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Item 13 of the provisional agenda*
Cooperation with international organizations and bodies established under other conventions

Submission from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on the implementation of the Target 2 Road Map**

Note by the Secretariat

1. On 14 October 2026, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity received a submission from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) providing information on the implementation of the Target 2 Road Map, for information of participations to the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and to complement the progress report on cooperation with international organizations and bodies established under other conventions contained in document CBD/COP/17/9.

2. The update on the implementation of the Target 2 Road Map from FAO is reproduced in the annex to the present note in the form and language in which it was received by the Secretariat.

* CBD/COP/17/1/Rev.1.
** The present document is being issued without formal editing.

Annex

Update on the implementation of the Target 2 Road Map

I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 6 of decision 16/35, the Conference of the Parties invited the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in collaboration with the Rio conventions and other relevant partners, to continue to implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including through the Target 2 Road Map, in consultation with Parties, Governments, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, women and youth groups, people living with disabilities and other relevant stakeholders.

2. This note presents, for the information of participants to the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, information provided by FAO on the implementation of the Target 2 Road Map. This note complements document CBD/COP/17/9 on cooperation with international organizations and bodies established under other conventions and the information document for COP17, Report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

3. The present note builds on the information [1] made available to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its sixth meeting on the background, objectives and governance of the Road Map and on its subregional capacity development programme, and to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its twenty-eighth meeting on the operationalization of headline indicator 2.1 ("Area under restoration")[2]. To avoid repetition, the present note focuses on progress in implementing the Target 2 Road Map since February 2026, and includes progress towards Target 2 based on seventh national reports submitted under the Convention and complementary data sources and priorities leading up to the eighth national reports and 2030.

II. Progress in the implementation of the Road Map

A. Metadata update and default data for headline indicator 2.1

4. The metadata for headline indicator 2.1 was updated in 2026 to improve clarity and usability, drawing on lessons from the seventh national reporting cycle. The update introduces a registry approach, recommended parameters for national databases and guidance on reporting through the Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring (FERM) and the Online Reporting Tool, without changing the methodology or scope of the indicator. The draft was reviewed by members from the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators[3] and by members of the Task Force on Monitoring of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.[4] In the updated metadata for the headline indicators made available to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its twenty-eighth meeting, the Secretariat assessed indicator 2.1 at the highest level of methodological maturity, reflecting the availability of an operational database, refined guidance and support for Parties.[5]

5. The application programming interface linking the FERM with the Online Reporting Tool, together with a reporting template for the headline indicator and its optional disaggregation, enabled Parties during the seventh national reporting cycle to access default restoration data, review and validate national information and submit tabular and geospatial data.

[1] Information document CBD/SBSTTA/28/INF/8
[2] Information document CBD/SBSTTA/28/INF/4.
[3] https://www.cbd.int/gbf/related/monitoring/ind
[4] https://www.fao.org/ecosystem-restoration-monitoring/about/un-decade/en
[5] Information document CBD/SBSTTA/28/INF/4

B. Working groups of the Target 2 Road Map

6. The working groups of the Target 2 Road Map have continued to address specific methodological needs. Guidance on consistent reporting and monitoring of freshwater restoration under Target 2 has been made available.[6] The working group on Indigenous-led restoration is supporting approaches that make the contributions of Indigenous Peoples visible in national monitoring while respecting data sovereignty. The working group on national and regional capacity development is consolidating the gaps and needs identified by countries and linking them with the support available through the technical and scientific cooperation support centres. One of the gaps identified is the limited visibility of ecosystem restoration efforts led by Indigenous Peoples. As part of this work, FAO issued a call for inputs inviting Indigenous Peoples' organizations and relevant partners to share their experiences with ecosystem restoration and monitoring.[7]

C. Subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres

7. The ten regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation (TSC) support centres that were engaged through the Road Map in 2025[8] with financial support packages from the AIM4NatuRe programme[9] and the Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative continue to provide technical backstopping to countries in their subregions under support packages covering the period 2025 to 2028. Following the three subregional in-person workshops held in Bangkok[10], Bogotá[11] and Nairobi[12], which were reported to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its sixth meeting, the TSC support centres have led further knowledge-sharing activities in their subregions, including the establishment of dedicated help desks supporting national focal points to the Convention on FERM and Target 2 reporting. In early 2026, webinars in English, French and Spanish reached 364 participants from 46 countries, helping national focal points and technical staff use the FERM and the Online Reporting Tool. An in-person knowledge sharing event is being organized with the TSC support centres at COP17 to provide restoration monitoring training and inter regional exchange.

