



Ministerial Roundtable on Forest Landscape Restoration in the Caucasus and Central Asia

21-22 June 2018 | Astana | Kazakhstan

ASTANA RESOLUTION

Participants in the Ministerial Roundtable on Forest Landscape Restoration and the Bonn Challenge in the Caucasus and Central Asia (Ministerial Roundtable) organized by the Government of Kazakhstan in cooperation with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, with the support of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and the Government of Germany,

Welcoming the ongoing efforts of national forest authorities to increase forest cover in the Caucasus and Central Asia and halt the processes of desertification and land degradation,

Aware that countries in the Caucasus and Central Asia face similar challenges and common problems related to land degradation, the planning and implementation of forest landscape restoration, and that countries have an opportunity to engage and strengthen regional cooperation, as well as to strengthen partnerships in order to identify best solutions and implement action in support of forests, their ecosystems, and people depending on them,

Recognizing the major contribution of Forest Landscape Restoration to the implementation of actions for the achievement of global commitments made by countries of the Caucasus and Central Asia within the framework of the Rio Conventions, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF),

Noting that achieving the Bonn Challenge's 350 million-hectare restoration goal by 2030 could generate US\$ 170 billion per year globally in net benefits from watershed protection, improved crop yields and forest products, and could sequester up to 1.7 gigatonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent annually,

Emphasizing the importance of the Bonn Challenge, an international initiative intended to align quantified national commitments on forest landscape restoration,

Reaffirming our commitments to the Bonn Challenge global target to restore 150 million hectares of deforested and degraded lands by 2020 and 350 million hectares by 2030, and in accordance with national pledges from the region,

AGREE to:

1. *Identify* degraded lands within our respective countries and work to restore and afforest them by 2030, taking into account existing national efforts as well as initiatives already outlined in the relevant policy documents;

2. *Assess* the national potential for forest landscape restoration in order to enhance the voluntary regional target;

3. *Reinforce* regional cooperation on forest landscape restoration, in particular through policy dialogues, forest policy development and joint programming;

4. *Call on* development partners, in particular the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Union for Conservation of Nature, as well as international finance institutions and the private sector, to support efforts and investment at the national and regional level in forest landscape restoration and facilitate access to external investment opportunities;

5. *Cooperate* among interested partners to develop a strategy for the financing of forest landscape restoration efforts and reinforce national capacities in order to better mobilize existing financial instruments;

6. *Periodically assess* our respective efforts through alignment with the Bonn Challenge Barometer of Progress in order to voluntarily monitor and report progress towards forest landscape restoration targets in the Caucasus and Central Asia.

Adopted in Astana on 22 June 2018