



Terms of Reference

Assignment: CONSULTANCY - Bonn Challenge Progress-Tracking Protocol

Duration: 120 days between March 2017 to January 2018

CONTEXT OF ASSIGNMENT

To accelerate action on forest landscape restoration, IUCN is implementing The Bonn Challenge Barometer of Progress (hereafter referred to as “the project”). This German government-financed project seeks to strengthen the implementation of and progress on national, sub-national, and non-state actor commitments to the Bonn Challenge – a global effort to restore 150 million hectares of degraded and deforested lands by 2020 and 350 million by 2030. To do so, the project will develop and publicize the “Bonn Challenge Barometer,” profiling leadership and quantifiable progress on implementation of the Bonn Challenge and forest landscape restoration, and equipping pledgers and partners with information to accelerate action and address implementation bottlenecks.

Underpinning the Bonn Challenge Barometer of Progress will be a methodology to efficiently and effectively capture progress being made by contributors to the Bonn Challenge. This methodology, called the “**Bonn Challenge Progress-Tracking Protocol**,” will assess progress on three levels: (1) policy and budget commitments on restoration; (2) technical knowledge and capacity to plan, manage and implement restoration; and (3) on-the-ground progress (in ha under restoration and estimated carbon and biodiversity benefits).

The project will be supported by engagement with six pilot countries and jurisdictions that have made Bonn Challenge commitments, and have agreed to support development of the Bonn Challenge Barometer through partnership in refining and testing the Bonn Challenge Progress-Tracking Protocol.

OBJECTIVE OF CONSULTANCY

The Consultant will support the IUCN GFCCP by serving as the Lead Technical Expert responsible for development of the Bonn Challenge Progress-Tracking Protocol, in partnership with the IUCN Bonn Challenge Barometer team, the Progress-Tracking Protocol Advisory Panel (to be convened, see below), and IUCN State and Non-State members and offices in the 6 pilot countries/jurisdictions.

The anticipated Progress-Tracking Protocol’s dimensions are further defined as follows:

- *Policy Commitment and Financing for Restoration:*
 - Pledges to restore degraded and deforested landscapes (in ha) with information defining the nature, extent of targeted landscapes and stakeholder support
 - Existence of national/sub-national policies, plans and measures related to forest landscape restoration, including relevant elements of national REDD+ and/or other strategies
 - Domestic budget allocations in support of restoration
 - Private-sector funding for restoration
- *Technical knowledge/underpinning:*

- Maps and analysis of national/sub-national restoration potential
- Identified priority areas for restoration and interventions
- Analysis of economic costs and benefits, including jobs
- Analysis of carbon mitigation potential
- Existence of in-country monitoring information and vehicles (e.g. for Aichi target 15, community monitoring schemes, etc.).
- *On-the-ground progress:*
 - Hectares under restoration (measure to be developed and endorsed by GPFLR during project implementation) (as reported by pledgers and verifiable by remote sensing data, independent verification and/or other means)
 - Estimated carbon benefits
 - Estimation of biodiversity and jobs benefits from restoration

The development of this Progress-Tracking Protocol will occur in the first half of 2017, and be informed by an analysis described below.

Development of the Progress-Tracking Protocol will occur through close partnership and inputs from the *Bonn Challenge Progress-Tracking Protocol Advisory Panel*, to be convened with the help of IUCN GFCCP and the Lead Technical Consultant. The Advisory Panel will be comprised of partners from the six pilot countries and technical experts from IUCN. Other organizations will be invited to participate as external advisers.

The Progress-Tracking Protocol will be “road-tested” in six pilot jurisdictions in 2017-2018, with the bulk of refinement based on implementation experiences anticipated throughout 2017 and the first quarter of 2018. The Protocol will be made available to all Bonn Challenge pledgers by 2020.

