



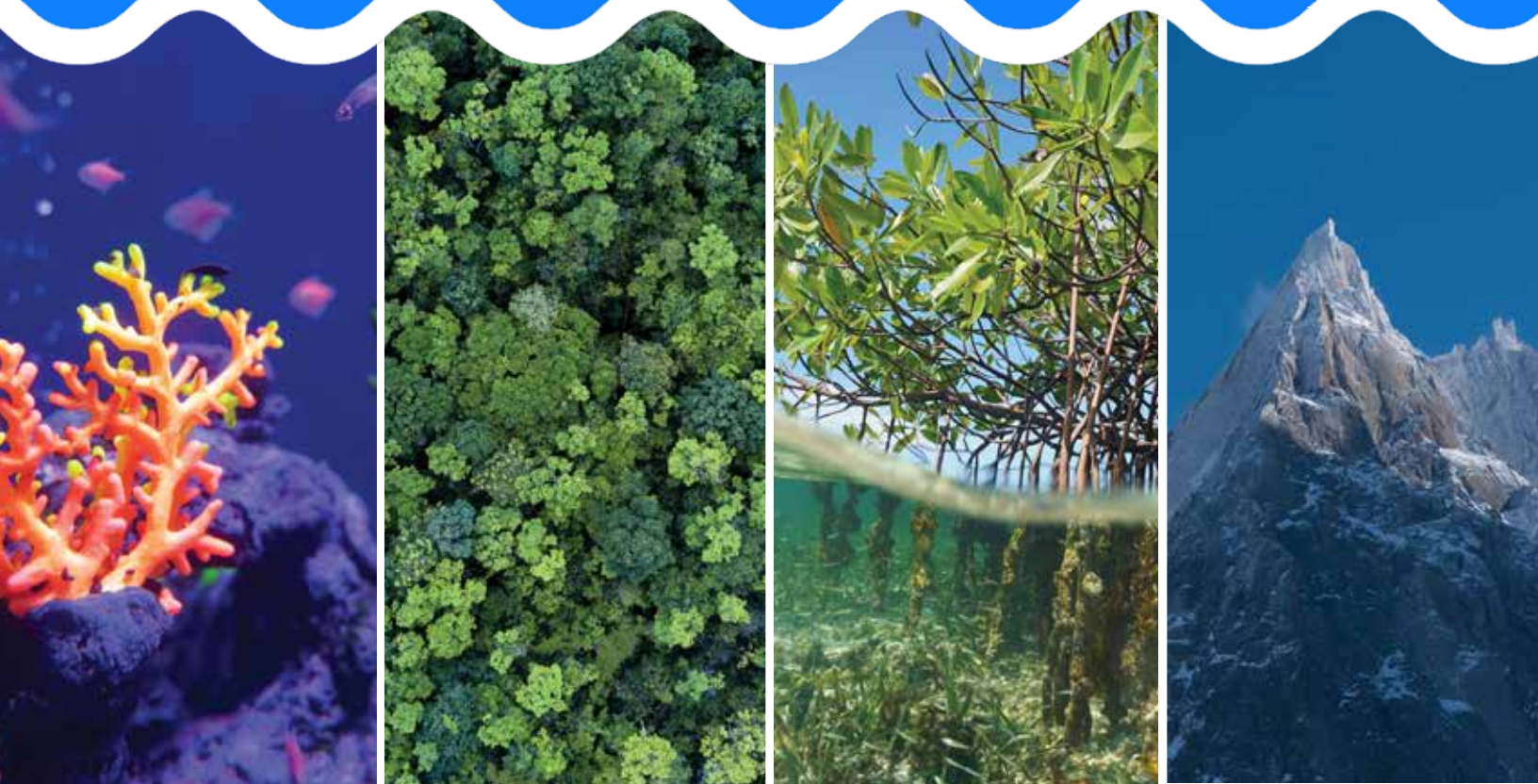
Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Convention on
Biological Diversity



UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON
**ECOSYSTEM
RESTORATION**
2021-2030



Meeting summary:

DEVELOPING A ROADMAP FOR THE KUNMING-MONTREAL GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK TARGET 2

22–24 November 2023 - FAO headquarters - Rome, Italy

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The workshop *Developing a Roadmap for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF) Target 2* was jointly organized by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). It was funded by the Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative (FERI), supported by the Korea Forest Service of the Republic of Korea, the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, supported by the International Climate Initiative of Germany, and the AIM4Forests Programme supported by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The meeting was held from 22 to 24 November 2023, at the FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy.

The main objective of the workshop was to collaboratively build a roadmap for the KM-GBF Target 2 that sets the ambitious goal of at least 30 percent of degraded terrestrial, inland water, and marine and coastal ecosystems being under effective restoration by 2030.

The specific objectives of the workshop were:

- Enhance the understanding of ecosystem restoration planning, monitoring and implementation and setting targets in national biodiversity strategies and action plans.
- Share country experiences and identify capacity needs.
- Discuss the headline indicator of Target 2 for areas under restoration and its qualifiers, and progress toward transparent and effective monitoring.
- Present the Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring (FERM) for transparent monitoring and reporting of ecosystem restoration.
- Discuss tools, initiatives, and best practices for implementing effective ecosystem restoration and a roadmap for supporting the achievement of Target 2 in a cooperative manner.
- Provide inputs to the outline and needs and discuss a resource manual for achieving Target 2.
- Reinforce the linkages of ecosystem restoration to other targets of the KM-GBF and synergies with targets of other multilateral environmental agreements.

The event brought together 100 in-person participants and 100 online participants, including 29 Parties, other Governments, representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities, women groups, global experts, academia, and other relevant organizations and initiatives.

The participants concluded that the indicator methodology for Target 2 must be integrated into national monitoring frameworks providing the necessary feedback for adjustment. In this regard, the *Resource Manual for the KM-GBF Target 2*, which is currently under development, will provide guidelines to operationalize restoration, integrate Target 2 into national biodiversity targets, monitor and report progress, and enhance accessibility to key resources on restoration. Capacity building initiatives and knowledge exchange platforms improve the skills of CBD Parties and share best practices to help with the alignment with Target 2.

FERM was acknowledged as an interoperability engine in supporting the monitoring of Target 2 that will enhance collaboration with partners to ensure the seamless integration of existing and new data on areas under restoration.

Finally, it was also concluded to provide continued support to national reporting after COP 16 for the 7th and 8th national reporting cycles of the GBF, including sharing successful strategies in reporting to help address common challenges.

Three discussion sessions took place to gather inputs from all in-person participants, divided into break-out groups. The discussions centered on the following topics and questions:

1. a) Measuring degradation across different ecosystems; b) identifying restoration objectives and assessing and prioritizing opportunities for restoration; and c) ensuring stakeholder engagement in the target-setting process.
2. a) Current monitoring practices and data compilation methods for restoration in different countries; b) identification of barriers and challenges for restoration monitoring and data compilation; and c) exploration of opportunities and solutions to foster collaboration between government and non-government sectors, aiming for harmonized restoration data reporting at the country level.
3. a) The status of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) for states and how non-state actors have or could contribute to the process; and b) the support needed concerning Target 2 target setting, implementation, and monitoring.

The summaries of the sessions can be found in Section 2: Account of Proceedings, while the results of the break-out groups can be found in Annex II - Summaries of break-out group discussions.

1. INTRODUCTION

In decision 15/4, the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) adopted the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF) including four long-term goals for 2050 and 23 action-oriented global targets for urgent action over the decade to 2030. Target 2 aims to “Ensure that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of areas of degraded terrestrial, inland water, and marine and coastal ecosystems are under effective restoration, in order to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, ecological integrity and connectivity”.

Further, in its decision 15/8, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention requested the Executive Secretary to enable Parties, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, women and youth, and other relevant organizations to prepare, following the adoption of the KM-GBF, thematic capacity-building and development action plans for specific 2030 targets or group of targets, as appropriate, taking into account needs and gaps identified and decided by Parties.

Pursuant to these decisions, the Secretariat of the CBD is collaborating with relevant partners to develop a roadmap to support the achievement of Target 2 of the KM-GBF in synergy with other targets.

FAO, as co-lead of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (“UN Decade”) and lead of the Task Forces on Monitoring and Best Practices, follows the request and mandate given by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) to report on the status of ecosystem restoration in its eighty-first session (resolution A/RES/73/284 from March 2019). FAO’s support to monitoring Target 2 removes duplication of effort and ensures alignment between the monitoring and reporting of progress in the UN Decade and towards the KM-GBF restoration targets.

Accordingly, a workshop on support for the implementation and monitoring of ecosystem restoration, with a focus on creating synergies in achieving Target 2 of the KM-GBF and the implementation of the UN Decade (2021–2030), was jointly convened by the Secretariat of the CBD, FAO and UNEP, from 22 to 24 November 2023, at the FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy.

The workshop was made possible through the financial and technical support of the Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative, supported by the Korea Forest Service of the Republic of Korea, the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, supported by the International Climate Initiative of Germany, and the AIM4Forests Programme, supported by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

[Notification 2023-090](#) was issued on 21 August 2023 by the Secretariat of the CBD, inviting Parties to the Convention, other Governments, representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth groups, and relevant organizations and initiatives to nominate one representative to take part in the workshop.

This report provides an overview of the workshop sessions and discussions. The agenda and organization of the workshop is available in annex I, and summaries of breakout group discussions are available in Annex II.

The workshop was attended by 100 in-person participants, 100 online participants, including 29 representatives of countries, four representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities, two representatives of women's groups, and many key partner agencies (see the list of participants in Annex III).

Background documents, the recordings of plenary sessions of the meeting and all presentations are [available online](#) (see in resources).

OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

- Enhance the understanding of ecosystem restoration planning, monitoring and implementation and setting targets in national biodiversity strategies and action plans.
- Share country experiences and identify capacity needs.
- Discuss the headline indicator of Target 2 for areas under restoration and its qualifiers, and progress toward transparent and effective monitoring.
- Present the Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring (FERM) for transparent monitoring and reporting of ecosystem restoration.
- Discuss tools, initiatives, and best practices for implementing effective ecosystem restoration and a road map for supporting the achievement of Target 2 in a cooperative manner.
- Provide inputs to the outline and needs and discuss a resource manual for achieving Target 2.
- Reinforce the linkages of ecosystem restoration to other targets of the Framework and synergies with targets of other multilateral environmental agreements.

2. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS

OPENING OF THE MEETING

The workshop commenced with opening remarks from David Cooper, Acting Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the CBD, and Zhimin Wu, the Director of the Forestry Division of FAO on behalf of FAO's Forestry Division, FAO's Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment Division, and FAO's Land and Water Division. The meeting's background and objectives were presented by Jamal Annagylyjova of CBD and Julian Fox of FAO.

