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Capacity-development workshop for
Central, Eastern and Southern Africa on
the restoration of forests and other
ecosystems to support the achievement of
the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

2-6 October 2017- Durban, South Africa

Report of the Capacity-development workshop for Central, Eastern and Southern Africa on the restoration of forests and other ecosystems to support the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

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INTRODUCTION

1. In decision X/2, the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) adopted the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, in which twenty headline Aichi Biodiversity Targets to be achieved by 2015 or 2020 are organized under five strategic goals. Aichi Biodiversity Targets 5, 14 and 15, set global targets to reduce the loss of natural habitats, ensure ecosystem services and restore degraded areas. Progress on these targets complements progress towards many other targets.
2. In response to decision XI/16 and the Hyderabad Call for a Concerted Effort on Ecosystem Restoration, the government of the Republic of Korea through the Korea Forest Service established the Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative (FERI) to support Parties in achieving Aichi Biodiversity Targets 5, 14 and 15 in an integrated manner. Through a Memorandum of Understanding with the Korea Forest Service, signed in March 2015, the CBD Secretariat is implementing the FERI which was welcomed by the Conference of the Parties to the CBD at its twelfth meeting in decision XII/19, paragraph 5. FERI support to Parties includes direct support to country projects as well as capacity building, including through a series of sub-regional workshops.
3. The Capacity-development workshop for Central, Eastern and Southern Africa on the restoration of forests and other ecosystems to support the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets was conducted

in French and English, from 2 to 6 October 2017 in Durban, South Africa. This workshop is one of a series being organized through the implementation of the FERI through the financial assistance of the Korea Forest Service of the Government of the Republic of Korea.

4. The Secretariat is offering this capacity-development activity to Parties to enhance biodiversity considerations across the landscape level, through integrated and collaborative planning, implementation and reporting. The overall aim of the workshop is to support Parties in carrying out national plans on ecosystem restoration, guided by the Short Term Action Plan on Ecosystem Restoration, with a focus on efforts taken in forest and other ecosystems to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Targets 5, 14 and 15 and related targets.

5. Towards the aim identified, the workshop enabled:

- (a) A review of national commitments and their stages of implementation;
- (b) A better understanding of the motives/drivers for restoration and best practices from experts in the field, including on ways and means to leverage actions to plan, restore and monitor the benefits from ecosystem services in national plans and frameworks for implementation;
- (c) A review of relevant global and regional initiatives, and how these integrate biodiversity and ecosystem considerations within their activities, as well as in the tools used to support the implementation and tracking of country commitments under such initiatives;
- (d) South-South exchange of experiences and knowledge and the benefits to ecological, social and economic sustainability; and
- (e) Ways and means to mobilize domestic and international public and private resources, engaging different stakeholders and incentivizing long term actions in ecosystem restoration.

6. The workshop was attended by 54 participants, including 25 funded country representatives from Central, Eastern and Southern Africa.

7. A copy of presentations and other documents can be found at www.feri-biodiversity.org/durban

8. This report provides an overview of the workshop sessions and discussions. The detailed agenda for the workshop is presented in Annex I and the full list of participants is presented in Annex II.

KEY MESSAGES FROM THE WORKSHOP

The following key messages were adopted at the final plenary on the last day of the workshop and provide a synthesis of the main discussions and conclusions from the four days of sessions, as well as recommended next steps:

(A) - NATIONAL TARGETS AND INTEGRATION OF COMMITMENTS

- When setting national targets, formulate them to be specific, measurable, agreed, realistic and time bound – avoiding targets that are too complex to achieve or too vague to be useful. Keep in mind that restoration is a process over long time scales.
- Government focal points must work together with local stakeholders to understand their needs and knowledge.

- National implementing agencies and international conventions need to harmonize their processes to reduce costs and delays.
- Focal points for different conventions are often in different ministries, do not know each other and fail to coordinate – an effort should be made to establish working relationships.
- The private sector is both part of the causes of degradation and a net beneficiary of restoration efforts. As such, they should be a contributor to restoration finance.

(B) PLANNING OF RESTORATION ACTIVITIES

- There is no one approach to restoration, but rather a series of principles and guidance to be followed in tailoring each site-specific strategy.
- Successful restoration requires to first identify the direct and indirect drivers of degradation. These need to be addressed for restoration efforts to be effective and durable. This may entail arbitration between the priorities of different sectors and the resolution of conflicts of interest.
- Restoration efforts should be based on identified needs, including those of the local community. Clear goals should be set, which account for cultural aspects of resource use. Restoration activities should take into account traditional knowledge and address behavioural change in the communities.
- The success of restoration initiatives is possible only through the involvement of all stakeholders, including those who will be directly affected by the restoration activities
- When starting a community rehabilitation project, carry out a visioning activity in which the community outlines what they would like to see the area looking like in five years' time. This forms the basis of discussions about what can be done to achieve this and avoids a “wish list” of expectations that are not achievable.
- The benefits of restoration should be clearly explained to and preferably requested by the communities involved. They must see the benefit of the project to themselves to ensure their commitment to the restoration process. For example, if people have greater access to medicinal plants and more grass for livestock, thatching and making baskets, they will be motivated to find solutions and contribute to activities that are then more likely to be successful. It may be necessary to provide an alternative to communities in terms of access to resources. A strategy that incorporates the needs of the land users or owners should be at the centre of restoration planning to ensure sustainability
- Cost-benefit analyses can be important: to weigh the cost and benefits of restoration efforts against likelihood of success; and vs the costs and benefits of other activities on the land over time. Take into account national priorities - restoration will not always be the priority.
- Food security is arguably one of the biggest priorities for most countries. Restoration of natural resources contributes to food/energy/water nexus and must therefore be coordinated with these agendas. It is useful to map out how restoration contributes to the objectives of other sectors.
- Ecosystem restoration can be a practical application of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. It can reduce the impacts of climate change, conserve species and contribute to disaster risk reduction.

