



**Convention on
Biological Diversity**

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/ECR/WS/2015/1/1
5 February 2016

ENGLISH ONLY

CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP FOR WEST AFRICA
ON THE RESTORATION OF FOREST AND OTHER
ECOSYSTEMS TO SUPPORT ACHIEVEMENT OF THE
AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS
Accra, Ghana, 5 to 9 October 2015

**REPORT OF THE CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP FOR WEST AFRICA ON
THE RESTORATION OF FOREST AND OTHER ECOSYSTEMS TO SUPPORT
ACHIEVEMENT OF THE AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS**

INTRODUCTION

1. In decision X/2, the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) adopted the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, in which twenty headline Aichi Biodiversity Targets to be achieved by 2015 or 2020 are organized under five strategic goals. Aichi Biodiversity Targets 5, 14 and 15, set global targets to reduce the loss of natural habitats, ensure ecosystem services and restore degraded areas. Progress on these targets complements progress towards many other targets.
2. In response to decision XI/16 and the Hyderabad Call for a Concerted Effort on Ecosystem Restoration, the Government of the Republic of Korea through the Korea Forest Service established the Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative (FERI) to support Parties in achieving Aichi Biodiversity Targets 5, 14 and 15 in an integrated manner. Through a memorandum of understanding with the Korea Forest Service, signed in March 2015, the CBD Secretariat is implementing the FERI. FERI support to Parties includes direct support to country projects as well as capacity building, including through a series of subregional workshops.
3. The aims of capacity-building workshops on ecosystem restoration are to support Parties in:
 - (a) The development of national targets and plans for ecosystem conservation and restoration within the framework of Aichi Biodiversity Targets 5, 14 and 15;
 - (b) The integration of these targets and plans into updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) and mainstreaming into broader national policies, plans and programmes;
 - (c) The use of appropriate assessments, policy and planning tools to implement ecosystem restoration strategies at appropriate levels.
4. The capacity-building workshop for West Africa on the restoration of forest and other ecosystems to support achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets was conducted in English and French with simultaneous interpretation, from 5 to 9 October 2015 in Accra, Ghana. In addition to support received through the Korea Forest Service, this workshop was also conducted with the financial support of Germany and Norway.
5. The workshop was attended by 36 country-level experts. Twenty-nine experts were nominated by CBD focal points from the following 15 countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo.

Seven country-level forestry experts nominated via processes of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) from the following seven countries: Niger, Burkina Faso, Guinea Bissau, Senegal, Togo, Nigeria, and Gambia. It was also attended by two representatives of indigenous and local communities.

6. The workshop was facilitated by experts from the CBD Secretariat and FAO.

7. Experts from the World Bank, the Society for Ecological Restoration, BirdLife International, Bioversity International, A Rocha Ghana, Centre Régional Agrhymet, IUCN-Ghana and Conservation Alliance also attended and contributed to the workshop.

8. Experts from academia including the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research - Forestry Research Institute of Ghana (CSIR-FORIG), and the University of Ghana contributed to the workshop.

9. Experts from the private sector, including IUCN, West Africa Quarries (Ghacem), Price Waterhouse Coopers, Olam International (an agro-commodity company), Student and Youth Travel Organization (SYTO), Angmy Niger, and M&J Travel and Tours also contributed to the workshop.

10. A copy of presentations and other documents for this workshop can be found on the CBD website at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=ECRWS-2015-01>.

11. This report provides an overview of the workshop sessions, discussions, and next steps. The list of participants is presented in annex I and the programme is presented in annex II. Other annexes provide more detailed information about the workshop sessions.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING AND DAY 1 ACTIVITIES: SESSIONS 1-4

12. The workshop was opened at 9am on 5 October 2015. A Chair for the workshop, George Owusu Essegbey, Director of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research - Science and Technology Policy Research Institute, was agreed. Mr. Owusu Essegbey made opening remarks welcoming the participants to Accra.

13. Bakar Tijani, the Regional FAO-ADG in Accra, highlighted that every year in West Africa large areas of land are lost that are essential for the production of food, fibre, fuel and the provision of other goods and services important to human well-being as well as for ensuring the quality and quantity of biodiversity that underpins our production systems and the sustainability of our planet. He drew attention on the importance of restoration of forest and other ecosystems for addressing this challenge and to ensure a sustainable provision of goods and services such as food, water and energy security, climate change adaptation and mitigation, poverty alleviation, combating desertification and biodiversity conservation. He also emphasized the importance of using landscape approaches as the most relevant scale for addressing restoration issues and including all the key stakeholders involved in the various land use sectors. He described global restoration targets launched by Governments to restore degraded forests and other lands including: the Bonn Challenge, the New York Declaration on Forests, the Aichi Biodiversity Target 15 and the recently adopted Sustainable Development Goals. He explained that building on those multiple international commitments, at the 22nd meeting of the Committee on Forestry, FAO, with the support of the Korea Forest Service, launched the Forest and Landscape Restoration (FLR) Mechanism, in order to support countries in their efforts to meet those global targets. He highlighted that the FLR Mechanism should become a key instrument to support the FAO Major Area of Work on “Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture” and should contribute to the achievement of the FAO Strategic Objective Two “Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable”.

14. Robert Hoft, on behalf of the Executive Secretary of the CBD Secretariat, made a statement highlighting efforts in West Africa, and in particular Ghana, to restore and recover degraded forest lands. He described the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its twenty Aichi Biodiversity Targets adopted by the tenth meeting of the COP to the CBD, focusing on Aichi Biodiversity Targets 5, 14 and 15. He described a global momentum on ecosystem restoration ranging from the Hyderabad Call for a Concerted Effort on Ecosystem Restoration to major global goals and initiatives including the Bonn

Challenge, the New York Declaration on Forests and the Sustainable Development Goals. He thanked the Government of the Republic of Korea through the Korea Forest Service for generously providing the necessary financial support for this workshop, FAO for supporting delegates from the forestry sector, and the Government of Ghana for graciously hosting the workshop. He also gave special thanks to the experts for sharing their experiences.