MEETING BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

BACKGROUND:

Globally, one billion hectares have been committed for land restoration. These efforts are needed because ecosystem restoration is crucial for addressing biodiversity, climate, and land-related challenges. The next seven years are critical for advancing the goals of the 2030 Agenda, and the KM-GBF Target 2 which aims to achieve 30 per cent of degraded terrestrial, inland water, and marine and coastal ecosystems are under effective restoration. The UN Decade (2021-2030) plays a pivotal role in driving these efforts.

SESSION 1 - ALIGNMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION AND THE KUNMING-MONTREAL GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK AND OTHER FRAMEWORKS

1. The session, facilitated by Julian Fox of FAO, laid the foundation for the workshop, offering an overview of the KM-GBF.
2. Frederic Castell of the FAO Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment Division, highlighted FAO's work on biodiversity across agricultural sectors and its contribution in achieving the goals of the KM-GBF. He outlined FAO's strategy to actively support countries in integrating biodiversity across agricultural sectors, encompassing crop and livestock production, forestry, fisheries, and aquaculture, stressing that the objectives of the KM-GBF cannot be achieved without

the active engagement of these sectors. The presentation introduced tools, including the FAO Biodiversity Knowledge Hub¹, to aid users in mainstreaming biodiversity in agrifood sectors and assist policymakers and other actors to implement and monitor the KM-GBF. He also mentioned the linkages between targets 2 and 10, focusing on sustainable agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and aquaculture. He highlighted the importance of agrifood systems for biodiversity and called for the engagement of agrifood stakeholders to upscale biodiversity-friendly practices, including ecological restoration. Additionally, he emphasized using and building on existing technical and policy solutions.

3. Tiina Vähänen presented on behalf of FAO and Natalia Alekseeva, UN Decade Coordinator. She provided an overview of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration², which was established by the UN General Assembly in March 2019 to support and scale up efforts to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems worldwide. The mission focuses on restoring the planet within the ten-year period from 2021 to contribute to the achievement of existing global goals in the context of the Rio Conventions, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Bonn Challenge and others. The UN Decade strategy³ encompasses three pathways: building a global movement, generating political support, and developing technical capacities for implementation. The action plan, launched in April 2023⁴, addresses 12 themes and 31 challenges led by UN Decade partners. Ms. Vähänen emphasized the UN Decade efforts, moving from commitment to action, specifically mentioning the nomination of World Restoration Flagships. She pointed out the establishment of five Task Forces to facilitate the Decade's implementation, with FAO leading two: Best Practices and Monitoring. Additionally, she highlighted the significant contribution of the Task Force on Monitoring⁵ towards achieving the KM-GBF Target 2.
4. Jamal Annagylyjova of the Secretariat of the CBD provided the practical aspects of the KM-GBF Target 2. She highlighted the urgent need to address biodiversity loss, with 20-40 per cent of land degraded, a million species at risk of extinction, and a decline in 14 out of 18 ecosystem service categories since 1970. Key lessons learned from the past decade include the partial achievement of Aichi targets 4, 14, and 15, encountering challenges in defining ecosystem degradation baselines and assessing the total area of degraded ecosystems. Additionally, there is a recognized need for more guidance in the restoration of marine and coastal ecosystems. The KM-GBF, consisting

¹ Will be available at <https://www.fao.org/biodiversity/en>

² <https://www.decadeonrestoration.org/>

³ wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/31813/ERDStrat.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

⁴ <https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/42095>

⁵ <https://www.fao.org/3/cb0424en/cb0424en.pdf>

of 23 interlinked targets grouped in three clusters, offers a cohesive vision for biodiversity. Target 2 aims to ensure that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of areas of degraded terrestrial, inland water, and coastal and marine ecosystems are under effective restoration, to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, ecological integrity and connectivity. The elements of Target 2, including type of ecosystems, baseline for degraded ecosystems, type of restoration, connectivity and integrity and proportionality of national targets will be discussed during the workshop. Additionally, Ms. Annagylyjova mentioned the decisions adopted by the Parties to the Convention during COP 15 in which the Parties are invited to:

- 1) revise and submit the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), including national targets, by COP 16⁶,
 - 2) develop national finance plans or similar instruments⁷, and
 - 3) develop a national capacity building plan, recognizing the role of regional organizations in developing capacity and science-technical cooperation⁸.
5. Maria Rivera of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands⁹, presented how their work on restoration is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the KM-GBF. The 4th Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2025 is aligned with the KM-GBF and the Sustainable Development Goals, including specific targets related to wetlands restoration. Ramsar COP Resolutions adopted by Parties include: to restore wetlands in the context of wise use and based on an avoid-mitigate-compensate framework, to include wetlands restoration in national strategies and plans, and to develop and maintain national wetland inventories. The internal reporting mechanisms, with a three-year cycle, assess progress based on national reports, aiming to enhance data quality and accuracy. Wetland inventories play a crucial role in reporting the achievement of restoration targets. Cooperation with CBD and the UN Decade strategies are opportunities¹⁰, with a focus on supporting the updating of NBSAPs and to works towards adequate reflection of wetlands in the implementation of the KM-GBF.
6. Amani Alfarra of the FAO Land and Water Division presented water as a fundamental component crucial for biodiversity and ecosystem restoration success and its pivotal role in the UN Decade and the KM-GBF. Ms. Alfarra highlighted that the success of ecosystem restoration efforts is inherently tied to responsible water conservation practices. The presentation included the integration of aquatic ecosystems into the FERM of the UN Decade, citing the example of Australia's water

⁶ <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-06-en.pdf>

⁷ <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-07-en.pdf>

⁸ <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-08-en.pdf>

⁹ <https://www.ramsar.org/publications>

¹⁰ <https://www.ramsar.org/about/partnerships/partnership-un-decade-ecosystem-restoration>

efficiency measures to sustain ecosystems. She concluded by emphasizing that the UN Decade, FERM, and the KM-GBF play a crucial role in guiding restoration efforts and monitoring in aquatic ecosystems, underlining the significance of water management practices as a natural resource and its importance as a social and economic asset.

SESSION 2 - UNPACKING TARGET 2

7. The session, facilitated by Mieke Bourne of CIFOR-ICRAF, provided a comprehensive overview of Target 2. Ms. Bourne explained that the discussions would highlight the scope and proportionality, and provide an understanding of degradation and restoration, and how it is measured and targeted across different countries. Additionally, the coverage of global ecosystem typologies and baseline setting of diverse types of restoration in the continuum would be explored, as well as linkage to other targets. Notably, the effectiveness of restoration would be shown through the country case examples.
8. George Gann of SER presented the qualifiers for effective restoration, focusing on the components including effective restoration, ecosystem functions and services, ecological integrity, and connectivity. He highlighted early work on effective restoration, including guidance for restoration in protected areas¹¹. The Short-Term Action Plan on Ecosystem Restoration (adopted as CBD decision XIII/5) was presented, which provides guidance for effective restoration including the incorporation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities' perspectives, capacity building, cost-effectiveness, and links to monitoring¹². The standards for ecological restoration provide some background on effective restoration¹³ which integrates spatial planning, values for both nature and people, ensures net gain, and avoids collateral damage. Acquiring finer scale resolutions will ensure that all ecosystems are included, enabling effective biodiversity restoration due to better knowledge of the local conditions. In addition, understanding the major types of restoration, including ecological restoration and rehabilitation, and the scope of the restoration continuum will translate to activities that improve biodiversity, ecological integrity, and ecosystem services. He highlighted the need for high-level guidance for Target 2 to provide a consensus on the

¹¹ <https://portals.iucn.org/library/efiles/documents/PAG-018.pdf>

¹² cdn.ymaws.com/www.ser.org/resource/resmgr/custompages/publications/ser_publications/stap_er_companion.pdf

¹³ <https://www.ser.org/page/SERStandards>

baseline for defining and achieving ecosystem restoration.

9. Sara Minelli of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification presented on the topic of degraded ecosystems. As there is no universally agreed-upon definition for ecosystem degradation, she highlighted the potential of leveraging the definition of land degradation and the associated indicator and baseline of the Sustainable Development Goal target 15.3¹⁴ as proxies for terrestrial ecosystem degradation. Ms. Minelli noted that 78 countries have reported Land Degradation Neutrality targets, with a focus on restoration and tree cover area. As of 2019, 115 countries reported values of degraded land, with an annual degradation rate of at least 100 million hectares between 2015–2019. Ms. Minelli suggested disaggregating land cover types as a key recommendation¹⁵ for identifying degradation areas, hotspots, and targeted policies. Case examples from Colombia and Venezuela illustrated the practical challenges and approaches in reporting land degradation, emphasizing the importance of refining methodologies to better represent national circumstances.
10. Stephanie Mansourian from IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) presented on the linkages between Targets 2 and 3 in the KM-GBF. She emphasized IUCN's role in providing advice for protected areas, leveraging the expertise of over 2000 scientists. Commonalities between Targets 2 and 3 were explored, particularly in terms of connectivity. Ms. Mansourian provided data on the condition of protected areas, noting that protection is often a strategy chosen to prevent biodiversity loss rather than restoration. The presentation identified opportunities such as revising NBSAPs to include both conserved and restoration areas, setting spatial priorities, engaging in cross-sectoral spatial planning, identifying drivers of degradation, and harmonizing efforts to reduce costs. The linkage between these targets was emphasized for its potential biodiversity and social benefits. She proposed the need for technical guidance, priorities, and outlined the role of the WCPA Restoration Taskforce in developing guidance notes, definitions, policy briefs, and scientific articles for Targets 1 to 3.
11. Fabiola Zerbini from Brazil's Ministry of Environment presented Brazil's experience in assessing degraded ecosystems and identifying restoration targets. She noted that the National Policy for the Recovery of Native Vegetation, also known as PROVEG has set a target of recovering 12 million hectares by 2030. The national policy will be implemented through the PLANAVEG¹⁶ strategic initiative, focusing on spatial planning and monitoring, aligning with targets set by legislation

¹⁴ unccd.int/sites/default/files/documents/2021-09/UNCCD_GPG_SDG-Indicator-15.3.1_version2_2021.pdf

¹⁵ <https://earthobservations.org/atlas/>

¹⁶ https://cooperacaobrasil-alemanha.com/Mata_Atlantica/Planaveg_ingles.pdf

for 2026, which aims at restoring up to 25 million hectares on a broader scale. To achieve this, the inter-ministerial decision-making body, CONAVEG, will collaborate across ministries and stakeholders to govern the national plan and linkages to the national biodiversity goals. The assessment of secondary vegetation in Brazil by researchers has revealed that approximately 30 million hectares of secondary vegetation are present at varying scales in the Amazon, Cerrado, Atlantic Forest, Caatinga, Pantanal and Pampa regions. Despite a lack of official data on degraded lands, insights from private sources inform priority areas. Multi-criteria analysis of different ecosystems aids understanding, incorporating ongoing restoration projects. Ms. Zerbini noted Brazil's restoration commitments in its National Determined Contribution (NDC), work towards alignment with the KM-GBF Target 2, and participation in the Bonn Challenge for restoring 12 million hectares of forests by 2030.