ACTIVITIES and OUTPUTS

The main tasks are:

1. Provide the lead technical expertise in the process of Protocol development and associated engagement with the Bonn Challenge Progress-Tracking Protocol Advisory Panel. This will include:
 - a. Design the content and structure of three meetings with the Advisory Panel and co-lead the meetings
 - b. Regularly coordinate and engage with partners and external advisers throughout the process of developing the Protocol as needed
 - c. Undertake 3 missions to pilot countries (TBD, 1 pilot country per trip)
 - d. Participate in project team meetings with IUCN staff, including in-person launch meeting in IUCN’s DC offices in February or March 2017.
 - e. Liaise regularly with the IUCN Chief Scientist and Head – Planning Monitoring and Evaluation to ensure that the protocol optimizes synergies and maintains consistency with other IUCN geospatially referenced knowledge products and associated standards.
2. Design the Bonn-Challenge Progress Tracking Protocol, based on robust methodological framing, inputs from the Progress-Tracking Protocol Advisory Panel and additional experts, and an analysis covering:
 - relevant methodologies for tracking progress on restoration;

- existing approaches and platforms for the capture, storage and sharing of relevant and needed information including openforis (openforis.org), WRI's Global Forest Watch, and others, and potential linkage with these platforms and initiatives;
 - data needs and availability;
 - capacity needs and constraints to apply the Protocol;
 - associated costs and benefits of different approaches;
 - existing in-country systems and approaches to tracking restoration;
 - necessity of the Protocol to capture the diversity of restoration approaches;
 - reporting and verification challenges and solutions including potential role for civil society in verification;
 - integration of protocol with IUCN/WRI Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM) and Rapid Restoration Diagnostic (RRD) methodologies to facilitate establishment of restoration baselines and cost savings;
 - tracking of co-benefits including biodiversity (including an ability to consume spatial data from the Red List of Threatened Species and Protected Planet, and in due course also from the Red List of Ecosystems and Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), and jobs benefits;
 - gathering and sharing information on the application of social and environmental safeguards in the application of restoration programs and initiatives;
 - effective capture of lessons-learned;
 - use of high-resolution remote sensing data;
 - opportunities to incorporate inputs and established linkages with identified existing IUCN knowledge products.
3. Develop recommendations for integration of the Protocol into the IUCN InfoFLR website in collaboration with the platform development team.
 4. Coordinate the pilot application and road testing of the Progress-Tracking Protocol with the pilot jurisdictions.
 5. Lead the process of refining the Progress-Tracking Protocol based on implementation experiences in six pilot countries/jurisdictions and inputs from Bonn Challenge Progress-Tracking Protocol Advisory Panel, IUCN GFCCP staff, and other relevant partners and experts.

The expected outputs are:

- A report detailing the analysis described above.
- Bonn Challenge Progress-Tracking Protocol tool and any associated documentation required to understand and effectively apply the Protocol, developed through inclusive process of engagement with Bonn Challenge Progress-Tracking Protocol Advisory Panel, IUCN GFCCP staff, and IUCN State and Non-State members and offices in the 6 pilot countries/jurisdictions, due end of third quarter of 2017. Protocol is to be endorsed by the Advisory Panel.
- Design for and reports from Advisory and project team meetings.

REQUIREMENTS (for individual applicants or team members of institutional applicants)

- At least 10 years of proven experience with REDD+ and/or other methodologies for assessing and monitoring restoration/reforestation of degraded forests and landscapes.
- Understanding of key components involved in forest and land cover surveying and tools and platforms available for these efforts (examples include www.openforis.org).
- Experience in the design and operation of web-based data management systems including decentralized cloud-based applications.
- Extensive international experience, including work with government partners.
- University degree at Master level or higher in natural resources or land management or policy, or closely related fields or equivalent experience
- Excellent writing skills
- Well-organized, proven ability to work independently as well as with a large decentralized workforce of professionals of different nationalities, and deliver on-time and on-budget.
- Fluent English. Knowledge of French, Spanish and/or Portuguese is an asset.
- Excellent interpersonal and networking skills, especially within multi-stakeholder contexts

HOW TO APPLY

Interested parties are required to send a short proposal/expression of interest and CV of the consultant(s) who will carry out the assignment by email to joshua.schneck@iucn.org by 20 March 2017. Any questions in relation to this consultancy (scope, budget etc.) should also be sent to joshua.schneck@iucn.org