



Request for Expressions of Interest

International Consultant/GEF Design Expert for the preparation of an IUCN/GEF Medium-Sized Project Document on “*Fostering Partnerships to Build Coherence and Support for Forest Landscape Restoration*”

Location:	Desk-based, with virtual and/or in-person meetings with staff and partners in Washington DC and elsewhere.
Closing date and time:	September 15, 2017, 17hr00 EST.
Languages required:	English
Starting date:	October 1, 2017
Duration of contract:	No more than 35 working days
IUCN Contact:	Joshua Schneck, Programme Manager, Multilateral Environmental Funds Programmes and Projects, Global Forest and Climate Change Programme. Joshua.schneck@iucn.org

Background

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Washington DC Office seeks a qualified International Consultant/GEF Design Expert to undertake Project preparation activities and prepare the required documentation for a new medium-sized GEF project (MSP) supporting a Joint Initiative of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (www.cpfweb.org) on Forest Landscape Restoration. The goal of the consultancy is to develop the IUCN-GEF project document on the basis of analysis and consultation with IUCN staff and Project stakeholders and the GEF-approved Project Identification Form (PIF; GEF ID 9861) (annexed).

The final outputs of the assignment will be:

- An IUCN Project Document prepared per the official GEF template;
- A GEF CEO Endorsement Request as per the official GEF template. Furthermore, all comments raised by the GEF Secretariat will be addressed during the project development phase;
- Completed GEF Tracking Tools (TT).

The proposed Project will support and position the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) to play a catalytic role in strengthening national and international support and engagement on Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR)¹ – defined as a process to regain ecological functionality and enhance human well-being across deforested or degraded landscapes. It will do this by making full use of the CPF’s role, unique membership, and position within the UN system.

This project will play a key role in supporting effective implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 (UNSPF) and its six Global Forest Goals and associated targets, particularly Global Forest Goal 6, “enhance cooperation, coordination, coherence and synergies on forest-related issues at all levels, including within the UN System and across CPF member organizations”²

The Project will be structured around the following three Components:

¹ Some GEF Agencies and CPF members use the term forest landscape restoration while others use forest and landscape restoration, or simply landscape restoration. These are the same approach and based on the same principles.

² UNFF 2016. *United Nations strategic plan for forests, 2017-2030*. Available at: http://www.un.org/esa/forests/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/UNSPF_AdvUnedited.pdf

1. Mainstream FLR into national, regional and international policy frameworks and facilitate creation of a coherent in-country enabling environment for FLR;
2. Increase effectiveness and efficiency of resource mobilization for FLR; and
3. Identify, prioritize and implement opportunities for generating enhanced synergies among CPF member FLR programs, including forming partnerships and developing technical capacities on FLR-related science, technology and innovation.

IUCN is the Implementing GEF Agency for the proposed Project. Presently, nine CPF member organizations including IUCN have indicated interest in executing some Project activities, and additional CPF member organizations have expressed their support for this Project. A key part of the work of this consultancy will therefore be developing Project execution arrangements, including roles and responsibilities, and identifying and integrating co-financing commitments (cash and in kind) from CPF members with the GEF grant.

Within IUCN, the Project is supported by IUCN's Global Forest and Climate Change Programme, and coordinated through IUCN's Washington D.C. office.

Duties and Responsibilities

The Consultant will be responsible for completing the following tasks:

- In close cooperation with IUCN staff and CPF Project partners, conduct all baseline/situational analyses needed for robust design and elaboration of the medium-sized Project. This will include:
 - precise definition of relevant baseline projects and initiatives;
 - confirmation and elaboration of Project activities consistent with the GEF-approved Project PIF, together with associated budget, goals, and co-financial links to GEF outcomes;
 - definition of GEF incremental value per outcome and output; and
 - presentation of results of the incremental cost-analysis.
- In close cooperation with IUCN staff and CPF Project partners, assist in the definition of project institutional arrangements including allocation of Project execution roles and responsibilities to CPF members and partners;
- Based on best international approaches and GEF practices, prepare a quantified assessment of relevant global environmental benefits generated by the Project, including benefits from climate change mitigation, sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation;
- Assist in reconfirming and elaborating where necessary, and finalizing project sections on: (i) an assessment of the social, economic and financial sustainability of proposed Project activities; (ii) assessment of alternatives to the project strategy and establishing the cost effectiveness of the preferred strategy and suite of activities; (iii) a replication strategy for Project activities; (iv) assessment of the risks to the proposed Project activities and identifying measures to mitigate these risks; and (v) incremental costs analysis;
- Based upon GEF best practices and IUCN expert input, develop a Project monitoring and evaluation system for the Project including baseline, indicators and targets, and an M&E plan and budget;
- Elaborate a Project Results Framework;
- Complete all GEF Tracking tools required for GEF approval;
- Prepare an indicative multi-year work plan and budget for the Project;
- Based upon IUCN expert input, develop an action plan for incorporation of gender aspects in the project, with quantifiable baseline and target indicators, as per GEF and IUCN guidance;
- Draft ToRs for the key consultants/contracts to be employed by the project;
- In close cooperation with IUCN staff and CPF Project partners, elaborate a Stakeholder Engagement and Communication Plan;
- Coordinate with the relevant IUCN staff responsible for conducting the required Environmental and Social safeguard screening and providing attendant documentation in a timely manner;
- Coordinate and conduct a Project Validation Workshop with key CPF Project stakeholders; and

- Respond to any requests from the GEF Secretariat for revisions to the Project documents following formal submission of the GEF CEO Endorsement Request, as needed to facilitate final approval of the Project by the GEF.

Required experience and competencies

- Advanced degree (i.e., Masters or equivalent) in a relevant discipline;
- At least 5 years of demonstrable experience in developing high-quality project documents, preferably for GEF, and preferably in the areas of Sustainable Forest Management and Land Degradation;
- Sound knowledge and understanding of forest landscape restoration and sustainable land management;
- Excellent communication skills, both oral and written;
- Strong technical writing skills;
- Fluency in English;
- Excellent coordination and problem-solving skills;
- Demonstrated ability to deliver results on-time, and on budget;
- Team player, accustomed to operating internationally, with a high degree of cultural sensitivity.

How to Apply

Interested applicants are invited to submit a cover letter and CV demonstrating their interest and qualifications to perform the described services as well as an indication of their daily rate.

A consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the IUCN Human Resources manual.

Interested consultants may obtain further information by contacting Joshua Schneck, Programme Manager, Multilateral Environmental Funds Programmes and Projects, Global Forest and Climate Change Programme. Joshua.schneck@iucn.org.

All CVs and cover letters for consideration must be submitted to IUCN no later than 17h00 EST on September 15, 2017 by email to joshua.schneck@iunc.org. The subject heading of the email should be “**Application, GEF CPF MSP- [Proposer’s name].**”

ANNEX. Copy of the GEF-approved PIF, GEF Project 9861, “Fostering Partnerships to Build Coherence and Support for Forest Landscape Restoration”

PART I: Project Information

Project Title:	Fostering Partnerships to Build Coherence and Support for Forest Landscape Restoration		
Country(ies):		GEF Project ID: ³	
GEF Agency(ies):	IUCN (select) (select)	GEF Agency Project ID:	
Other Executing Partner(s):	CBD, CIFOR, FAO, ICRAF, ITTO, IUFRO, UNDP, UN Environment	Submission Date:	
GEF Focal Area(s):	(select)	Project Duration (Months)	
Integrated Approach Pilot	IAP-Cities <input type="checkbox"/> IAP-Commodities <input type="checkbox"/> IAP-Food Security <input type="checkbox"/>	Corporate Program: SGP <input type="checkbox"/>	
Name of parent program:	[if applicable]	Agency Fee (\$)	

A. INDICATIVE [FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK AND OTHER PROGRAM STRATEGIES](#)⁴

<u>Objectives/Programs (Focal Areas, Integrated Approach Pilot, Corporate Programs)</u>	<u>Trust Fund</u>	<u>(in \$)</u>	
		<u>GEF Project Financing</u>	<u>Co-financing</u>
LD-2 Program 3 (select) (select)	GEFTF		722,000
Total Project Cost		625,000	722,000

B. INDICATIVE PROJECT DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

Project Objective: To enhance synergies in the global FLR process and assist countries and stakeholders to scale up and strengthen implementation of FLR at national and sub-national levels.						
<u>Project Components</u>	<u>Financing Type⁵</u>	<u>Project Outcomes</u>	<u>Project Outputs</u>	<u>Trust Fund</u>	<u>(in \$)</u>	
					<u>GEF Project Financing</u>	<u>Co-financing</u>
Component 1: Mainstream FLR into national, regional and international policy frameworks and facilitate creation of a coherent in-country enabling environment for FLR	TA	Outcome 1.1: Strengthened support for FLR within and among key existing international policy frameworks	Output 1.1.1: Global report on the potential contribution that FLR can make towards achieving commitments under the UNFCCC, CBD, UNCCD, UNFF and the SDGs, providing examples from champion countries where synergies are being optimized.	GEFTF	295,000	316,500

³ Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC and to be entered by Agency in subsequent document submissions.