(C) - ON-THE-GROUND IMPLEMENTATION

- The work of limiting the spread of invasive species and prevent their introduction to new locations can save significant effort and cost, compared to restoration activities that seek to remove them.
- Restoration takes time. It could take dozens of years and the land may not be completely restored even in the long term. The short time frames of international commitments may not allow for demonstration of the final results of restoration (hence why the Bonn Challenge now aims for land 'under restoration' by 2020).
- It is not always economical to try to eradicate invasive alien species. In some circumstances it may be better to control and minimize the impact of these species, use them for subsistence or commercial activity if possible, and manage them as a part of the landscape. One pillar of invasive species management is the development of value-added industries: mine the invasive species until you can recover the productive value of the site.
- Work with ecological processes, not against them. Natural regeneration can be a cost-effective option and is worth evaluating. Restoration can also be combined with productive use of the land if the process is well planned and managed.
- Correct species identification, species-site matching and use of indigenous species sourced locally is very important. For example, make use of best available science and consult local knowledge of fast-growing plant species for quicker soil stabilization.
- Restoration in the wind path is a challenge and requires use of native, fire-resistant species, or native species integrated with fire management techniques.
- One approach to manage invasive plant species is to establish fast-growing tree species amongst them in clusters, which may then outgrow and shade off the unwanted species until they are suppressed.

(D) – MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING

- Monitoring restoration and rehabilitation is necessary, but does not have to involve complex scientific techniques.
- Communities can be trained to use simple monitoring techniques to understand and inform the restoration process.
- The results of the monitoring programme need to be reported back to the community, the restoration practitioners, the public, and used to inform adaptive management.
- Monitoring programmes can be strengthened by optimizing the use of remote sensing and monitoring tools and collaboration on data collection, using citizen science.
- Restoration standards can be used as a guideline, keeping in mind the realities of the African context. They can define an end point for 'ideal' restoration, followed by prioritization of what can realistically be achieved. Information of 'how much' of the standards can be achieved can be useful to feed back into the reporting on progress under the targets.

(E) - IDEAS FOR COLLABORATIVE NEXT STEPS

- Organize an African knowledge exchange event on restoration, with experts providing advice to concrete restoration problems or initiatives.

- Upscale monitoring tools like AFIS to serve the whole continent (or SSA). Cost of monitoring per ha would be less as we scale up. Could be approached internationally rather than countries individually.
- Identify tools and existing databases for rangeland monitoring
- Establish an online platform (clearing house) where one can create a request for help from a restoration expert with a restoration problem/how to develop a restoration strategy for a particular area. Consider links to AfriOCAT. Should mature to a regional coordination framework.
- Developing a community of practice in the region (especially on wetlands) and work to share knowledge and new experiences.
- Dissemination options: find ways to feed the recommendations from this meeting into also the other Rio Conventions & Bonn Challenge processes. We should also find ways of informing donor communities.
- Set up a mailing list for further information sharing. Note: this has provisionally been done as a Google group.

SUMMARY OF THE WORKSHOP SESSIONS - MONDAY 2 OCTOBER

Welcome Session

The day started with a warm welcome from Dr Christo Marais, Chief Director: Natural Resource Management Programmes at the Department of Environmental Affairs of South Africa welcoming guests on behalf of the South African Government, followed by Lisa Janishevski who read welcome remarks on behalf of the Executive Secretary of the CBD. Blaise Bodin, also from the CBD Secretariat then provided an overview of the programme and planned activities and how they tie up to the objectives of the workshop. After that, participants at each table were invited to have a brief discussion on what they expect from the workshop.

Session 1 – Setting the scene

This session aimed to provide background knowledge on international commitments of relevance. Lisa Janishevski gave a presentation on the three Aichi Biodiversity Targets that the FERI supports (Target 5, 14 & 15), addressing also the Short Term Action Plan on Ecosystem Restoration (STAPER). The STAPER was adopted at CBD COP 13 in Mexico, having been proposed by the African Region at SBSSTA 19 in Canada 2015. It provides a flexible framework for the implementation of ecosystem restoration at the national level. At CBD COP 12 parties adopted a decision on ecosystem restoration and conservation and two years later at COP 13 the Korea Forest Service proposed the Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative (FERI), which is now implemented by the CBD and among other activities conducts capacity-building workshops such as this one.

Blaise Bodin then gave a presentation on the progress of the region towards Aichi Biodiversity Targets 5, 14 and 15, including results of a questionnaire that participants were asked to answer before attending the workshop. His presentation included the following points:

- The African continent is experiencing sustained and increasing forest cover loss.
- Out of 24 countries in Central, Eastern and Southern Africa, around 80% have relevant national targets under Aichi Targets 5, 14 and 15.
- Around half of the participants had heard of the STAPER, and most did not know or did not believe that their government had made use of the STAPER.