D. Lessons from country-level support

8. Technical assistance provided under AIM4NatuRe in four pilot countries was described in the information document prepared for the twenty-eighth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice[13]. Three lessons from these experiences are relevant beyond the pilot countries. First, restoration monitoring and reporting needs to be anchored in national legislation and plans, so that reported figures are owned by the national institutions. Second, restoration data are dispersed across ministries, subnational governments, protected area agencies, civil society, Indigenous Peoples, research institutions and communities, and institutional coordination is as important as technical tools. Third, countries are at very different stages of building restoration monitoring and data compilation into national systems, so monitoring support needs to be tailored, ranging from compiling project-level information to integrating national platforms with the FERM.

9. Experiences across regions illustrate examples of national monitoring systems. Brazil is developing the national monitoring system for its National Plan for the Recovery of Native Vegetation (Planaveg),

[6] FAO. 2025. Enabling consistent reporting and monitoring for freshwater (inland waters) restoration under Target 2 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Rome, https://doi.org/10.4060/cd5046en. 2025

[7] https://www.fao.org/indigenous-peoples/news/detail/call-for-inputs--indigenous-peoples'-experiences-with-ecosystem-restoration-and-monitoring/en

[8] Central African Forest Commission, Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development, Sahara and Sahel Observatory, South African National Biodiversity Institute, Alexander von Humboldt Biological Resources Research Institute, Central American Commission on Environment and Development, ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, IUCN Regional Office for West Asia, IUCN Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia and Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme.

[9] More information on AIM4NatuRe is available at https://www.fao.org/ecosystem-restoration-monitoring/aim4natuRe/en.

[10] www.cbd.int/meetings/ECR-OM-2025-01

[11] www.cbd.int/meetings/NBSAP-OM-2025-06

[12] https://www.cbd.int/meetings/ECR-WS-2026-01

[13] Information document CBD/SBSTTA/28/INF/8

which will be used to report on Target 2 and will be interoperable with the FERM. Peru has integrated around 200 restoration projects into national databases aligned with the FERM. Kenya launched in 2025 a Landscape and Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring Framework whose indicators are aligned with its obligations under the three Rio conventions. In Saint Lucia, under the small island developing states (SIDS) World Restoration Flagship, agencies responsible for forestry, fisheries, water resources and biodiversity are building a shared national restoration information repository supported through the FERM.

III. Cooperation across conventions and intergovernmental bodies

10. Ecosystem restoration is a shared agenda of the Rio conventions, as reiterated in the joint statement issued in Belém at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 30).[14] The secretariats of the three Rio conventions and of the Convention on Wetlands are members of the leads group of the Target 2 Road Map.

11. FAO has linked the FERM with the Online Reporting Tool of the Convention, as noted in paragraph 5, and is working on linking restoration data across the Performance Review and Assessment of Implementation System of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, and the Global Forest Resources Assessment platform, and other platforms such as the Restoration Barometer. This interoperability allows restoration data to be used across reporting frameworks, reduces the reporting burden on Parties and improves the comparability of restoration information across conventions and frameworks.

12. FAO and the Secretariat supported the regional capacity-building workshops for the 2026 United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) national reporting cycle by sharing with UNCCD national focal points restoration data reported by their countries through the seventh national reports and complementary sources compiled through the FERM as described in section IV. This engagement promoted stronger coordination between national institutions and the harmonization of restoration data across reporting processes.

13. Connecting restoration information across global commitments was the focus of the side event "Restoration as a shared solution: delivering for land and biodiversity", held in August 2026 at the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, organized by FAO with the secretariats of that Convention and of the Convention on Biological Diversity.[15]

14. There are ongoing efforts to align restoration monitoring approaches with emerging climate-finance frameworks, linking data reported towards Target 2 can also support reporting under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and potentially facilitate opportunities to access results-based finance.

15. Restoration monitoring was discussed at the twenty-eighth session of the Committee on Forestry of FAO[16], highlighting the importance of forest and landscape restoration and the Target 2 Road Map and FERM was recognized.