⁴ When completing Table A, refer to the excerpts on [GEF 6 Results Frameworks for GETF, LDCF and SCCF](#) and [CBIT guidelines](#).

⁵ Financing type can be either investment or technical assistance.

		<p>Outcome 1.2: Support stimulated for accelerated progress in achieving restoration goals through promotion of greater policy coherence at the regional, national and sub-national levels</p>	<p>Output 1.1.2: Awareness raising and knowledge sharing/learning events in collaboration with the Global Landscapes Forum, Convention COPs, and/or other relevant fora.</p> <p>Output 1.2.1: Series of thematic reports and learning events at the regional and national levels identifying high-value opportunities for reform of normative, fiscal and other financial policies and incentives.</p> <p>Output 1.2.2: Outreach campaign to support mainstreaming of FLR into national policy frameworks.</p>			
<p>Component 2: Increase effectiveness and efficiency of resource mobilization for FLR</p>	TA	<p>Outcome 2.1: Increased public- and private-sector funding for FLR.</p> <p>Outcome 2.2: Enhanced synergies and partnership among cross-national programs on FLR from the GEF, GCF, LDN Fund, BIOFIN and others, leading to enhanced impacts and cost savings.</p>	<p>Output 2.1.1: Support to the development of bankable project proposals in collaboration with the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network (GFFFN), with facilitated smallholder/private-sector engagement.</p> <p>Output 2.2.1: Identified opportunities for enhanced synergies and partnership among emerging cross-national programs on FLR from the GEF, GCF, LDN Fund, BIOFIN and others</p>	GEFTF	180,000	165,000
<p>Component 3: Identify, prioritize and implement opportunities for generating enhanced synergies among</p>	TA	<p>Outcome 3.1: Enhanced generation of synergies across national programs on FLR from CPF</p>	<p>Output 3.1.1: Regular communication amongst the CPF-FLR Steering Committee of contributing organizations and</p>	GEFTF	150,000	240,500

CPF member FLR programs, including forming partnerships and developing technical capacities on FLR-related science, technology and innovation.		members and other stakeholders.	<p>twice-yearly convening of all participating CPF members to reinforce coherence and capture of synergies among CPF member FLR programs.</p> <p>Output 3.1.2: Analysis of CPF member programs on FLR and identified opportunities for capturing synergies.</p> <p>Output 3.1.3: Identified actions by which members of the CPF could provide useful support to countries to foster forest landscape restoration, including developing technical and scientific capacities and forming partnerships on science, technology and innovation.</p> <p>Output 3.1.4: Links and interoperability between open data platforms to facilitate the sharing and synthesis of information on FLR. Updating of CPF website on status of the CPF FLR Joint Initiative.</p>			
Subtotal						
Project Management Cost (PMC) ⁶			GEFTF			
Total Project Cost				625,000	722,000	

For multi-trust fund projects, provide the total amount of PMC in Table B, and indicate the split of PMC among the different trust funds here: (N/A)

C. INDICATIVE SOURCES OF [CO-FINANCING](#) FOR THE PROJECT BY NAME AND BY TYPE, IF AVAILABLE

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Amount (\$)
GEF Agency	IUCN	In-kind	110,000

⁶ For GEF Project Financing up to \$2 million, PMC could be up to 10% of the subtotal; above \$2 million, PMC could be up to 5% of the subtotal. PMC should be charged proportionately to focal areas based on focal area project financing amount in Table D below.

GEF Agency		Grants	40,000
Others	IUFRO	Grants and in-kind	50,000
Others	ITTO	In-kind	65,000
GEF Agency	FAO	In-kind	65,000
GEF Agency	UN Environment	In-kind	75,000
Others	CBD	In-kind	70,000
GEF Agency	UNDP	In-kind	75,000
Others	ICRAF	In-kind	87,000
Others	CIFOR	In-kind	85,000
Total Co-financing			722,000

D. INDICATIVE TRUST FUND RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY(IES), COUNTRY(IES), FOCAL AREA AND THE PROGRAMMING OF FUNDS

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	(in \$)		
					GEF Project Financing (a)	Agency Fee (b) ^b	Total (c)=a+b
IUCN	GEFTF	Global	Land Degradation	(select as applicable)	625,000	56,250	681,250
Total GEF Resources					625,000	56,250	681,250

E. PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)

Is Project Preparation Grant requested? Yes ☒ No ☐ If no, skip item E.

PPG AMOUNT REQUESTED BY AGENCY(IES), TRUST FUND, COUNTRY(IES) AND THE PROGRAMMING OF FUNDS

Project Preparation Grant amount requested: \$30,000					PPG Agency Fee: 2,700		
GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	(in \$)		
					PPG (a)	Agency Fee ⁷ (b)	Total c = a + b
IUCN	GEF TF	Global	Land Degradation	(select as applicable)	30,000	2,700	32,700
Total PPG Amount					30,000	2,700	32,700

F. PROJECT'S TARGET CONTRIBUTIONS TO GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

Provide the expected project targets as appropriate.

Corporate Results	Replenishment Targets	Project Targets
1. Maintain globally significant biodiversity and the ecosystem goods and services that it provides to society	Improved management of landscapes and seascapes covering 300 million hectares	<i>Hectares</i>
2. Sustainable land management in production systems (agriculture, rangelands, and forest landscapes)	120 million hectares under sustainable land management	<i>Hectares</i>
4. Support to transformational shifts towards a low-emission and resilient development path	750 million tons of CO _{2e} mitigated (include both direct and indirect)	<i>metric tons</i>

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

1. *Project Description.* Briefly describe: 1) the global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed; 2) the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects, 3) the

⁷ PPG fee percentage follows the percentage of the Agency fee over the GEF Project Financing amount requested.

proposed alternative scenario, GEF focal area⁸ strategies, with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project, 4) [incremental/additional cost reasoning](#) and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, CBIT and [co-financing](#); 5) [global environmental benefits](#) (GEFTF) and/or [adaptation benefits](#) (LDCF/SCCF); and 6) innovation, sustainability and potential for scaling up.

1.1.) The global environmental problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed

Global environmental problems

Forests are among the world's most productive terrestrial ecosystems and are essential to life on earth. An estimated 1.6 billion people – a quarter of the global population – depend directly upon forests for subsistence, livelihood, employment and income generation⁹. Yet forest resources face continued threat throughout much of the world, impacted by poor land use practices – including unsustainable harvesting and conversion of forest lands – exploding population growth, and climate change. Clearing and/or overharvesting of forest resources are often the first steps in a process leading to forest and land degradation. Global estimates find that one quarter of the world's land area is either highly degraded¹⁰ or undergoing high rates of degradation¹¹, with two-thirds of African lands already degraded to some degree¹².

