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Item 26 of the provisional agenda*

FOREST ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION INITIATIVE

Note by the Executive Secretary

INTRODUCTION

1. At its eighteenth meeting, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the Convention on Biological Diversity welcomed the steps being undertaken by the Republic of Korea to develop a forest ecosystem restoration initiative to be launched at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention in order to share lessons learned, identify best practices and contribute to the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (SBSTTA recommendation XVIII/11, para. 4).
2. The present note provides further information on this initiative. It has been prepared by the Korea Forest Service of the Republic of Korea in cooperation with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

I. INTRODUCTION

3. At its eleventh meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted a comprehensive decision on Ecosystem Restoration (decision XI/16) and, inter alia, invited Parties and others to support and/or coordinate capacity-building development initiatives (decision XI/16, paragraph 2d), and to provide adequate financial, technical and other support to the Executive Secretary for facilitating capacity development and implementation initiatives. Further, through the Hyderabad Call for a Concerted Effort on Ecosystem Restoration, concerned stakeholders called for coordinated long-term efforts to mobilize resources and facilitate ecosystem restoration activities for the benefit of all. As one of these concerned stakeholders, the Republic of Korea is truly committed to making the Hyderabad Call a point of action that will support developing country Parties as they strive to meet commitments towards forest ecosystem restoration and to support the implementation of decision XI/16.
4. In response to decision XI/16 of the Conference of the Parties and the Hyderabad Call, the Government of the Republic of Korea, through the Korea Forest Service, is establishing a Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative (FERI) to support Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in achieving Aichi Biodiversity Targets 5, 11 and 15 in an integrated manner.

* UNEP/CBD/COP/12/1/Rev.1.

5. The twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention will undertake a mid-term review of the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 – 2020 and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The Conference of the Parties is expected to agree upon a PyeongChang Roadmap for the enhanced implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. FERI is designed to assist developing countries to implement the PyeongChang Roadmap, focusing on ecosystem restoration.

II. DESCRIPTION

6. FERI would be a mechanism for assisting Parties to:

- (a) Assess the potential costs and benefits of restoration;
- (b) Identify and assess areas with ecosystem and forest degradation;
- (c) Identify areas with high potential for forest and ecosystem restoration (including using available tools, policies etc);
- (d) Implement appropriate restoration activities;
- (e) Manage the complex dynamics inherent in forest and ecosystem restoration (e.g. protection of the rights of different users of a landscape).

7. FERI would directly support developing country Parties as they operationalize national targets and plans for ecosystem conservation and restoration within the framework of Aichi Biodiversity Targets 5, 11 and 15. These targets should emanate from or be integrated into updated National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and mainstreamed into broader national policies, plans and programmes.

8. The Republic of Korea has had substantial practical experience in the field of forest restoration, and FERI builds upon this experience as well as the experience of the CBD Secretariat in organizing a series of regional capacity-building workshops on ecosystem conservation and restoration in 2013-2014 (see UNEP/CBD/COP/12/22). The initiative will also draw upon experience of the complementary strengths and advantages of each of a number of partners. Key partners could include, for example, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Global Partnership for Forest Landscape Restoration (GPFLR) and the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER). With its global convening power, the CBD Secretariat can help to bring these partners together for the implementation of the Initiative.

9. FERI is envisaged to be a six-year initiative with the following four interrelated components:

1. *Capacity-building*
 - Workshops (driven by demand from Parties)
 - Learning exchanges at regional and subregional levels
 - Identification, translation, development and adaptation of tools for use by Parties
 - Technical clinics
2. *Implementation support*
 - Direct support to countries to carry out assessments of degradation and restoration potential, in the framework of Aichi Targets 5, 11 and 15. This funding could be used by countries to leverage funding from other sources for implementation of restoration activities.
3. *Technical support and cooperation*
 - International/global technical support networks – coordination mechanism among different regions and initiatives
 - Regional support hubs/“centres of excellence” – building on the technical and scientific cooperation networks envisaged under the CBD
4. *Expert process*
 - Meetings of expert and scientific groups on issues related to forest ecosystem restoration

10. Assessment indicators, analysis, monitoring methodologies, and feedback and learning processes would be developed and implemented throughout these four components at the national and subnational levels.

III. OUTCOMES

11. FERI is expected to have three primary outcomes:

- (a) The capacity of developing countries to undertake restoration activities is raised;
- (b) Implementation of restoration actions is enhanced;
- (c) Restoration actions are profiled and supported.

12. Figure 1 below provides a schematic representation of FERI.

