



Sub-regional exchange for the Pacific on the restoration of forests and other ecosystems within a landscape approach

Assessing needs and opportunities for a regional ambition

Fiji, 28-31 May 2019



Convention on
Biological Diversity



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Pacific
Community
Communauté
du Pacifique

The overall aim of the workshop is to support Parties in developing and implementing national plans on the restoration of forests and other ecosystems within a landscape approach. Participating countries will be invited to examine their national targets, plans and objectives, and to review the status of degraded forests and other ecosystems with a view to prioritizing areas for ecosystem restoration. The possibility of a sub-regional target for a Pacific wide ambition for Forest and Landscape Restoration (FLR) will be discussed during the workshop.

OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING

Building on the Regional Strategy and Action Plan for Forest and Landscape Restoration adopted at the 27th session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission held in October 2017 in Colombo, Sri Lanka, this workshop will support Strategic Priority 2: *“promote regional dialogue, learning, collaboration and coordinated action on FLR”*. More specifically it will support the following actions under this strategic priority, at the sub-regional level: *“Consolidate an estimate of regional FLR potential by aggregating national targets in interested countries and develop a realistic regional FLR target following national assessment of FLR priorities and opportunities.”*

Given the relatively small forest land area of the Pacific countries compared to the overall Asia-Pacific region, sub-regional coordination between Island nations can be important to ensure the visibility of this group vis-à-vis donors and technical cooperation partners on Forest Ecosystem Restoration and Forest and Landscape Restoration.

A sub-regional target for restoration will be considered in the context of the Bonn Challenge for Forest and Landscape Restoration, a political platform that fosters national action to achieve Aichi Target 15 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. Participating countries will be invited to:

- Examine the targets, plans and objectives that they may already adopted at the national level and consider the steps required to develop specific, measurable and achievable targets, that can contribute to global objectives for ecosystem restoration and Forest and Landscape Restoration;

1

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- Exchange on their experiences of restoration planning and implementation, among themselves and with key experts on specific aspects of restoration;
- Consider the economic dimension of restoration and explore traditional and innovative sources of finance for restoration.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES OF THE MEETING

- Presentation of the different initiatives on restoration, their respective objectives and potential to contribute to environmental and socio-economic targets.
- Assessment of progress in the planning and implementation of national forest and ecosystems restoration plans in the sub-region.
- Identification of barriers, challenges and bottlenecks to forest ecosystem and Forest and Landscape Restoration.
- Agreement on variables for the assessment of costs and benefits of restoration to support an economic study of the regional commitment, including potential benefits in terms of adaptation to Climate Change.
- National ‘roadmaps’ for the definition of SMART targets on forest ecosystem and Forest and Landscape Restoration.
- Elements for a declaration setting a sub-regional ambition on Forest Ecosystem Restoration and Forest and Landscape Restoration.
- Greater visibility to this group of countries vis a vis donor countries.

FORMAT AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

Forestry and CBD focal points from the Pacific region are invited to the workshop. Most of these countries are part of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission.

The workshop will take place over 4 days, including one day of field trip. The workshop is conducted jointly by the Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative (FERI) of the CBD and the Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism (FLRM) of the FAO, in partnership with the Pacific Community (SPC).

PRESENTATION OF ORGANIZING PARTNERS

Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative

The [Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative](#) (FERI) is supported by the Korea Forest Service of the Republic of Korea and implemented by the Secretariat of the [Convention on Biological Diversity \(CBD\)](#). It supports developing country Parties 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, especially Targets 5, 14 and 15. Through a series of regional capacity building workshops FERI provides countries with best practices and foster an exchange of experiences including challenges and opportunities to contribute towards the planning and implementation of forest ecosystem conservation and restoration. This workshop in the Pacific region will be the 6th workshop conducted under the FERI.

Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism

The [Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism](#) aims to significantly contribute to scaling-up, monitoring and reporting on FLR activities to a level needed to meet the Bonn Challenge and Aichi Biodiversity targets, particularly Aichi Biodiversity Target 15. For this, it helps to coordinate and facilitate the development and implementation of projects, programmes and related activities in FAO member countries, in full collaboration with other key actors. In 2019 the FLRM started implementing “The Paris Agreement in Action: Upscaling Forest and

Landscape Restoration to achieve Nationally Determined Contributions” project, funded by the International Climate Initiative of the German Federal Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety. The Asia-Pacific regional component of this project will support the implementation of the AFPC strategy on FLR with a focus on the specific circumstances of the Pacific Islands, under a work package including regional capacity building events on FLR and climate finance related issues such as (a) the preparation of bankable GCF project proposals, (b) the promotion of Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR) as a cost-efficient option to scale up FLR or (c) the valuation of carbon and non-carbon benefits of FLR initiatives.

The Pacific Community (SPC)

For more than 70 years, the Pacific Community (SPC) has been assisting Pacific countries and territories in the development of their human and natural resources. The Land Resources Division (LRD) is now a core part of this, empowering Pacific countries to bring solutions for endangered forests and landscapes as well as for their vulnerable communities. The LRD has helped Pacific communities develop and improve regulatory frameworks (i.e. policies, plans, laws and strategies) and strengthen capacity for the widespread application of sustainable forest and landscape management. The LRD is renowned for promoting knowledge and innovation in such areas as the conservation of forest genetic resources, sustainable timber management, and climate-change adaptation and mitigation (REDD+), and it has helped raise public awareness of the importance of forests and trees to socio-economic and environmental development. The LRD is now implementing about ten regional projects with various international and regional partners. The current LRD strategic programme (2019–2025) is designed to strengthen the sustainable management of forest resources, ecosystems and markets, following the strategic direction set out in the Sustainable Development Goals. The LRD is committed to supporting the development of a new integrated programme on healthy ecosystems to ensure that foresters, policymakers and local communities work collaboratively to halt deforestation and conserve healthy forestry ecosystems for future generations.

DETAILED AGENDA:

Tuesday 28 May - The policy context for forest restoration

Objectives of the day

- Ensure that participants have a good understanding the different initiatives on restoration, their respective objectives and potential to contribute to environmental and socio-economic targets.
- Review the national targets, pledges or commitments on restoration at the national level and evaluate their alignment and coherence.
- Assess data needs and capacity gaps to establish national targets that are Specific, Measurable, Agreed, Realistic and Time-bound (SMART)

08h30 – 09h00	Participant's welcome and registration
9h00 – 10h30	Opening session Presentation of the participants and expectations from the workshop Review and adoption of the agenda
10h30 – 11h00	<i>Coffee break</i>
11h00 – 12h00	Introductory session // Setting the scene Forest Ecosystem Restoration under the Convention on Biological Diversity: a review of key recent decisions and initiatives – <i>Blaise Bodin, CBD FERI</i> The Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Programme in the Pacific sub-region – <i>Yasmeen Telwala, UNCCD</i> The role of Forest and Landscape Restoration to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change – <i>Christophe Besacier, FAO FLRM</i> Regional perspective on Forest and Landscape Restoration – <i>Jalesi Maleboto, SPC</i> <i>Questions and answers / Plenary discussion</i>
12h00 – 12h30	Presentations from two countries on alignment between national restoration targets under a variety of international commitments - <i>TBC</i> <i>Questions and answers / Plenary discussion</i>
12h30 – 13h30	<i>Lunch break</i>

13h30 – 14h00	Overview of results of Section 3 of the pre-workshop questionnaire: national targets and linkages with climate change + Presentation of the country dossiers – <i>Blaise Bodin, CBD FERI</i>
14h00 – 15h00	<p>Interactive exercise: assessment of SMARTness (Specific, Measurable, Agreed, Realistic and Time-bound) of national targets on Forest Ecosystem and Forest and Landscape Restoration and their coherence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants split into three groups (Large: Fiji, PNG, Solomons, Vanuatu; Medium: Samoa, Tonga; Small: atoll countries) and work with/on their country dossiers • Part 1 – assess if elements of a SMART target are present in the national target under the CBD • Part 2 – draft a mock SMART target at the national scale that is coherent and align with other commitments
15h00 – 15h30	Report back from the group discussions
15h30 – 16h00	<i>Coffee break</i>
16h00 – 17h00	<p>Overview of results of Section 1 of the country dossiers: Assessment of state and trends of ecosystems – <i>Mathilde Iweins, FAO FLRM</i></p> <p>Group discussion: what data is available at the national level to assess opportunities for restoration and where are the gaps?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each country lists 3 priority data gaps at the national level and potential technical partners that may help fill it
17h00 – 17h30	Plenary discussion – Listing of key messages from the day on alignment between restoration targets and data needs