12. Dam Thi Quynh Nga from Viet Nam's Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment presented Vietnam's experience in restoring aquatic and transitional ecosystems. The presentation included definitions of degradation specific to forest, aquatic, and transitional ecosystems, along with criteria for defining ecosystem degradation. Viet Nam follows FAO and SER guidelines for ecosystem restoration, incorporating monitoring tools such as remote sensing. The country is updating its NBSAP to be submitted to the CBD, and establishing linkages with other targets, specifically Targets 1 and 3. Several national laws for biodiversity, fisheries and environmental protection have been implemented. Ongoing efforts to restore coral reefs and mangroves were highlighted. Ms. Nga noted that there are challenges of implementing ecosystem restoration, and that financial and technical resources will lead to a comprehensive evaluation.

SESSION 3 - UNPACKING TARGET 2: THE CHALLENGES, SOLUTIONS, AND WAY FORWARD

Participants engaged in breakout groups sessions discussed the challenges, solutions, and the path forward for unpacking Target 2. The discussions revolved around the topics: a) measuring degradation across different ecosystems, emphasizing key degradation elements; b) identifying restoration objectives and assessing and prioritizing opportunities for restoration; and c) ensuring stakeholder engagement in the target-setting process¹⁷. Breakout groups were divided into four rooms with members with expertise in the following thematic areas: aquatic ecosystems, terrestrial ecosystems,

¹⁷ More can be found at [this link](#)

ecosystems productive functions, and a cross-cutting group of different ecosystems for Spanish-speaking participants. Following the discussions, the groups regathered to present and share their key insights, which are summarized here. The detailed information resulting from the working groups is shown in Annex II.

Measuring degradation across diverse ecosystems, emphasizing key degradation elements

In aquatic ecosystems, degradation is measured through changes in the ecological character of wetlands, including elements such as, connectivity, species richness and physical and chemical water conditions. There are still challenges measuring and defining area and effective restoration, and lack of local information to do these assessments for marine ecosystems. Additionally, in marine and coastal ecosystems, coast changes due to human development are important.

For terrestrial ecosystems, degradation is mostly measured in forests and mangroves. The capacities range from field inventories to remote sensing data, highlighting the importance of an appropriate scale and resolution. The most common parameters are land degradation indicators, evapotranspiration, deforestation, aridity, fire, overgrazing and more. Potential improvements imply data access limitations (public and private) and standard definitions.

Parameters for productive ecosystems are land use change, ecosystem services, carbon stocks, species diversity, invasive species, connectivity, soil quality, pollution, vegetation indexes and fire.

Identifying crucial restoration objectives, assessing and prioritizing opportunities for restoration

Key restoration objectives identified are focused on reestablishing ecosystem services and biodiversity, which in turn will have positive effects on climate change, livelihoods, and health. Some challenges addressed included how to evaluate which aspects of restoration have a positive impact on biodiversity.

For restoration planning and decision support, multi-criteria assessments can be used to prioritize restoration and existing methodologies, like the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM)¹⁸ An emphasis was placed on making restoration decisions at the local level.

Challenges and solutions

Challenges include lack of clear government structures, coordination, and clear policies. NBSAPs require coordination across ministries within the governments.

¹⁸ <https://www.wri.org/research/restoration-opportunities-assessment-methodology-roam>

Stakeholder representation and participation in decision making is still not strong enough. It is proposed to create intersectoral spaces with an emphasis of addressing power during consultations.

Lack of funding can be overcome by increasing social awareness, exploring innovative schemes such as payment for ecosystem services (PES) and securing funding through target 2 initiatives. Capacity building investment was also highlighted as a key solution that would empower stakeholders with the necessary skills.

SESSION 4 - LARGE-SCALE RESTORATION COMMITMENTS AND IMPLEMENTATION - CONNECTIVITY AND TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION

1. The session, facilitated by Carmen Morales of FAO, provided a comprehensive exploration of strategies adopted by different countries for large-scale and transboundary initiatives focused on addressing ecosystem degradation through the implementation, measurement, and reporting of restoration efforts.
2. Prof. Wang Guosheng from the Academy of Forestry Inventory and Planning (SFGA) in China presented on China's Great Green Wall project, including the plan for its 3rd phase implementation (2021-2050), connectivity and biodiversity benefits. The initiative, known as the Three North shelter-forest project in China, is the biggest ecological initiative in the country encompassing all types of ecosystems, with an implementation period of 73 years (1978-2050). Its main objectives are aligned with KM-GBF Target 2, to combat desertification and degradation, conserve soil and water, restore ecosystems and protect biodiversity. The third phase of the project focuses on the connectivity, integration, and protection of fragmented ecosystems, including mountains, rivers, forest, farmland, lakes, grassland, and arid land. Prof. Wang outlined significant biodiversity benefits by improving ecosystems, with an increase of 55.7 per cent of wildlife in the project area.
3. Gilles Amadou Ouédraogo from UNCCD presented the Great Green Wall (GGW) Accelerator and its linkage to Target 2. He provided insights into the GGW initiative¹⁹ spanning 11 countries in the Sahel region in Africa. To connect and engage different stakeholders in GGW efforts, targets were established including restoring 100 million hectares of land, sequestering and/or mitigating 250 million tons of CO₂Eq, and creating 10 million green jobs by 2030. These targets are aligned with the KM-GBF Target 2, however there are some caveats, such as GGW targets are limited to land, not covering all ecosystems. The Accelerator aims to map and monitor all the projects that have been implemented in the last 12

¹⁹ <https://thegreatgreenwall.org/about-great-green-wall>

years, and assess how many hectares have been restored, and assess carbon sequestration. To achieve this, an approach based on 5 pillars will be used: 1) value chains, 2) land restoration, 3) renewable energy, 4) governance and 5) capacity building. The targets and pillars were merged to produce the Harmonized Results Management Framework²⁰. Additionally, Mr. Ouédraogo presented the conditions to qualify an initiative to be considered a GGW project, and introduced a case study from the World Bank on a transboundary project. He also mentioned the GGW platform portal²¹. The portal will include a community hub to share best practices and connect projects with funding opportunities, a project management and financial tracking tool, and a data hub.

4. Mattias Jurek of UNEP provided insights into ecological corridors in the Carpathian Mountains, utilizing large carnivores as umbrella species. The Danube-Carpathian region, identified as a global biodiversity hotspot, faces vulnerability due to its fragile mountain ecosystems and external pressures. He highlighted the key role of mountain ecosystems in the water cycle and their influence on temperature, contributing to prevent and mitigating natural hazards. He also noted the adverse impacts of economic growth on these ecosystems, leading to high land use pressure, fragmentation, and biodiversity loss. The presentation explored an implementation mechanism for large carnivores and ecological connectivity actions in the Carpathians, featuring programs like Transgreen, Connectgreen, Savegreen, and the strategic project NaturaConnect²² dedicated to ecological connectivity. The Carpathian Biodiversity Framework²³ was discussed in terms of its alignment with and contribution to the implementation of KM-GBF and Target 2.
5. Juan Felipe Lazarus Agudelo from the Instituto de Investigaciones Marinas y Costeras (INVEMAR²⁴) shared Colombia's experience in marine and coastal restoration. He began by presenting a case study on the significant loss and degradation of mangroves at Ciénaga Grande de Santa Marta in the 1990s. This area faced a massive mangrove death due to the loss of hydrological connectivity. Restoration activities in response to this event serve as a valuable reference for similar situations. Colombia adopted and implemented a national restoration plan in 2010. In 2013, priority areas with potential for restoration of coral reef, seagrass beds, sandy beaches and mangrove were identified. In 2023, the focus is on mapping potential mangrove restoration areas. The presentation outlined the distribution of mangrove restoration actions in Colombia. Depending on the region, degradation has different drivers, including hydrological alteration, oil and chemical spill, invasive species, deforestation, among others. Currently, Colombia is in the process of

²⁰ [Great Green Wall Accelerator Harmonized Results Management Framework](#)

²¹ <https://thegreatgreenwall.org/ggwamp>

²² <https://naturaconnect.eu/>

²³ <https://www.cbd.int/article/carpathian-biodiversity-framework>

²⁴ <https://www.invemar.org.co/>

revising the map of potential mangrove restoration areas. Mr. Agudelo emphasized that obtaining on-site information for all areas is not feasible, so a combination of field data and remote sensing data is used. Furthermore, they are actively supporting initiatives for coral restoration with the involvement of multiple entities.

6. Ouedraogo Moumouni from the Ministry of Environment, Water and Sanitation in Burkina Faso shared virtually Burkina Faso's experience in large scale dryland restoration, incorporating connectivity and trans-boundary coordination. The presentation was recorded in French and was not showcased in Session 4 due to time constraints, but shared and accessible [here](#), titled, “3 - Présentation sur la restauration des zones à rir au Burkina Faso”.

LAUNCH OF THE TARGET 2 PARTNERSHIP

1. The launch session, led by Julian Fox of FAO, highlighted the importance of Target 2 and the potency of partnerships in realizing restoration goals. Markus Höhl from International Climate Initiative / ZUG – Germany emphasized the growing trend of restoration projects and partnerships, underscoring the necessity for collaboration due to the increasing complexity of ecosystems.
2. Fiona Stringer from Department for Energy Security & Net Zero of the government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland highlighted the vital connection between nature protection and climate adaptation and mitigation, with substantial funding allocated for restoration. The Target 2 Resource Manual, presented by Bethanie Walder of SER, aimed to engage stakeholders globally to ensure the success of restoration initiatives. The discussion delved into country pilots for Target 2, with Eliane Ubalijoro, CEO of CIFOR-ICRAF emphasizing the pathway to greener jobs and climate resilience, with a focus on transparency, accountability, and reporting.
3. The session also explored emerging collaborations, including interoperability between FERM and IUCN’s Restoration Barometer²⁵ by Carole Saint-Laurent of IUCN and interoperability between FERM and Restor²⁶ by Stephanie Feeney of Restor. Overall, the launch session outlined a comprehensive approach, emphasizing collaboration, transparency, and global engagement to meet ambitious restoration targets.

