

## Proposed contribution from IUCN for the NBS proposition of the UNSG's Climate Action Summit 2019

<b>Title:</b>	<b>Restoring forests and lands as a crucial response to climate change and sustainable development (Bonn Challenge +)</b>
<b>A contribution to Workstream:</b>	<b>[Nature-based solutions]</b>
<b>Main objective/ thematic focus/ scope</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This initiative is directed to bringing 350 million hectares under restoration by 2030. It will use the already significant progress on the <i>Bonn Challenge (BC)</i> and New York Declaration on Forests Goal 5 as a springboard for additional commitments and to accelerate action on the restoration of deforested and degraded lands with quantified progress on area brought under restoration, carbon sequestered, jobs created and biodiversity benefits. The BC aims to bring 150 million ha into restoration by 2020 and 350 million ha by 2030, based on the forest landscape restoration (FLR) approach. To date 58 contributors have pledged more than 170 million ha (almost the size of Indonesia). Measurable progress in countries has been assessed by the BC Barometer of Progress. For additional information, see below and <a href="http://www.bonnchallenge.org/">http://www.bonnchallenge.org/</a> and <a href="https://infoflr.org/">https://infoflr.org/</a></li> </ul>
<b>Context/rationale</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The land sector currently accounts for 24% of total greenhouse gas emissions. Forest loss and land degradation negatively impacts the well-being of at least 3.2 billion people, costs more than 10% of the annual global gross product in loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services, and increases competition for scarce resources which can lead to conflict.</li> </ul>
<b>Overview of the contribution</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The initiative will send a message of hope by showcasing credible and measurable progress in pledges and in implementation on the ground (drawing on information from the BC Barometer of Progress). It will also contribute to advancing corporate and other commitments made under the New York Declaration on Forests (NYDF), which endorsed the BC.</li> </ul>
<b>How the contribution leverages living natural systems as a solution to avert climate change?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The restoration of forest landscapes is recognized as a critical nature-based solution to climate change. The dynamic interconnections between the Earth's land systems, climate and human societies mean that efforts to restore degraded and deforested landscapes have multiplicative positive benefits.</li> </ul>
<b>How might the contribution support both climate, mitigation and adaptation as well as other important co-benefits and social, economic and environmental outcomes in coming years including: Reduction in carbon emission and carbon capture (GTonnes);</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 11.8 – 33.5 Gt CO<sub>2</sub> could be sequestered through avoided deforestation and increases in tree cover as part of landscape approaches (Climate Advisers, 2014). Restoration also increases resilience to natural disasters and the ability of ecosystems to provide ecosystem services, reducing the vulnerability of people.</li> <li>- 13 BC countries have brought 43.7 million hectares under restoration since 2010: a 56% rate of implementation.</li> <li>- Other benefits (5 country sample) include at least 23Mt CO<sub>2</sub>e sequestered, an additional 354,000 jobs, and at least USD235 of finance and investment mobilized per hectare.</li> <li>- Action on restoration contributes to SDGs. For example, SDGs 1 and 8: Reducing poverty, particularly for rural communities, e.g., in China's Loess Plateau. A restoration program in Colorado provided 443 fulltime and 827 part-time jobs and generated USD28 million in labour income between 2010-2017. SDG 2: In Burkina Faso, Ghana, Ethiopia, Brazil, Guatemala and Viet Nam, FLR is generating nutritious food for communities. SDG 6: Farmers in Brazil are</li> </ul>

<p><b>Increasing climate resilience; Social impact (job increase; poverty reduction, etc.) Net economic impact (total in US\$; how was it achieved?); Impact on realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; Just transition; Food security; Minimising species extinction and ecological losses and fostering an increase of biodiversity.</b></p>	<p>protecting the drinking water supplies of Sao Paulo through FLR. SDG 12: Coco-agroforestry is providing a sustainable solution to agrocommodity-driven deforestation among small-scale farmers in the Amazon. SDG 13: See information above. SDG 15: FLR is an implementation pathway for CBD Aichi Targets by, e.g., reducing pressure on key biodiversity areas, securing the ability of landscapes to provide ecosystem services, and promoting the planting of trees and woody plants that sequester carbon.</p>
<p><b>Which countries and organisations are involved in the contribution?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), in partnership with Germany, on behalf of the cohort of 58 governments and private entities who have already committed to the BC. (IUCN is an IGO with UN Observer Status.)</li> </ul>
<p><b>How have stakeholders (e.g., indigenous peoples, local communities, and youth) been consulted in developing the contribution?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- FLR actively engages local populations in deciding on restoration goals, implementation methods and selecting the most suitable restoration strategies. It is planned and carried out in a gender-responsive manner, which has brought women to the forefront of forest conservation and restoration efforts in, e.g., Uganda and Armenia.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Where the contribution can be put into action?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Globally relevant. A strong regional ownership of the BC also already exists, which encourages faster uptake of best practices, through BC regional ministerial level processes and regional platforms in Central, Eastern, Southern and West Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, ASEAN, and the Caucasus and Central Asia regions.</li> </ul>
<p><b>How the contribution will be delivered? How will different stakeholders be engaged in its implementation? What are the potential transformational impacts?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Successful FLR is forward-looking and dynamic, focussing on creating future options to enhance and further optimise ecosystem goods and services as societal needs change or new challenges arise.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Is this initiative contributing to other Climate Action Summit workstreams (industry transition; energy</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Climate finance and carbon pricing; resilience and adaptation; and mitigation strategy.</li> </ul>

<p><b>transition; climate finance and carbon pricing; infrastructure, cities and local action; resilience and adaptation; youth and citizen mobilization; social and political drivers; mitigation strategy)?</b></p>	
<p><b>Examples of experiences to date: how does this contribution build upon this experience? How does the contribution link with different ongoing initiatives?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This initiative builds on the BC as a UNFCCC Lima-Paris Action Agenda initiative, giving stronger effect also to the NYDF and the recently adopted <i>Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030</i>. It is supported by existing regional initiatives and processes.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Mechanisms for funding (with specific emphasis on potential for partnerships).</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Implementation of restoration under the BC is funded by diverse sources, including pioneering public investment to kick-start restoration implementation and attract private sector investment. E.g., Rwanda and Guatemala have implemented public incentives for FLR coupled with supportive regulatory frameworks and clear legal arrangements for land tenure. Initial financing for building capacities and addressing enabling conditions can be secured from donor countries, IDBs, or international funds like the GCF, GEF.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Means of stewardship, metrics for monitoring.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- IUCN and Germany will steward this initiative with the support of the BC community and IUCN's entire network of State and non-State members.</li> <li>- The BC Barometer provides the platform and metrics for monitoring.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Communication strategy.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Action by national governments, companies and other entities who are restoring forest landscapes is media attractive because it is tangible and has quantified progress behind it. The Initiative will be promoted through the launch of the second Barometer report and via relevant websites, presentations in a series of BC regional events, and through targeted materials for the Climate Action Summit and associated pre-events. Climate Action Summit outcomes will be amplified via UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Contact details of proponents (indicating the degree of commitment among the countries and organizations that are named).</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The IUCN contact for this initiative is: Adriana Vidal, <a href="mailto:adriana.vidal@iucn.org">adriana.vidal@iucn.org</a></li> </ul>