



# FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION AND THE BONN CHALLENGE IN EASTERN AND SOUTH-EAST EUROPE

WORKSHOP | 16-17 DEC 2019 | HOTEL M | BELGRADE

	Monday 16 Dec 2019	Tuesday 17 Dec 2019
8:45	Registration	
9:00 – 9:30	<b>OPENING REMARKS</b> - Host country - Francoise Jacob, UN RC Serbia - Anne-Kristin Piplica, German Embassy Belgrade - Roman Michalak, UNECE/FAO	<b>Getting Started with the Bonn Challenge, ECCA30</b> Roksolana Shelest, UNECE/FAO
9:30 – 10:30	<b>Project overview</b> Theresa Loeffler, UNECE/FAO <b>Introduction to FLR - opportunities and challenges for Eastern &amp; South-East Europe</b> Jürgen Blaser, Bern University <b>Reporting and data availability for restoration and degradation</b> Matej Schwarz, Forest Europe <b>Preliminary results of the study</b> Jelena Markovic, Bern University	<b>Synergies among Rio Conventions, national priorities and the Bonn Challenge as an implementation vehicle, Salome Begeladze, IUCN</b> <b>UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, Radmila Arandjelovic, UNEP</b> <b>Mobilization of funds and financing of FLR, Benjamin Singer, UNFF</b>
10:30 – 11:00	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>
11:00 – 12:30	<i>Group work session 1 – country feedback</i> <b>Identified degradation issues and drivers and how to deal with them</b> Facilitated by Evelyn Coleman and Jelena Markovic	<b>WB projects and funding options</b> Drita Dade, World Bank <b>Tracking progress – the Bonn Challenge Barometer</b> Boris Erg, IUCN <b>Identifying next steps and needs prior to the Ministerial Roundtable</b>
12:30 – 13:30	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>
13:30 – 15:30	<i>Plenary group work session 1</i> <i>Group work session 2 – country feedback</i> <b>Discussion on restoration goals and restoration projects</b> Facilitated by Evelyn Coleman and Jelena Markovic	<b>FIELDTRIP</b>
15:30 – 16:00	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>	<p>The participants are asked to gather in front of Hotel M on 17 December at 13:00 pm <u>sharp</u>. A bus will then take the participants to nearby Kovilje, where the state-owned enterprise "Vojvodinašume" will provide a tour showcasing an example of previously degraded land that has been afforested. Refreshments will be provided. Participants are strongly encouraged to choose adequate clothing and footwear.</p>
16:00 – 17:30	<b>Ukrainian experience with FLR</b> Lyubov Polyakova, Ukraine <b>Forest Landscape Restoration from a “water perspective” in North Macedonia and Albania</b> Anela Stavrevska-Panajotova <b>FAO activities in FLR in Serbia, Predrag Jovic, FAO</b> <b>Exchange on FLR projects among countries</b>	
19:00	<b>JOINT DINNER</b>	

Note that interpretation will be provided in English, Russian and Serbian.



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## Rationale of the workshop

This workshop has two main objectives: (i) to provide background information about the Bonn Challenge, the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and ECCA30, and (ii) to gather input for and feedback on a study on forest landscape restoration (FLR) in Eastern and South-East Europe.

These objectives will be reached through:

- Exchange of experiences on forest landscape restoration and degradation in participating countries;
- Discussions on strategies and approaches for mobilizing financial resources required for restoration;
- Providing information for national experts responsible for forest landscape restoration about regional and international opportunities, with a special focus on a high-level meeting planned for 2020;
- Briefing of participants about the process of country commitments under the Bonn Challenge, ECCA30 and the support UNECE/FAO can provide.

During the meeting, the potential for forest landscape restoration at a national level and the commitment process will be discussed along with needs and priorities of participating countries. Countries will have the opportunity to get clarifications from forest landscape restoration experts, researchers and the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section.

## Background

The UN recently declared 2021-2030 the **UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration** which bears an unparalleled opportunity to scale up forest restoration efforts while creating jobs and combating climate change in the framework of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals.

The Bonn Challenge, launched in 2011 and extended by the 2014 New York Declaration on Forests, is a global effort to bring **150 million hectares of deforested and degraded land into restoration by 2020 and 350 million ha by 2030**. The Bonn Challenge serves as an open, voluntary and flexible discussion and exchange platform for concrete action and cooperation to facilitate the implementation of forest landscape restoration. To date, **62 countries** have pledged more than **170 Mha** to the Bonn Challenge.

**ECCA30** seeks to bring 30 million hectares of degraded and deforested land in **Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia into restoration by 2030**. ECCA30 will serve as a regional initiative to secure additional commitments and accelerate the implementation of the Bonn Challenge, the Land Degradation Neutrality and land- and forest-based targets towards achieving the objectives of the Paris Agreement. It will facilitate access to technical and financial support, and reinforce regional cooperation and capacity exchange on forest landscape restoration.

The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, the Bonn Challenge and ECCA30 serve as an implementation vehicle for national priorities such as water and food security and rural development, while contributing to the achievement of international climate change, biodiversity and land degradation commitments. Further, they will help countries receive international and regional recognition of their restoration ambitions connected to their domestic priorities and projects.

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