15. H. E. Won-Sop Shin, Minister of the Korea Forest Service, delivered a video message welcoming the participants to the first capacity building workshop supported by FERI on the restoration of forest and other ecosystems to support achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and wished them fruitful discussions.

16. The Deputy Minister of the Environment of Ghana, Ms. Bernice Heloo, opened the workshop and called for the application and creation of policies for protecting and restoring the environment. She noted the importance of incorporating gender into planning and implementation.

17. Robert Hoft of the CBD Secretariat introduced the agenda and the aims of the workshop.

18. The participants undertook an exercise in groups to discuss and present relevant ecosystem restoration examples. In the ensuing discussion, many examples of restoration were provided - the example of mangrove restoration was raised several times. Participants found that they face similar problems across West Africa – for example they face loss of land from agriculture, urbanisation, bushfires, drought, and poverty. Transfer of ownership of forest resources to local communities was noted as an effective measure against land conversion. Proper application of effective legal frameworks, and having adequate funding were also cited as key to be able to face environmental problems. For example, cocoa farms have been used as agroforestry and to re-introduce endemic species. Regarding marine restoration, for example in Senegal, the sea is invading the land, and coastlines are eroding. Climate change experiences are similar across West Africa. Ecosystem restoration is recognized as an important priority across the region, but ecosystem management cannot be effective without government participation. For example, in Cote D'Ivoire, they require improved mapping; monitoring is currently difficult. Participants also raised the importance of avoiding degradation. Economic evaluation of the value of the resources was also highlighted as a key component on which to focus. They highlighted the private sector as very important and discussed ways to better engage with them. It was explained that this topic will be addressed in a full day discussion on Wednesday.

19. Robert Hoft of the CBD Secretariat elaborated upon the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, in particular Aichi Biodiversity Targets 5, 14 and 15, relevant CBD decisions, country commitments and allocations of the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The discussion centred on how the GEF prioritizes funding of projects. The new mechanisms of the GEF are expected to increasingly support country priorities. This item was also discussed on Friday, Day 5.

20. Lisa Janishevski of the CBD Secretariat explained the background and implementation of the Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative (FERI), a six-year initiative welcomed by the Parties in October 2014 at CBD COP 12. The FERI is supported by the Korea Forest Service (KFS) of the Republic of Korea, and implemented by the CBD Secretariat in collaboration with members of the Global Partnership on Forest and Landscape Restoration (GPFLR). FERI aims to support developing country Parties as they implement forest ecosystem restoration activities under the Convention in line with decisions X/2, XI/16, XII/19, and other relevant initiatives, as a contribution to achieving Aichi Biodiversity Targets 5, 14 and 15.

21. Christophe Besacier of FAO presented the Forest and Landscape Restoration (FLR) Mechanism which aims to contribute to significantly scaling-up, monitoring and reporting on FLR national efforts by helping to coordinate and facilitate the development and implementation of projects, programmes and related FLR Action Plans in full collaboration with members of the GPFLR and other key actors. At the global level the FLR Mechanism is also supporting the development of guidelines, standards and means of monitoring, measuring, reporting and verifying successful restoration efforts. The FLR Mechanism is

in line with the four main principles of restoration at country level by: (i) promoting engagement, negotiation and collaboration between all stakeholders, (ii) restoring an agreed, balanced package of forest and ecosystem functions in order to enhance resilience of both people and landscapes, (iii) working across landscapes in a socially and economically viable way and (iv) continuously learning and adapting. Mr. Besacier explained that restoration efforts (both at country and global levels) have to take into account a number of key factors:

- (a) enabling environment (policies/laws) and institutional setting,
- (b) governance issues (tenure, local community involvement)
- (c) improved livelihoods and food security,
- (d) assessment of degradation and restoration opportunities,
- (e) technologies and participatory approaches,
- (f) analysis and evaluation of costs and benefits,
- (g) capacity development, extension and dissemination of good practices, and
- (h) resource mobilization and promotion of private sector investments.

22. Marc Parfondry of FAO presented the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel initiative, as well as and FAO's support to this initiative through the Action Against Desertification Project. The Great Green Wall is a pan-African initiative that is country-led and country owned. It is a people-centered approach to land management that seeks to capitalize on the dynamic linkages in the landscape between human and natural systems, and aims to find long term solutions to desertification, land degradation, drought, climate change and biodiversity loss. Action Against Desertification is a joint FAO and ACP-EU programme building on lessons learned from Africa's Great Green Wall Initiative¹ to help local communities adopt improved sustainable land- and forest-management practices, while enhancing capacities of governmental and non-governmental organisations to support these efforts. It is supporting local communities, government and civil society in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal in the sustainable management and restoration of their dryland forests and rangelands, as well as in Haiti in the Caribbean and Fiji in the Pacific, as an example of increasing South-South cooperation. It supports agro-forestry and promotes income-generation activities, as well as the creation of employment opportunities in rural areas, especially for youth and women, based on the sustainable production, processing and marketing of agricultural products and forest goods and services.

23. Abdou Maisharou of Niger, Malang Jatta of the Gambia and Shegun Akinola of Nigeria presented descriptions of their country-level experiences with the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel initiative and restoration. The panel was followed by an interactive question and answer session and discussion.