Impacts to forests, landscapes and soil negatively impact the provision of ecosystem services – defined as the benefits that people obtain from ecosystems¹³ – including climate regulation. Some 20% of present-day carbon emissions come from land use change and degradation¹⁴. Moreover, degraded lands contribute to loss of soil and water retention, loss of biodiversity, create barriers to the migration of species, reduce replenishment of underground aquifers, and overall, generate fewer and lower ecosystem services that societies seeking to achieve the goals of the three Rio Conventions need.

Against this backdrop, forest landscape restoration (FLR)¹⁵ – defined as a process to regain ecological functionality and enhance human well-being across deforested or degraded landscapes – has emerged as an increasingly pressing and viable solution for addressing land degradation, complementing other strategies to reduce and halt deforestation and degradation. A range of restorative techniques have been shown to be effective at reducing and in many cases substantially reversing degradation impacts on cropland, rangeland, forest, and wetlands, including impacts to carbon storage and sequestration functionality¹⁶. These include conservation agriculture¹⁷, introduction of improved crop varieties, climate-smart agriculture¹⁸, agroforestry, tree planting, introduction of improved silvicultural practices, assisted natural regeneration, and more. Moreover, if properly planned and managed, restoration can decrease the demand for agricultural expansion by bringing degraded agricultural lands back into production and enabling improvements in production from

⁸ For biodiversity projects, in addition to explaining the project's consistency with the biodiversity focal area strategy, objectives and programs, please also describe which [Aichi Target\(s\)](#) the project will directly contribute to achieving.

⁹ UNFF 2016. *United Nations strategic plan for forests, 2017-2030*. Available at: http://www.un.org/esa/forests/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/UNSPF_AdvUnedited.pdf

¹⁰ Here, we define "land degradation" as the long-term loss of land ecosystem functions and services, following Vogt et al. 2011. *Monitoring and assessment of land degradation and desertification: Towards new conceptual and integrated approaches*. Land Degradation & Development, 22, 150–165.

¹¹ FAO (2011). *The state of the world's land and water resources for food and agriculture (SOLAW) – Managing systems at risk*. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome, Italy.

¹² United Nations Economic and Social Council, Economic Commission for Africa (2007). *Africa Review Report on Drought and Desertification in Africa*. Online at http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd16/rim/eca_bg3.pdf

¹³ Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (2005). *Ecosystems and Human Well-being: Synthesis*. Island Press, Washington, DC.

¹⁴ IPCC (2007). *Climate Change 2007: Synthesis Report*. Contribution of Working Groups I, II and III to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. IPCC, Geneva, Switzerland.

¹⁵ Some GEF Agencies and CPF members use the term forest landscape restoration while others use forest and landscape restoration, or simply landscape restoration. These are the same approach and based on the same principles.

¹⁶ Hanson et al. (2015). *The Restoration Diagnostic. A Method for Developing Forest Landscape Restoration Strategies by Rapidly Assessing the Status of Key Success Factors*. WRI and IUCN, Washington DC.

¹⁷ Conservation agriculture refers to a number of techniques that follow principles of minimal soil disturbance, permanent soil cover and crop rotations (FAO (2015). Information online at: <http://www.fao.org/ag/ca/index.html>).

¹⁸ Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) as defined by FAO is "agriculture that sustainably increases productivity, enhances resilience, reduces/removes GHGs where possible, and enhances achievement of national food security and development goals. FAO, 2013. Climate-Smart Agriculture: Sourcebook. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome, Italy.

degraded lands¹⁹. In this way, restoration can provide an important means for managing conflicts with land conservation goals and efforts to avoid deforestation, restore critical ecosystem services, and support the achievement of low-carbon development pathways.

FLR builds on extensive restoration experiences over many decades throughout the world, and is defined by several key principles found to be effective in advancing effective and sustainable restoration. These include utilization of landscape level planning processes, a focus on restoring functionality of lands (not necessarily original forest cover), strategies that seek to generate multiple benefits from a landscape, active involvement of local stakeholders, and adaptive management over time.²⁰

The Global Partnership on Forest and Landscape Restoration (GPFLR)²¹ has identified more than 2 billion hectares of deforested and degraded landscapes worldwide – an area larger than South America – where opportunities for forest landscape restoration may be found²². Furthermore, nearly 40% of all degraded land is thought to be ‘lightly’ degraded, with strong potential for restoration at low cost²³.

Numerous studies show that wide-scale implementation of FLR would generate substantial net benefits. For example, a recent study assessing benefits of achieving the Bonn Challenge goal to bring 350 million hectares of degraded land into restoration by 2030 finds that it would generate a net benefit of between 700 million and 9 trillion USD²⁴. The value of these benefits differs principally depending upon the discount rate used in the analysis²⁵. Another cost-benefit analysis of restoration activities for nine major biomes finds that the benefit-cost ratio of restoring degraded ecosystems range from 0.05 to 35 depending on the biome and scenario²⁶. Regional studies reach similar conclusions. A study looking across Africa finds that the benefits of taking action against land degradation, including restoration, are nearly 7 times the cost of inaction²⁷. And a study assessing the benefits of restoration in Latin America and the Caribbean with the scope of Initiative 20x20 (see below) finds that restoration would yield an estimated net present value of around \$23 billion over a 50-year period – equivalent to around \$1,140 per hectare²⁸.

Over the past decade, commitments and support for FLR have grown significantly. A global initiative to bring 150 million hectares into restoration by 2020 and 350 million by 2030 – the Bonn Challenge – has and continues to garner significant support and generate awareness on FLR. Commitments to the Bonn Challenge now total more than 150 million hectares, with pledges from 44 countries, sub-national jurisdictions, and non-governmental entities²⁹. The Bonn Challenge is complemented by several regional initiatives that include AFR100, a country-led effort to bring 100 million hectares of degraded landscapes across Africa into restoration by 2030; Initiative 20x20 in Latin America, a country-led effort to bring 20 million hectares of degraded land in Latin America and the Caribbean into restoration by 2020; and the Asia-Pacific Rainforest Recovery Plan, among others.

¹⁹ Vergara, W., et. al. (2016). *The Economic Case for Landscape Restoration in Latin America*. Available online at: <http://www.wri.org/publication/economic-case-for-landscape-restoration-20x20>. World Resources Institute, Washington DC.

²⁰ Maginnis, S., Rietbergen-McCracken, J., Jackson, W. (2005). *Restoring Forest Landscapes, An Introduction to the Art and Science of Forest Landscape Restoration*. Technical Series N., 23. Yokohama: ITTO.

²¹ Initiated in 2003, the GPFLR is a worldwide network of policy makers, restoration practitioners, scientists and key supporters from government, international and non-governmental organizations and businesses. Information online at: <http://www.forestlandscaperestoration.org/about-partnership>

²² GPFLR (2011). *A World of Opportunity*. Online at: http://www.wri.org/sites/default/files/world_of_opportunity_brochure_2011-09.pdf

²³ UNEP (2014). *Assessing Global Land Use: Balancing Consumption with Sustainable Supply*. A Report of the Working Group on Land and Soils of the International Resource Panel. Bringezu S., Schütz H., Pengue W., O'Brien M., Garcia F., Sims R., Howarth R., Kauppi L., Swilling M., and Herrick J.

²⁴ Verdone, M., Seidl, A. (2017). *Time, space, place and the Bonn Challenge global forest restoration target*. Restoration Ecology.

²⁵ Estimation of restoration benefits and assessments of whether to engage in restoration itself are particularly sensitive to the choice of time horizon and the social discount rates that are used to evaluate them. While discount rates and time scales for investing or extracting private goods should reflect the opportunity cost of financial capital and the typical loan repayment period in order to ensure a positive return on investment, restoration, which generates public goods such as climate benefits, should employ a lower discount rate. However, there is still significant debate over which discount rate is “correct.” Thus, many studies evaluating net benefits from restoration, including the first study cited here, provide a range of estimated benefits.

²⁶ De Groot R, et al. (2013) *Benefits of investing in ecosystem restoration*. Conservation Biology 27:1286-1293.

²⁷ ELD Initiative & UNEP (2015). *The Economics of Land Degradation in Africa: Benefits of Action Outweigh the Costs*. Available from www.eld-initiative.org

²⁸ Vergara, W., et. al. (2016). *The Economic Case for Landscape Restoration in Latin America*. Available online at: <http://www.wri.org/publication/economic-case-for-landscape-restoration-20x20>. World Resources Institute, Washington DC.

