

#GLFBiodiversity



Assessing and enhancing capacities to restore ecosystems globally

One World One Health 28.29 OCTOBER 2020



Photo by Pihyatmaja Hangga/FAO

White paper

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Background

- Through Resolution 73/284, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 2021–2030 to be the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. The resolution calls for supporting and scaling up efforts to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems worldwide, as well as to raise awareness of the importance of ecosystem restoration.
- To support the implementation of this Decade, an FAO-led Task Force on Best Practices was established. This group lays the ground for efforts on knowledge capitalization and dissemination, and for the identification of new knowledge products. To date, this collaborative effort involves 85 members from 32 different organizations.
- Among its central tasks, the Task Force will conduct a Capacity Needs Assessment to identify what and whose "system-wide capacities" need to be enhanced to achieve the goals of the Decade. In close alignment with the overall and specific communication strategy of the Decade, the Capacity Needs Assessment results feed directly into the three Decade pathways for transformational change: (1) global movement, (2) political support and (3) technical capacity, specifically addressing pathway one and three.



Photo by Jennifer Wiggens/FAO

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Capacity to do what?

- The UN Decade Strategy identified limited technical knowledge and capacity in both public and private sectors as major barriers for achieving large-scale ecosystem restoration. Without a comprehensive, system-wide capacity enhancement effort, the intended goals of the Decade will not be achieved nor sustained.
- Capacity development is *“the process whereby individuals, organizations and society as a whole unleash, strengthen, create, adapt and maintain capacity over time”* (FAO, 2010).
- **The capacity needs assessment implemented in preparation of the launch of the Decade will therefore focus on identifying the main gaps and barriers to achieving the restorations goals and promoting technical and functional capacities among individuals, organizations and societies to enable restoration activities in all ecosystems.**
- This effort requires strengthening seven forms of capital: natural capital, human capital, social capital, cultural capital, political capital, financial capital and built capital (Beaulieu, 2014).



Methodology

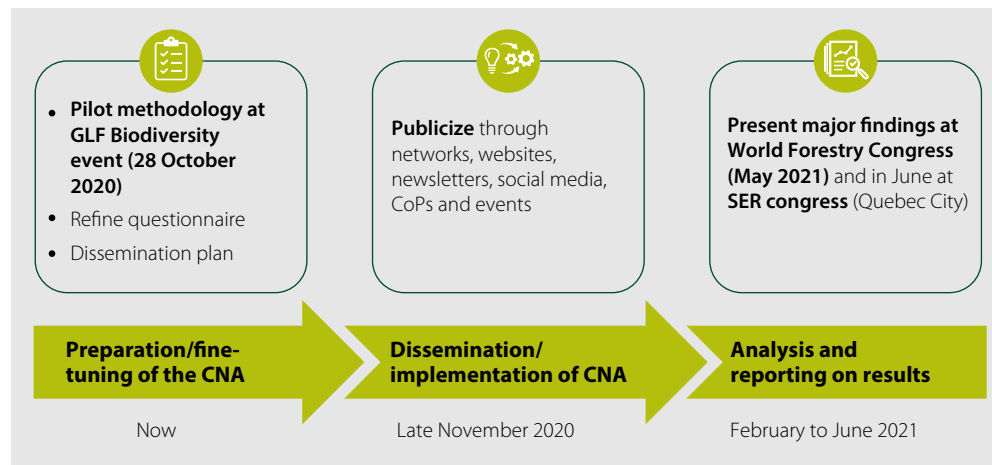
The Capacity Needs Assessment methodology builds on existing efforts from FAO, UNEP, the Global Landscapes Forum, Forestation International, World Resources Institute, UNESCO and partners, including the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100).

This methodology includes stakeholder mapping and network analysis, and a questionnaire encompassing multiple dimensions of capacity, including:

- Identifying access to resources, information and equity regarding resource flows
- self-assessment of job-related capacity, clarity and suitability of roles;
- capacity for decision-making, communication, visioning and scenario development; and
- capacity for accountability/transparency, stakeholder engagement, managerial and technical skills development, spatial planning, use of evidence-based practices, and applying adaptive management.

As part of the preparatory process to the implementation of this capacity needs assessment, this interactive session aims to (1) raise awareness about the Capacity Needs Assessment, (2) engage grassroots organizations, and more specifically, to (3) gain critical feedback on the proposed methodology and stakeholder information.