ITEM 2. DAY 2 ACTIVITIES: SESSIONS 5-8

24. Mark Appiah of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research - Forestry Research Institute of Ghana (CSIR-FORIG), made a presentation on forestry research and ecosystem restoration in Ghana. He outlined the status of degradation of forests in Ghana, the underlying causative factors, the annual costs of depletion, and the legal and policy framework for sustainable forest management and ecosystem restoration in Ghana. He also highlighted new propagation techniques aside from seed propagation and the importance of considering provenance of the propagating material. He also noted several outputs from forests that are beneficial to local people including: mushroom cultivation; snail cultivation; medicines from plant materials; and beekeeping for honey production. He showed an example of no-cost regeneration by simply leaving an area for two years, and outlined basic principles of ecosystem restoration. He concluded by identifying the need for a shift from small scale to a cross-sectoral approach

¹ <http://www.fao.org/partnerships/great-green-wall/great-green-wall-home/en/>

with genuine involvement of communities. During the ensuing discussion participants raised several examples: Ghana is promoting farmers to move away from shifting cultivation by encouraging farmers to use soil-improving measures such as species with soil-improving properties and for them to also benefit from non-timber forest products. Degraded lands are also given over to people to discourage slash and burn agriculture. In Senegal, the hunters catch and sell biodiversity, so an alternative has to equal this. The public needs more awareness on the value of keeping the resources; there also has to be monitoring so that rules are followed; and weak enforcement needs strengthening. Regarding internal research mobilization, Mr. Appiah explained that if research is applied and it has development uses, then it tends to get funding. In CSIR-FORIG they promote tree species for deriving incomes. He described vulnerabilities of ecosystems, including resilience to flooding and ecosystem degradation; some ecosystems can sustain this but some are not accustomed and cannot. He also explained that they introduce species with short rotation that can be used for charcoal, and stoves that are efficient so that people can benefit. He described good advancement on efficient stoves in Asia. He described a phenomenon where farmers are shifting to higher yield crops such as cashew production; success depends on land use systems, and if the system can be converted from monoculture into integrated system. Rapid growing species are attractive, but cultural practices can improve growth of other species. He provided an example of timber companies teaming up with local people and with buyers in Europe.

25. Marc Parfondry of FAO then made a presentation on the FAO Guidelines on the restoration of degraded forests and landscapes in drylands”. Drylands cover nearly half of the earth’s land surface and are home to about 2 billion people. They face extraordinary challenges, including those posed by desertification, biodiversity loss, poverty, food insecurity and climate change. Up to 20 percent of the world’s drylands are degraded, and people living there are often locked into a vicious cycle of poverty, unsustainable practices and environmental degradation. It is clear that serious efforts are needed to arrest dryland degradation and restore degraded lands, and the aim of these guidelines is to support such efforts. These guidelines target two main groups – policymakers and other decision-makers, and practitioners. While they should be tailored to suit regional and local contexts, they present the essential components for the design, implementation and sustainability of restoration initiatives that can help build ecological and social resilience and generate benefits for local livelihoods. The guidelines are illustrated by 27 case studies, which involve a vast range of actions, from on-the-ground activities such as protection against erosion, assisted natural regeneration and planting, to policy improvements, provision of financial incentives, capacity development, and continuous monitoring and learning. The publication was made available to workshop participants at the closing of the workshop, ahead of its official launch during the UNCCD COP12 in Ankara. To promote further access to the guidelines and to discuss their application an online discussion facility will be created through the GGWI.

26. Stephen Awoyemi of BirdLife Nigeria on behalf of BirdLife International described the background and purpose of Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) providing examples in West Africa and Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) sites and highlighted the importance of landscape connectivity in strengthening their conservation. He also described the global status of IBAs and examples of IBAs in danger in Nigeria. He made the case for the need for ecosystem restoration complementing conservation efforts at critical sites for biodiversity conservation such as IBAs and AZEs. He showcased an ecosystem restoration project in the Niger Delta in Nigeria conducted in collaboration with Wetlands International where restoration using native species is linked to local benefits. The “bio-right” method was used where the global community pays for local conservation delivering ecosystem services and carbon sequestration. The project contributes towards achieving Aichi Biodiversity targets 5, 14 and 15. The discussion emphasized the importance that benefits of such projects should go to local people, and especially subsistence farmers. The challenges involved disagreements with local communities where inter-personal conflicts had to be overcome. There was a concern over providing micro-credit to undertake strategies in communities – this works better if the people understand that there are benefits to them in the long term. One lesson is to link the micro-credit to develop self-sustaining activities and awareness programs in order for them to work.

27. Boukar Attari of Niger then made a presentation on behalf of himself and Yacouba Seybou, also from Niger, on natural regeneration practices on farms in Niger. He outlined the status of Niger with respect to development, population and causes of degradation. Niger makes use of natural regeneration as an agroforestry practice to mitigate erosion, improve productivity and produce wood. He described the tools and practices involved, the results (5 million ha), and the constraints in applying the practice. Agriculture yields have been improved through this practice. In conclusion, natural regeneration costs less, is easy to apply and takes into account the needs of the local people. The effect of climate change on this practice is that forest in the north has become predominantly acacia as they are more resistant to drought which also helps wood production. People are incentivised to undertake this type of restoration: as the trees are on-farms, farmers should be able to take advantage of what the land produces. They have revised a 2014 decree regarding illegal cutting; the farmers fear that others will come and illegally cut their on-farm trees. Measures have been taken so the producers reap the benefits. Also, recognition is given to those who conserve the most and prizes are given by the President as incentive or contest to continue the practice.