²⁹ Additional information available at: <http://www.bonnchallenge.org>

Support for restoration is further reflected in international policy: The 2030 Agenda on sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) build on global goals agreed under the Rio Conventions and that include restoration. Sustainable Development Goal 15 seeks to “protect, restore, and sustainably use terrestrial ecosystems.” Aichi Biodiversity Target 15 of the CBD calls for restoration of 15% of degraded ecosystems worldwide by 2020. The Action Plan on Ecosystem Restoration (CBD Decision XIII/5) was adopted in December 2016 in support of this Target.³⁰ The Paris Agreement adopted under the UNFCCC identified REDD+ (the + referring to efforts to “foster conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks”) as a critical and prominent piece of the new global climate goal to achieve net-zero emissions in the second half of this century, and more than 100 Parties have included restoration in their NDCs. And restoration of degraded lands underpins the Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) goal of the UNCCD to which 99 GEF-eligible countries have committed.

Commitment to restoration is further anchored in the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests for the period 2017-2030 (UNSPF). The UNSFP defines 6 Global Forest Goals and 26 associated targets to be achieved by 2030. Global Forest Goal 1 seeks to “reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through SFM, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation and contribute to the global effort of addressing climate change.” Associated targets under this goal are: 1.1., “Forest areas is increased by 3% worldwide (by 2030),” and 1.3., “by 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally.”

In a joint statement issued at the Rio+20 conference, the executive secretaries of the three Rio conventions committed to tackling sustainable development challenges by focusing on prioritizing cross-cutting themes that include landscape and ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation, among which are ecosystem restoration. The final outcome document of Rio+20, ‘The Future We Want,’ emphasizes ecosystem restoration and its linkages with sustainable development.

At the national level, support for restoration is evident in the national policy frameworks and development objectives of many countries. A recent analysis by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Secretariat found Restoration and Reforestation to be the most frequently occurring theme among GEF country INDCs, NBSAPs, NAPs (present in 98% of GEF-eligible countries’ policy frameworks)³¹.

While commitment and support for restoration are growing, a significant barrier to more widespread and effective implementation of FLR at the needed scale is a lack in coherence in both international and national environmental policy, in the existing FLR programs of key international organizations including those of CPF members (see Section 1.2 for a description of the CPF), and in country policies and programs relating to restoration. Lack of coherence is evident in many ways, including: missed opportunities for synergies in implementation of the Rio conventions (e.g., Aichi targets, NDCs, LDN targets), as well among the global objectives on forests and the SDGs; overlapping programs of support and duplication of efforts among international organizations including donors; and failure to integrate FLR in a clear and consistent way in national policies relating to agriculture, energy, land-use planning, forests, conservation, water, and more.

Root causes and barriers

Note – this section will first cover root causes of deforestation and degradation, followed by a more focused discussion of root causes and barriers to addressing the lack of coherence and failure to capture synergies among the many international and national policy frameworks and programs relating to restoration as well as among the FLR programs of CPF members.

Most proximate and root causes of deforestation and degradation are human activities and actions, or processes such as climate change that are driven in large part by human activities, that negatively impact land

³⁰ <https://www.cbd.int/decisions/cop/?m=cop-13>

³¹ GEF Secretariat (2017). GEF-7 Programming Directions and Policy Agency. Document GEF/R.7/02. Available: <https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/council-meeting-documents/GEF-7%20Programming%20and%20Policy%20Document%20.pdf>

resources^{32,33}. At the proximate end they include land use and cover change activities, principally clearing and conversion of forest to crop and pastureland; the use of land degrading management practices on forest, cropland and grazing lands that do not experience land use and cover change; and climate change. Other linked and important proximate causes of land degradation are habitat fragmentation, introduction of invasive species, over-harvesting of natural resources, changes to surface and groundwater quality and availability, and pollution including fertilizer and chemical runoff from agricultural lands, mining waste and sewage deposition.

These proximate causes of degradation interact with well-known biophysical forces and elements including rain and wind energy, topography, climate, and soil characteristics that underpin and regulate erosion and other degradation processes. For example, steeper slopes are more vulnerable to water-induced soil erosion³⁴ and soils with high silt content are naturally more prone to degradation³⁵.

Agriculture is estimated to be the principal proximate driver of some 80% of deforestation worldwide³⁶. In Latin America, commercial agriculture accounts for two-thirds of deforestation, with local/subsistence agriculture driving most of the remainder. In Africa and sub-tropical Asia, commercial agriculture accounts for around one-third of deforestation and local/subsistence agriculture is of similar importance. Mining, infrastructure and urban development are important but less prominent proximate drivers of deforestation.

Commercial timber extraction and logging activities account for more than 70% of total forest degradation in Latin America and sub-tropical Asia, and around 35% in Africa³⁷. Fuel wood collection, charcoal production and livestock grazing in forested landscape are the most important proximate drivers of degradation in Africa. Additionally, analysis finds that in Sub Saharan Africa (SSA), the region that has experienced the most severe land degradation in the world, a major driver of conversion of grassland to cropland is the low productivity of livestock in this region³⁸.

Climate change is a major threat to the health and productivity of forest and land resources and is already driving degradation in many parts of the world³⁹. Moreover, climate change is anticipated to put increased pressures on land resources in the coming decades. Climate-linked degradation pathways include more frequent and intense extreme weather events including floods, storms, droughts and heatwaves; more frequent and intense wildfires, including in the tropics; substantial changes in precipitation patterns and water availability, with many countries that already face water scarcity predicted to be under increased water stress; saltwater intrusion from sea level rise into low-lying deltas and coastal areas; facilitation of the spread and establishment of invasive species; and loss of biodiversity integral to ecosystem health and resilience.

At the global level, the root causes of environmental change are population change (including growth and migration), changes in economic activity (including economic growth, disparities in wealth, and trade patterns), sociopolitical factors (including factors ranging from the presence of conflict to public participation in decision-making), cultural factors and technological change⁴⁰. The extent to which these underlying drivers of environmental change result in adverse environmental impacts depends on a range of factors. These include total population pressure, demographic factors (e.g. rural vs urban population and demographic change), the type and volume of goods and services produced (for both domestic and export markets) and consumed, and the technologies used to produce energy, food, materials, transport and manage waste products.

³² Nkonya, E., Mirzabaev, A., von Braun, Joachim, editors. (2016). *Economics of land degradation and improvement- A global assessment for sustainable development*. Cham, Switzerland: Springer International Publishing.

³³ Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (2005). *Ecosystems and Human Well-being: Synthesis*. Island Press, Washington, DC.

³⁴ Voortman, R. L., Sonneveld, B. G., & Keyzer, M. A. (2000). *African land ecology: Opportunities and constraints for agricultural development*. Center for International Development Working Paper 37. Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass., U.S.A.

³⁵ Bonilla, C. A., & Johnson, O. I. (2012). *Soil erodibility mapping and its correlation with soil properties in Central Chile*. Geoderma, 189, 116–123.

³⁶ Kissinger, G., M. Herold, V. De Sy. (2012). *Drivers of Deforestation and Forest Degradation: A Synthesis Report for REDD+ Policymakers*. Lexeme Consulting, Vancouver Canada.

³⁷ Kissinger, G., M. Herold, V. De Sy. (2012). *Drivers of Deforestation and Forest Degradation: A Synthesis Report for REDD+ Policymakers*. Lexeme Consulting, Vancouver Canada.

³⁸ Nkonya, E., Mirzabaev, A., von Braun, Joachim, editors. (2016). *Economics of land degradation and improvement- A global assessment for sustainable development*. Chapter 9. Cham, Switzerland: Springer International Publishing.

³⁹ World Bank (2014). *Turn Down the Heat: Confronting the New Climate Normal*. Washington, DC: World Bank.