- Self-Assessment of progress on targets 5, 14 and 15 is not positive, with over 75% of respondents reporting that their country is moving away from the targets, making no progress, or moving forward at an insufficient rate.
- AFR100 is a country-led effort to bring 100 million hectares of land in Africa into restoration by 2030, contributing to the Bonn Challenge and Aichi Biodiversity Target 15.

Session 2: Avoiding ecosystem loss and degradation.

Blaise Bodin presented again on the progress of the region under Aichi Biodiversity Target 5 and introduced the concept of SMART (Specific, Measurable, Agreed, Realistic and Time-bound) national targets, covering the following points:

- National targets must be specific, measurable, agreed, realistic and time-bound. To measure the rate of loss of natural habitats in response to Aichi Biodiversity Target 5, countries must provide a baseline to be measured against.
- Targets 5 and 15 are interlinked, in so far as ecosystem restoration can be used as a way to improve the net balance of ecosystem loss and degradation at the national scale. However, gains in natural ecosystems from restoration do not compensate for loss of natural habitat in the same time frame.
- National targets that distinguish between gross loss of natural ecosystems and targeted gains provide a clearer contribution to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and facilitate an assessment of outlook at the regional or global scale through the aggregation of national targets.

Participants then did an exercise where we reviewed each country's target (5, 14 and 15) and attempted to re-write them to meet the SMART criteria.

Further to this, Mr. Baggu Kenyi Bullen made a presentation on Aichi Biodiversity Target 5 in South Sudan, covering the following points:

- Trees cover in South Sudan is 33%. Savannahs and woodlands harbor significant wildlife populations, including the biodiversity hotspot of Imatong mountains.
- Forest loss is estimated at 2% per year between 1973 and 2006.
- South Sudan became party to the CBD in 2010 and to the UNFCCC in 2014.
- Aichi Target 5 on the reduction of loss of natural habitats has an important impact on land use, biodiversity and ecosystem services. This can be strengthened through legislation for land use planning zoning of forest and policy frameworks.
- However, the proposed Aichi target 5 in South Sudan is under discussion and final draft November and December 2017 will allow for its endorsement and approval later on. This presentation is on proposed target for South Sudan to meet the need for the zero draft in December 2017.

Session 3 - Identify the drivers of the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystems

In this session, participants were invited to work in sub-regional groups (Southern, Eastern and central Africa) and work on maps of their respective countries that depicted recent deforestation. Using the maps,

they assessed and listed through discussion the direct drivers (and indirect drivers) of ecosystem degradation in the region and identified other ministries in government or agencies that might need to be involved to address them.

For example, South Africa found that plantations of Eucalyptus sp. and sugar cane were one of the drivers of forest loss (with the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries the main agency in charge of a potential response), as well as the ever-expanding mines (Department of mineral resources). It appeared clearly from the report back sessions that the main drivers of degradation are different from country to country and that tailored responses are needed. It was also clear that there are socio-ecological needs associated with indirect drivers, such as food security.

SUMMARY OF THE WORKSHOP SESSIONS – TUESDAY 3 OCTOBER

Session 4 - Identify and prioritize restoration areas: The Red List of Ecosystems

This session started off with a presentation on the Red List of ecosystems, followed by an example of its application in Madagascar. Pelle Bagesund of IUCN made the following points in his presentation on the Red List of Ecosystems (RLE):

- The goal of the RLE is to support conservation and decision making for land and water use and management by identifying ecosystems that are not at risk (Least Concern) and those most at risk (hence a Red List). By assessing the risks of biodiversity loss at the ecosystem level, the RLE can account for broad scale ecological processes and the important interactions among species that keep ecosystems functioning.
- The RLE is a risk assessment tool; as such it will only be as good as how it is applied in conservation and land/water use planning, decision making and action. The RLE is ideally suited for conservation agencies to engage at a national level, in terms of increasing knowledge on conservation status (based on sound science) and subsequently assisting with the decision making and priority setting process for action at technical, political and financing levels.
- The RLE has the potential to be an important and cost-effective tool to assist countries with environmental monitoring and their international reporting requirements (e.g. SDGs, Aichi Targets) in a manner that is comparable over time and repeatable; for example being able to carry out repeat RLEs every 5 years (at relatively low cost).

Mrs Tahiry Fanomezana RAKOTOMAMONJY, Ingénieur des Eaux et Forêts then presented on how the RLE has been applied in Madagascar.

- Three criteria have been used to prioritize ecosystems for restoration in the country (i) ecological quality, (ii) legal protection/recognition and (iii) socio-economic value.
- For the RLE, the country used a different set of criteria such as the reduction of spatial distribution, including future trends, and the extent of occurrence
- The RLE is seen as a tool to support decision making in the implementation of the country's NBSAP and other environmental policies

Session 5 - Assessing the potential costs and multiple benefits of ecosystem restoration

The session started by a general presentation on Aichi Biodiversity Target 14 provided by Blaise Bodin. Aichi Biodiversity Target 14 calls for the preservation and enhancement of ecosystem services, which can be divided in provisioning services (timber, fuel wood, medicinal plants, wild foods...), regulating services (climate, disease, water regulation...), cultural services (spiritual, recreational, touristic...), and supporting services (nutrient cycle, soil formation, evolution...).

Like other Aichi Biodiversity Targets, Implementation of Target 14 must be actionable through SMART national targets the national level.

