



LAND AND LIFE ON EARTH

TECHNICAL BRIEF FEBRUARY 2023

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and Land Restoration

Land is the operative link between climate change and biodiversity loss, which makes protecting and restoring land and terrestrial ecosystems vital for all life. Land covers less than 30 per cent of the surface of the earth but is home to 85 per cent of all species. It is also home to large varieties of ecosystems, from tropical forests to deserts.

In 2019, an analysis of national reports submitted to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) conservatively estimates that on average 20 per cent of global land is degraded to some extent. This translates to almost 30 million square kilometers. Land degradation will have a significant impact on biodiversity, and efforts to restore degraded land could improve the survival of all species and reverse the loss of biological diversity.

Several global initiatives are under way to help stem the tide of land degradation and set the international community on the path to land restoration. The Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) approach was endorsed to this end in 2015 by 196 countries and the European Union, known as the Parties to UNCCD. In 2020, the leaders of the Group of Twenty (G20), the world's largest economies, at their meeting in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, launched the Global Initiative on Reducing Land Degradation and Enhancing Conservation of Terrestrial Habitats. The ambition of the G20 is to achieve a 50 per cent reduction in degraded land by 2040.

The adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) in December 2022 at the 15th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity is significant in this context.

The GBF aims to catalyse, galvanise and enable urgent and transformative action by governments and subnational and local authorities, with the involvement of society, in halting and reversing biodiversity loss. The framework is action- and results-oriented. It will guide and promote, at all levels, the revision, development, updating and implementation of policies, goals, targets and national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) has four long term goals and 23 targets. Goal A makes the most explicit reference to land restoration. It states: “the integrity, connectivity and resilience of all ecosystems are maintained, enhanced, or restored, substantially increasing the area of natural ecosystems by 2050”.

Further, Target 2 states:

“Ensure that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of areas of degraded terrestrial, inland water, and coastal and marine ecosystems are under effective restoration, in order to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, ecological integrity and connectivity”.

This target directly aligns with both the LDN target to be achieved by 2030 and the G20 ambition to achieve a 50 per cent reduction of degraded land by 2040.

Target 3 on conservation also complements the restoration effort. Target 3 of the GBF states “Ensure and enable that **by 2030 at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water**, and of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, **are effectively conserved and managed....”**



64 per cent of the world's wetlands have disappeared since 1900.



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A bee pollinating a strawberry flower

There are other potential linkages between restoration and conservation of terrestrial ecosystems and the new GBF. The key elements are reproduced in the two tables below.

Table 1: Key elements of land restoration of significance to biodiversity

Goal/ Target	Operating Elements of importance to restoration
GOAL B	Biodiversity is sustainably used and managed and nature’s contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services, are valued, maintained and enhanced, with those currently in decline being restored
TARGET 6	Eliminate, minimize, reduce and or mitigate the impacts of invasive alien species on biodiversity and ecosystem services
TARGET 7	Reduce pollution risks and the negative impact of pollution from all sources by 2030
TARGET 10	Ensure that areas under agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry are managed sustainably
TARGET 11	Restore, maintain and enhance nature’s contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services
TARGET 12	Significantly increase the area and quality and connectivity of, access to, and benefits from green and blue spaces in urban and densely populated areas sustainably



Increasing the number of green spaces in urban areas contributes to the wellbeing of it's residents.

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Four other targets in the new Framework (Table 2 below) can enable, and are aligned with, the global restoration efforts.

Table 2: Other biodiversity targets that enable restoration

Goal/Target

TARGET
19

Substantially and progressively increase the level of financial resources from all sources, in an effective, timely and easily accessible manner

TARGET
20

Strengthen capacity-building and development, access to and transfer of technology, and promote development of and access to innovation and technical and scientific cooperation

TARGET
21

Ensure that the best available data, information and knowledge, are accessible to decision makers, practitioners and the public

TARGET
22

Ensure the full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive representation and participation in decision-making, and access to justice and information related to biodiversity by indigenous peoples and local communities

Download the GBF: <https://g20land.org/kunming-montreal-global-biodiversity-framework-releases-final-text/>

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United Nations
Convention to Combat
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