⁴⁰ Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (2005). *Ecosystems and Human Well-being: Synthesis*. Island Press, Washington, DC

Focusing in more narrowly on land degradation, a recent global meta-study identified four principle underlying factors affecting land degradation at the global level: land tenure security, rule of law, population density, and access to markets⁴¹. Secure land tenure provides greater incentives and opportunities to invest in sustainable land management (SLM) and is associated with adoption of SLM practices. Similarly, case studies uniformly show that improved government effectiveness and rule of law enhance adoption of SLM practices. Population density can put additional pressures to use land unsustainably or use marginal lands that are more susceptible to degradation such as steeply sloped land⁴². Lastly, improving access to markets has been found to lead to wider adoption of SLM practices in many case studies⁴³.

It is important to note that proximate and underlying drivers of land degradation are complex, and interact with other socio-economic factors such that simple and universal one-directional relationships are not always apparent when looking across countries and regions. The diversity of results in the literature suggests a need for localized and context-specific analysis of degradation drivers when seeking to understand and address drivers of land degradation. Findings also imply that targeting one underlying factor is not, in itself, sufficient to address land degradation. Rather, a number of root and proximate causes should be taken into account when designing policies to prevent or mitigate land degradation⁴⁴.

Turning to the problem of a lack of coherence across international policies and failure to capture synergies in related policy frameworks and FLR programs of CPF members and countries, underlying causes include the Parties to the major environmental policy frameworks being different; the separate negotiation processes driving these policy frameworks; and the separate secretariats who are mandated to advance only or primarily the interests of their convention or other international instrument or process.

Similarly, within countries, sustainable landscape management is challenged by multiple threats that can be overcome only with inter-sectoral or integrated approaches including forest landscape restoration. Yet few national planning processes involve adequate consultation across sectors. This in turn limits these institutions' ability to address the drivers of degradation associated with competing land uses. The results are oftentimes a patchwork of overlapping policies and regulatory frameworks that includes support for elements of forest landscape restoration, but that fails to do so in a coherent, efficient, and effective manner.

When considering the support offered to countries by CPF organizations working on FLR and why opportunities for capitalizing on synergies are often missed, the principle reasons are: (1) separate governance structures of the CPF member organizations that determine programs of work, as well as overlapping mandates; and (2) missing institutional processes and, perhaps most critically, funding to support cross-program analysis and planning processes. This challenge is made greater by the fact that within countries many different agencies have ambitions and/or mandates that touch on forest landscape restoration, yet oftentimes the institutional coordination mechanisms are missing. The result can be that one country agency is approached by several CPF members who may not be effectively sharing information about their activities, or it could be that different CPF members are dealing with different agencies within the countries. The countries themselves may have an interest in maintaining a multiplicity of institutional partnerships, including where CPF members are bringing resources into the countries. In these cases a lack of coordination within and amongst donor institutions and agencies is a contributing factor.

The CPF provides a forum for information sharing and enhanced collaboration broadly speaking but it does not have an FLR thematic focus nor is it organized in such a way as to provide opportunities for concretely addressing a lack of coherence and missed synergies in the FLR programs of its member organizations.

⁴¹ Nkonya, E., ed.; Mirzabaev, A., ed.; and von Braun, Joachim, ed. (2016). *Economics of land degradation and improvement- A global assessment for sustainable development*. Cham, Switzerland: Springer International Publishing.

⁴² United Nations Economic and Social Council, Economic Commission for Africa (2007). *Africa Review Report on Drought and Desertification in Africa*. Online at http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd16/rim/eca_bg3.pdf

⁴³ Nkonya, E., ed.; Mirzabaev, A., ed.; and von Braun, Joachim, ed. (2016). *Economics of land degradation and improvement- A global assessment for sustainable development*. Chapter 1, pg 10. Cham, Switzerland: Springer International Publishing.

⁴⁴ Nkonya, E., ed.; Mirzabaev, A., ed.; and von Braun, Joachim, ed. (2016). *Economics of land degradation and improvement- A global assessment for sustainable development*. Cham, Switzerland: Springer International Publishing.

At the international, regional, national and sub-national levels, other key barriers to investment in and implementation of forest landscape restoration at scale include^{45,46,47}:

- *Insufficient political prioritization of restoration.* Restoration has often been seen as too costly and too time consuming, and less urgent compared to the fight against deforestation. While a growing portfolio of evidence from successful restoration initiatives over the last twenty years is helping to dispel these myths, implementation of restoration at the needed scale will involve increasing buy-in and support for elevation and prioritization of restoration within national and sub-national development strategies as a complement to avoiding deforestation.
- *Inadequate mobilization of resources.* While there are many existing and potential sources of finance available for restoration of degraded and deforested lands, the models, information and partnerships needed to unlock those resources are not always present. There is a particular need to examine how bridge financing may be provided to kick start restoration activities while revenue flows have not yet materialized.
- *Limited in-country capacity and extension support.* Currently there are many projects being developed that relate to the restoration of degraded and deforested lands but opportunities to scale these up and achieve maximum impact in countries, regions and internationally are being missed due to insufficient technical support within countries as well as the lack of cross-country and inter-regional exchange of expertise and perspectives. Information dissemination, including of relevant research and guidelines that propose innovative solutions to local stakeholders, including community groups, is also needed.
- *Failure to incorporate gender considerations.* At present the majority of the efforts in relation to forest and landscape restoration are gender blind. There is a need to promote a gender-responsive approach in these efforts. This entails developing methodologies and processes that will identify, reflect, and implement interventions to address gender gaps and overcome historical gender biases in policies and interventions.
- *Insufficient awareness and replicable models.* Finally, there is a need to more thoroughly make and communicate the case for restoration based on early action at scale in countries. This includes compiling analysis on the benefits of restoration and successful experiences but more importantly a proven track record with measurable progress needs to be demonstrated through successful cases, while articulating the complementary focus of restoration actions and avoided deforestation measures.
- *Gaps in the science and knowledge base on FLR.* While the science and knowledge base supporting FLR best practices continues to strengthen, key areas of uncertainty remain, along with opportunities for enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of FLR. Areas of need include: maximizing benefits to biodiversity from FLR and methodologies for assessing and tracking impacts to biodiversity from FLR; improving the accuracy and efficiency in tracking the progress of FLR in diverse landscapes and settings including use of remote sensing and drone technologies; improving seed supply and distribution systems; maximizing climate adaptation benefits from FLR interventions; ensuring multi-functionality of landscapes will minimizing tradeoffs between competing objectives (e.g., water, carbon, biodiversity, jobs, etc.); enhancing the evidence base for FLR investment in diverse landscapes and contexts; and more.

1.2.) The baseline scenario and associated baseline projects

The Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) was established in 2001 following the recommendation of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. The mission of the CPF is to promote the sustainable management of all types of forests and to strengthen long-term political commitment to this end. The CPF has two main objectives: to support the work of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and its member countries and to foster increased cooperation and coordination on forests. Its members are 14 international organizations and secretariats with substantial programs 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. Joint Initiatives are one means for doing so.

⁴⁵ Sabogal, C., Besacier, C., McGuire, D. (2015). *Forest and landscape restoration: concepts, approaches and challenges for implementation*. Unasylva, Vol 66 2015/3.

⁴⁶ Hanson et al. (2015). *The Restoration Diagnostic. A Method for Developing Forest Landscape Restoration Strategies by Rapidly Assessing the Status of Key Success Factors*. WRI and IUCN, Washington DC.

⁴⁷ FAO (2015). *Global Guidelines for the restoration of degraded forests and landscapes in drylands: Building resilience and benefiting livelihoods*. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome, Italy.

The CPF has approved this project as one of its Joint Initiatives. Of the CPF's 14 members, 13 have already aligned themselves with this Joint Initiative: CIFOR, CBD, FAO, GEF, ICRAF, ITTO, IUCN, IUFRO, UNCCD, UNDP, UN Environment, UNFF, and the World Bank. The UNFCCC is expected to do so at a later stage. From within this group CBD, CIFOR, FAO, ICRAF, ITTO, IUFRO, UNDP, UN Environment have specified contributions to the executing of this project.