Sarah Polonsky, Deputy Director at the Department of Environmental Affairs of South Africa then presented on behalf of the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), the National Biodiversity Assessment conducted in 2018:

- The National Biodiversity Assessment seeks to answer how is South Africa's biodiversity doing at the ecosystem, species and genetic level and how is society benefiting from biodiversity
- The NBA focusses on high-level indicators such as threat status and protection level for species and ecosystems, linking with the Red List of ecosystems framework
- The full process took four years from 2015 to 2018
- The discussion that ensued highlighted the particular context of South Africa compared to many other countries present with regards to forest restoration: South Africa is dominated by grasslands and with bush encroachment there are shifts from grasslands to woody savannas. There is therefore less emphasis on conservation through forest restoration, but more emphasis on natural forest ecosystems than in the context of protection of remaining ones that provide habitat to endemic species e.g the Cape parrot is endemic to South Africa and restricted to natural forests dominated by *Podocarpus* sp. When it comes to ecosystem restoration efforts in South Africa therefore focus on grasslands, soil restoration interventions and wetlands restoration.

Mr. Rodney Sibuyi, CEO, Kukula Traditional Health Practitioners Association, then presented on Sustainable harvesting of medicinal plants in Protected Areas as a means to conserve and restore ecosystem services. He made the following remarks:

- In South Africa, as many other countries traditional healers are a marginalized group, and the Kukula Traditional Health Practitioners Association have been working for many years to gain formal recognition. In 2009 they developed their biocultural community protocol and have been using this to engage a variety of stakeholders.
- Mr. Sibuyi shared how the Kukula have been engaging with protected areas managers including South African National Parks (SANParks) and Mariepskop Forest Reserve (Department of Water Affairs and Forestry) regards access to and sustainable management of medicinal plants. The Kukula have shared their knowledge regards medicinal plants species in high demand in buffer zones areas and nursery staff are investing which can be easily propagated, and planted in home gardens.
- The Kukula have volunteered representatives to be included in the SANParks Pepper Bark project training, and these members will then train their wider members regards caring for the seedlings and promote harvesting their leaves rather than the bark. Pepper Bark (*Warburgia salutaris*) is an

endangered medicinal tree species which SANParks has propagated in its nurseries and is distributing to communities.

- Stakeholder engagement is a complex and lengthy process, however, the Kukula are willing to expend considerable time and effort in the hope that their aims of stewarding and sustainably managing medicinal plants for the benefit of their wider communities, to whom the Kukula provide valuable healing services, can be realized.

Session 6 - Identify and prioritize restoration areas: Introduction to the ROAM

Mrs Lisen Runsten presented on the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology or ROAM, a guidance document developed by IUCN to assist countries in the process of assessing restoration opportunities while appropriately involving all stakeholders.

In the interactive exercise that followed, each participant was given a role as a stakeholder in restoration planning (i.e. minister in conservation, in mining, in rural development etc) and the group had to decide how to allocate restoration actions over a landscape taking into account various spatial data layers. In the following discussion, participants remarked on the following aspects of the exercise:

- It was therefore interesting to think of land and its value in different contexts, and hence have a glance of what governments have to think about when deciding whether to have a conservation area or not, and where to have it.
- In our group, each “minister” was pushing for their services and everyone had a different opinion of how things should work, this is of course reflective of the real world and reflective of why most projects don’t get approved as early as we want
- The exercise brings forward the complexity of arguing for a conservation target and then having to sell the idea when going back discussing it with other parts of government
- Extensive stakeholder engagement is key to the process, even with only 6 participants in the group, a lot of discussion was necessary to overcome the many disagreements. It is therefore good to iron out these different views in the beginning, otherwise if you start with a project blindsiding other stakeholders (i.e. communities), these disagreements may arise at a later stage and compromise the work. On a positive note, the more stakeholders, the more partners later supporting the process.

Tom Ndamira Rukundo, Environment Impact Assessment and Research Specialist at the National Forestry Authority of Uganda then made a presentation on the Implementation of ROAM in Uganda, providing a real-world example of the application of the methodology:

- Uganda made a commitment to restore 2.5 million hectares of deforested and degraded land, as a pledge towards the Bonn Challenge. The primary target is to restore forest cover from the current 9% to a national target of 24% of Uganda’s land cover.
- In order to attain the target, Uganda uses Forest landscape Restoration (FLR) and conducted an assessment of restoration opportunities using ROAM to identify the sites in the different landscapes of the country which are deforested and degraded, and determine their size and the most socio-ecologically and economically optimal restoration options or interventions.
- Conducted by the Ministry of Water and Environment in partnership with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), World Resources Institute (WRI) and other Government Agencies, the assessment stratified Uganda into 7 land type zones and conducted a geospatial analysis using indicators for land degradation.

- Findings included a total of 8,079,6221 ha of land with opportunities for forest landscape restoration. Afforestation (planting of trees in areas not under forest for the last ten years), reforestation, agroforestry and natural regeneration are the most preferred restoration options.
- Success factors that already exist for restoration interventions include legal and policy requirements of FLR, suitable ecological conditions and suitable market conditions. Missing factors include awareness of FLR and its role among local communities, well-defined tree and forest tenure under customary land tenure system and resources committed to restoration and monitoring system for restoration interventions.