²⁵ <https://www.iucn.org/resources/conservation-tool/restoration-barometer>

²⁶ <https://restor.eco/>

SESSION 5 - ENSURING STAKEHOLDER INCLUSION AND RESPECT FOR RIGHTS HOLDERS

4. Moderated by Francesca Romano of FAO, the session underscored the critical imperative of effective stakeholder participation as restoration efforts depend largely on Indigenous Peoples and local communities. Four Indigenous Peoples and local communities representatives joined in the panel discussion that focused on the roles and rights of Indigenous Peoples in restoration.
5. Ruth Spencer of the Barnes Hill Community Development Organization, Antigua and Barbuda emphasized the importance of building trust and relationships with local communities, ensuring their ownership and participation in restoration. She noted that the first legally binding agreement on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples giving power to the local people to have rights was enacted in 1989.²⁷ Ms. Spencer highlighted the need to ensure that information from local groups is mainstreamed into the policy making processes.
6. Manu Caddie of Aotearoa Indigenous Rights Charitable Trust, New Zealand, presented collaborative efforts between the government of New Zealand and local tribes in resolving issues related to the clear-fell harvesting of exotic pine trees on erosion-prone land that is degrading the land, and emphasized the importance of ecosystem restoration principles. He noted that the government is providing resources to support local conversations about climate change and land use.²⁸ Mr. Caddie stated that financial value has been obtained through benefit sharing with Indigenous Peoples and local communities by ensuring intellectual property transfer to them (i.e., medicinal products made from indigenous plants to treat various ailments).
7. Philemon Ogieriakhi of the Indigenous Peoples of West Africa, emphasized the recognition of Indigenous Peoples as reservoirs of invaluable knowledge, crucial for achieving Target 2, particularly in Africa. He highlighted that government reports can be unreliable in reflecting their perspectives. To ensure credibility and proper execution of ecosystem restoration projects, he recommended direct involvement of trustworthy organizations, including non-governmental organizations.
8. Pablo Innecken-Zuñiga of FAO highlighted the biocentric approach involving Indigenous Peoples in biodiversity conservation, showcasing examples from Peru, Thailand, India, and the Amazon. Globally, the population of Indigenous Peoples is estimated to be approximately 476

²⁷ https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---normes/documents/publication/wcms_205225.pdf

²⁸ www.teweu.nz

million, and the indigenous territories cover 28 per cent of land. The biocentric restoration approach places Indigenous Peoples at the core of biodiversity conservation, with examples from diverse ecosystems. He highlighted the loss of traditional knowledge, languages, and biodiversity due to various drivers that underscore the urgency of Indigenous Peoples' involvement. Examples from Peru, India, and Ecuador demonstrated combining ancestral knowledge for environment protection. A manual on national plans for Indigenous Peoples' biocentric restoration is under development to align with global initiatives. Participants highlighted the need for a holistic roadmap considering all forms of collaboration with nature, with emphasis on justice, biocultural spaces, and global funds assigned to local communities for defining their plans.

9. Amanda Bradley of FAO outlined the benefits and introduced indicators to measure Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) in Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) projects. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion integration broadens local buy-in, offering more opportunities for men and women to contribute to restoration. The IMPRESS²⁹ project in Kenya introduces 22 sample indicators for GESI, ensuring transparency and lessons learned in FLR projects. Personal interactions with local communities are crucial for successful ecosystem restoration, requiring information from local groups to be mainstreamed in policy processes. The session offered indicators for identifying and addressing gender inequalities in restoration projects and programs.³⁰
10. Hernando Chindoy of the Fundación Suma Kausai, Colombia, spoke to the importance of considering the knowledge and wisdom that Indigenous Peoples, women, rural, and marginalized communities for ecosystem restoration. He pointed out the risk of a singular focus on restoring nature without considering the people living in ecosystems that remained isolated and intact. Therefore, Target 2 must include respect for humans and all living beings in nature. Mr. Chindoy also stressed that free and informed consent of Indigenous Peoples to any restoration action in the planning, implementation and monitoring phase must be incorporated. Enabling land tenure and management of restoration actions by Indigenous Peoples is also crucial. As an example of successful restoration, he showcased the biocultural peace spaces, with the example in Colombia of a territory with 1,500,000 ha under restoration.

²⁹ <https://www.fao.org/national-forest-monitoring/projects/impress/en/>

³⁰ A recent publication on GESI is available at:

<https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en?details=cc7649en%20/>

SESSION 6 - TOWARD TRANSPARENT MONITORING OF TARGET 2

11. The session, facilitated by Khalil Walji of CIFOR-ICRAF, featured discussions on the status of indicator development and the Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring (FERM) as an interoperability engine, feedback from the Ad hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators for the KM-GBF and ecosystem typologies insights, transitional and marine ecosystems, and Mexico's SNIRA system. Additional topics included non-state actor mapping and restoration progress tracking with the Barometer. The session concluded with a collaborative discussion on solutions for transparent monitoring of Target 2.
12. Yelena Finegold of FAO presented on the pivotal role of the Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring (FERM) as an interoperability engine in supporting the monitoring and reporting of the Target 2 headline indicator "area under restoration." Ms. Finegold introduced the UN Decade Task Force on Monitoring and provided insights into the Target 2 roadmap, outlining the indicator methodology, key parameters, and the progression towards a default dataset. She introduced the FERM platform^{31, 32} and provided an overview of its functionalities. Additionally, Ms. Finegold highlighted the essential components needed for interoperability, including schema, data sharing agreements, and the necessary infrastructure to facilitate seamless data exchange. The presentation concluded by exploring the potential achievements in interoperability concerning Target 2.
13. Emily Nicholson of University of Melbourne provided insightful feedback from the Ad hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Indicators for the KM-GBF. The proposed timeframe for implementation of the AHTEG activities spans from May 2023 to April 2024. Key recommendations include the need to address restoration status with a focus on disaggregation, considering ecosystem types, restoration types, and activities. She emphasized the importance of defining intermediate steps for restoration to measure incremental progress effectively. She advocated for the use of consistent definitions of ecosystems, particularly endorsing the IUCN Global Ecosystem Typology³³, and highlighted its relevance in providing information for various interlinked goals and targets. The global ecosystem typology recommended by the AHTEG, specifically using the Ecosystem Functional Group (EFG) level for reporting biodiversity, was underscored. Ms. Nicholson suggested that countries align their national classifications with EFGs, using South Africa as an example, and proposed expert involvement to refine these alignments.

³¹ The FERM homepage: <https://ferm.fao.org/>

³² The FERM search engine: <https://ferm-search.fao.org/search>

³³ The IUCN Global Ecosystem Typology: <https://global-ecosystems.org/>

14. Hazel Thornton of UNEP-WCMC highlighted the critical aspect of including transitional and marine ecosystems in the context of Target 2. She provided a background on UNEP-WCMC, emphasizing its relevance to Target 2 and Monitoring Task Force initiatives and broader ecosystems assessment. Ms. Thornton presented a summary of SDG indicators related to water-related ecosystems, stressing the need to ensure that all ecosystems are viewed equally across the targets. She advocated for monitoring effectiveness by considering all ecosystems at the same level, highlighting the importance of equitable representation and assessment across diverse ecological domains.
15. Wolke Tobon Niedfeldt of Government of Mexico highlighted valuable insights into Mexico's National Restoration Information System, SNIRA. SNIRA comprises four key sections, with a particular emphasis on the significance of communities in the restoration process. The communities section encompasses seven different categories of restoration, with each project dedicated to one of these definitions. SNIRA also includes a directory of restoration that gathers actors from different disciplines and a database compiling 1600 publications, subject to a rigorous validation process. The system further features a registration section for new projects and an interactive map displaying projects with geographical information or polygons, directly linking to detailed reports. Additionally, SNIRA offers a synthesis of information through a dashboard, presenting various metrics, including the area under restoration. Looking ahead, Ms. Tobon highlighted the next step in developing a geospatial tool with data related to restoration, modeling the distribution of species, and detailing ground activities.
16. Stephanie Feeny of Restor presented mapping of non-state actor restoration and biodiversity benefits through the platform Restor. She highlighted the diverse user base of over 16,000 individuals, including stakeholders such as farmers, producers, ecopreneurs, and the public sector. Ms. Feeny provided examples of initiatives from different organizations, citing WWF's efforts in Africa and government-led initiatives in Costa Rica. The proposed solution involves the implementation of a biodiversity index, SEED, that accurately reflects the complexity of nature. She introduced SEED's geospatial index as a key component in this mapping process. Ms. Feeny outlined the key characteristics of data within the Restor platform, emphasizing its map-based format, free accessibility for project implementers, low entry barriers, and public disclosure features. The presentation concluded with a step-by-step guide on how to add data to the platform, offering a user-friendly approach to enhancing the mapping of non-state actor restoration and biodiversity benefits.
17. Carole Saint-Laurent of IUCN introduced the Barometer as a tool that has been instrumental in guiding governments, particularly focusing on tracking restoration progress and informing future actions. The

Barometer has been applied in 50 countries, with 22 country applications, primarily functioning at the national level. She highlighted the key framework, Restoration Intervention Typology for Terrestrial Ecosystems (RITTE), emphasizing its alignment with other conventions and goals. The Barometer utilizes eight indicators to measure both action and impact, providing global guides and reports on country progress. Looking ahead, Ms. Saint-Laurent outlined the next steps for the Barometer, which include capacity development, guidance improvement, and enhanced collection and use of spatial data. She underscored the importance of the functionality of the "area under restoration"³⁴ metric as a key factor in the Barometer's effectiveness.

SESSION 7 - TOWARDS TRANSPARENT MONITORING AND REPORTING OF TARGET 2, INTERACTIVE SESSION ON THE FERM

Participants engaged in breakout groups sessions to discuss the challenges, solutions, and the pathway towards collecting data for transparent monitoring and reporting of Target 2.

Session 7 began with a video³⁵ of the Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring (FERM) and an exercise on a restoration monitoring case. Groups used a fictional restoration case to input data into the FERM registry . The FERM search engine was also introduced to the participants.

Discussions centered on: a) current monitoring practices and data compilation methods for restoration in different countries, b) identification of barriers and challenges for restoration monitoring and data compilation, and c) exploration of opportunities and solutions to foster collaboration between government and non-government sectors, aiming for harmonized restoration data reporting at the country level. Following the discussions, the groups gathered to present and share their key insights, which are summarized below.

Restoration Monitoring and Data Compilation, challenges, barriers, and solutions:

Participants discussed methods for monitoring at different scales, including remote sensing and field surveys, including collection of socio-economic data and data collected from different stakeholders, including governments, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and others.

A particular constraint continues to be the lack of spatially explicit data on restoration. The main challenges and barriers in data compilation were lack of capacity building and technology exchange, lack of international standards,

³⁴ [Barometer area of land indicator video](#)

³⁵ FERM introduction video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ylo_7YqZdzE

and data sharing together with absence of clear national planning, including long-term strategies for data collection. Aggregation and harmonization issues were detected from local to national data, and collection platforms have been developed only in some countries. The collection of terrestrial data, especially trees, is overrepresented while there is an underrepresentation of socioeconomic data. Traditional knowledge is also often excluded and not considered when building indicators and standards.

Integrate frameworks and standardized platforms such as the KM-GBF at the national level was enthusiastically welcomed. This must be combined with multi-sectoral collaboration on data sharing across ministries, NGOs, civil society, and Indigenous Peoples, simplifying reporting processes and offering guidance and support. Some of the proposed solutions were to use the added value of sharing good quality data as an incentive to stakeholders, as well as to ensure two-way and open-source data.