A number of initiatives and partnerships have emerged to provide leadership, technical assistance, knowledge and support to countries in advancing the sustainable management of forests, including through FLR. These include:

- *The Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative (FERI)*. FERI is supported by the Korea Forest Service of the Republic of Korea, and implemented by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). FERI supports developing countries as they develop and operationalize national targets and plans for ecosystem conservation and restoration within the framework of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets, in particular Targets 5, 14, and 15. This is carried out through capacity building workshops and direct support to forest ecosystem restoration planning and on-the-ground implementation in a number of locations around the world.
- *The Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism (FLRM)*. Established by FAO in 2014, the FLR Mechanism aims to contribute to scaling-up, monitoring and reporting on FLR by developing financial intelligence functions (raising awareness on FLR and fundraising actions towards key donors), preparing guidelines and standards for baselines and verification of successful efforts and contributing to more effective reporting to Rio Conventions and other relevant international organizations, processes and initiatives.
- *The Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network (GFFFN)* was mandated by UNFF11 to promote the design of national forest financing strategies to mobilize resources for sustainable forest management.
- *The Global Landscapes Forum (GLF)*. The GLF is a multi-sectoral platform that seeks “to produce and disseminate knowledge and accelerate action to build more resilient, climate friendly, diverse, equitable and productive landscapes.”
- *The Global Partnership on Forest and Landscape Restoration (GPFLR)*. The GPFLR is a worldwide proactive network that unites influential governments, major UN and non-governmental organizations 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 catalyze and reinforce the restoration of deforested and degraded lands around the world. Eleven members of the CPF are also members of the GPFLR, along with several governments.
- *The Global Restoration Council*. The Council is a voluntary, non-departmental entity supported by the World Resources Institute as a contribution to the GPFLR, and that seeks to catalyze and sustain the global movement for restoration.. It is comprised of high-level leaders from civil society organizations and institutions.
- *The United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions for Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD Programme)*. Launched in 2008, the UN-REDD Programme is a multi-donor program supporting nationally led REDD+ processes in over 60 countries – including implementation of REDD+ activities agreed under the UNFCCC. The program is led by FAO, UNDP and UNEP.

Along with national-level projects and programs that integrate restoration, a number of large-scale regional and global programs that focus on restoration or include restoration among supported interventions are in place. These include:

- *African Resilient Landscapes Initiative (ARLI)* – Led by the World Bank and the World Resources Institute, ARLI supports the mobilization of financial and technical resources across African countries. ARLI will be implemented through the African Landscapes Action Plan prepared by the African Union NEPAD, and will work with the AFR100 initiative.

- *The Bonn Challenge Barometer of Progress*. Led by IUCN, this BMUB-supported project will develop and implement a robust and publically-accessible system for tracking progress on Bonn Challenge commitments, as well as provide information and targeted capacity building on FLR.

A number of regional and global GEF-supported initiatives that focus on restoration or include restoration are in place. These include:

- *Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Program* (Brazil, Colombia, Peru). Led by the World Bank, together with WWF-US and UNDP. The program's objective is to protect globally significant biodiversity and implement policies to foster sustainable land use and restoration of native vegetation cover. Supported interventions include integrated management practices and restoration plans to maintain forest ecosystem services and development of sector policies, regulations and incentive mechanisms to reduce deforestation.
- *The Restoration Initiative – Fostering Innovation and Integration in Support of the Bonn Challenge* (CAR, Cameroon, China, DRC, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Myanmar, Pakistan, STP, Tanzania) Led by IUCN, together with FAO and UNEP. The Restoration Initiative is supporting 10 African and Asian countries to achieve restoration objectives, in support of the Bonn Challenge. Supported interventions include policy identification and development, implementation of restoration, and mobilization of FLR finance.
- *Taking Deforestation out of Commodity Supply Chains* (Global). Led by UNDP, together with the World Bank, WWF-US, CI, IADB and UNEP, The Commodities Integrated Approach Pilot aims to reduce the global impacts of agriculture commodities expansion on GHG emissions and biodiversity by meeting the growing demand of palm oil, soy and beef through supply that does not lead to deforestation. Supported interventions include work to direct agricultural development in areas suitable for productions, including degraded areas, while conserving forests and safeguarding the rights of forest-dependent communities.

The International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), which is also a member of the CPF, has been leading and supporting a number of initiatives focused on enhancing FLR science and understanding, and mobilizing funding streams supporting the forest science community in economically disadvantaged countries. Past and ongoing work includes:

- Presenting an international conference on FLR, as a contribution to the implementation of the Bonn Challenge, held in Puerto Rico in June 2017⁴⁸.
- Presenting two regional FLR knowledge-sharing workshop with partners in Rwanda (July 2016) and El Salvador (September 2016), that brought together leading FLR experts and practitioners and covered a wide spectrum of issues including participatory planning, landscape governance, institutional arrangements and regulatory frameworks, to market mechanisms, funding, and technical aspects of FLR operations on the ground. The Rwanda workshop provided inputs into the High-Level Bonn Challenge Ministerial Roundtable in Kigali, also held in July 2016, and that generated the Kigali Declaration on Forest Landscape Restoration in Africa.⁴⁹
- Presently implementing a part of the “Inspire, Support and Mobilize FLR” 4-year FLR project with a goal of initiative at least 10 million ha of restoration in 5 countries by 2017 as a contribution to the Bonn Challenge. The project is supported by BMUB and led by the World Resources Institute.

1.3.) Proposed alternative scenario

Project objective: *To enhance synergies in the global FLR process and assist countries and stakeholders to scale up and strengthen implementation of FLR at national and sub-national levels.*

This project, a Joint Initiative of the CPF, positions the CPF to play a catalytic role in strengthening national and international support and engagement on FLR. It will do this by making full use of the CPF's role, unique membership, and position within the UN system to enhance coherence and effective engagement among CPF member FLR programs, to strengthen coherence and integration of FLR within national and international

⁴⁸ <http://www.iufro.org/science/special/spdc/flr/flrconf/>

⁴⁹ <https://www.iucn.org/news/forests/201607/kigali-declaration-forest-landscape-restoration-africa>

policy including REDD+ policies, and by facilitating the mobilization of additional and needed finance for FLR.

The CPF has the unique advantage of having the 3 Rio Convention Secretariats and the UNFF as members, which aligns well with the cross-cutting nature of FLR and the integrated approaches that are necessary in promoting and implementing FLR. While CPF members have been working to support developing countries in the definition and delivery of their commitments and national plans on FLR, substantial gaps remain in the analytical, technical, scientific, financial and regulatory support and inter-institutional frameworks and systems needed to implement FLR at the needed scale.

This project will play a key role in supporting effective implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 (UNSPF) and its six Global Forest Goals and associated targets, particularly Global Forest Goal 6, “enhance cooperation, coordination, coherence and synergies on forest-related issues at all levels, including within the UN System and across CPF member organizations”⁵⁰. The UNSFP identifies CPF Joint Initiatives and joint programming as critical means for implementation of the UNSPF.

It also responds to the invitation to CPF members under CBD Decision XIII/7 on forest biodiversity: the role of international organizations in supporting the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.⁵¹

The components and described associated activities and outputs of the proposed GEF project are:

Component 1: Mainstream FLR into national, regional and international policy frameworks and facilitate creation of a coherent in-country enabling environment for FLR

Component 1 will work to support further mainstreaming and coherent integration of FLR into international, regional, and national policy frameworks, and create supportive in-country environments for investment in and implementation of FLR within partner countries. This will include links and strengthened integration of FLR policy into existing REDD+ policy processes at international and national levels. It will include assessments of where opportunities can be found for fiscal and normative policy reforms that remove perverse incentives for deforestation and degradation and catalyze greater investment into forest landscape restoration. Lastly, work under this component will include substantial outreach – via workshops, via partnership with the Global Landscapes Forum, Convention COPs, and/or other relevant fora and stakeholders – to bring the results of supported assessments into the hands of policymakers, investors, and practitioners.

Outcome 1.1: Strengthened and coherent support for FLR within and among key existing international policy frameworks.