28. James Hallett of the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER) made a presentation on the background and mission of the SER, emphasising that societal demands focus restoration work. He illustrated how damaged or degraded ecosystems have resulted in both a loss of biodiversity and ecological services (e.g., food, fiber, water) on which humans depend. These problems have been globally recognized, and efforts to mitigate them have been initiated through, for example, the Bonn Challenge. Ecosystem restoration efforts will necessarily have to be conducted at local and regional levels, but planning at national levels can assist with triage to ensure that resources are wisely invested. Many restoration efforts will also involve transboundary cooperation. This presentation will outline the consequences of landscape change on biodiversity and ecosystem function, methods to assess restoration opportunities, and issues in the implementation of restoration. During the discussion, countries expressed interest in how to become a member of the SER.

29. Marius Ekue of Bioersivity International made a presentation on the importance of genetic diversity when undertaking ecosystem restoration. He described the various ways that restoration can fail if genetic diversity is not taken into account resulting in initial mortalities of plants, poor growth, delayed mortality, reduction in quantity and quality of seeds, and decreased resilience. He outlined how to reduce the risks through the use of local sources for species with adequate diversity. Regulatory frameworks and resource allocation are needed for this to work well; decision-making needs to be based on knowledge. He described a model used in dry tropical forest in Colombia for guiding restoration practice. He outlined parameters for materials to grow well including metagenetic factors, zoning qualifications for viruses and DNA and soil factors. He explained that Bioersivity has relationships with centres for reforestation in countries to ensure good quality sources. While the cost of seeds can be high, they have found ways to mitigate this barrier, including through synergies with research institutions (e.g. Kew Botanic Garden worked on the GGW).

30. The groups then undertook an exercise on elements of biodiversity conservation and restoration led by James Hallett of the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER) (annex III). The exercise underscored the diverse and multidisciplinary components required to meet conservation goals, and provided a practical example differences across regions.

31. Wale Adeleke of IUCN-Ghana then made a presentation on the analysis and results of Forest and Landscape Restoration opportunities assessment in Ghana.

32. Wale Adeleke and Samuel Kofi of IUCN-Ghana facilitated a group exercise for each country to undertake a rapid opportunities assessment for forest and landscape restoration. Wale introduced the exercise with a presentation using South Korea and Niger as case studies.

ITEM 3. DAY 3 ACTIVITIES: SESSION 9 - GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT FOR ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

33. David Steuerman opened the day with a presentation outlining the importance of engaging with businesses, including the role they can play in helping to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, as well as noting the activities of the SCBD in this area. He noted in particular that while businesses are often aware of their direct dependencies on a given ecosystem service (i.e. crops or pollination), they may be less cognisant that those services depend on a fully functioning ecosystem. If the ecosystem is severely degraded, the ecosystem service will suffer in turn. In making decisions about how to take actions, companies will generally look at risks and opportunities, and make decisions based on this sort of analysis. Part of the engagement agenda therefore rests on making businesses more aware of the concrete risks and opportunities of their activities vis-à-vis biodiversity.

34. Vincent Awowe-Pratt from Conservation Alliance presented an overview of business engagement in ecosystem restoration in West Africa. He explained that the forestry sector is not able to generate enough funding (generates 30% of needs) to support its activities even though recent research shows an improvement in the financial environment for forestry activities. Investments within the forestry sector largely remain donor-driven. Private investors are willing to invest in the private sector but are not willing to assume the high risks and uncertainties, and weak financial mechanisms. There is a need for making funding and finance for forestry and forest based sector more effective in order to attract the necessary investment to fill in the funding gap. A number of areas within the supply chain of businesses have been identified as potential entry points for collaboration with the private sector. A number of approaches have also been identified for engaging business. These include fulfilling legal requirements (EIAs and SEAs), company policies and CSR programs, ecotourism, commodity certification, carbon/REDD+ initiatives, and biodiversity offsets. Successful engagement with the private sector means to update, maintain, and manage knowledge related to business applications of ecosystem services (ecological) concepts. It will also be important to synthesize lessons learned from corporate applications and document these applications for use in the decision making process.

35. Christophe Besacier from FAO presented the key findings of the discussion paper “Sustainable financing for forest and landscape restoration”² and a policy brief on “Sustainable financing for forest and landscape restoration: The role of public policymakers”³ prepared in collaboration with the Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). Those two documents will be presented officially in Ankara at the occasion of a multi-partners side event to be held on the margins of the UNCCD COP 12 on October 14, 2015. They provide compiled data on investments in Forest and Landscape Restoration and propose several key recommendations for public decision makers in order to create enabling conditions for enhancing investments from the private sector in Forest and Landscape Restoration initiatives. The discussion paper itself will officially be released during the Global Landscapes Forum in Paris in December 2015.

36. Kwabena Labi Addo, Environmental Health and Safety Engineer, from West Africa Quarries Ltd (Ghacem) made a presentation on the “Quarry Life” yearly monetary award for the best projects for Heidelberg quarries that improving habitat, species or biodiversity in general. More information on the award is available at www.quarrylifeaward.com.

37. Michael Abedi-Lartey from M&J Travel and Tours made a presentation on their restoration project. He outlined the threats from alluvial gold mining, the current situation at project sites, project interventions which include a one year demonstration project at a reclaimed gold mine area. He concluded by outlining degraded land remediation types.

² see the full discussion paper at <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5031e.pdf>

³ see the full policy brief at <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5032e.pdf>

38. Venan Sondo, environmental scientist from Price Waterhouse Coopers (PWC) Ghana made a presentation on best practices in private sector involvement for ecosystem restoration. He described the functions of PWC globally, adding that PWC has expanded their role, including environmental science. He outlined that private sector is critical to protecting and restoring the environment, and that smarter ways are required to raise funds as government and voluntary funding are not sufficient. 3 trillion USD is required in additional funding to meet the SDG agenda by 2030, and so more innovative use of financial investments is required. He outlined a framework, the Total Impact Measurement and Management (TIMM) which includes impacts from taxes, economic, social and environmental contributions. He provided case studies on the Puma environmental profit and loss account and mangrove valuation in Southeast Asia.