Feedback and Recommendations for the FERM Platform:

Several functionalities were suggested to be included in FERM, importantly related to aquatic ecosystems (marine and freshwater), such as aquatic restoration activities, inclusion of watersheds and connectivity in rivers. In this regard, the AURORA³⁶ indicators should be adapted and validated in aquatic ecosystems. The challenges of using an area indicator on aquatic ecosystems was also noted, emphasizing the need for clear guidelines. Regarding indicators, there is still lack of socioeconomic indicators, including those related to Indigenous Peoples, women, youth and other groups to assess effectiveness. Additionally, it would be also important to include non-spatial indicators. To avoid duplication of information and facilitate reporting, FERM reporting should align with other SDG indicators, such as SDG 6.6.1 or other international goals.

SESSION 8 - RESTORATION FINANCING

18. Facilitated by Till Neeff of FAO, the session covered timely and innovative finance necessary to implement ecosystem restoration, aligning with KM-GBF target 19.
19. Mr. Neeff began the session by presenting carbon credits and opportunities within the ecosystem restoration domain. He focused on the real opportunity of carbon markets to fund restoration. The presentation outlined three important elements: (i) The activities that carbon finance is primarily available for: avoided deforestation, peatlands, tree planting, (ii) the types of funding available through carbon finance, including: grants, carbon credit opportunities for public and

³⁶ <https://www.wri.org/research/road-restoration>

private sectors, and (iii) there is currently low confidence in carbon markets, but the growth potential is still large. Different modalities were discussed regarding how these credits operate in the land-based sectors.

20. Carole Saint-Laurent of IUCN presented on the IUCN Forest and Landscape Restoration Hub and highlighted its role in mobilizing financial resources and providing technical support in forest and landscape restoration to accelerate progress and deliver on restoration goals. The goals of Forest and Landscape Restoration Hub include the importance of enabling local level conditions, carbon capturing, approved land use policies and plans, and public and private sector engagement in restoration. The Hub's focus on countries was emphasized, and key lessons for designing restoration implementation financing mechanisms were outlined. These lessons included being demand-responsive, anchoring on existing initiatives and projects, developing targets, and facilitating collaboration to entice additional support.
21. Christophe Besacier of FAO highlighted the role of Innovative Finance Mechanisms as key elements of funding sources for long-term, sustainable Forest and Landscape Restoration (FLR) financing. The primary funding sources play an important role in addressing the specific needs of different land uses, emphasizing the importance of incorporating these needs into strategic plans. The presentation highlighted the significance of enabling and asset investment at landscape levels for the success of FLR projects. It emphasized the existence of financial mechanisms, both profit and non-profit, along with market mechanisms like payment for ecosystem services, as effective strategies to achieve FLR at scale. Collaborative partnerships for landscape finance were highlighted as essential for meeting the diverse needs of various stakeholders involved in FLR. The concept of pipeline development for FLR ventures was introduced to enhance the viability of business aspects, and the "restoration explorer" for testing restoration business ideas, including a readiness score. The "restoration factory" includes the availability of existing knowledge products/e-learning on FLR finance³⁷.
22. Gabriel Daldegan of Conservation International presented the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Ecosystem Restoration Integrated Programme³⁸, with 5.33 billion dollars of funding for the next four years under the GEF 8 replenishment. The global coordination program is comprised of four projects in Latin America and the Caribbean, four in Asia, and involves 12 countries in Africa, spanning a diverse range of ecosystems and restoration interventions. Collaborations with various

³⁷ <https://www.fao.org/in-action/forest-landscape-restoration-mechanism/resources/e-learning-courses>

³⁸ https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/2023-05/GEF_IP_EcosystemRestoration_2023_05.pdf

organizations are a key aspect of the initiative. The success of the program is measured through achieving five global environmental benefits. Conservation International's efforts encompass restoring 2,200,000 hectares of land and sustainably managing an additional 11,000,000 hectares across three areas. The program's structure includes components addressing enabling conditions, innovation in ecosystem restoration, leveraged and sustained financing, and global coordination. Emphasizing a departure from business as usual, the GEF Ecosystem Restoration Integrated Programme represents a substantial commitment to transformative restoration efforts on a global scale.

23. Ivan Palmigiani of Climate Focus presented Biodiversity Credits, an innovative financial instrument to mobilize private finance for nature conservation and restoration. There is a growing interest in this area from the supply as well as from the demand side. From the supply side there has been a proliferation of methodologies and crediting schemes in 2023. Mr. Palmigiani pointed out several challenges coming from the demand side such as a lack of understanding regarding impacts and feedback mechanisms on biodiversity, lack of clear incentives and value proposition for corporate investors, and confusion caused by the proliferation of crediting approaches. He highlighted the need for categorization of crediting schemes as a way forward. The categorization included international and national schemes, each offering different possibilities. While national schemes provide advantages such as local relevance and faster development, challenges include dependency on local capacities. International schemes present opportunities for large mobilization, but face challenges in standardization across ecosystems and types of interventions, and slow development. Finally, he noted challenges and opportunities related to the diversity of schemes and delved into some recommendations to move forward such as convergence towards carbon market, mitigation of biodiversity related risks and proliferation of national schemes.

SESSION 9 - ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR RESTORATION: CAPACITY NEEDS FOR RESTORATION & DRAFT RESOURCE MANUAL FOR TARGET 2

24. The session, facilitated by Bethanie Walder of SER, covered a diverse range of presentations aiming at enhancing understanding and collaboration for effective ecosystem restoration.
25. Lisa Janishevski of the Secretariat of the CBD presented an overview of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) Accelerator, an initiative designed to support the development of NBSAPs by Parties to the CBD. Launched at the CBD COP 15, the accelerator operates on 10 guiding principles, with COP 16 marking a significant milestone, as the

deadline for countries to submit their NBSAPs or national targets. The accelerator follows a three-phase approach — establish, test and build-out, and improve and expand — providing financial and technical support for the revision and implementation of NBSAPs. The initiative includes an interim committee with chair countries and regional representatives, offering facilitation modalities in the first phase to assess and prioritize capacity and support needs at country, regional, or transboundary levels. Currently, expressions of interest from countries are being sought, and three information webinars will be held between November and December 2023 across different time zones. Surveys assessing capacity needs and service providers are underway, with a mid-December deadline. For more information, participants were encouraged to reach out to Alexandra Said at alexandra.said@nbsapaccelerator.org.

26. Matheus Couto of the Secretariat of the CBD presented the results and key findings of a capacity needs assessment survey conducted by CBD. The results highlighted challenges related to ecosystem degradation monitoring, indicating low engagement with governments and limited data availability, especially for aquatic ecosystems. Opportunities for training were identified, emphasizing the need for a national framework. In terms of quantitative commitments for ecosystem restoration, 23 per cent of countries showed no commitment, with national programs accounting for 28 per cent, and NBSAPs having 10 per cent. The survey results also underscored the importance of capacity building, resources, and engagement as the countries' highest needs. Regarding restoration action, countries expressed that they have developed indicators, but they lack a centralized system to consolidate information. High-level results emphasized the need for increased government engagement, essential training opportunities, and the development of a national framework. The survey results highlighted varying commitment levels across countries, emphasizing the importance of sharing successful policies and solutions.

27. Andrea Romero Montoya of FAO outlined the Capacity, Knowledge, and Learning Action Plan for the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, highlighting the 10 principles of the UN Decade. The presentation introduced the standard of practice for ecosystem restoration document³⁹, which was consulted with Indigenous Peoples to highlight their involvement and importance. A global capacity needs assessment based on a survey informed the proposed eight capacity and knowledge development initiatives. These initiatives include education in restoration, empowerment of community capacity for monitoring restoration, a biocentric restoration initiative for Indigenous Peoples, and others. The presentation emphasized the importance of policy

³⁹ Standards of practice to guide ecosystem restoration: A contribution to the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration – Summary: <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc5223en>

instruments supporting restoration and introduced the Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring (FERM) as a tool for sharing restoration good practices through the FERM Registry and search engine.

28. Anne Theo Seinen of the European Commission presented the European Union Nature Restoration Law, contextualizing it within the broader European Union Green Deal. The primary goal is the long-term recovery of biodiversity, aligning with international agreements. The law targets the restoration of 20 per cent of both land and sea, encompassing not only degraded areas but aiming for a reference habitat state. Specific restoration targets focus on protecting habitat types for birds and other species. This framework law requires adoption at the national level, emphasizing planning, monitoring, and reporting tools, datasets, and integrative approaches. Restoration plans, due in the next two years, aim for synergy with other European Union plans such as those related to carbon and climate change adaptation. The law anticipates enforcement in the early part of the coming year.
29. Clarissa C. Arida of the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), addressed the challenges and opportunities in ecosystem restoration, focusing on ASEAN's efforts to meet Aichi Target 15 of the previous biodiversity framework under the CBD. Challenges identified include limited data on restoration extent, climate change impact, habitat loss, and illegal logging. Capacity gaps and unregulated forest conversion compound the issues. The presentation outlined ACB projects and programs, such as the ASEAN Green Initiative, ASEAN Business and Biodiversity Initiative, and the ASEAN Heritage Parks & Small Grants Programme. Opportunities and ways forward include supporting research on climate change effects, establishing ecological links, and incorporating climate-smart tools in protected area management plans. The core elements of ACB's Ecosystem Restoration Work Programme involve strengthening restoration through improved scientific knowledge, supporting area-based restoration, implementing effective mechanisms, and offering capacity development programs.
30. Jamal Annaglyjova of the Secretariat of the CBD, introduced the CBD Online Reporting Tool to highlighting its role in facilitating the revision and update of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) in accordance with decision 15/6. NBSAPs are submitted by Parties to the CBD Clearing-House Mechanism. Two national reporting cycles to the CBD are scheduled for February 2026 and 2029. The Online Reporting Tool is accessible in all six UN languages and will provide a user-friendly interface for streamlining the reporting process.
31. Tanya McGregor of UNEP presented the KM-GBF-Early Action Support project funded by the Global Environment Facility and its role in assisting countries in implementing the KM-GBF and designing NBSAPs. The program encompasses four key components: a review of NBSAPs,

assessment of monitoring systems, policy and institutional alignment, and biodiversity finance activities. Offering global technical support, the initiative operates on a timeline that includes NBSAP updates by October 2024 and seven national reporting cycles scheduled for February 2026.

32. George Gann of SER presented the outline for the Target 2 Resource Manual. The Resource Manual aims to build upon the Short-Term Action Plan on Ecosystem Restoration framework, incorporating new elements and the latest data. Its intended purpose is to guide capacity-building activities on a global, regional, and national scale. The content will draw on ecosystem restoration thematic plans relevant to Target 2, aiming for seamless integration into national biodiversity targets and NBSAPs and supporting monitoring of the target progress and reporting in the 7th and 8th national reports.

