



## Convention on Biological Diversity

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### **Global workshop on the Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative**

Seoul, 26–28 August 2025

Item 2 of the provisional agenda\*

### **Workshop objectives, methodology and expected outcomes**

## **Annotated provisional agenda**

### **Introduction**

1. At its twelfth meeting, held in 2014, the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted decision [12/19](#) on ecosystem conservation and restoration, in which it reaffirmed the need for enhanced support and cooperation to promote the ecosystem restoration efforts of developing countries towards implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.
2. In relation to the decision, the Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative (FERI) was launched on the margins of the twelfth meeting as a partnership between the Korea Forest Service and the Secretariat of the Convention. The Initiative has been implemented by the Secretariat, thanks to the generous financial support of the Republic of Korea, to assist developing country Parties with implementing forest conservation and restoration activities in support of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2010–2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets<sup>1</sup> and to respond to the growing number of requests from Parties for consistent methodological and technical support for forest and landscape restoration. To ensure the effective delivery of that support, the Initiative has been structured around four pillars: (a) producing knowledge products and developing decision support tools; (b) developing capacity through workshops and learning events; (c) providing direct support to countries for the implementation of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets; and (d) enhancing partnerships, communication and awareness with regard to forest restoration.
3. Since its inception, the Initiative has held five regional and two global workshops (including the present one). It has also engaged, either directly or indirectly, with 193 countries, provided in-person and online training to more than 2,000 experts and directly supported 12 projects on the ground. Through timely action and carefully nurtured partnerships, FERI has facilitated the increase in number and quality of restoration commitments towards the Aichi Targets in national biodiversity strategies and action plans and supported the road map to Target 2 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which is implemented through a dedicated partnership set up to assist Parties to the Convention in planning, monitoring and reporting on ecosystem restoration.
4. The present workshop is jointly organized by the Korea Forest Service and the Secretariat of the Convention, through FERI.

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\* CBD/FB/WS/2025/1/1/Rev.1.

<sup>1</sup> Decision [X/2](#), annex.

## **Item 1**

### **Opening of the workshop**

5. The workshop will begin with opening remarks from representatives of the Korea Forest Service, the Secretariat, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea and the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization.
6. A representative of the Seoul National University will also deliver a keynote presentation on the main threats to forest biodiversity and solutions to safeguard forests.

## **Item 2**

### **Workshop objectives, methodology and expected outcomes**

7. A representative of the Secretariat will provide an overview of the objectives, methodology and expected outcomes of the workshop, and participants will have the opportunity to introduce themselves.
8. The overall objective of the workshop is to identify priority areas and implementation modalities for the Initiative for the period 2026–2030 that are aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Discussions will revolve around lessons learned and recommendations emanating from 10 years of FERI implementation (2014–2024). Expected outcomes therefore include recommendations for the third phase of the Initiative with regard to prioritizing the most effective and impactful work areas and devising mechanisms to assist countries and build partnerships to accelerate the implementation of the Framework.
9. The proposed organization of work is provided in the annex to the present document.

## **Item 3**

### **Overview of 10 years of implementation of the Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative**

10. A representative of the Secretariat will provide an overview of the key outcomes of 10 years of implementation of the Initiative.
11. Selected participants will be invited to participate in a panel discussion to share their experience working with FERI.
12. An independent consultant will then make a presentation on the outcomes of the FERI evaluation, including recommendations for the third phase of the Initiative.<sup>2</sup>
13. The presentation will be followed by a structured plenary discussion to identify best practices, key success factors and limitations observed over 10 years of implementation.

## **Item 4**

### **Threats to forest biodiversity and key pathways to the conservation and sustainable management of forests**

14. Participants will be invited to discuss the main threats to forest biodiversity and identify common challenges to and pathways for forest biodiversity conservation. The discussions will provide an overall frame for subsequent items.
15. Selected participants will be invited to participate in a panel discussion on regional and national trends and risks and opportunities for forest biodiversity conservation, including forest-related commitments in national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

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<sup>2</sup> The evaluation will be made available on the webpage of workshop once finalized.

16. Participants will then be invited to break out in groups and discuss main threats, challenges and pathways for forest biodiversity conservation and specific regional topics. Subsequently, each group will be invited to report in plenary.

## Item 5

### **Aligning the Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**

17. Agenda item 5 will be split into two topics: (a) aligning FERI with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework; and (b) defining the unique values of FERI.

#### *Topic A: aligning the Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework*

18. Consideration of topic A will begin with a presentation by a representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on the analysis of forest-related issues contained in the revised national biodiversity strategies and action plans received since the adoption of the Framework.

19. After a general discussion, selected participants will be invited to share how forest commitments are integrated into their countries' targets or national biodiversity strategies and action plans and how they will be reflected in the seventh national reports, including by discussing data and capacity gaps and opportunities for experience-sharing, peer-to-peer learning and other capacity development modalities.