39. A panel discussion was then conducted on business engagement and the respective roles of government, companies, and civil society. Many interventions came from the participants, bolstered by insights from the panelists, particularly with regard to the responsibilities of mining companies in this area.

40. Martin Hollands of BirdLife International provided an introduction to the Pan African Business and Biodiversity Forum to take place 9-10 October, 2015 in Akosombo, Ghana and welcomed participants to attend this Forum.

41. The participants then worked in groups to discuss practical questions related to government engagement with the private sector for ecosystem restoration (annex IV). The working groups brought the various participants together to discuss these issues and come up with recommendations for implementation based on a series of guiding questions. These produced good engagement and some interesting proposals which, while still requiring further development, showed a significantly increased awareness by participants on this issue.

42. Jan Kamstra from IUCN-Netherlands, and Seth Appiah-Kubi and Daryl Bosu from A Rocha Ghana introduced the session on the field trip to Atewa Forest, linking this very practical field trip to the discussions in the workshop.

43. Seth Appiah-Kubi and Daryl Bosu made a presentation on the background, status, importance and research being conducted in Atewa Forest, the only upland dry forest in Ghana. The forest has undergone degradation from small scale mining and illegal logging activities. Some of these areas are currently being restored. Atewa Forest provides critical ecosystem services including water provision to the city of Accra. A Rocha Ghana is working with local communities to sustainably use the forest, and is monitoring forest loss.

ITEM 4. DAY 4 ACTIVITIES: FIELD TRIP TO ATEWA FOREST

44. The participants, guided by A Rocha Ghana, went on a field trip to Atewa forest and adjacent sites degraded by bauxite and gold mining and illegal logging. Participants engaged in discussions with A Rocha Ghana experts on how Atewa can be better protected as it provides water to three major rivers including for the city of Accra. Participants expressed the key importance of strong engagement with the community to secure the future of the forest.

ITEM 5. DAY 5 ACTIVITIES: SESSIONS 10-12

45. Mohamed Didane, indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) representative from the Indigenous Peoples of Africa Co-ordinating Committee (IPACC) made a presentation on incentives for partnerships between Parties and IPLCs. He outlined the barriers to such partnerships and strategies for overcoming them. The strategies include making use of: *pluralism* (CBD and other partners need to promote different economic solutions in different ecosystems, and allow for parallel systems of natural resource usage and management); *participation* (local communities and indigenous peoples need to be active partners in natural resource management, including in the design of policy and implementation); and *partnerships* (neither the State nor the IPLCs can maintain biodiversity alone, they need each other

and they need the private sector support). He emphasized that as partners, we could achieve a lot; the partnership between all the parties must be reinforced, especially at the national level. National level projects will be more successful if implemented jointly, including a specific component for IPLC involvement in all programs regarding ecosystem restoration and natural resources management.

46. Mark Appiah of CSIR-FORIG made a presentation on reforestation projects aimed at restoring degraded forest ecosystems undertaken in four forest districts in Ghana using agroforestry models. A total of 666 ha were reforested under these initiatives using both exotic and indigenous tree species. Some of the systems have improved the biodiversity and fertility status of the lands. The cases demonstrate that local people are more interested in ecosystem restoration projects that have the following livelihood sustenance components: (1) land access and land use security is guaranteed including financial share in tree planting and long term access to land and products; (2) provisioning services are available including Increasing income, food, fodder, wood and non-timber forest products; (3) regulating services are ensured including enhancing microclimate for cocoa and other crop production and enhanced biodiversity and carbon stock; and (4) soil fertility improvement is supported including agricultural cost-saving practices.

47. Maguette Kaire of Centre Régional Agrhymet made a presentation of monitoring of forest and landscape restoration efforts and initiatives in West Africa. He outlined why it is important to follow and evaluate natural resources in general and forests in particular in West Africa. He described the purpose and perspectives of the Land Use Land Cover programme and land use dynamics in West Africa providing national examples. He described the mapping tool Collect Earth, a plug in for Google Earth developed by FAO for systemic analysis of forested areas synchronised with the Google Search Engine and Open Foris Collect.

ITEM 5. DAY 5 - CLOSURE OF THE WORKSHOP

48. Robert Hoft of the CBD Secretariat provided a summary of key points discussed during the workshop, and the participants commented upon and discussed them (annex V).

49. The participants completed a workshop evaluation form. The results are compiled in annex VII.

50. Christophe Besacier of FAO and Lisa Janishevski of the CBD Secretariat provided further information on the implementation of the FLR Mechanism and the FERI respectively, how Parties can be involved and how they function in collaboration.

51. Robert Hoft of the CBD Secretariat facilitated the finalization of a paragraph to be transmitted to the GEF from the workshop participants (annex VI). The participants appeal to the GEF that the prioritization of GEF projects be determined in consultation with CBD focal points. Mr. Hoft qualified that this concept may already be covered in previous COP decisions and so this decision may recall a previous one. In addition, while the current paragraph from the workshop is in reference to ecosystem restoration, this concern goes beyond this topic to more general interactions between Parties and the GEF. The participants agreed that this version of the paragraph would be annexed to this workshop report, and that thereafter the CBD Secretariat would consult internally and with the GEF Secretariat for the best way forward for effectively transmitting this issue to the GEF.