SESSION 10 - CAPACITY NEEDS FOR RESTORATION & THE RESOURCE MANUAL FOR TARGET 2

The discussions revolved around topics related to the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) process. The country status of the NBSAP process was discussed and how non-state actors have or could contribute to it. Additionally, the discussions addressed the support needed for target setting, implementation, and monitoring of Target 2.

Status of the NBSAP process and the contributions of non-state actors to the NBSAP process

The participants shared the country status of the NBSAP process, which ranged from early action support to the update of previous NBSAPs, to near-finalization of national target setting. Many of the participants expect to have draft national targets by COP 16 and some expect to complete them by 2026. A particular mention was made of organizing regional workshops for technical, financial, and logistical support.

Non-state actors such as Indigenous Peoples and local communities, emphasized their desire for engagement in this process. The engagement of other actors, such as youth and dialogue boards, was also noted.

Support needs related to Target 2, Target Setting, Implementation, and Monitoring:

Overall capacity development, including Indigenous Peoples, especially to develop skills for the spatial component of Target 2 was noted. Sharing success and learning case studies, at the regional and global level, was recommended. The standardization of monitoring approaches and harmonization of data across conventions is crucial.

In terms of the assessment of targets, technical and financial support is needed to monitor degradation and restoration, particularly in marine areas, and especially to assess spatially explicit targets, integrating satellite and ground information and baselines. The identification of degraded areas remains difficult and prioritizing restoration is also needed.

In terms of enabling and implementation, the importance of secure funding, long-term monitoring, coordination between ministries and promotion of participatory processes in decision-making was again emphasized.

The importance of sharing different perspectives across all sectors including fisheries, forestry, and wildlife management, to account for all ecosystems was emphasized.

SESSION 11 - NEXT STEPS – TARGET 2 ROADMAP & CLOSING SESSION

The next steps in the process of developing a Target 2 partnership and implementing the roadmap⁴⁰ of support were presented by Jamal Annagylyjova of the Secretariat of the CBD. The implementation of the roadmap towards planning and reporting on Target 2 includes the following elements:

- Finalize the indicator methodology to provide guidance on indicator qualifiers and include case studies from pilot countries.
- Capacity development and awareness raising to CBD Parties to align with Target 2 in national planning, monitoring, and reporting.
- Develop the Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring (FERM) consistent with reporting needs to integrate existing data on areas under restoration.
- Provide post COP 16 support towards national reports.

The next steps were summarized as the following:

1. Integration of Indicator Methodology:
 - Actively integrate the finalized indicator methodology into national monitoring frameworks.
 - Encourage pilot countries to apply the methodology, providing valuable feedback for refinement.
2. Sustainment of Capacity Building:
 - Maintain momentum in capacity-building initiatives, ensuring continuous awareness and skill enhancement among CBD Parties.
 - Foster knowledge exchange platforms to share best practices and challenges faced in aligning with Target 2.
3. Development and Implementation of FERM:
 - Progress with the development of FERM, ensuring its alignment

⁴⁰ <https://www.fao.org/3/cc6821en/cc6821en.pdf>

- with evolving reporting needs.
 - Collaborate with partners to ensure the seamless integration of existing data into the FERM framework.
4. Support for Post COP 16 National Reports to the CBD:
 - Strengthen support mechanisms for countries in preparing comprehensive and accurate national reports post COP 16.
 - Facilitate knowledge sharing sessions to address common challenges and celebrate successful strategies in reporting.
 5. Closing remarks were provided by Jamal Annagylyjova of the Secretariat of the CBD, Julian Fox of FAO, and Tanya McGregor of UNEP.
 6. The meeting was closed at 3 p.m. on 24 November 2023.

RESOURCES

- Access all the recordings and presentations at: [Target 2 roadmap website](#)
- Find detailed metadata and factsheet on indicators for the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework at [Indicator Repository](#).
- Explore the FERM platform at [FERM Website](#).
- Access the FERM geospatial platform at [FERM Geospatial Platform](#).
- Utilize the FERM search engine at [FERM Search Engine](#).
- Learn more about KM-GBF Target 2 on the official CBD website: [GBF Target 2](#).
- Access the workshop web story at [FAO Workshop Web Story](#).

ANNEX I - OVERVIEW OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSIONS

DAY 1 – Wednesday 22 November			DAY 2 – Thursday 23 November		DAY 3 – Friday 24 November	
	SESSION	ROOM	SESSION	ROOM	SESSION	ROOM
8:00-8:30	Registration	FAO Reception/ Security Pavilion				
8:30-9:00	Opening: Introduction to the WS objectives and agenda	Green Room (A121)	Report back from break out groups	King Faisal Room (D263)	Report back from break out groups	Green Room (A121)
9:00-9:30			Session 5: Ensuring stakeholder inclusion and respect for rights holders		Session 9: Capacity needs for restoration & Draft Resource Manual for Target 2	
9:30-10:30	Session 1: Progress and alignment between the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and Kunming-Montreal GBF					
10:30-11:00	Morning tea/coffee (outside Green Room A121)		Morning tea/coffee (outside King Faisal Room D263)		Morning tea/coffee (outside Green Room A121)	
11:00-12:00	Session 2: Unpacking Target 2	Green Room (A121)	Session 6: Toward transparent monitoring of Target 2	King Faisal Room (D263)	Session 10: Inputs to the Draft Resource Manual for Target 2	Green Room (A121) & Malaysia Room (B227) & Espace Gabon (A025) & ESA Meeting Room (D171)
12:00-12:30						
12:30-13:00			Lunch		Lunch	
13:00-13:30	Lunch					
13:30-14:00					Session 11: Next steps – Target 2 Roadmap & Closing session	Green Room (A121)
14:00-15:30	Session 3: Unpacking Target 2 interactive parallel sessions	King Faisal Room (D263) & Malaysia Room (B227) & NFO Meeting Room (D440) &	Session 7: Toward transparent monitoring and reporting of	King Faisal Room (D263) & Malaysia Room (B227) & Espace Gabon (A025) & ESA Meeting Room (D171)		

		<i>NFI Meeting Room (F313)</i>	Target 2		
15:30-15:45	Afternoon tea/coffee (outside King Faisal Room D263)				
15:45-17:00	Session 4: Large-scale restoration commitments - connectivity and transboundary cooperation	<i>King Faisal Room (D263)</i>	Session 8: Restoration financing	<i>King Faisal Room (D263)</i>	
17:00-17:30	Launch of the Target 2 Partnership				
17:30-19:00	Welcome Reception on 8th floor, Fountain Lounge				

The meeting focused on the following aspects of the Target 2:

1. Progress and alignment between the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF): Noting the urgency in global restoration efforts that should integrate biodiversity in agriculture, emphasize sustainable practices, address water and wetland's pivotal role and be consistent with the UN Decade, KM-GBF, SDGs and the Ramsar convention.
2. Unpacking Target 2: Providing understanding of ecosystem degradation and restoration with examples across different countries, while also discussing the linkages with targets 1 and 3 of the KM-GBF.
3. Large-scale restoration commitments - connectivity and transboundary cooperation: A comprehensive analysis of large-scale and transboundary restoration initiatives through their implementation, measurement and reporting.
4. Ensuring stakeholder inclusion and respect for rights holders: Participation of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, Gender Equality and Local Inclusion in restoration and the need for trust, relationships and collaborative efforts between Governments and these groups.
5. Toward transparent monitoring and reporting of Target 2: The status of the target 2 indicator development and the importance of FERM in interoperability and transparency. The use of the IUCN Global Ecosystem Typology (GET) to map ecosystems and the importance of transitional and marine ecosystems, as well as examples of state and non-state platforms to monitor and report restoration progress.

6. Restoration financing: Included funding mechanisms such as the GEF and FLR Hub but also innovative tools and developments, including FLR market mechanisms, and carbon and biodiversity credits.
7. Capacity needs for restoration and Draft Resource Manual for Target 2: Restoration support shown from different perspectives, including institutional, financial, technical, training, knowledge and learning support, and with special emphasis on updating NBSAPs and setting restoration targets. Additionally, the EU restoration law was presented, and challenges of restoration in ASEAN countries were addressed. The outline of the Target 2 Resource Manual was also announced.
8. Next steps – Target 2 Roadmap & Closing session:
 - a. Integration of indicator methodology
 - b. Sustainment of capacity building
 - c. Development and implementation of FERM
 - d. Support for post COP 16 National Reports

ANNEX II - SUMMARIES OF BREAK-OUT GROUP DISCUSSIONS

SESSION 3 - UNPACKING TARGET 2: THE CHALLENGES, SOLUTIONS, AND WAY FORWARD

Measuring degradation across diverse ecosystems, emphasizing key degradation elements

1. Degradation in aquatic ecosystems, as per the Ramsar Convention, is measured through changes in the ecological character of wetlands, considering elements such as species richness, connectivity, and physical condition. Additional considerations for aquatic ecosystems involve water quality parameters like salinity, temperature, oxygen, pH, sedimentation, turbidity, and organic matter. Differentiation is made between degraded systems and degraded sites. Measuring degradation by area is complex, and defining the area of effective restoration is crucial. In relation to marine ecosystems, there is a lack of information to measure degradation, especially at the local level. But some parameters to measure marine and coastal degradation are: changes in the coastal strip, land use changes due to tourism development and urban sprawl, loss of hydrological connectivity and mangrove degradation.
2. The focus is on forests and mangroves in some countries. There are varied capacities in accessing and interpreting satellite data. Field inventories and forest inventories are also employed to measure degradation. The need for an appropriate scale for data and interventions, especially high-resolution data for small island states, is emphasized. Parameters measured include Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) indicators, evapotranspiration, aridity, deforestation, fire, overgrazing, etc. Challenges include access to data, limitations on actions concerning public and private lands, and diverse perceptions of degradation.
3. Key elements measured for productive ecosystems encompass land use change, ecosystem services, loss of carbon stocks, loss of species diversity, invasive species impact, loss of connectivity, soil health, pollution, vegetation indexes, and changes in fire regimes.

Identifying crucial restoration objectives and assessing and prioritizing opportunities for restoration.

4. Identified key restoration objectives: Ecosystem services, functionality, biodiversity, ecological connectivity, societal challenges, adaptation to sea-level rise, carbon storage, Climate change adaptation and mitigation, water management, livelihoods, food security, sand fixation, erosion control, legal compliance, human safety, health, energy, and social

support. Highlighted challenges, such as determining specific aspects to restore in a degraded ecosystem and ensuring prioritization aligns with the need for biodiversity restoration.

5. Multicriteria assessment of restoration opportunities. Consideration of various objectives, including biodiversity protection, social benefits, risk reduction, water provision, and addressing human-wildlife conflict. Advocated for localized decision-making in restoration efforts, emphasizing "one country - one map" and the importance of local-level restoration decisions. Other methods employed are the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM), developing strategies, using inventories by public authorities, integrated land-use planning, opportunistic funding, disaster response, and focusing on productive land to alleviate pressure on protected areas.

