

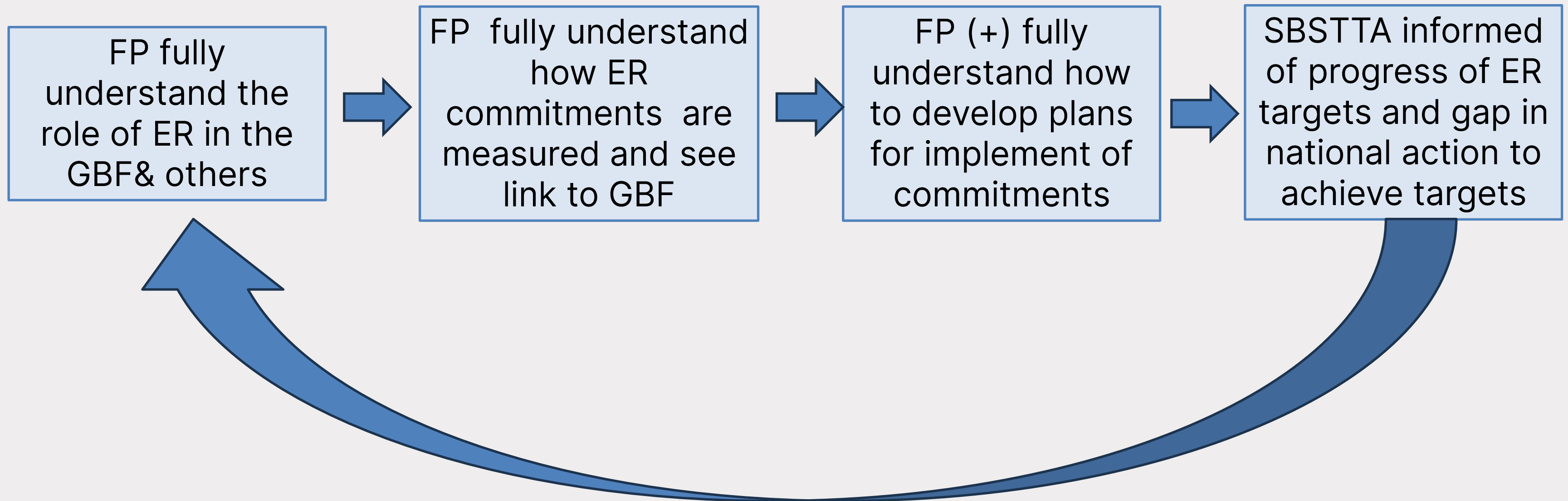


# Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative 2015 -2025 Lessons Learned

CBD Secretariat

26 ~ 28 AUGUST, 2025 | SEOUL, REPUBLIC OF KOREA

# FERI Phase I- II GOALS



# Small-scale projects -catalytic role and sustainability

- 980 Ha are under restoration, 2.3 M ha indirectly affected
- Experiments with a catalytic, replicable or scalable nature
- Restoration of various types of forest, using a diversity of approaches and working with a broad society groups – indigenous people and local communities, governments, research, experts
- Converging biodiversity and socio-economic benefits
- Case Studies are well-documented
- Continuity was one of the selection criteria
- Out-scaling to other sides in most of the projects
- Funding proposals for GEF, GCF, REDD+ and other donors



# Achievements of small scale projects

## Direct Restoration and Habitat Recovery:

980 Ha are under restoration, 2.3 M ha indirectly affected

- In Kenya, large areas were cleared of invasive species and replanted, leading to increased biodiversity in the model forest
- In Mexico, the "productive restoration model" directly impacted 55 hectares, fostering the return of key native species

## Knowledge Generation and Tool Development:

- The Colombia project contributed to the development and scaling of a global online platform ([www.diversityforrestoration.org](http://www.diversityforrestoration.org)) to guide species and seed source selection for climate-resilient restoration
- In Lebanon, a DNA barcode reference library for plants and mammals was initiated,
- In Niger and Burkina Faso, a socioeconomic cost-benefit analysis of Forest Landscape Restoration interventions provided data showing high net gains in ecosystem services, increased biodiversity.

## Emphasize on full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities:

- In Madagascar, agreements were signed with local communities, and field training schools were conducted
- In Peru, the knowledge and capacity of local farmers were strengthened, and lessons learned were converted into teaching modules for local universities



# Lessons learned of small scale projects

- A clear set of criteria and careful selection of projects were a big part of the success
- Small-scale, accessible funds are better suited for local communities
- Diverse implementing agencies (national NGOs, government-affiliated, research, FAO, ITTO)
- Detailed documentation and dissemination of national experience is essential
- High transaction cost
- Time required for establishing agreements
- Need to ensure that the CBD focal point office is fully informed and engaged in the project

# Global, regional and subregional technical support and cooperation

Seven Regional Workshops: 2015 - 2020  
W Africa, CE&S Africa, Mediterranean, E &  
SE Asia, Asian Pacific & LAC

Improved SMART-ness of national  
targets (37% revised, 29% new)

- Customized to the regional needs
- Peer-to-peer learning
- Building partnerships
- Turnover of staff
- Limited number of staff are trained

Global training: 2022 – 2023

Massive Open Online Course on  
Ecosystem Restoration  
+16,000 online participants from  
193 countries