Session 7 - Alignment between ecosystem-based targets at the national level

The session opened with a panel on alignment of restoration strategies between countries' commitments to various international agreements and initiatives:

- Ecosystem-based NDCs answer to the UNFCCC
- LDN targets answer to the UNCCD
- NBSAPs answer to the CBD's Aichi Biodiversity Targets 5 and 15
- The Restoration Strategy answers to the Bonn Challenge and AFR100

Panelists were Mrs Kefilwe Morapedi Tsetse of the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources Conservation and Tourism from Botswana, Ms Martha Mphatso Kalemba, Principal Environmental Officer, Ministry of Natural Resources, Energy and Mining of Malawi and Dr Christo Marais, Chief Director: Natural Resource Management Programmes at the Department of Environmental Affairs of South Africa.

Participants were then asked to do an exercise on the alignment of national targets, analyzing their national targets on restoration under different fora and noting points of discrepancy or alignment. The conclusion from the exercise is that there is a need to harmonize/align the targets to avoid confusion on the commitments of the country. Synergies can take place between the implementation actions for these targets.

Jonathan Wesley Roberts, FAO, made a presentation on Progress on REDD+ preparedness in African countries. The presentation provided an overview of the current status of African countries with regards to their respective UN REDD+ programs. The context of the presentation was the Warsaw Framework elements decided upon in 2013 and which are now used to measure a country's preparedness in terms of progress towards REDD+ implementation.

- The presentation began with an overview of the context within which REDD+ is implemented and proceeded to outline the global progress made by the initiative. The presentation followed on reviewing country level progress towards each of the Framework elements, UN REDD+ Strategy Action Plan, National Forest Monitoring System, Forest Reference Emissions Level, and Safeguards Information Systems. Progress varies depending on location however, of the 29 countries listed on the UN REDD website approximately 23 either have a strategy in place or are working towards completing the strategy / action plan. In terms of Forest Reference Emissions Levels, National Forest Monitoring Systems and Safeguards Information Systems all countries have shown significant progress.
- The presentation ended with a list of potential synergies between the UN REDD+ program and the Aichi Targets.

- Promoting inter-sectoral co-ordination: CBD and REDD+ focal points and implementing agencies may wish to communicate and consult with each other on information sharing, policy development and implementation
- Considering existing national processes and guidelines on forests and biodiversity when developing REDD+ national strategies (safeguards)
- Taking into account NBSAP commitments in REDD+ planning and implementation
- In NBSAP planning and implementation, identifying and highlighting potential contributions from REDD+ activities, as well as the risks they may pose
- Making available information on benefits or possible harm to biodiversity as a result of REDD+ actions to REDD+ decision-makers, as a basis for adapting plans and implementation in order to promote and support the Cancun safeguards.

SUMMARY OF THE WORKSHOP SESSIONS – WEDNESDAY 4 OCTOBER

Session 8 - Legal and policy frameworks for restoration / Promote and support capacity-building and training and technology transfer / Develop plans for resource mobilization

Mr. Michael Braack, Directorate for Natural Resources Management of South Africa presented on Socio-ecological restoration frameworks at catchment scale.

- The vision of this framework is “To support sustainable livelihoods for local people through integrated landscape management that strives for resilient social- ecological systems and which fosters equity in access to ecosystem services.”
- Land restoration follows a holistic approach that combines grazing, fire and storm water management to improve vegetation cover, slow excessive water movement down and support land- based livelihood options that are sustainable.
- One of the projects implementing the framework is Working for Water, which employs local communities to clear invasive alien plants in wetlands, and therefore restoring the ecological function of those wetlands. The project continues to provide jobs with majority of the workforce being women.

Martha Ngalowera, Environmental Education Officer, Vice President's Office, Division Of Environment then made a presentation on formal education systems on ecosystem restoration in Tanzania, covering the following points:

- Tanzania promotes restoration of ecosystems by integrating biodiversity conservation in teaching and learning processes.
- In response to Aichi Biodiversity Target 1, a Learning Resource Guide was developed in 2013 to be a tool to integrate biodiversity in secondary school. It helps promote the understanding of biodiversity in the student population and facilitates the implementation of Tanzania’s environmental policy, which calls for public participation in the conservation of biodiversity.

Jonathan Wesley Roberts, FAO, then presented on the Forest Landscape Restoration Mechanism (FLRM), a multi-year programme implemented by FAO to address the challenge that almost 1 billion people live on degraded lands around the world and that almost 1 billion hectares of land are considered degraded / denuded. International initiatives within which the mechanism is implemented and aligned include The Global Partnership on Forest and Landscape Restoration (GPFLR), Landscapes for People,

Food and Nature (LPFN) led by Eco Agriculture Partners as well as the FERI. Subnational programs were also outlined and key elements of the mechanism provided.

Session 9 - Planning and implementation of ecosystem restoration activities

In this ‘Restoration clinics’ session, several topics were introduced by experts for different biomes and their expertise with restoration planning and techniques, then participants chose a topic and split in their respective working groups to discuss more in depth with the experts the relevance of that topic in their national context.

The experts were divided by biomes.

- Restoration in the context of forest biomes was presented by Coert Geldenhuys, Forest Ecologist and Dr Mark Nicholson, Director of the Brackenhurst botanical gardens.
- Restoration in the context of grasslands was presented Colin Everson, Grassland & Forest Restoration & Ecology Expert and Terry Everson, Grassland Restoration & Ecology Expert, Community Engagement & capacity building.
- Restoration in the context of Savannas and woodlands was presented by Mr. Japie Buckle, Assistant Director, Operational support and planning at the Department of Environmental Affairs of South Africa.
- Restoration in the context of wetlands was presented by Umesh Bahadur, Director, Working for Wetlands, Dr Farai Terarai, Deputy Director: Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, Working for Wetlands and Dr Piet-Louis Grundling, Deputy Director: Programme Implementation, Working for Wetlands, all three of South Africa.