Wednesday 29 May - Design and implementation of restoration interventions

Objectives of the day

- Promote exchange of experiences on restoration among participating countries
- Offer participants direct contact with key experts on specific restoration techniques to exchange on the design of their restoration actions
- Outline potential future collaborations with experts for the integration of specific FLR options within their NDCs
- Extract specific key messages about the technical support needed in the region to include in the sub-regional declaration on FLR

9h00 – 09h15 **Recap of previous day** (by one of the participants)

9h15 – 10h00 **Picture-based presentations from two selected country representatives**, focusing on a story of implementing restoration actions on the ground.

Each presentation should be 10 minutes maximum and cover the following elements:

- What were the objectives of the restoration action?
- What went well?
- What did not go well?
- What is needed to do it better next time?

Questions and answers

10h00 – 11h00 **Presentation by each of the experts on their area of expertise in restoration approaches** (10 minutes each + questions)

- Assisted natural regeneration – *Christian Fedlmeier, GiZ*
- Mangrove restoration - *TBD*
- Agroforestry – *Christine Fung, GiZ,*
- Community engagement and monitoring – *Anjali Nelson, Director, The Nakau Programme*

Participants choose 3 topics that are they are most interested in and write down their wishes in order of preference

11h00 – 11h30 *Coffee break + REDD+ information corner*

11h30 – 13h00 **Restoration clinics – Session 1**

- Each participant to present their expectations with regards to the application of the restoration approach in question
- Experts to provide more details on available restoration techniques and how they may apply to the respective contexts of participants
- Open discussion and drafting of key messages

13h00 – 14h00 *Lunch break*

14h00 – 15h30 **Restoration clinics – Session 2**

- Each participant to present their expectations with regards to the application of the restoration approach in question
- Experts to provide more details on available restoration techniques and how they may apply to the respective contexts of participants
- Open discussion and drafting of key messages

15h30 – 16h00 *Coffee break*

16h00 – 17h00 **Report back from each thematic group and discussion**

Listing of key messages and priority needs of the sub-region under each theme

Social event – Dinner at South Sea Orchids restaurant

Thursday 30 May - Access to Finance for Restoration

Objectives of the day

- Raise awareness of participants of the importance of considering the economic dimension of restoration
- Discuss the potential application of the TEER study in the sub-region
- Explore traditional and innovative sources of finance for restoration
- Adopt the final key message from the workshop and a roadmap for a sub-regional declaration on forest restoration

9h00 – 09h15	Recap of previous day (by one of the participants)
09h15 – 10h45	The Economics of Ecosystem Restoration (15 mn) Presentation of the study The Economics of Ecosystem Restoration: How can better information on the costs and benefits of restoration help set more ambitious targets – <i>Christophe Besacier, FAO FLRM</i> (45 mn) Interactive exercise: Participants to split in three groups, one for each type of restoration intervention (Assisted natural regeneration, Agroforestry, Mangrove restoration) and identify: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Main categories of costs- Main categories of benefits (30 mn) Report back and discussion
10h45 – 11h15	<i>Coffee break</i>
11h15 – 11h45	Regional Payments for Ecosystem Services at the service of restoration: the example of the Nakau Programme – <i>Anjali Nelson, Nakau Programme Director</i>
11h45 – 13h00	Panel discussion on accessing finance for FLR <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Speakers: GIZ, UNDP, FAO, UNCCD, UNDP (TBC)
13h00 – 14h00	<i>Lunch break</i>
13h30 – 15h30	Plenary discussion: Drafting of key messages for Day 3

Adoption of key messages from the meeting and roadmap towards the adoption of a sub-regional target for restoration and political declaration by October 2019

Friday 31 May - Field Trip

More details forthcoming

Time	Site	Summary
8:30am	Rise beyond the reef	Tour around the vicinity
10:00am	FRIENDS	Tour around the vicinity
12:00pm	Vuda	Lunch
2pm	Vuda	Mangrove potting and replanting program
4pm	Return to base	