KMGBF Target 2 workshop

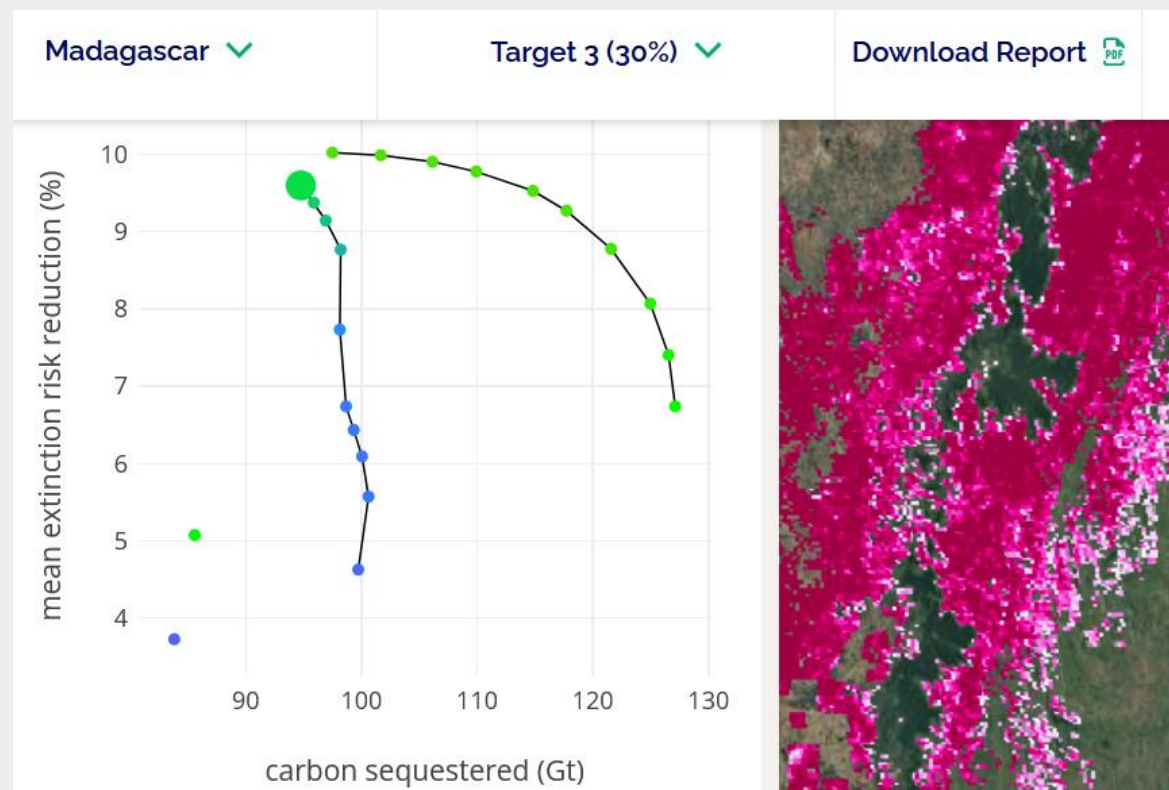
Resource Manual and E-learning  
Course

- Higher number of people have access
- Online course could be moderated and self-paced

# Development and adaptation of tools

## WePlan-Forest for 37 countries

- Ready to use maps to compare multiple scenarios of restoration (10-50% of area available for restoration)
- Optimization of biodiversity benefits, carbon seq, cost
- High subjectivity and uncertainty of default data



## Restoring Hope piloted in 5 countries

- Using national data
- Co-development with national teams
- Improved methodology for spatial planning (Target 1)
- High cost and takes up to 1-2 years

### Restoration Priority Action Areas

Cost Layer:  
Opportunity Cost

Total Area:  
174,686.7 km<sup>2</sup>

National Area:  
15.2%

Restoration Priority Action Areas



# Overarching observations and lessons learned

## FERI-I (2015-2020)

- Early stage of development of a conceptual framework.
- Exploring modalities to deliver programmes activities.
- Mid-term of Aichi Biodiversity Targets implementation
- Focus on the development of needed tools and in-person capacity development
- Lessons learned:
  - CBD Short-term Action Plan on Ecosystem Restoration and its technical series provided an enabling environment for Parties and stakeholders to design restoration targets
  - Increased effectiveness of the in-person workshops to reduce misalignment between the participants' skills, decision power and knowledge of restoration and the workshops' activities and expected outcomes.

## FERI-II (2020-2025)

- FERI-II took place during the transition between Aichi Targets and the GBF and within the uncertainty of the negotiations of the GBF in the context of a major pandemic.
- FERI transitions to online capacity building through the MOOC and webinars to reach a bigger audience and to broker the tools, data and knowledge.
- FERI supports the creation of the T2 Roadmap to mobilize technical partners and the CBD subregional support centers for long-term capacity building
- Lessons learned: Stronger alignment with KMGBF, supporting policies and being relevant for countries, and enhanced visibility
  - Adoption of the tools, resources and opportunities offered by FERI is highly dependent on the Parties' needs and capabilities.
  - Need to define FERI's unique role to maximize its impact

# CONCLUSSIONS

Despite the demonstrated benefits of ecosystem restoration, and the significant advances in the last two decades, restoring forests remains a significant challenge.

Parties lack knowledge, technical capacity, and the right internal legal and administrative infrastructure to facilitate the inclusion of ER in their national policies.

FERI, despite its size, is aiding in assisting the Parties in developing some of that capacity to incorporate ER in many aspects of their biodiversity and sustainability plans. It is also, allowing SCBD to better engage with other UN units to promote forest restoration.

FERI has provided the necessary tools and knowledge products to assist the CBD and the Parties. At this junction, it is necessary to better understand the best strategies to help Parties advance with their NBSAPs and National T2 (National Restoration Plans?).

A need more partners joining FERI for sustainability



Kunming-Montreal  
**GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK**



Korea Forest Service



**UN**  
environment  
programme



Convention on  
Biological Diversity

# Thank You!