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Director General
Tim Rollinson FICFor

11 January 2010

Dear Colleague

**THE LONDON CHALLENGE – CO-CHAIRS SUMMARY
FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION – ROUNDTABLE & WORKING GROUP
26TH NOVEMBER 2009 – ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON**

Thank you for your active participation in the above event, which was a great success and has provided the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration with a clear vision of what we need to address. I am pleased to enclose the final version of the co-chairs summary "The London Challenge", which builds on the draft we circulated on the day and takes into account suggestions we have received from many of you.

During the Working Group session in the afternoon we started the process of looking to turn "the London Challenge" into a work programme to take forward the work of the Partnership over the next 5 years. We will keep Partners regularly informed about progress through Newsletters and information on the Partnership's website at: <http://www.ideastransformlandscapes.org/>

Hopefully we will have the opportunity to work together in the future to restore more of the forests we have lost.

Yours sincerely



**Tim Rollinson
Director General, Forestry Commission
Chair, Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration**



'The London Challenge'

Forest Landscape Restoration: Roundtable 26 November 2009 Co-chair's Summary

Introduction

A ground-breaking High-level Roundtable and Working Group on Forest Landscape Restoration co-hosted by the UK and IUCN took place 26th November 2009 in London. This event brought together more than 60 ministers, heads of organizations, senior representatives of governments and major UN agencies, and experts from more than 20 countries.

The result was a shared vision for harnessing the potential of more than 1 billion hectares of lost forests and degraded forest lands worldwide to significantly improve local livelihoods, conserve biodiversity, complement and support agricultural productivity and make a tangible contribution to mitigating climate change through forest landscape restoration.

Since its establishment in 2003 the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration has been building support for forest restoration with key decision makers, both at local and international level, and providing information and tools to strengthen restoration efforts around the world.

At the first global workshop on the implementation of forest landscape restoration, which took place in April 2005 in Petrópolis, Brazil, the participants agreed "**The Petropolis Challenge: To restore forest landscapes to benefit people and nature and contribute to reversing the trends of forest loss and degradation.**" Key elements to meet the challenge would be to grow the partnership, including by securing high-level political support, and to build a learning network.

Nearly five years on the challenge is still valid but with more than 40 Partners and Collaborators, new political realities and new opportunities, including those related to climate change, the time is right to look towards the next steps to deliver on this challenge.

New Developments in Restoration

Global Assessment: Participants heard about the assessment of places in the world that are likely to offer restoration opportunities. More specifically they heard preliminary results of the partnership's work on assessing: How large an area is available and suitable for restoration? Where are the main opportunity areas located? Answering these questions will increase recognition of the role of restoration in addressing the major challenges facing the international community today and in the future, and will help pinpoint places for investment. Preliminary results show that across the globe lie more than a billion hectares of lost and degraded forest land that could be restored and show where these opportunities lie on a map. They learned that those opportunities are of two types: (1) Mosaic-type restoration, in more populated and higher-land-use areas with significantly reduced tree cover, and (2) Broad-scale restoration, in areas where the land-use pressure is low and forests can grow more freely.

Economics of restoration: Participants highlighted the need for new investment and to capitalize on the new opportunities related to climate change mitigation. They learned about a GPFLR study of the economic costs and benefits of FLR that will provide a database of information to support sound policy

and practice decisions. The initial phase of this study will focus on the three key, connected areas of financial flows, economic (non-cash) flows and equity. It will form the foundation for a more comprehensive study, the results of which should allow policy makers and planners to prioritise restoration options within countries, fine tune the scale of their approaches, gain guidance on how to share benefits more fairly among stakeholder groups, and several other aspects of restoration initiatives. The final analysis will be based upon a series of case studies from around the world.

Learning network: Participants shared experiences and learned about restoration initiatives in different parts of the world. They discussed how a resource like the learning network is essential for scaling up restoration efforts. It helps primarily practitioners but also policy makers, advisors and researchers to learn from the diversity of solutions and their application. They heard about more than 40 FLR projects spanning every continent, from China, Thailand and Indonesia to central Africa, Scotland and the Brazilian Amazon who are committing to learning together through the global network and the national, regional and thematic networks within it.

Participants highlighted a number of themes, particularly the following:

Restoration and Climate Change

Following the UNFCCC COP15 in Copenhagen the important role of forest restoration in both climate change mitigation and adaptation should continue to be recognised within the climate change negotiations of 2010 in the run up to COP16 in Mexico. Approaches to REDD-plus and the opportunities offered by restoration are relevant in most countries. The various REDD-plus approaches – avoided deforestation and degradation, sustainable forest management and restoration – are not mutually exclusive. They complement each other and create synergies. Only by including all mitigation options can forests really unleash their full mitigation potential.

Freshwater security, food security (crops and fisheries) and the management of climate-induced hazards are important aspects of adaptation to climate change. Restoration of forests, mangroves and related ecosystems can play a role in addressing these challenges. Links to livelihoods and to meeting basic needs should not be ignored and these problems should be taken into account in Copenhagen.

Restoration and People

Forest restoration needs to benefit people and communities and their participation is critical to the success of restoration efforts. What makes the forest landscape restoration approach different is that it is about bringing forests and people into harmony. Some partners are already heavily investing in forest restoration with remarkable outcomes: benefits include multiple environmental services, jobs and income creation, poverty reduction and improved governance. But more investment at scale – both public and private – is needed, especially in those countries where people are highly dependent on forests for their daily livelihoods.

Next Steps

The roundtable validated the continuing relevance of **The Petropolis Challenge: To restore forest landscapes to benefit people and nature and contribute to reversing the trends of forest loss and degradation**. And identified a new challenge for the international community and the GPFLR to identify ways to support partners and collaborators in delivering forest restoration.

They called for breaking down the “silo” approach to forests, recognised the need to work cross-sectorally and challenged countries, organisations and companies: **to work together to deliver increased and measurable activity on restoring forest landscapes to benefit people and nature and contribute to reversing the trends of forest loss and degradation**. They recognised that the benefits from restoring forests include multiple environmental services, jobs and income creation, poverty reduction and improved governance.

Participants emphasised the need for FLR champions at different levels to talk to others, to tell stories about what’s changed and how. They highlighted the importance of ‘making connections’, networking the networks to capitalise on innovative approaches and deliver solutions.

They called for a positive, constructive approach that moves from threats to opportunities, and that links ideas and political will to actions. It was recognized that political leadership as well as a public movement in support of restoration of forestlands is needed.

Participants highlighted key elements of an action plan to meet this challenge, including:

- Providing support to local champions and practitioners.
- Assessing the potential for restoration including in connection with national and regional REDD-plus strategies as a priority.
- Taking a few strong messages on forest restoration to the Copenhagen negotiations.
- Assessing the economic value of FLR based on case studies.
- Addressing the governance needs, including policy frameworks and frameworks for rights, for landscape level restoration.
- Moving the tremendous body of knowledge that exists on restoration into the mainstream.
- Providing pilot experiences and practical tools.
- Organizing a follow up international FLR event in 2011.

Participants encouraged the GPFLR to continue to facilitate and co-ordinate this effort, including:

- Working with partners to set voluntary targets for forest landscape restoration to build country-driven commitments by January 2011.
- Building on the global assessment of forest restoration through national assessments.
- Bringing at least 30 sites covering at least 3 million hectares into the learning network.
- Involving at least 5,000 people in learning events and online courses.
- Assessing and reporting progress in 2011.



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