Challenges:

1. Governance and Coordination:
 - Lack of clear government structures for effective coordination in aquatic ecosystems.
 - Lack of public policies on restoration
 - Efficient NBSAP coordination bodies needed at the country level for terrestrial restoration.
2. Stakeholder Engagement:
 - Limited engagement of non-state actors in both aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems.
 - Risk of stakeholder burnout due to inefficient time management
 - Power dynamics influencing stakeholder consultation
3. Funding and Awareness:
 - Funding challenges for both aquatic and terrestrial restoration projects.
 - Governance issues impacting the effectiveness of restoration initiatives.
 - Limited social awareness and understanding of the challenges.

Solutions and way forward:

1. Effective Governance:
 - Advocate for the establishment of clear government structures.
 - Develop comprehensive management plans that include non-state actors.

- Establish efficient NBSAP coordination bodies at the country level.
 - Taking the sub-national context into account when designing strategies
 - Strengthen engagement with water boards, multi-stakeholder teams, and watershed councils.
 - Promote the inclusion of non-state actors through strategic planning.
 - Collaborate with relevant ministries to overcome obstacles.
2. Enhanced Stakeholder Engagement:
- Implement integrated land-use planning to enhance stakeholder involvement.
 - Address power dynamics in stakeholder consultations.
 - Ensure effective time management to prevent stakeholder burnout.
 - Conduct thorough consultations considering governance and land tenure factors.
 - Create inclusive and equitable intersectoral spaces to plan and manage public policies
 - Provide training on integrated land-use planning for diverse stakeholders.
3. Sustainable Funding and Awareness:
- Derive motivation from Target 2 to address funding challenges.
 - Achieve spatial planning to enhance restoration initiatives.
 - Consolidate tools and resources for more effective implementation.
 - Secure funding through Target 2 initiatives.
 - Focus on building capacity to overcome governance issues.
 - Increase social awareness through targeted awareness campaigns.
 - Explore and implement payment for ecosystem services (PES) to incentivize stakeholder engagement.
4. Capacity Building
- Investment in capacity building to empower stakeholders with the skills and knowledge needed for effective restoration.

Restoration Monitoring and Data Compilation:

1. Large Scale Monitoring Methods:
 - Utilization of remote sensing combined with ground truthing for large-scale monitoring efforts.
2. Local Scale Monitoring Approaches:
 - Local scale monitoring involves target species monitoring, biotic/abiotic surveys, and household surveys for practices, impacts, and socio-economics.
3. Biodiversity Monitoring Techniques:
 - Biodiversity monitoring includes keystone species, innovative methods (e.g., eDNA, Bio Acoustics), IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, and monitoring of national parks and designated habitats.
4. Monitoring in Siloes:
 - Restoration efforts are observed to be monitored in siloes, primarily at the local level, lacking coordination, and aggregation for harmonization.
5. Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Involvement:
 - Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Involvement faces challenges due to historical issues with equity and trust, yet they manage a significant portion of terrestrial biodiversity, emphasizing their critical role in Target 2.
 - Lack of recognition- of the work done based on spirituality-intrinsic values
6. Government and Non-Government Collaboration:
 - Diverse approaches at the national level, including manual systems, locally-hosted databases, and efforts to compile data provincially.
7. Fisheries Sector Monitoring:
 - Fisheries sector monitoring involves long-standing efforts on fish resources, but the focus is not area-based, making it challenging to define polygons for restoration objectives.
8. International Perspectives:

- Various countries are working on creating relevant government agencies for restoration but face challenges in compiling data.
 - Monitoring is conducted as part of various processes, such as Ramsar Convention reporting, WDPA, and global reports.
 - The IUCN Restoration Barometer is used in Guatemala, while Uruguay lacks an official mechanism for systematic monitoring and reporting.
9. Specific Country Approaches:
- In Mexico, the National Restoration Information System (SNIRA) is the current mechanism to capture information.
 - Colombia compiles information through the Environmental Ministry and is implementing a National Strategy of Restoration 2022-2026.
 - In Uruguay, there is no official mechanism for systematic monitoring and reporting at the national level.

Barriers/challenges for restoration monitoring and data compilation

1. Monitoring Capacity and Data Sharing:
 - Variability in monitoring capacity across institutions, with smaller organizations facing limitations in funds, tools, and capacity.
 - Lack of synergy or data sharing, with data collectors and implementers not in the same organizations/units.
2. Focus on Trees and Limited Socio-economic Measurement:
 - Overemphasis on trees in monitoring efforts, potentially leading to a lack of comprehensive evaluation of other crucial elements.
 - Limited focus on measuring socio-economic benefits in restoration.
3. Long-term Monitoring and Baselines:
 - Absence of long-term monitoring, hindering the assessment of sustained impacts over time.
 - Lack of baselines, posing difficulties in establishing reference points for assessing the success of restoration efforts.
4. Spatial Data and National-Scale Planning:
 - Lack of spatially explicit data, impacting the precision and effectiveness of monitoring.

- Absence of national-scale planning, posing a challenge in coordinating and aligning monitoring efforts on a broader scale.
 - Possibility to aggregate local data at finer resolution scales than global datasets
5. Agreement on Global Standards:
- Lack of agreement on global standards for restoration monitoring, creating challenges in harmonizing methodologies and data across diverse contexts.
 - No agreement on a standard definition of restoration
6. Governance and Integration:
- Lack of political will and institutional conflicts.
 - Lack of integration among different ministries and sectors at the national level, limiting national and scaling up to global cooperation.
 - Established restoration networks do not ensure continuity
7. Trust in Data and Data Quality:
- Building trust in data, requiring scientifically robust approaches.
 - Data quality and validation issues, affecting both countries and relevant frameworks like FERM.
 - Lack of standardization for some indicators, making comparison not possible between methodologies and places. Missing traditional knowledge on these indicators and standards.
8. Capacity and Technology Transfer:
- Limited technology transfer and knowledge exchange.
 - Capacity gaps, with a lack of standards hindering comparability and interoperability.
9. Incentives for Data Sharing:
- Need to clarify the incentive for sharing data, moving away from extractive approaches and highlighting the value for users and stakeholders.
10. Disintegration of Data:
- Disintegrated data between civil society and state entities, as well as among state ministries, limiting the efficiency of restoration monitoring.

Solutions/opportunities for restoration monitoring and data compilation

1. Integrated Frameworks and Standardized Platforms:
 - Utilize frameworks like KM-GBF for integration at the national level.
 - Adopt standardized reporting platforms and establish cross-ministerial working groups for data sharing.
2. Incentives and Certification:
 - Provide incentives for businesses to report on restoration based on compliance, incentivized by taxation mechanisms.
 - Certification could be an incentive to measure restoration/biodiversity.
3. Clear Processes for Civil Society:
 - Establish a clear process for civil society actors to report restoration activity, ensuring no duplication but enabling aggregation to the national level.
4. Long-term Funding and Donor Engagement:
 - Explore funding mechanisms to ensure long-term monitoring of restoration.
 - Encourage donor engagement and buying into restoration initiatives.
5. Capacity Building and Communication:
 - Invest in guidance and support for monitoring, including capacity building.
 - Improve communication strategies and leverage the decade movement to share best practices and link monitoring actors.
6. Multi-Sector Collaboration:
 - Create mechanisms or committees across ministries with multi-sector participation, involving NGOs and civil society.
 - Support public-private collaboration at the national level.
7. Two-way Data Sharing and Technology:
 - Make data sharing two-way and open-source, ensuring reporting to the government and sharing back to the community.
 - Leverage technology for easier monitoring, including sound recording, e-DNA, and spatial monitoring.
8. Community Engagement and Simplified Reporting:

- Encourage multi-stakeholder collaboration and work with river basin authorities or watershed management organizations.
 - Simplify reporting and provide direct support to countries, offering guidance for setting up national-level databases.
9. Recognition and Representation:
- Better inclusion and representation in spaces of dissemination and decision-making.
 - Strengthen the capacities of all actors on methods and techniques.
 - Institutionalize Indigenous peoples' organizations as NGOs
10. Financial Mechanisms and Education:
- Improve financing mechanisms by making monitoring a mandatory phase of processes.
 - Higher education on restoration as an approach to give technical and scientific voices to stakeholders.
11. Regional and National Platforms:
- Promote regional and national platforms and working groups between sectors and actors.
12. Successful Examples:
- Example: Colombia's collaboration with indigenous communities for land restoration.
 - Example: Costa Rica and Myanmar's link between women organizations and the government for biodiversity strategies.

Feedback and Recommendations for FERM Platform:

1. Aquatic Restoration Typology and Watershed Integration:
- Develop a standardized aquatic restoration typology to avoid free-text inputs. Incorporate consultations with freshwater and marine experts to identify relevant restoration activities.
 - Enhance FERM's capability to consider watersheds and the nested nature of watersheds for scaling purposes.
2. Area Identification Challenges:
- Address challenges related to area identification in aquatic areas by providing clear guidance within FERM.
 - Explore methodologies for data comparability, especially in the context of aquatic areas.

- Integration of Target 2 Indicators and Landscape Approach:
- Consider target 2 indicators such as integrity, functionality, and connectivity for rivers. Address the challenge of non-spatial indicators by incorporating separate sub-indicators.
- Explore the possibility of incorporating a landscape approach in FERM, accommodating diverse ecosystems and landscapes, including tidal flat landscapes.

4. Inclusion of Global Data Sources:

- Collaborate with global organizations like the World Meteorological Organization and Freshwater Explorer to bring in relevant data.
- Clarify the alignment of FERM with UN Decade and CBD Target 2, and explore how FERM can support CBD reporting to reduce the reporting burden on countries.

5. Polygon Drawing and Differentiation in Activities:

- Provide clear guidelines on drawing polygons, calculating ecosystems, and visualizing land components within FERM.
- Address challenges in differentiating between restoration activities, such as fisheries and seagrass restoration, within the same area using FERM.

6. Validation of Indicators and Methodological Consistency:

- Ensure the validation of indicators, particularly the AURORA indicator, for suitability in both marine and freshwater contexts.
- Maintain consistency in methodologies across coastal, GEF, and other components for improved data comparability.
- Include indicators related to Indigenous Peoples, women, youth and other groups to assess effectiveness

7. Follow-Up on SDG 6.1 and Preventing Double Counting:

- Consider follow-up actions related to SDG 6.1 on water within FERM, aligning with broader international sustainability goals.
- Establish clear guidelines or mechanisms within FERM to prevent double counting or reporting, ensuring accuracy.

8. User-Friendly Interface and Functionality Clarification:

- Emphasize the importance of a user-friendly interface in FERM to enhance user experience.
- Provide clarification on functionalities, ensuring participants have a clear understanding of the platform's capabilities.

9. Moving Forward on Targets and Qualifiers:

- Clearly define the actionable steps for both the UN Decade and CBD Target 2 within FERM.
- Create a dedicated text box for Target 2, allowing for focused reporting and addressing qualifiers effectively.