52. Robert Hoft of the CBD Secretariat and Christophe Besacier of FAO, as co-facilitators of the workshop, expressed gratitude to all the participants for their strong engagement, to the Korea Forest Service for funding the workshop, to the host Government of Ghana for all their support, and to the hotel staff and interpreters for all their hard work and flexibility.

53. Jonathan Davies of Liberia spoke on behalf of all of the participants, voicing their gratitude to the hotel staff, SCBD, FAO, the many experts, the Korea Forest Service. He stated that the participants enjoyed this workshop which provided opportunity for good interactions, stating that they are ready to work and improve efforts on the ground with emphasis on ecosystem restoration, and he wished everyone a safe trip home.

54. Eric Amaning Okoree made closing remarks on behalf of the Government of Ghana. He expressed appreciation for the presentations stating that he learned a lot from them. He thanked all of the participants for their full participation, SCBD for selecting Ghana to host the workshop, and FAO and the Korea Forest Service and all partners who supported the workshop. He reiterated gratitude to the interpreters and to the supporting staff from Ghana, the police team, and the ambulance team. He wished everyone a safe journey home.

Annex I

List of Participants

	Country/ Agency	Participant name	Contact	E-mail	Phone number	Nomination channel
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Annex II

Time	DAY 1: Monday 5 October	DAY 2: Tuesday 6 October	DAY 3: Wednesday 7 October	DAY 4: Thursday 8 October	DAY 5: Friday 9 October
9 – 10 a.m.	<p>Session 1. Opening of the Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opening remarks by Mr. George Owusu Essegbey, Chair of the Workshop; Bukar Tijani, FAO Regional Office; Robert Hoft, CBD Secretariat; - Video message from the Korea Forest Service - Workshop opened by Deputy Minister, Ms. Bernice Heloo 	<p>Session 5. Guidelines and best practices for Ecosystem Restoration in order to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Targets 5, 14 and 15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Importance and benefits of incorporating biodiversity in ecosystem restoration - James Hallett, SER - Good practices in using genetic resources in ecosystem restoration- Marius Ekue, Bioversity International <p>Group exercise</p>	<p>Session 9. Resource mobilization for ecosystem restoration including the private sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction – engagement with the private sector for ecosystem restoration-David Steuerman, SCBD - Overview of business engagement in ecosystem restoration activities in West Africa - Key findings of the Discussion Paper on Sustainable financing for FLR & Policy brief (FAO and GM)Christophe Besacier, FAO 	<p>Travel from Alisa hotel to Atewa Forest</p> <p>Facilitated by A Rocha Ghana</p>	<p>Session 10. Community involvement in ecosystem restoration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mark Appiah, CSIR – Forestry Research Institute of Ghana (FORIG) - Mohamed Ewanghaye DIDANE, IPACC <p>Session 11. Monitoring of ecosystem restoration efforts in West Africa</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitoring of forest and landscape restoration efforts/initiatives in West Africa in the context of the global drylands assessment and the GGWISS -Maguette Kaire, Agrhymet -Christophe Besacier FAO -Marc Parfondry, FAO
	Coffee/tea break				
10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	<p>Session 2. Setting the scene</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Self-introduction of participants - Outline of agenda, purpose, expected outputs of the workshop <p>Robert Hoft, CBD Secretariat and Christophe Besacier, FAO</p>	<p>Session 6. Guidelines and best practices for Ecosystem Restoration... continued</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Important Bird Areas and ecosystem restoration Stephen Awoyemi, BirdLife International - Niger – collaborative presentation: on-farm greening “reverdissement par 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Panel Discussion on best practices and engaging with government and civil society - Q & A - Working Groups: how to scale up successes and ideas to improve business engagement in West Africa - Brainstorming on key capacity development needs to better mobilize the private sector at national/landscape level for increasing resource mobilization for ecosystem restoration 		<p>Session 11. Cont’d</p> <p>Brainstorming on key capacity development needs to better monitor forest and landscape restoration efforts/initiatives in West Africa</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maguette Kaire, Agrhymet - Christophe Besacier FAO - Marc Parfondry, FAO

		<p>fermiers ”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Boukar Attari, Niger 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Moderators: David Steuerman, SCBD Christophe Besacier, FAO 		
Lunch					
1:30 - 3 p.m.	<p>Session 3. Global initiatives and Country commitments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CBD decisions and country commitments summary - Background on Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative and the Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism and other global goals and initiatives - Open discussion on commitments and actions <p>Robert Hoft, SCBD and Christophe Besacier, FAO</p>	<p>Session 7. Guidelines and best practices for Ecosystem Restoration... <i>continued</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forestry research in Ghana and ecosystem restoration. Mark Appiah, CSIR – FORIG - Presentation of the global guidelines for the restoration of degraded forests and landscapes in drylands (FAO Oct 2015) - Discussion on use and dissemination of guidelines - Marc Parfondry, FAO 	<p>Working groups continued and open discussion on key messages and actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - David Steuerman, SCBD - Christophe Besacier, FAO 		<p>Session 12. Workshop summary and discussion</p> <p>Robert Hoft, SCBD, Lisa Janishevski SCBD, and Christophe Besacier, FAO</p>
Coffee/tea break					
3:15 – 5 p.m.	<p>Session 4. Action in the West African Sub Region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction to sub regional projects - The Action Against Desertification Project as an example of a regional project involving West African partners (Gambia, Niger, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, 	<p>Session 8. Guidelines and best practices for Ecosystem Restoration... <i>continued</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The IUCN Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM) - Country-level exercise on ROAM 	<p>A Rocha Ghana – presentation about Atewa Forest</p> <p>Seth Appiah-Kubi, A Rocha Ghana</p>		<p>Closing of the workshop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Robert Hoft, SCBD and Christophe Besacier, FAO Chair of the workshop - Eric Amaning Okoree, Government of Ghana

	Senegal) - Panel discussion - Great Green Wall National Focal Points - Christophe Besacier and Marc Parfondry, FAO	Wale Adeleke and Samuel Kofi Nyame, IUCN-Ghana			
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Annex III

Group Exercise by SER on the elements of biodiversity conservation and restoration.