20. The panel discussion will be followed up by discussions in break-out groups on effective ways to align FERI with the Framework. Each group will then be invited to report back in plenary.

#### *Topic B: defining the unique values of the Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative*

21. The key objective under topic B is to identify the areas where FERI could make the biggest impact, taking into consideration the five-year timeline for delivering the 2030 targets of the Framework.

22. Discussions will begin with a presentation by a representative of the Secretariat on the interlinkages between forests and the Framework targets and on the status of the strategic review and analysis of the programme of work on forest biodiversity,<sup>3</sup> as well as other relevant processes under the Convention.

23. Taking the presentation into account, the participants will be invited to discuss the unique added value of the Initiative compared with other relevant global and regional forest restoration initiatives, and how its features could be leveraged to achieve a bigger impact.

24. The representatives of global and regional restoration initiatives and networks and of organizations with a forest restoration mandate, including organizations representing indigenous peoples and local communities, will be invited to a panel discussion to share their experience with forest restoration and their views on the unique role that FERI could play. Synergies with other relevant regional and global initiatives and partners will be identified, with a focus on their complementary value. During the follow-up discussion, participants will have the opportunity to gain insight into the unique role that FERI could play and the partnerships that it could foster, which could help to accelerate the implementation of the Framework.

<sup>3</sup> The strategic review and analysis of, and draft update to, the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity will be made available in due course on the webpage of the twenty-seventh meeting the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, at [www.cbd.int/meetings/SBSTTA-27](http://www.cbd.int/meetings/SBSTTA-27).

## **Item 6**

### **Whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach**

25. The objective of agenda item 6 is to deepen the understanding of how the Initiative could integrate a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach.
26. Discussions will be focussed on defining the role that diverse stakeholder groups could play in the effective implementation of FERI. Selected participants will be invited to participate in a panel discussion on stakeholder engagement across the public sector and civil society.
27. Participants will then be invited to share their thoughts on the insights provided by the panel speakers and their views on stakeholder engagement and partnership-building, with a view to strengthening the effective implementation of FERI.

## **Item 7**

### **Other matters**

28. Representatives of the Korea Forest Service will provide information on the excursion programme scheduled for the last day of the workshop.
29. Participants will be invited to bring up any other matters of relevance to the workshop.

## **Item 8**

### **Closure of the workshop**

30. Participants will be invited to review a summary of the key areas and priorities identified during the presentations, discussions and group exercises.
31. Brief closing remarks will be provided by representatives of the Korea Forest Service and the Secretariat.
32. The workshop is scheduled to be closed at noon on 28 August, after a field visit to the National Institute of Forest Science organized by the Korea Forest Service.

## Annex

### Proposed organization of work

| <i>Time</i>                      | <i>Agenda item</i>                                                                                                   |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Tuesday, 26 August 2025</b>   |                                                                                                                      |
| 9.30–10 a.m.                     | Registration                                                                                                         |
| 10–11.30 a.m.                    | Item 1. Opening of the workshop                                                                                      |
| 11.30–11.45 a.m.                 | Item 2. Workshop objectives, methodology and expected outcomes                                                       |
| 11.45 a.m.–12.45 p.m.            | Item 3. Overview of 10 years of implementation of the Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative                        |
| 12.45–2 p.m.                     | <i>Lunch break</i>                                                                                                   |
| 2–3.15 p.m.                      | Item 3 ( <i>continued</i> )                                                                                          |
| 3.15–3.30 p.m.                   | <i>Coffee break</i>                                                                                                  |
| 3.30–5 p.m.                      | Item 4. Threats to forest biodiversity and key pathways to the conservation and sustainable management of forests    |
| <b>Wednesday, 27 August 2025</b> |                                                                                                                      |
| 9–10.40 a.m.                     | Item 5. Aligning the Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework |
| 10.40–11 a.m.                    | <i>Coffee break</i>                                                                                                  |
| 11 a.m.–12.30 p.m.               | Item 5 ( <i>continued</i> )                                                                                          |
| 12.30–1.45 p.m.                  | <i>Lunch break</i>                                                                                                   |
| 1.45–3.15 p.m.                   | Item 5 ( <i>continued</i> )                                                                                          |
| 3.15–3.30 p.m.                   | <i>Coffee break</i>                                                                                                  |
| 3.30–4.30 p.m.                   | Item 6. Whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach                                                            |
| 4.30–4.40 p.m.                   | Item 7. Other matters                                                                                                |
| 4.40–5.15 p.m.                   | Item 8. Closure of the workshop                                                                                      |
| <b>Thursday, 28 August 2025</b>  |                                                                                                                      |
| 9 a.m.–noon                      | Field visit to the National Institute of Forest Science                                                              |