IV. Collective progress towards Target 2

16. With the objective of producing a global estimate of the area under restoration, FAO, UNEP and the Secretariat have compiled a consolidated estimate that draws on the seventh national reports, the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025, national reports and site information under the Convention on

[14] Joint statement of the Rio conventions issued in Belém at the United Nations Climate Change Conference 2025 https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/2025-11/Belem%20Rio%20statement.pdf

[15] https://www.fao.org/ecosystem-restoration-monitoring/news/news-detail/connecting-restoration-information-across-global-commitments/en

[16] https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/35827928-8db4-437c-8782-96869565e059/content

Wetlands, and the Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring (FERM).[17] In order to reduce the risk of double counting, the estimate retains only the highest value reported for each country by ecosystem across these sources. The values for the three ecosystem realms (terrestrial, inland water, and marine and coastal) were then summed to obtain each country's total. The results are presented in the Restoration Progress Report, which will be launched on Restoration Day at the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, on 29 October 2026.[18]

17. The estimate is consistent in approach with the global report on collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which also draws on the seventh national reports. Differences in the area reported mainly reflect the fact that the *Restoration progress report: Nature's comeback – Scaling ecosystem restoration for people and planet*, assessed 62 national reports delivered using as cut-off date 18 March 2026 which differs from that used for the global report (7 March 2026 using 53 national reports), as well as the wider range of sources drawn on.

18. For each ecosystem realm, the *Restoration Progress Report* also presents an estimation for the area of degraded ecosystems and compilation of the restoration pledges and commitments made by countries and global targets, to compare the area documented as under restoration to both the extent of degradation and the level of ambition. For terrestrial ecosystems, the estimate of degraded area draws on the reporting of the UNCCD under Sustainable Development Goal indicator 15.3.1 (proportion of land that is degraded over total land area), which places degraded land at more than 1.56 billion hectares.[19] In the report the indicative estimate of degraded inland water and marine and coastal degradation is based on data from the Global Wetland Outlook 2025. Degraded inland water ecosystems are estimated at 814 million hectares and marine and coastal ecosystems is estimated at 84 million hectares. [20] Combining the estimates of terrestrial, inland water and marine and coastal ecosystem degradation, the global total is approximated at 2.46 billion. Thirty per cent of this area, approximately 738 million hectares, is used in the *Restoration Progress Report* as an indicative benchmark for Target 2.

19. The pledges and commitments draw on the land degradation neutrality targets communicated under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the nationally determined contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement, the Bonn Challenge, the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025, national reports and site information under the Convention on Wetlands, and the national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) and national targets communicated under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. On this basis, countries have collectively committed to restore nearly one billion hectares.

20. Approximately 252 million hectares are documented as under restoration across 149 countries. This is the largest documented restoration effort to date, and corresponds to about 34 per cent of the indicative benchmark for Target 2 (30 percent of degraded ecosystems).

21. Progress differs markedly among ecosystem realms. Terrestrial ecosystems account for approximately 232 million hectares, close to half of the indicative terrestrial benchmark for Target 2. Marine and coastal ecosystems account for approximately 5.7 million hectares, about 23 per cent of the corresponding benchmark for Target 2, and inland waters for approximately 11 million hectares in 62 countries, about 5 per cent of the corresponding benchmark for Target 2. Some 3.2 million hectares are reported without disaggregation by ecosystem. Inland waters and marine and coastal ecosystems are among

[17]Seventh national reports (https://ort.cbd.int/national-reports/nr7); FAO. 2025. Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025. Rome, https://doi.org/10.4060/cd6709en; Ramsar Sites Information Service (https://rsis.ramsar.org); Convention on Wetlands National Report Data System (https://nrds.ramsar.org); and the Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring (https://ferm.fao.org).
[18]FAO, UNEP and SCBD. 2026. Restoration Progress Report. Nature's Comeback: Scaling Ecosystem Restoration for People and Planet. Rome, Nairobi and Montreal. [In press]
[19] Based on data from UNCCD. 2019. UNCCD Data Dashboard: Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Indicator 15.3.1. [Accessed on 27 March 2026]. https://data.unccd.int/land-degradation?grouping=SDG
[20] Area degraded estimated at 63 per cent of the remaining area of global wetlands in poor or fair condition . 2025. State of the World's Wetlands: 2024 Participatory Survey. [Cited 29 September 2026].

the most rapidly degrading ecosystems, yet they remain the least visible in both commitments and reported implementation.