Expected products and next steps for implementation



1. Comprehensive report to support resource mobilization efforts
2. Knowledge graphs of information, partnerships, funding and resource flows to assess equity of access across stakeholder groups, organizations and institutions
3. Baseline information on capacity needs as identified by different stakeholder groups and sectors
4. Capacity enhancement strategy based on identified strengths and needs fully owned and with commitment by all relevant stakeholders
5. A summary of lessons learned from the CNA, case studies, and CE Strategy development as well as a compilation of good restoration practices for future replication under particular contexts

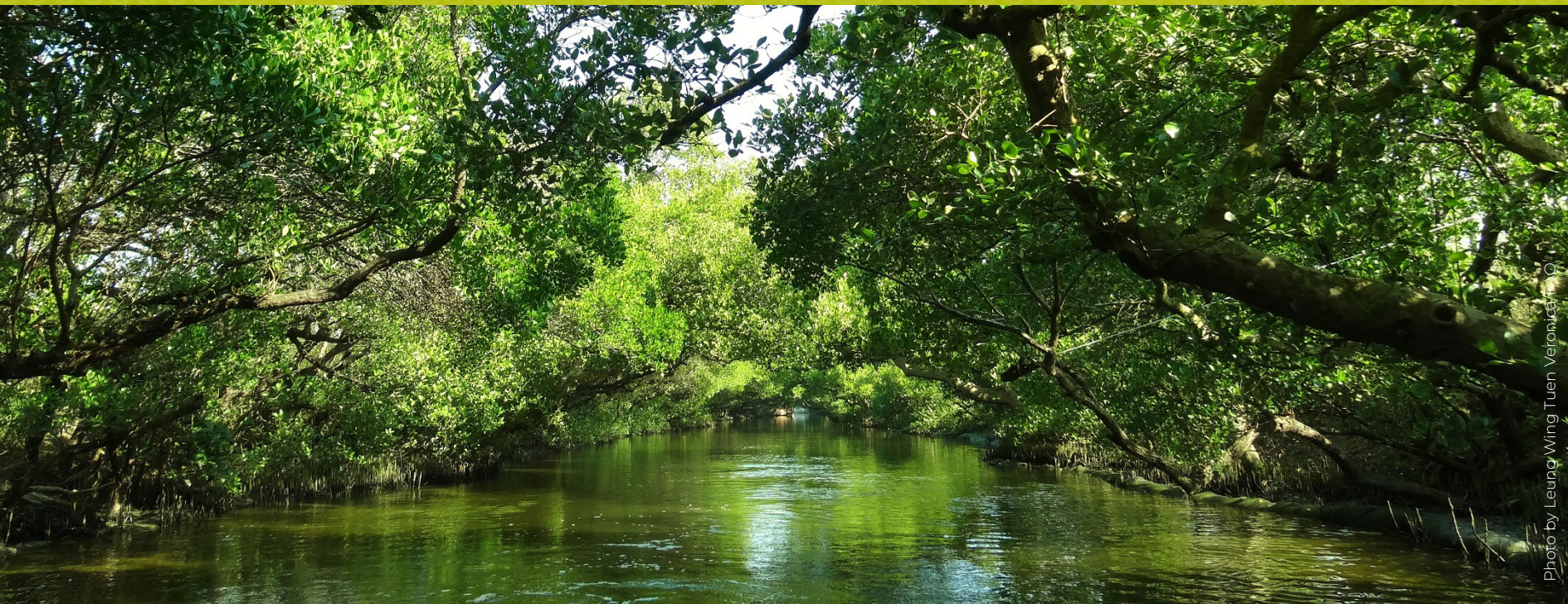


Photo by Leung Wing Tuen, Veronica

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Participating organizations

GLF Biodiversity Digital Conference 2020 would not be possible without the support and participation of the following hosts, partners and organizations. For a full list of everyone involved, please visit:

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Global Landscapes Forum

The **Global Landscapes Forum** (GLF) is the world's largest knowledge-led platform on integrated land use, dedicated to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and Paris Climate Agreement. The Forum takes a holistic approach to create sustainable landscapes that are productive, prosperous, equitable and resilient and considers five cohesive themes of food and livelihood, landscape restoration, rights, finance and measuring progress. It is led by the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), in collaboration with its co-founders UN Environment Programme and the World Bank and Charter Members.

Charter Members: CIAT, CIFOR, CIRAD, Climate Focus, Conservation International, Crop Trust, EcoAgriculture Partners, EFI, Evergreen Agriculture, FSC, GEF, GiZ, ICIMOD, IFOAM - Organics International, ILRI, INBAR, IPMG, IUFRO, Rainforest Alliance, Rare, RRI, SAN, UN Environment Programme, Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation, part of Wageningen Research, WFO, World Agroforestry, World Bank Group, WRI, WWF International, Youth in Landscapes Initiative.



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