In the following clinic sessions, each participant presented the context of degradation of the biome in question in their national context, then experts provided more details on available restoration techniques and how they may apply to the respective contexts of participants, followed by an open discussion. The outcomes of these clinics sessions are reflected in the key messages at the beginning of this report.

The session was positively received by participants, who highlighted how further contact with the experts would allow them to write stronger funding proposals for restoration projects. Participants also commended the ability of experts to lead them through complex ecological concepts that are relevant to sound conservation and restoration science.

FIELD TRIP – THURSDAY 5 OCTOBER

The fourth day of the workshop consisted of a field trip that took participants to an education center and forest restoration areas in a landfill site, where they visited the tree nursery and met “trepreneurs” from the local community.

After lunch, participants then visited a dam catchment area where restoration work had also taken place and on the way back stopped to look at a wetland rehabilitation project and associated data collection.

SUMMARY OF THE WORKSHOP SESSIONS – FRIDAY 6 OCTOBER

The last day of the workshop matched with the last group of activities under the STAPER - Monitoring, evaluation, feedback and disseminating results. It covered monitoring systems for restoration, as well as the question of standards and safeguards for restoration, before a final plenary session where the key messages from the workshop were discussed and agreed by all.

Session 10 - Monitoring systems and spatial data platforms

Mr Jonathan Wesley Roberts, FAO, presented on the Collect Earth and Sepal tools for multi-purpose land monitoring

- The FAO have developed a number of tools which are used to support countries in their pursuit of reducing emissions associated with land use change. The Open Foris suite of tools were discussed focusing on the Collect Earth tool. The presentation was also a precursor to a later contribution by a colleague outlining how Collect Earth was used in South Africa.
- The second tool outlined in the presentation is a cloud-based image processing platform called SEPAL. SEPAL is a cloud computing platform for geographical data processing. It enables users to quickly process large amount of data without high network bandwidth requirements or need to invest in high-performance computing infrastructure

Philip Frost, Research Group Leader, EO Apps and Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Meraka Institute, then presented on the AFIS - Operational Fire Monitoring system.

Session 11 - Restoration safeguards and standards

Mr Futsum Hagos Gebremariam, Director of wildlife conservation of Eritrea presented on The challenge of Desertification & The efforts under taking in ecosystem restoration in Eritrea:

- Deforestation in Eritrea is compounded by the demand for timber building materials, soil erosion, overgrazing, and mining.
- Deforestation has prolonged effects on climate change and on livelihoods of farmers.
- About 1,000,000 hectare of land is under closure since 1992, over 100 million seedlings have been planted, and around 80,000 hectare of land is under restoration. School-based programs have implemented the use of energy-efficient stoves. This has already shown positive effects on biodiversity (bird and wild ass populations).

Following his presentation, questions were raised on the issue of efficient cook stoves - in Zambia these cook stoves have not been well-received. How has Eritrea been able to ensure adoption of these stoves? Charcoal has been banned in Eritrea, and so the people appreciate the stoves as they cannot collect firewood (it is too scarce) and cannot use charcoal.

Blaise Bodin then presented on behalf of the Society for Ecological Restoration on "Restoration standards and evaluation of restoration outcomes".

He reviewed the topics discussed during the week, including the different concepts surrounding restoration and definitions.

- A variety of terms are used in the field of restoration:
 - Ecosystem Restoration (Convention on Biological Diversity).

- Ecological Restoration (Society for Ecological Restoration)
- Ecological or Ecosystem restoration is the process of assisting the recovery of an ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged or destroyed. (SER Primer 2004)
- Forest and Landscape Restoration (Global Partnership for Forest Landscape Restoration).
- FLR is the process of regaining ecological functionality and enhancing human well-being across deforested or degraded forest landscapes.
- There are multiple restoration and climate targets: Bonn Challenge, Aichi Biodiversity Target 15, Paris Climate Summit...
- SER's International Standards for Ecological Restoration is a tool for implementing high quality and effective restoration projects. He described the SER "restorative continuum" showing different restorative activities to full ecological restoration on a scale of increasing similarity to local native reference systems.
- SER emphasizes that aggressive targets equal aggressive actions. Climate mitigation alone does not equal restoration, but by integrating biodiversity and social solutions into climate efforts ecological restoration goals can be achieved. The difference between afforestation and reforestation was also reiterated.
- SER has developed tools for implementing ecological restoration including the international standards which are applicable in all ecosystems and all sectors. Three underpinning principles and 6 key concepts and how to upscale were described, with the key concept of striving to return the system to a previous reference system in consultation with all stakeholders. Other tools described included the appendices to the standards, the e-learning course, and practitioner certification.

In the following discussion, participants noted how this opened their understanding that restoration of forests isn't just about having trees up but also having other non flora species that depend on trees and by restoring the ecological function of the forest. A take home message noted by some was also for any restoration project, there must be a clear desired outcome which is more than just having trees. Of course, in the context of climate change trees are need to store carbon but beyond that, there are a lot of other ecological and socio-ecological outcomes linked to forest.