Output 1.1.1: Global report on the potential contribution that FLR can make towards achieving commitments under the UNFCCC, CBD, UNCCD, UNFF and the SDGs, providing examples from champion countries and stakeholder initiatives where synergies are being optimized.

Output 1.1.2: Awareness raising and knowledge sharing/learning events in collaboration with the Global Landscapes Forum, Convention COPs, and/or other relevant fora, targeting international policy processes and key stakeholders.

Outcome 1.2: Support stimulated for accelerated progress in achieving restoration goals through promotion of greater policy coherence at the regional, national and sub-national levels.

Output 1.2.1: Series of thematic reports and learning events at the regional and national levels identifying high-value opportunities for fiscal and normative policy reforms. Particular emphasis will be on reforms that improve coherence of regional and national policy frameworks with respect to FLR, and that catalyze investment in FLR from all sources at all levels, including public (national, bilateral, multilateral and

⁵⁰ UNFF 2016. *United Nations strategic plan for forests, 2017-2030*. Available at: http://www.un.org/esa/forests/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/UNSPF_AdvUnedited.pdf

⁵¹ <https://www.cbd.int/decisions/cop/?m=cop-13>

triangular), private and philanthropic. This will include reforming credit financing for SMEs relevant for FLR and assessing fiscal and other financial incentives that lower barriers to investment, particularly for private sector investors.

Output 1.2.2: Outreach campaign to support mainstreaming of FLR into national policy frameworks. This will include policy briefs examining how FLR can be mainstreamed into REDD+ readiness and implementation efforts; filing of additional knowledge gaps to underpin policy change; creation of cross-convention workgroup(s); support for cross-sectoral planning processes; and other efforts.

Component 2: Increase effectiveness and efficiency of resource mobilization for FLR

Component 2 will work to catalyze public- and private-sector investment in FLR, through support for the development of bankable proposals for investment in FLR and facilitated smallholder/private-sector engagement; through support for building capacity for mobilization of FLR finance; and through identification of opportunities for enhanced coordination and partnership among bi- and multi-lateral public sector institutions that support FLR, including the GCF, GEF, LDN Fund, BIOFIN and others.

Outcome 2.1: Increased public- and private-sector funding for FLR

Output 2.1.1: Support to the development of bankable project proposals in collaboration with the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network (GFFFN), and with facilitated smallholder/private-sector engagement. Under this output, support may include online learning, workshop(s), and other means to build capacity among stakeholders on mobilization of FLR finance.

Outcome 2.2: Enhanced synergies and partnership among cross-national programs on FLR from the GEF, GCF, LDN Fund, BIOFIN and others, leading to enhanced impacts and cost savings.

Output 2.2.1: Identified opportunities for capture of synergies and enhanced partnership among emerging cross-national programs on FLR from the GCF, GEF, LDN Fund, BIOFIN and others. Under this output, work may include analysis of the types of functional linkages that presently exist among forest landscape restoration programs, at both design and implementation stages, of the factors underlying successful partnership on forest landscape restoration, and where opportunities may lie for strengthening coherence, capturing efficiencies, and enhancing effectiveness, particularly as new programming models are advanced from the GEF, GCF and other funds.

Component 3: Identify, prioritize and implement opportunities for generating enhanced synergies among CPF member FLR programs, including forming partnerships and developing technical capacities on FLR-related science, technology and innovation.

Component 3 will work to identify and support implementation of key opportunities for more effective engagement on FLR by CPF members and other important stakeholders. This will occur through identification of high-value opportunities for capturing/generating synergies among the FLR programs of CPF members and effective means for implementation; through identification of high-value support to countries on FLR that are presently unrealized, including development of technical and scientific capacities and forming partnerships on FLR science, technology and innovation; and by providing support for the effective sharing and interoperability of key datasets and platforms on FLR that are supported by CPF members and other stakeholders.

Outcome 3.1: Enhanced generation of synergies across national programs on FLR from CPF members and other stakeholders.

Output 3.1.1: Regular communication amongst the CPF-FLR Steering Committee of contributing organizations and twice-yearly convening of all participating CPF members to reinforce coherence and capture of synergies in CPF engagement on FLR. This will include engagement with the GPFLR and the associated Global Restoration Council, and key financial mechanisms active in the FLR space including the GEF, GCF, LDN Fund, FERI and others.

Output 3.1.2: Analysis of CPF member programs on FLR and identified opportunities for strengthened coherence and capturing synergies. As with the analysis under Output 2.2.1 (identifying opportunities for capture of synergies and enhanced partnership among emerging cross-national programs on FLR from the GCF, GEF, LDN Fund, BIOFIN and others), work under this output may include analysis of the types of functional linkages that presently exist among CPF member forest landscape restoration programs, at both design and implementation stages, and where opportunities may lie for capturing efficiencies and enhancing effectiveness.

Output 3.1.3: Identified actions by which members of the CPF could provide useful support to countries, to foster forest landscape restoration, including the development of technical and scientific (research and educational) capacities and forming partnerships on science, technology and innovation. Areas where gaps in the knowledge base are known to exist (and that are described in the “barriers” section above) include maximizing benefits to biodiversity from FLR and methodologies for assessing and tracking impacts to biodiversity from FLR; improving the accuracy and efficiency in tracking the progress of FLR in diverse landscapes and settings including use of remote sensing and drone technologies; improving seed supply and distribution systems; maximizing climate adaptation benefits from FLR interventions; ensuring multi-functionality of landscapes will minimizing tradeoffs between competing objectives (e.g., water, carbon, biodiversity, jobs, etc.); enhancing the evidence base for FLR investment in diverse landscapes and contexts; and more.

Output 3.1.4: Links and interoperability between open data platforms to facilitate the sharing and synthesis of information on FLR. Updating of CPF website on status of the CPF FLR Joint Initiative.

1.4.) Incremental / additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline (GEF Trust Fund and co-financing)

Under the baseline scenario, CPF members and UN member states will continue to pursue FLR through their respective programs of work. Similarly, international financial institutions together with bilateral development assistance agencies will continue to support FLR through their respective work programs. And restoration-focused partnerships and platforms such as the GPFLR, FERI, FLRM, GFFFN, GLF, Global Restoration Council, and UN-REDD Programme will continue to provide support for the implementation of FLR. However, significant opportunities for strengthening coherence in FLR policy frameworks at international, regional, and national levels, and for capturing synergies in the implementation of forest landscape restoration programs, particularly within the UN System and across CPF member organizations, will be untapped due to lack of funding and a dedicated process to support this cross-program/institution and cross-platform assessment, planning and outreach work.

With the GEF funding, CPF will be empowered to more effectively fulfil its role in supporting implementation of the UNSPF, with regards specifically to supporting effective and scaled up implementation of FLR. This will occur through identification and implementation of opportunities to mainstream FLR into international, regional, and national policy frameworks thereby facilitating creation of coherent in-country enabling environments for FLR, by supporting creation of new and enhanced incentives for investment in FLR, and by identification and capture of synergies among FLR programs of CPF members and key stakeholders.

1.5.) Global environmental benefits

The project will indirectly contribute to the achievement of global environmental benefits through facilitated expanded implementation of FLR, complementary measures to avoid further forest loss and deforestation, and contributions that restored forested ecosystems can make to the generation of ecosystem services and restored wildlife species. This includes benefits to biodiversity, climate – through enhanced sequestration and reduced emissions, and from expanded application of sustainable land management in production systems, particularly forested landscapes.

1.6.) Innovation, sustainability and potential scaling up

Innovation

Project innovations include:

- Harnessing the potential for increased coordination and synergies among CPF member organizations which include 5 GEF Agencies and all 3 Rio Conventions.
- Supporting increased mobilization of FLR finance through the development of tailored bankable proposals targeting increased smallholder/private-sector engagement, and employing the UNFF's Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network in this effort. Utilizing the new ELTI FLR Finance course to further support these efforts.
- Working to identify high-value opportunities for partnership among CPF members, countries, and external partners on FLR science, technology and innovation (Project Output 3.1.3.).

