



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
Terms of Reference for Consultant /PSA

Minimum number of years of relevant experience required: 1 year ; 5 years ; 12+years

Job Title	Consultant to Develop Regional Strategy and Action Plan on Forest and Landscape Restoration		
Division/Department	RAP-NRE		
Programme/Project Number	GCP/GLO/579/ROK		
Location	Home station with travel as required		
Expected Start Date of Assignment	15 May 2016	Duration:	40 days WAE up to 30 July 2016
Reports to	Senior Forestry Officer		

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF TASK(S) AND OBJECTIVES TO BE ACHIEVED

Background:

The critical need for forest and forest and landscape restoration (FLR) is widely recognized and the topic features prominently in the global development agenda. For example, the Bonn Challenge launched in 2011 aims to restore 150 million ha of the world's deforested and degraded lands by 2020. Other international commitments related to forest restoration include the CBD Aichi Target 15, the UNFCCC REDD+ goal and the Rio+20 land degradation neutral goal. In the Asia-Pacific region, APEC has adopted an aspirational goal of increasing forest cover in the region by at least 20 million ha by 2020. Despite these commitments and goals to restore forests and the increased focus on landscape approaches, the realization of forest and landscape restoration has been modest due to lack of technical capacity, viable strategies and enabling environment at the national levels.

With this background, a *High-level Regional Consultation to Develop an Action Plan for Forest and Landscape Restoration in Asia-Pacific* was organized by FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in partnership with APFNet, IUCN and WRI on 23 February 2016 in Clark, Philippines during the Asia-Pacific Forestry Week 2016. The purpose of the consultation was to review current initiatives on forest and landscape restoration, and to consider the establishment of some form of regional initiative or mechanism that could support the implementation of national strategies and actions and lays the foundation for coordinated regional dialogue and action on FLR.

The following points summarize the key outcomes of the consultation.

1. While the APEC Forest Cover Goal 2020 has set an aspirational goal for forest restoration efforts in the APEC region, there was a general consensus that a more ambitious target will help to advance restoration efforts in the Asia-Pacific, particularly given the vast area of deforested and degraded forest land in the region.
2. An increase in the target should be carried out in a bottom up manner with each country in the region deciding what target is appropriate for their particular circumstances. Targets should go beyond merely setting aspirational goals for restoration; they should reflect the extent of degraded lands that could benefit from restoration.
3. The national targets should specify the type of restoration that is aimed at, and should be linked to the status of deforestation and forest/land degradation and the balance between production and environmental outcomes. This should also include the potential of increasing tree cover on agricultural lands.
4. While the restoration agenda is an important priority, it cannot and should not take the place of efforts to protect standing natural forests from degradation or deforestation.
5. There was general consensus that a regional initiative or mechanism of some sort would be a useful approach to support national restoration efforts, and that it could perform the following functions:
 - a. Act as a communication hub to collect and distribute knowledge, lessons learned, best practices, progress, etc. from the countries in the region, as well as to draw on experts from the region.

- b. Provide technical and policy guidance for national restoration programs and assist with mobilizing capacity building.
 - c. Provide a bridge between organizations currently working on restoration in the region.
 - d. Facilitate the mobilization of financial resources for Forest and Landscape Restoration.
6. Financing for national level restoration needs to be accessed from a broad variety of sources: domestic finance, traditional donor aid, "impact investors" interested in social and environmental outcomes as well as economic returns, corporate social responsibility approaches, creative financing (e.g., from payments for ecosystem services, special fees and taxes, etc.), and more traditional investors.
 7. Examples of more advanced regional initiative platforms were discussed, including the 20x20 initiative in Latin America and the AFR100 initiative in Africa, which have been very successful in mobilizing high-level national political commitments. The Asia-Pacific region is much larger and more diverse than either Africa or Latin America, and there may be a place for several sub-regional initiatives or mechanisms on restoration.
 8. It was suggested that FAO, together with key partners in the region, continue this dialogue to develop a Regional Strategy and Action Plan on Forest and Landscape Restoration, which would be presented at the 23rd Session of FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO) in July 2016. The proposed consultation at COFO 23 would provide a venue for discussing the draft Regional Strategy and Action Plan that would contain specific suggestions on (i) the functions of a proposed regional initiative or mechanism and (ii) the institutional and operational aspects for implementing efficiently the proposed regional initiative/mechanism.