Objective: To consider the interdisciplinary nature of maintaining biodiversity

Exercise developed from Gibbs et al. (<http://www.esf.edu/efb/gibbs/solving/>)

- 1) Participants work at their tables in groups.
- 2) Each group will be assigned 1 of the 5 Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)-identified global biodiversity hotspots. CEPF is a joint enterprise between the World Bank, governments, Conservation International (a NGO), MacArthur Foundation, and the Global Environmental Facility. Strategic funding directions and investment priorities recommended by CEPF are listed for the 5 biodiversity hotspots on the accompanying pages.
- 3) Assign each of the **CEPF strategic funding directions and investment priorities** for your assigned hotspot to 1 of the following categories:
 - Biodiversity research, assessment, or management
 - Communications
 - Community-based activities
 - Conservation finance
 - Economic enterprise
 - Information management
 - Inventory and monitoring
 - Organizations and policy
 - Protected areas and corridors
 - Training

NOTE: Some strategies might have > 1 category and will be included under more than one category (e.g., a project to boost sustainable livelihoods for farmers in biological corridor zones could be tallied as both “Economic enterprise” and “Protected areas and corridors”). Not all categories will necessarily be included for all hotspot regions.

- 4) Complete the table below for a hotspot region by filling in the percent (%) of the strategies that were in each category. Assign each activity to one or more categories, tally the number of activities per category, divide by total number of tallies. Total % should \approx 100%.

Hotspot region

Biodiversity research, assessment, or management	
Communications	
Community-based activities	
Conservation finance	
Economic enterprise	
Information management	
Inventory and monitoring	
Organizations and policy	
Protected areas and corridors	
Training	

- 5) Within your group, consider A) What are the most heavily represented topic areas in the CEPF strategies? What are the least? B) In a conservation context, how might the relative importance of different disciplines have changed over the last 50 years? How are they likely to change in the future?
- 6) We will tally the results across groups.

<i>Hot spot region example : Eastern Arc Mountains and Coastal Forests of Tanzania and Kenya</i>	Category(ies)
1. Evaluate community-based forest management initiatives in the hotspot to determine best practices.	
2. Promote nature-based, sustainable businesses that benefit local populations in the hotspot.	
3. Explore possibilities for direct payments and easements (Conservation Concessions) for biodiversity conservation in the hotspot and support where appropriate.	
4. Build the capacity of community-based organizations in the hotspot for advocacy in support of biodiversity conservation at all levels.	
5. Support cultural practices that benefit biodiversity in the hotspot.	
6. Research and promote eco-agricultural options for the local populations of the hotspot.	
7. Assess potential sites in the hotspot for connectivity interventions.	
8. Monitor and evaluate initiatives that maintain or restore connectivity in the hotspot.	
9. Refine and implement a standardized monitoring program across the 160 eligible sites.	
10. Support research in the less studied of the 160 eligible sites in the hotspot.	
11. Monitor populations of Critically Endangered and Endangered Species in the hotspot.	
12. Support research in the hotspot to facilitate Red List assessments and re-assessments for plants, reptiles, invertebrates and other taxa.	
13. Compile and document indigenous knowledge on hotspot sites and species.	
14. Support awareness programs that increase public knowledge of biodiversity values of the hotspot.	
15. Support efforts to increase biological knowledge of the sites and to conserve critically endangered species.	
16. Utilize high-level corporate contacts to secure funding from the private sector for the hotspot.	

*Annex IV***FRAMEWORK FOR SESSION 9 (DAY 3), ENGAGEMENT WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR**

Panel Discussion on best practices and engaging with government and civil society

Panel:

- George Owusu-Ansah, Endeavour Mining Corporation
- Yaw Osei-Owusu, Conservation Alliance
- Kwabena Labi Addo, Environmental, Health and Safety Engineer, Ghacem
- Venan A. Sondo, Price Waterhouse Coopers
- Michael Abedi Lartey, M & J Travel and Tours

Moderated Panel Discussion Questions:

- What do you see as the primary challenge(s) of engaging in restoration work in West Africa. Conversely, what are some of the unique opportunities that this region presents?
- How can biodiversity mainstreaming be better incorporated into business practices?
- How can the relationship between government, business and civil society be improved in the area of restoration?
- What sorts of awareness-raising and incentives would help improve businesses' performance in this field?
- How can some of your best practices be generalized to other companies?
- How can public-private partnership be improved in order to mitigate the risk of investments in restoration initiatives?
- What is currently missing for a better integration of Restoration as efficient options in RSE Corporate Strategy?

Working Groups: Discussion on how to scale up successes and ideas to improve business engagement in West Africa. Brainstorming on key capacity development needs to better mobilize the private sector at national/landscape level for increasing resource mobilization for ecosystem restoration as well as scaling up applicable case studies.

Participants were split into four groups, each group discussed 2 of 4 questions.

Guiding Questions

1. How do we foster better relationships between government and business in this area?
2. How do we find the balance between ecological concerns and attracting investment and improving economic growth?
3. How can we (in practical terms) begin to operationalize some of these lessons at a national/regional level?
4. How can public-private partnership be improved in order to mitigate the risk of investments in restoration initiatives?