In a final session, participants discussed the key messages proposed by the organizers and suggested edits. The final key messages were then adopted in plenary before the workshop was officially closed by Dr Christo Marais with some inspiring concluding remarks on the importance of further technical cooperation between African countries on restoration.

Annex I – Detailed Agenda

MONDAY – October 2nd

9h00-10h15		Opening Session		
	15	Welcome statement by South Africa	Ministry of Environment of South Africa	Deputy Minister (TBC) Dr Christo Marais
	15	Welcome statement by CBD	SCBD	Lisa Janishevski
	15	Presentation of the agenda with structure of the week around the three targets and the steps of the STAPER	SCBD	Blaise Bodin
	30	Roundtable of participants and their expectations		
10h15-10h45	30mn	Coffee break		

10h45-12h30	Session 1	Setting the scene: the policy landscape for restoration and its connections with other international agendas		
	15	Presentation of Aichi Targets 5, 14 and 15 and the STAPER	SCBD	Lisa Janishevski
	15	Outlook for achieving Targets 5, 14 and 15 in Eastern, Central and Southern Africa/Presentation of the results of the questionnaire on STAPER	SCBD	Blaise Bodin
	15	<i>Q&A with participants</i>		
	15	The policy landscape for ecosystem restoration and its connections to the climate and development agendas		Lisen Runsten
	15	Introduction to the 'country dossiers'	SCBD	Blaise Bodin
	30	<i>Q&A with participants</i>		
12h30-13h30	60	Lunch		

13h30-15h00	Session 2	Avoiding ecosystem loss and degradation		
	15	Presentation of 'SMART' elements under Target 5 and FAO FRA reporting on forests	SCBD	Blaise Bodin

	15	Country presentation on Target 5	South Sudan	Mr. Baggu Kenyi Bullen
	15	<i>Q&A with participants</i>		
	45	Peer review of targets under target 5 <i>Each participant is given a sheet with the Target 5 from an another country and 'checks' against the SMART element. Then both participants work together on drafting a target that meets more of the elements</i>		
15h00-15h30	30	Coffee break		
	20	Report back on the peer review - Each group		

15h50-17h15	Session 3	Identify the drivers of the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystems		
	10	Introduction to the exercise	CBD	Lisen
	45	Interactive exercise on the identification of drivers - From remote sensing to ground-level information <i>Discuss drivers of loss over a map of forest loss (from GFW) - Participants circle areas of loss and identify likely drivers, actions to verify the sources or loss of degradation</i>		
	20	Report back on the drivers' exercise		
	10	Nomination of a participant to do the recap next day		

TUESDAY – October 3rd

9h00-9h15	15	Recap of the previous day by one of the participants		
9h15-10h30	Session 4	Identify and prioritize restoration areas: The Red List of Ecosystems		
	30	Presentation on the Red List of Ecosystems	IUCN	Pelle Bagesund
	15	The restoration strategy of Madagascar and the Red List of Ecosystems	Madagascar, Ministère de l'Environnement de l'Ecologie et des Forêts	Mrs Tahiry Fanomezana RAKOTOMAMONJY, Ingénieur des Eaux et Forêts
	15	Q&A with participants		

	15	Dialogue on the definition of 'natural ecosystems'		
10h30-11h00	30	Coffee break		
11h00-12h30	Session 5	Assessing the potential costs and multiple benefits of ecosystem restoration		
	15	Presentation of target 14 and national targets in the region	SCBD	
	15	Country presentation on Target 14	Ethiopia	Mr. Motuma Didita
	15	Assessment and valuation of ecosystem services in South Africa	SANBI	Dr Christo Marais
	15	"Sustainable harvesting of medicinal plants in Protected Areas as a means to conserve and restore ecosystem services"	Kukula Traditional Health Practitioners Association	Rodney Sibuyi
	30	Q&A and discussion		
12h30-13h30	60	Lunch		
13h30-15h00	Session 6	Identify and prioritize restoration areas: Introduction to the ROAM (Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology)		
	15	Introduction to ROAM	CBD	Lisen Runsten
	60	ROAM interactive exercise <i>Each participant is given a role as a stakeholder in restoration planning and the group decides how to allocate restoration actions over a landscape taking into account various spatial data layers</i>	IUCN	Group sessions
	15	Report back		
15h00-15h30	30	Coffee break		
15h30-17h00	Session 7	Alignment of national targets for restoration		
	30	Panel on alignment of restoration strategies and LDN Each panelist gets 5 minutes to introduce the question in their national context, then moderator introduces three questions for the panelists to discuss	Moderator:	Panelists: Botswana, Malawi and South Africa
	15	Q&A with rest of the audience		
	45	Exercise on the alignment of national targets Participants analyze their national targets		

		under target and note points of discrepancy or alignment		
17h00-17h30	Closing of the day			
	30	Main messages so far - Each table writes down 2-3 key messages from the Monday and Tuesday sessions		
		Nomination of a participant to do the recap next day		