Tasks:

Following up on the outcomes of the high-level consultation on forest restoration, the consultant will develop a draft *Regional Strategy and Action Plan on Forest and Landscape Restoration for the Asia-Pacific Region* in close communication with forestry officers of FAO and relevant partner organizations in the region. A number of key steps will form the pathway to developing the Asia-Pacific Regional Action Plan on forest and landscape restoration. These can be broadly encapsulated into a VMOSA (Vision, Mission, Objectives, Strategy, Action Plan) framework.

Tasks to be undertaken by the Consultant include:

- 1) Develop a concept note for broad distribution to potential partners inviting expressions of interest in collaborating in such Regional Strategy and Action Plan development and implementation. A significant portion of the concept note could be drawn from the report of the high-level consultation and build on the key outcomes of this first consultation held in Philippines in February 2016. (V, M, O)
- 2) Approach potential partner organizations/institutions to gauge their interest in being involved in the development of this Regional Strategy and the related Action Plan.
- 3) Arrange a stock-taking of regional repositories of forest restoration expertise and resources (i.e. each potential partner to identify areas of expertise and potential human/financial resource contributions).
- 4) Form a small multi-agency core group to develop the draft Regional Strategy (S).
- 5) Organize consultative meetings (remotely) to discuss and finalize the draft Regional Strategy.
- 6) Subsequent to finalization of this Regional Strategy a separate task is to develop a draft Action Plan (A) to promote forest and landscape restoration in the region through enhanced coordination. The Action Plan will describe the way the partners will use the Regional Strategy to meet their objectives.

The Action Plan will identify:

- i. What actions will occur and at what scale the proposed actions are the most relevant (regional, sub-regional and/or national levels);
- ii. Who will carry out these actions;
- iii. A timeline for the actions – commencement and completion;
- iv. What resources (both financial and human) are needed to carry out the proposed actions and how those resources could be mobilized;
- v. Who are the technical and financial partners that could support the implementation of the proposed Strategy and how the collaboration and the communication could be structured to implement effectively this Regional Strategy.

The resulting draft Regional Strategy document including the draft Action Plan will be presented by the Consultant at a side event during COFO 23 in Rome, Italy, 18-22 July 2016. Discussion points and inputs from the side event will be considered in finalizing the Regional Strategy the related Action Plan for the Asia Pacific region.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

<p>Expected Outputs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Draft Asia-Pacific Regional Strategy and its related Action Plan on forest and landscape restoration is developed using a VMOSA framework 2. The Regional Strategy and its related Action Plan is presented at a side event at COFO 23 in Rome, 18-22 July 2016. 3. The Regional Strategy document and its related Action Plan is finalized based on comments from member countries during COFO. 	<p>Required Completion Date:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 30 June 2016 2. 22 July 2016 3. 31 July 2016
<p>Academic Qualifications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Minimum of a university degree in forestry, natural resource management or a related discipline. 	
<p>Technical Competencies and Experience Requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Demonstrated successful experience in strategy development and/or programme planning. ▪ Excellent coordination and facilitation skills and technical writing ability. ▪ Familiarity with technical issues related to forest and landscape restoration. ▪ Excellent written and spoken English. 	
<p>HOW TO APPLY</p>	
<p>Interested applicants are required to create an online Personal Profile form (PPF) in iRecruitment. To create the PPF, please follow the instructions available at: http://www.fao.org/employment/irecruitment-access/en/</p> <p>The PPF should be sent via email to: VA-579-Consultant-RAP@fao.org</p> <p>Deadline for submission of your application: by 4 May 2016.</p> <p>Applications received after the closing date will not be given consideration.</p> <p>Only short listed candidates will be contacted.</p>	