22. To support a consistent and accurate understanding of data reported by countries for indicator 2.1, FAO contacted the national focal points to the Convention of 36 countries where reported values required clarification. Clarification points included units, cumulative values or missing aggregate estimates. Responses from 22 countries enabled a consistent compilation of data for the global review of collective progress and for FAO's State of the World's Forests 2026[21].

23. An area reported as under restoration indicates that restoration activities are being implemented; however, it does not demonstrate whether the ecosystem is recovering or whether the activities meet the qualitative elements of effective restoration under Target 2, namely to enhance biodiversity, ecosystem functions and services, ecological integrity and connectivity.

24. There is also a substantial information gap. Forty-six countries did not report restoration progress under any of the frameworks analysed, although 26 of them have restoration targets under various frameworks covering a total of 53 million hectares. Of the 125 Parties that had submitted seventh national reports by March 2026, 63 (50 per cent) provided no quantitative data for headline indicator 2.1. These 63 Parties cover about 3 billion hectares of land, including an estimated 345 million hectares of degraded land.

25. In their seventh national reports, countries identified why they did not report information under indicator 2.1. Thirty-eight countries (60 per cent) reported that they lacked national-level data on areas under restoration, 15 (24 per cent) had data that could not be aggregated nationally, and 9 (14 per cent) were still consolidating or validating data. Among Parties that did report on indicator 2.1, disaggregation by tenure was limited: only two reported area under restoration in Indigenous Peoples' lands and traditional territories.

26. Spatially explicit, initiative-level data can help address some limitations. As of April 2026, FERM, compiling data from the FERM Registry and partner platforms[22] documented 1,015 restoration initiatives in 135 countries covering approximately 30 million hectares of areas under restoration, with spatially explicit information for 78 per cent of this area.[23] The 35 World Restoration Flagships[24] report 18 million hectares under restoration through the FERM, of which 12.7 million hectares in 28 countries contribute directly to the consolidated estimate. Geospatial information makes it possible to detect overlaps between initiatives, avoid double counting and link site-level action to landscape and seascape planning and restoration outcomes. The FERM enables monitoring ecological and socioeconomic information, including on biodiversity, tenure and beneficiaries.

V. Outlook and priorities

27. The global review of collective progress at the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the Restoration Progress Report assess data reported by countries towards Target 2. Both show that success cannot be measured in hectares alone and that 30 per cent by 2030 is a milestone on the path towards Goal A of the Framework, not an end point. With the objective of bridging identified gaps and addressing identified challenges, the Target 2 Road Map partners will adjust their support to help Parties prepare their eighth national reports and to track progress towards 2030. The following priorities have been identified:

[21] FAO. 2026. *The State of the World's Forests 2026 – Restoring forests and landscapes: The way forward for a sustainable future*. Rome. https://doi.org/10.4060/ce0633en

[22] Nature Commitments, the Restoration Resource Center of the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER), the Brazilian Restoration Observatory, the Kelp Forest Alliance, Acción Andina and the Convention on Wetlands Ramsar Sites Information Service.

[23] FERM Registry, https://ferm.fao.org , accessed 29 April 2026, as reported in the Restoration Progress Report.

[24] https://www.decadeonrestoration.org/world-restoration-flagships

(a) Identifying indicators to monitor effective ecosystem restoration outcomes and contributions to biodiversity, ecosystem functions and services, ecological integrity, connectivity and human wellbeing;

(b) Ecosystem-specific guidance and targeted capacity development, including through partnerships with ecosystem-specific monitoring networks;

(c) Strengthening geospatial and registry-based national systems and interoperability with the FERM, to improve monitoring capacity, transparency and avoid double counting;

(d) Ensuring that the knowledge, data and monitoring practices of Indigenous Peoples are reflected in national and international frameworks while respecting data sovereignty;

(e) Engaging and supporting TSC support centres to respond to Parties' needs.

28. Parties and partners may wish to support the above-listed priorities by integrating restoration monitoring into national monitoring systems and budgets, by sharing national restoration datasets, including geospatial data, through the FERM and the Online Reporting Tool, by continuing to build targeted technical capacities of Parties, and by contributing to sustained financing for monitoring capacity which remains a constraint highlighted by countries in all regions.