WEDNESDAY – October 4th

9h00-9h15	15	Recap of the previous day by one of the participants		
9.15-10.15	Session 8 Legal and policy frameworks for restoration / Promote and support capacity-building and training and technology transfer / Develop plans for resource mobilization			
60	15	Socio-ecological restoration frameworks at catchment scale	Directorate for Natural Resources Management, South Africa	Mr. Michael Braack
	15	Country presentation on training and education for restoration	Tanzania	Martha Ngalowera, Environmental Education Officer Vice President's Office Division Of Environmen
	15	FAO's Forest Landscape Restoration mechanism	FAO	Mr Jonathan Wesley Roberts
	15	Q&A		
10.15-12.30	Session 9 Planning and implementation of ecosystem restoration activities			
	15	Forest Landscape Restoration v. Ecosystem Restoration v. Ecological Restoration: A primer on definitions	SCBD	Blaise Bodin
	30	Discussion on the definitions and their application in respective national contexts		
	15	Coffee break		
	75	Presentation of the experts for different biomes and their expertise with restoration planning and techniques (25 minutes each): Forests: Coert Geldenhuys and Mark	Plants for Life International University of Pretoria	Dr Mark Nicholson, Director Coert Geldenhuys, Forest Ecologist

		Nicholson Grasslands: Colin and Terry Everson (TBC) Savannas and woodlands: Japie Buckle (TBC)	South African Environmental Observation Network (SAEON) Ministry of Environment of South Africa, Department of Environmental Affairs	Colin Everson, Grassland & Forest Restoration & Ecology Expert Terry Everson, Grassland Restoration & Ecology Expert, Community Engagement & capacity building Mr. Japie Buckle, Assistant Director, Operational support and planning
12h30-13h30	60	Lunch		
13h30-15h45	Session 10	Planning and implementation of ecosystem restoration activities		
	45	Presentation of the experts for different biomes and their expertise with restoration planning and techniques (15 minutes each): Wetlands and rivers: Umesh Bahadur, Farai Terarai and Piet-Louis Grundling	Ministry of Environment of South Africa, Department of Environmental Affairs	Umesh Bahadur, Director, Working for Wetlands Dr Farai Terarai, Deputy Director: Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, Working for Wetlands Dr Piet-Louis Grundling, Deputy Director: Programme Implementation, Working for Wetlands
	5	Participants choose a topic and split in their respective working groups (5-8 people per group, or less if subgroups for ecosystems where there is more than one expert)		
	50	Group work: - Each participant to present the context of degradation of the biome in question in their national context - Experts to provide more details on available restoration techniques and how they may apply to the respective contexts of participants - Open discussion		
15h30-16h00	15	Coffee break		
16h00-17h30	Session 11	Planning and implementation of ecosystem restoration activities (continued)		

45	Restoration planning and implementation roadmaps: Using the template provided, participants list, with the help of the experts: - up to 3 lessons learned for the restoration of a given ecosystem and detail how it is applicable in their national context - up to 3 next steps that they will take upon returning from the workshop to advance the restoration of that ecosystem		
45	Plenary discussion - Report back on the clinics		
	Nomination of a participant to do the recap next day		

THURSDAY – October 5th

Depart From	Destination	Travel Time in bus	Distance	Time needed at site
Beach Front: Leave at 8:30am	Buffelsdraai: arrive at 9:15am	45 mins	35km	3 hours. See: Education Centre; forest restoration areas; landfill site; nursery; meet Trepreneurs from community
Buffelsdraai: Leave at 11:30am	iNanda Dam: arrive at 12:15pm	40 mins	22km	1 1/2 hours: Have lunch; Visit dam wall.
iNanda Dam: Leave at 2:00pm	Springfield Wetland arrive at 2:45pm	40mins	28km	1 hour: Stop to look at and discuss wetland rehabilitation project and associated data collection
Springfield Wetland: Leave at 2:50pm	Beach Front: arrive at 3:15pm	20mins	11km	n/a

FRIDAY – October 6th

9h00-9h15	15	Recap of the day by one of the participants		
9h15-11h30	Session 12	Monitoring systems and spatial data platforms		
135	15	Data platforms for ecosystem assessment and monitoring - Collect Earth and SEPAL	FAO	Mr Jonathan Wesley Roberts

135	15	Collect Earth and its application in South Africa	Ministry of Environment of South Africa, Natural Resource Management Programme	Louwrens Ferreira, Deputy Director: Operational Support and Planning
	15	AFIS - Operational Fire Monitoring	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Meraka Institute	Philip Frost, Research Group Leader, EO Apps
	30	Q&A with participants		
10h30-10h45	15	Coffee break		
	45	Live testing of the Global Forest Watchers tool		
11h30-12h30	Session 13	Restoration safeguards and standards		
	30	Presentation on the restoration safeguards		
	30	Facilitated discussion on safeguards with participants		
12h30-13h30	60	Lunch		
13h30-15h15	Session 15	Plenary discussion and closing session		
	60	Plenary: Participants to list key messages from the workshop		
	15	Adoption of key messages from the workshop		
	15	Evaluation form		
	15	Closing of the workshop		

Annex II. List of participants

Funded country representatives				
Angola	Mr Nascimento António	FOCAL POINT OF MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT TO FAO representative in Angola	Ministry of Environment	kidima.nascimento@yahoo.co.uk
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Burundi	Mr Onesphore MASABO MASABO	Adviser to the OBPE attached to the Biodiversity Research Service responsible for monitoring the dynamics of Biodiversity	Ministry of Water, Environment, Spatial Planning and Urban Development	mas_ones@yahoo.fr
Central African Rep.	Junior Hubert Da Sylva Sokpomou	Expert National Eaux et forêt /Environnement	Ministère de l'Environnement, du Développement Durable, des Eaux, Forêts Chasse et Pêche	sokpomoujunior@gmail.com
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SA experts

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International experts

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