



CONCEPT NOTE FOR INVITEES
BONN CHALLENGE EAC + 2016
July 26th-27th 2016
Venue: Kigali Convention Complex
Kigali, Rwanda

Restoring the planet

The Bonn Challenge is a global aspiration to restore 150 million hectares of the world's deforested and degraded lands by 2020. The 2020 target was launched by world leaders at a ministerial roundtable in Bonn, Germany, in September 2011, and extended to another 200 mil ha by 2030 by the the New York Declaration on Forests of the UN Climate Summit in 2014, totalling 350 mil ha. Underlying the Bonn Challenge is the forest landscape restoration approach, which aims to restore ecological integrity at the same time as improving human wellbeing through multi-functional landscapes.

The Bonn Challenge is an implementation vehicle for national priorities such as water and food security, disaster risk reduction and rural development as well as for several existing international commitments, including the CBD Aichi Target 15, the UNFCCC REDD+ goal, and the Rio+20 land degradation neutrality goal now embodied in the sustainable development goals.

So far the Bonn Challenge has already resulted in commitments to restore more than 96 million hectares of degraded and deforested land. (See annex and www.bonnchallenge.org for more information.)

With these commitments the Bonn Challenge is well on track to achieving 2020 target. However, ambition and success should not be measured simply in commitments of hectares – what matters most is implementation on the ground. Furthered by these targets and commitments, concrete action in both developing and developed country and the range of partners supporting restoration action is expanding. With this, transformational change is underway and important steps for creating an enabling environment have been taken.

Bonn Challenge EAC +

In order to maintain this momentum and to raise ambition for landscape restoration, the Government of Rwanda, with the support of the Secretariat of the East African Community and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), will host the Bonn Challenge EAC + 2016 High Level Roundtable.

The objectives of the high level roundtable are:

- To recognize and further catalyze leadership on forest landscape restoration in the EAC + region.
- To explore opportunities for cooperation to accelerate implementation of restoration.
- To provide a platform for the exchange of experiences on commitments, policies, plans and other relevant measures aimed at strengthening forest landscape restoration in the region.

The roundtable discussions will focus on success factors in countries to enable implementation of restoration at scale, particularly:

1. Policy and institutional conditions, for example:
 - Arrangements to provide secure rights to the benefits that would accrue from restoration (such as land registration in Rwanda)
 - Policies aligned with forest landscape restoration
 - Enforceable regulations on land use change
 - Institutional coordination mechanisms
2. Sources and mechanisms for finance and incentives
 - Public sector expenditure
 - Development of positive incentives and funds for restoration
 - Multilateral and bilateral donor funding

The event will include an opening segment, brief keynote presentations on the thematic areas followed by interactive discussion amongst the participants, and a closing segment. A field visit to understand successful landscape restoration initiatives in Rwanda is also planned. It will end with a reception. The EAC Ministerial Retreat will follow on July 28-29.

The Bonn Challenge High Level Roundtable will build upon the 2015 ministerial roundtable held in Bonn as well as the 2011 event that launched the Bonn Challenge target; the 2009 London Challenge event hosted by the UK and IUCN; and the 2005 Petropolis Challenge event hosted by Brazil, the UK and IUCN. It is a contribution to the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration (GPFLR).

Participation in the High Level Roundtable is by invitation only to Ministers from a number of Governments that have already demonstrated leadership on this issue or have made significant commitments, as well as to leaders from other sectors. Key points from the discussion will be captured in a Summary.

Support for the organization of the Regional Bonn Challenge meeting is provided by MINIRENA; the Germany Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety; and IUCN.

Annex 1: The table below summarizes the so far commitment value from various countries:

Country	Millions of Hectares	Country	Millions of Hectares
Argentina	1	India	13
Asia Pulp and Paper	1	KPK (Pakistan)	0.384
Brazil Atlantic Forest PACT	1	Liberia	1
Burundi	2	Madagascar	1
Chile	1.0	Mexico (National)	7.5
Colombia	1	Campeche (Mexico)	0.4
Costa Rica	1	Quintana Roo (Mexico)	0.3
DRC	8	Yucatan (Mexico)	0.25
Ecuador	0.5	Mozambique	1
El Salvador	1	Nicaragua	2.8
Ethiopia	1	Niger	3.2
Ghana	1	Peru	3
Guatemala	1.2	Rwanda	2
Honduras	1	Uganda	2.5
Kenya	5.1	US Forest Service	15
Ethiopia	15	RDC	2

Annex 2 Participating Countries in the Regional Bonn Challenge Meeting

Proposed List of participants

1. Rwandan minister (host)
2. EAC Secretariat (co-facilitator)
3. IUCN Regional Director (co-facilitator)
4. Burundi minister
5. Kenya minister
6. Tanzania minister
7. South Sudan minister
8. Uganda minister
9. Malawi minister
10. Ethiopia minister
11. Mozambique minister
12. German State Secretary
13. El Salvador Minister (regional process host)
14. Panama Minister (regional process host)
15. South Sumatra Governor (regional process host)
16. SADC DG
17. EGAD DG
18. NEPAD DG
19. UNEP DG
20. FAO ADG
21. CPI ED
22. DFID/Ambassador
23. Norwegian Ambassador
24. UK Ambassador
25. USA Ambassador
26. EU
27. World Bank
28. AfDB
29. UNEP
30. UDDP
31. Netherlands Ambassador
32. World Bank WRI President
33. GPFLR co-chair
34. IUCN Global Director of Nature Based Solution
35. Additional participants will be invited as observers.