*Annex V***SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS**

- Restoration cannot be undertaken without efforts to curb ecosystem degradation – there is a need to address underlying causes
- A number of international initiatives were identified (Net Zero Land Degradation, Bonn Challenge, Aichi Biodiversity Targets, SDGs) and information given on how they are aligned
- Technical partners: FAO, SER, IUCN, Birdlife, Bioversity and many others are coordinating and offering support- participants encouraged to reach out to them
- Many tools and approaches are available
- Financial resources are limited but opportunities exist through the GEF (magnified by incorporating SFM) and through the two initiatives of CBD and FAO – FERI and FLRM
- A lot of experience is available at national level, as provided in the presentations and interventions during the meeting
- **What is needed:**
 - Policy framework that is supportive and recognizes the role of indigenous peoples and local communities and establishes certainty and trust regarding the rights over land and resources. The policy framework should consist of incentives to favour ecosystem restoration as well as provide disincentives for processes allowing degradation, alongside the establishment of a clear monitoring programme to follow the effects of the policy.
 - National programmes to facilitate ecosystem restoration, to ensure coordination with other sectors including collaboration with private partners, undertake research to identify and refine techniques and approaches, and conduct the monitoring of the outcomes of the programme.
 - Local/project level initiatives that enable communities to engage in and benefit from restoration, providing income alternatives, participation in decision-making processes and participation in monitoring. These need to be established in the cultural context in which the initiative is implemented

Restoration is complex. There is no single approach; in fact it can only be successful by working on different fronts – both upstream and directly on the ground. Neither a completely top-down approach – evicting people and enforcing restoration activities – nor a completely bottom up approach – leaving it entirely to communities to organize themselves – is likely to work. A bit of both is needed and the optimal balance between carrot and stick will depend on the context.

*Annex VI***MESSAGE FROM THE WORKSHOP DELEGATES REPRESENTING CBD PARTIES TO THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY**

During discussions on financial needs to realize ecosystem restoration initiatives in connection with established biodiversity priorities of countries, participants recognized challenges regarding the ability to direct GEF allocations to such activities. They noted that GEF Operational Focal Points frequently do not coordinate with CBD National Focal Points and as a consequence miss opportunities to ensure that priorities established in NBSAPs are adequately resourced. Participants therefore requested that the Conference of the Parties to CBD at its thirteenth meeting convey the concern of lack of coordination between national focal points of CBD and GEF to the Council of GEF, in order to improve the effectiveness of the financial mechanism in support of nationally prioritized ecosystem restoration initiatives. They requested the Executive Secretary to ensure that this concern would be included in the draft decision on guidance to GEF.

Annex VII

WORKSHOP EVALUATION

Statements	Score* (42 respondents)					
	1	2	3	4	5	Average
Steps involved in undertaking ecosystem restoration and in particular, forest restoration		1 (2%)	6 (14%)	20 (48%)	15 (36%)	4.2
Considerations that are important to incorporate when undertaking ecosystem restoration		1 (2%)	6 (14%)	21 (50%)	14 (34%)	4.1
The role of indigenous peoples and local communities in decision-making and control of ecosystem restoration	1 (2%)	1 (2%)	9 (22%)	19 (45%)	12 (29%)	4.0
Which guidelines and technical resources are available for ecosystem restoration		1 (2%)	14 (34%)	16 (38%)	11 (26%)	3.9
How the Forest Landscape Restoration Mechanism of the FAO supports countries in ecosystem restoration	1 (2%)	1 (2%)	14 (34%)	17 (40%)	9 (22%)	3.8
How the Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative under the CBD supports forest ecosystem restoration activities		3 (7%)	13 (30%)	14 (34%)	12 (29%)	3.8
How international initiatives and processes are aligned to promote forest and landscape restoration	1 (2%)		15 (36%)	21 (50%)	5 (12%)	3.7
Opportunities for mobilizing resources for ecosystem restoration	1 (2%)	4 (9.5%)	14 (34%)	19 (45%)	4 (9.5%)	3.5
Opportunities for engaging the business sector in restoration activities.	1 (2%)	5 (13%)	16 (38%)	17 (40%)	3 (7%)	3.4
The day devoted to government engagement with the private sector was useful for planning for forest landscape restoration		2 (4%)	12 (29%)	18 (43%)	10 (24%)	3.9
The field trip to Atewa forest and to surrounding degraded areas was useful. (3 no responses)	1 (2%)	5 (13%)	11 (28%)	12 (31%)	10 (26%)	3.6

Participant comments:

1. All parameters set in place for ecosystem restoration are perfectly OK and useful
2. The Workshop has been helpful
3. Workshop is laudable and simple. Further actions to enhance implementation of workshop recommendations suggested please
4. The workshop was very interactive between the presenters, the participants and the organizers. Partnerships between FAO and CBD went well. The discussions were very informative. Thank you for the invitation.
5. A very Useful workshop and hope to have more of such workshops
6. The workshop was very successful
7. We didn't have the opportunities to speak with the communities and verify their engagement on the project
8. DSA was received late

9. The selection of experts for the workshop was perfect
 10. The organization was excellent. However, for future workshops do not wait until the end to give participants their fees. The training was beneficial.
 11. Very well organized and useful
 12. I was expecting to visit a restored forest rather than a protected forest.
 13. Reinforce the collaboration between the focal points of the 3 conventions
 14. Reinforce the collaboration between CBD focal points
 15. The experiences on ecosystems were presented and very useful and I hope they will be replicated to other countries
 16. Provide greater resources to the initiative to support those countries that can benefit
 17. Always invite actors that are implicated in the restoration for a well balance discussion on procedures and methods
 18. Participatory approach involving local communities needs to be adopted for collaborative restoration
 19. More exchanges and participation with other workshops
 20. For the field trip, we could have also seen a restored zone after the degradation caused by mining. Increase the collaboration which secured the participation of focal points and ILC's.
-