding for policy advice and capacity building in the implementation of the Strategy
- Encouraging support of the Secretariat to implementation of the Strategy (policy advice, capacity building on landscape restoration and greening infrastructure)



Overall impact of the Strategy could be, if implemented



- Restore degraded landscapes
- Strengthen sustainable management of forests and other wooded land in the region
- Improve livelihoods for 40 million rural people
- Reduce of loss of irrigation water
- Increase sustainability and resilience of new infrastructure developments



Thank you!



The Committee is invited to:

Welcome	Taking note of the work undertaken on the Draft Strategy for Landscape Restoration and Greening the Infrastructure of the Caucasus and Central Asia;
Take note	Taking note of the work undertaken on the Draft Strategy for Landscape Restoration and Greening the Infrastructure of the Caucasus and Central Asia;
Encourage	Encouraging interested member States to further develop the Strategy for landscape restoration and greening the infrastructure of the Caucasus and Central Asia with a view to submitting it for final approval to next joint session of the ECE Committee on Forests and Forest Industry (COFFI) and the FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC) in 2021;