10. Free Text vs. Click Boxes and Freshwater/Marine Consultations:

- Evaluate the balance between free text and clickable boxes in FERM for optimal functionality.

Conduct consultations specifically for freshwater and marine ecosystems to ensure relevant restoration activities are included.

Support needs related to Target 2, Target Setting, Implementation, and Monitoring:

- Countries reported varying progress levels, from early action support applications, update of previous NBSAPs, to near-finalization of national targets or NBSAPs.
- countries were in some stage of the consultation process, needing to formalize ongoing processes or establish frameworks.
- Most countries expected to have draft national targets by COP 16, with some possibly completing them by 2026.
- Some countries reviewed past NBSAPs to incorporate unfinished actions or integrate them into new plans.
- There's an opportunity to develop explicit numeric targets in this process.
- Specifically, Seychelles is setting up the coordination body, and Uganda is aligning all sectors and mainstreaming restoration into government activities. Colombia and the Netherlands shared their commitments and progress toward NBSAP goals. Mexico is on track. Saint Lucia is working on aligning national targets to the KM-GBF but is experiencing delays. It still aims to catch the COP16 deadline and deliver a full version in 2026. New Zealand is currently reviewing the draft with community engagement. Malaysia already has developed numerical targets.
- The discussion included the NBSAP process, highlighting collaborative efforts in Peru, Uruguay, Guatemala, Colombia, Mexico for NBSAP updates and creating participatory intersectoral spaces. The discussion emphasized the need for technical, logistical, and financial support for participatory processes and engagement of various stakeholders, including through regional workshops.

Contributions of non-state actors in the NBSAP process:

- Engaging with countries on the inclusion of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) and connecting NGOs with governments.
- Working on monitoring interoperability.
- Assisting with implementation and providing guidance.
- Offering technical assistance and tools, including mapping and target setting.
- Providing funding for NBSAP and other Target 2 activities.
- Aiding in the alignment of Target 2 with other international, national, and subnational targets.
- Expressing caution about the lack of meaningful connection to most local communities and NGOs in the process.
- Non-state actors, including UNEP-WCMC and others, are actively supporting NBSAPs, marine restoration portfolios, regional Specialized Environmental Agreements (SEAS), multiple economic zones, and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. The importance of awareness raising, community engagement, and advocacy for biodiversity was also emphasized.
- The engagement of non-state actors, such as youth groups and permanent dialogue tables, was also noted. The overall aim is to drive inclusive, impactful actions in line with the NBSAP timeline.

Support Needs related to Target 2, Target Setting, Implementation, and Monitoring:

1. Cross-cutting:

- Enhance capabilities through training in spatial and remote sensing.
- Promote open access to information relevant to Target 2 goals.
- Streamline data harmonization efforts across various stakeholders.
- Enhance capacity building for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs).
- Develop technical capacities for restoration outside of forest ecosystems.
- Facilitate trans-national learning, sharing success stories, and case studies.
- Unified framework for target 2 at the regional level for LAC, with technical, political and financial components. Also sharing lessons learned from other regions.

- Secure funding and technical assistance for effective Target 2 implementation.
- Encourage bottom-up expertise provided by IPLCs and NGOs.
- Promote the adoption of Society for Ecological Restoration (SER) principles and standards.
- Align with principles and standards outlined in the UN Decade .

2. Assessment:

- Provide technical support for assessing technology applications in degradation and restoration.
- Integrate satellite and ground information for comprehensive land health data.
- Offer support for spatially explicit targets and baseline determination.
- Provide technical support for the assessment process.
- Ensure both technical and financial support for assessment initiatives.

3. Enabling:

- Create guidance for cross-sectoral and ministerial collaboration on Target 2.
- Develop different funding systems, including Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES), biodiversity net gain, grants, and systems for integrated national planning.
- Strengthen institutional and legal frameworks to support Target 2.
- Promote participatory processes in decision-making.
- Establish payment systems for farmers and land managers contributing to native recovery and PES.
- Promote training in restoration, not only at government level but also in higher education.
- Strengthening SER presence in LAC

4. Planning and Implementation:

- Secure funding specifically allocated for IPLCs in the restoration process.
- Build capacities for non-forest ecosystem restoration.
- Identify tipping points of ecosystems and balance trade-offs.
- Ensure funding for implementation and capacity-building strategies.
- Facilitate experiences sharing on restoration, including support

with forest fires.

- Provide planning support through geospatial analysis and data gathering.

5. Monitoring/Evaluation:

- Develop clear standards and build capacities for restoration monitoring.
- Establish guidelines for classifying restoration levels.
- Harmonize data across conventions and countries for effective monitoring.
- Implement project monitoring mechanisms for NGOs and IPLCs.
- Build capacities for implementing the national monitoring system.
- Support the institutionalization of monitoring systems.

6. Stakeholder Engagement:

- Promote long-term community and indigenous involvement through effective communication.
- Initiate early involvement of communities in the restoration process.
- Establish platforms for stakeholder engagement, reducing top-down approaches.

7. Capacity Building:

- Strengthen technical capacities, including the identification of degradation and monitoring guidance.
- Create a comprehensive library of case studies for lessons learned and monitoring guidance.
- Strengthen statistical support for designing and interpreting monitoring programs.
- Support for capacity building of networks.

8. Technical Support:

- Provide assistance in identifying degraded areas, particularly in marine ecosystems.
- Offer support in prioritizing restoration areas through access to case studies.
- Homogenize monitoring approaches for consistency.
- Provide assistance in establishing baseline or reference conditions for restoration.
- Inventory the types of ecosystems in-country.
- Link existing data sources to the national level.

- Provide scientific evidence support for proper planting in restoration areas.

9. Multi-Sectoralism:

- Include the fisheries voice in the restoration debate.
- Translate key words across disciplines.
- Share perspectives across forestry, fisheries, and wildlife management.
- Provide financing for wetland classification and identification of restoration potential.
- Link restoration by ecosystem type to restoration by species.
- Include terrestrial and aquatic sections to avoid bias towards the former.

ANNEX III - LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Organization/Country	Name - Surname
African Wildlife Foundation	Patrick Nsabimana
Aotearoa Indigenous Rights Charitable Trust (New Zealand)	Manu Caddie
ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity	Clarissa Arida
Australia/AHTEG	Emily Nicholson
Barnes Hill Community Development Organization (BHCDO), Antigua	Ruth Spencer
Benin	Hervé S. Vincent de Paul Behanzin
Biodiversity Women ´s Caucus	Alejandra Duarte Guardia
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Dzenan Becirovic
Brazil	Fabiola Marono Zerbini
BRAZIL/Observatorio da restauracao	Tainah Godoy
Burkina Faso Ministry of Environment, Water and Sanitation	Ouedraogo Moumouni
CBD	Jamal Annagylyjova
CBD	Lisa Janishevski
CBD	Matheus Couto
Center for Drinking Water Agriculture Development and Environment Improvement	Rajendra Gurung
China	Jinzhou Wang
China National Institute of Forest inventory and planning, State Forestry Administration, China	Guosheng Wang
Climate Focus	Ivan Palmegiani
Colombia	Juan Felipe Lazarus Agudelo
Conservation International	Gabriel Antunes Daldegan

Department for Energy Security & Net Zero	Fiona Stringer
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)	Lena Green
European Commission	Anne Theo Seinen
FAO	Amanda Bradley
FAO	Andrea RomeroMontoya
FAO	Ashley Steel
FAO	Carmen Morales
FAO	Christophe Besacier
FAO	Cristiane SaterMelnik
FAO	Ella Wooden
FAO	Francesca Romano
FAO	Frederic Castell
FAO	Julian Fox
FAO	Julie Belanger
FAO	Kim Friedman
FAO	Kristina Rodina
FAO	Marcelo Rezende
FAO	Maria Nuutinen
FAO	Matieu Henry
FAO	Pablo Martin
FAO	Sara Casallas Ramirez
FAO	Temitope Abisoye
FAO	Tiina Vahanen
FAO	Ward Anseeuw

FAO	Yelena Finegold
FAO	Yon FernandezLarrinoa
FAO	Zhuo Cheng
FAO	Eva Ntara
FAO	Teopista Nakalema
FAO	Ferrando, Juan
Fundación Suma Kausai (Colombia)	Hernando Chindoy
Germany - Zukunft-Umwelt-Gesellschaft (ZUG) gGmbH	Franz Uwe Ballhorn
Germany - Zukunft-Umwelt-Gesellschaft (ZUG) gGmbH	Markus Hoehl
Global Forest Coalition (GFC)	Juana Vera Delgado
Guatemala/INAB	Danger Gómez
ICRAF	Khalil Walji
ICRAF	Mieke Bourne
Indonesia	Sugeng Budiharta
Instituto Nacional de Bosques	Jorge Arturo Javier de Paz García
International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)	Carole Saint-Laurent
IUCN/CEM/Fisheries Expert Group	Serge M. García
Jordan	Issa Mazahreh
Korea Forest Service	Gharam Park
Korea Forest Service	Juri Shin
Korea Forest Service	Wonyeong Song
Lao People's Democratic Republic	Soukvilay Vilavong
Madagascar	Rakotoaridera Rantonirina
Mexico	Wolke Tobon Niedfeldt

Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality	Rob J.J Hendriks
Moldova	Veronica Josu
Murdoch University	Tina Parkhurst
Namibia	Esmeralda Strauss
National Parks & Wildlife Service	Jennifer Roche
Peru	Jorge Carlos Watanabe Sato
Ramsar	Maria Rivera
Democratic Republic of Congo	Raphael Mambuene Makangu
Red Mexicana para la Restauración Ambiental REPARA / Centro de Investigación Científica de Yucatán CICY	Pilar Angélica Gómez Ruiz
Red Paz Integración y Desarrollo (PAZINDE), Bolivia	Gladys Lorena Terrazas Amez
Restor	Stephanie Feeney
Restor	Stephen Thomas
Saint Lucia	Jeremiah Edmund
SER	Bethanie Walder
SER	George Gann
Seychelles	Gilberte Gendron
Sri Lanka	R.M.N.P. Ranasinghe
Tajikistan	Nosir Mavlonov
Uganda	Anne Lillian Nakafeero
UNCCD	Gilles Amadou Ouedraogo
UNCCD	Sara Minelli
UNEP	Mattias Jurek
UNEP	Natalia Alekseeva

UNEP	Stuart Crane
UNEP-WCMC	Hazel Thornton
UNEP-WCMC	John Tayleur
University of Bonn	Isimemen Osemwegie
Uruguay	Carolina Segura
Viet Nam Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment	Dam Thi Quynh Nga
<u>World Conservation Society</u>	Stephanie Mansourian
West Africa Coalition for Indigenous People ´s Rights (WACIPR), Nigeria	Philemon Ogieriakhi
Wetlands International	Laura MacKenzie
WWF	Anita Toledo Barros Diederichsen
UNEP	Tanya Mcgregor