Sustainability

Sustainability of project outcomes will be enhanced by working through existing UN institutions and supporting organizations, specifically the UNFF and other CPF member organizations, and by the project's direct links to supporting effective implementation of the agreed-upon UN Strategic Plan for Forests, 2017-2030. Project objectives are also fully aligned with the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, post 2020 ambition under UNFCCC, SDGs to 2030, and highly relevant to the FLR programs of work of the CPF members (e.g., embedded in IUCN's Intersessional Program to 2020 and in the FAO FLR Mechanism).

Potential for scaling up

The project will develop analyses that will point to strategic and practical directions for moving forward on FLR and project proposals that will bring benefits for years to come. Significant opportunities for scaling up of outcomes include:

- Through actions of UN member states. Project outputs will be disseminated to member states and other stakeholders via the CPF knowledge platform (www.cpfweb.org), as well as the knowledge platforms of all CPF members (see *Knowledge Management* below). This includes outputs that seek to strengthen the enabling policy environment for FLR within countries.
- Through identified opportunities for partnership among CPF members, countries, and external partners on FLR science, technology and innovation.
- Through implementation and replication of bankable proposals for FLR, that together work to increase investor confidence in FLR and enhance the suitability of FLR to a wider range of investors, including institutional investors.

2. Stakeholders. Will project design include the participation of relevant stakeholders from [civil society organizations](#) (yes ☒ /no ☐) and [indigenous peoples](#) (yes ☒ /no ☐)? If yes, identify key stakeholders and briefly describe how they will be engaged in project preparation.

The project design has not included direct participation by CSOs, however CSOs are a major constituency of the lead GEF-Agency, IUCN. In addition, IUCN is presently opening up its membership to IPOs. The involvement of CSOs is important to the success of FLR at scale. The project will seek to identify opportunities for CSO engagement, in developing bankable FLR proposals (Output 2.1.1); in identifying high-value opportunities for partnership among CPF members, countries, and external partners on FLR science, technology and innovation (Output 3.1.3); and in developing and promoting awareness raising and knowledge sharing/learning events in collaboration with the Global Landscapes Forum (Output 1.1.2).

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. Are issues on [gender equality](#) and women's empowerment taken into account? (yes ☒ /no ☐). If yes, briefly describe how it will be mainstreamed into project

preparation (e.g. gender analysis), taking into account the differences, needs, roles and priorities of women and men.

Project work and outputs will be fully aligned with the gender policies of IUCN and all participated CPF partners. IUCN recognizes the importance of women in the implementation of sustainable forest landscape restoration and is committed to advancing and promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in all its work. The benefits from bringing gender considerations to bear on restoration processes and the risks from failing to do so will be assessed, contextualized and highlighted in project outputs.

From IUCN and partner experiences, specific benefits from bringing gender considerations to bear on restoration processes may include:

- Capturing specific and relevant knowledge, skills and experiences of women as primary forestry users and food producers;
- Understanding the different roles, rights and responsibilities of men and women, as well as their particular access to and use patterns in forests and agricultural lands;
- Guaranteeing accuracy of information on forest degradation;
- Ensuring efficient measures for the sustainable management of forests, forest conservation and restoration;
- Improving the equitable sharing of benefits from restoration; and
- Complying with a human rights-based approach to development.

Risks related to ignoring gender issues in restoration may include:

- Imprecise identification of the primary stakeholders of forests, forest management and agricultural practices;
- Establishment of inequitable systems for sharing of benefits;
- Maintenance of existing inequality in land and resource use rights;
- Expanded marginalization of women in decision-making; and
- Limiting the sustainability and long-term effectiveness of restoration outcomes.

Progress in mainstreaming gender will be monitored through the project's M&E systems.

4 Risks. Indicate risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the project design (table format acceptable).

Risk	Level	Mitigation Measures
Countries are not sufficiently committed to FLR to make necessary policy reforms	Medium	Restoration is an already identified priority for nearly all GEF-eligible countries (note GEF Sec GEF-7 study), and support for restoration is already reflected to varying degrees in national legislation and policies. Project outputs will focus on identification of ways to achieve greater impact using existing public resources and programs.
International community not sufficiently committed to FLR to further elevate and integrate FLR in the international environmental policy agenda	Low	Restoration is already firmly embedded in the international agenda. Areas that need additional support, and that are addressed by this project, include developing enhanced understanding of the role that FLR can play in achieving commitments under the UNFCCC, CBD, UNCCD, UNFF and the SDGs, and in identifying how best to support effective implementation of FLR – that is also a focus of this project.

Project efforts and work of CPF duplicates work of other institutions and programs engaged in FLR and has little added value	Low	As noted above, while there are numerous initiatives and programs working to support FLR, few if any have the reach, mandate, and key member organization constituency of the CPF. Furthermore, there is insufficient support for the kind of cross-cutting work supported by this project.
Project outputs lack sufficient means for reaching target stakeholders and fail to cut through information flow to have a sizable impact.	Low	Project will make full use of the CPF knowledge platform (www.cpfweb.org), as well as the knowledge platforms of all CPF members, to disseminate project outputs to target stakeholders. A knowledge management strategy for all project outputs will be developed by the project at the outset and integrated into the design and implementation of all project components.
Private sector interest are reluctant to invest in restoration due to lack of information and experience and higher perceived returns on competing investments	Medium	Enhancing private sector engagement in FLR finance remains a key barrier to implementation of FLR at scale. Project will work to enhance the enabling in-country environment for FLR investment and utilize the GFFFN in seeking to reach this important constituency.

5. Coordination. Outline the coordination with other relevant GEF-financed and other initiatives.

The project has been developed in close cooperation with the participating CPF organizations. The CPF adopted this project as a Joint Initiative on Sunday April 30, 2017. Effective coordination will be provided by IUCN through liaison with and regular communication amongst the CPF-FLR Steering Committee, comprised of the contributing CPF members, and through the twice-yearly meetings of the broader group of CPF organizations who have indicated their alignment with the Joint Initiative. One of these will be an in-person meeting held in conjunction with other meetings to reduce costs, and will include external partners for additional inputs.

During the PPG phase, the CPF-FLR Steering Committee will meet and define in detail the implementation arrangements of the project, which may include sub-groups of CPF members taking the lead in executing components of the project.

The project will be closely linked with baseline initiatives described under section B.1.

6. Consistency with National Priorities. Is the project consistent with the National strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions? (yes ☒ /no ☐). If yes, which ones and how: NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc.

The project is a global thematic project and supports restoration objectives enshrined in national strategies of many GEF-eligible countries. As noted earlier, a recent analysis by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) found Restoration and Reforestation to be the most frequently occurring theme among GEF country INDCs, NBSAPs, NAPs (present in 98% of GEF-eligible countries' policy frameworks).

The project is consistent with United National Economic and Social Council Resolution 2015/33, 'International arrangement on forests beyond 2015' adopted on July 22, 2015. Paragraph 20 (c) on core functions of the CPF states: "To enhance coherence as well as policy and programme cooperation and coordination at all levels among its member organizations, including through joint programming and the submission of coordinated proposals to their respective governing bodies, consistent with their mandates". And paragraph 22 (g) of the same Resolution, with a call to the CPF to: "further develop and expand its thematic joint initiatives, taking into account the strengths and focuses of the members of the Partnership".

The project is consistent with recent CBD decisions including: Decision XIII/3 on mainstreaming; XIII/ 5 on ecosystem restoration; XIII/4 (climate change); XIII/28 (indicators) and XIII/ 7 Forest biodiversity: the role of international organizations in supporting the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

7. Knowledge Management. Outline the knowledge management approach for the project, including, if any, plans for the project to learn from other relevant projects and initiatives, to assess and document in a user-friendly form, and share these experiences and expertise with relevant stakeholders.

The project will make full use of the CPF knowledge platform (www.cpfweb.org), as well as the knowledge platforms of all CPF members, to disseminate project outputs to target stakeholders. A knowledge management strategy for all project outputs will be developed by the project at the outset and integrated into the design and implementation of all project components.