



Ref.: SCBD/SSSF/AS/CC/VA/81911

16 September 2020

NOTIFICATION
Series of webinars for the development of a
decision-support platform on forest ecosystem restoration

Dear Madam/Sir,

I have the pleasure to inform you that the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in collaboration with the International Institute for Sustainability Rio (IIS Rio) and the International Institute for Sustainability Australia (IIS AU), will organize a series of four informative webinars, also serving to gather views on the development of a voluntary decision-support platform for spatial optimization planning of forest ecosystem restoration. The webinars will run from October through December 2020 and will seek feedback to improve the platform interface and training to better respond to the needs of users.

The decision-support platform will use analytical approaches and best available data to support countries as they set or revise national and sub-national targets on forest ecosystem restoration and plan their implementation. To this end, the platform will assist Parties in:

- i. identifying where forest ecosystem restoration can achieve the greatest biodiversity and climate benefits;
- ii. quantifying trade-offs among multiple objectives of restoration, such as biodiversity conservation, carbon sequestration and cost-effectiveness, and identifying optimal compromise solutions; and
- iii. fully harnessing the potential of natural regeneration as a cost-effective restoration strategy.

The platform responds to a request by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, in decision [XIII/5](#), for the Executive Secretary to support the efforts of Parties in making use of the Short-Term Action Plan on Ecosystem Restoration by, inter alia, supporting the use of tools in collaboration with relevant partners and initiatives. The development of the decision-support tool is generously supported by the European Union and the Korea Forest Service of the Republic of Korea through its Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative (FERI).

I invite relevant and interested experts from Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant organizations to register for the webinars by completing the [online form](#) at their earliest convenience and **before 25 September 2020**. Participants should be involved in the setting of restoration targets, design and/or implementation of ecosystem restoration policies in their country. Please note that the four webinars are intended as a series and attendance is recommended throughout them all. The schedule accommodates different time zones (please refer to the attached annex for webinars' schedule). More information on the platform and webinars is available at: <https://www.iis-au.org/news/events-webinars/>.

Participation and input from Parties, other stakeholders and rights holders are crucial in this phase of development of the decision-support platform to ensure that it is relevant and easy-to-use. I look forward to your active participation and contribution to this process.

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Elizabeth Maruma Mrema
Executive Secretary

Enclosure

To: CBD National Focal Points; SBSTTA Focal Points; Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities; relevant organizations



Annex

Schedule of webinars for the development of a decision-support platform on forest ecosystem restoration

The webinars will be delivered via Zoom on the dates below and conducted in English with simultaneous interpretation to French and Spanish. A first round of webinars will be organized for the countries of Africa, Europe and the Americas, and a second round for countries of Asia and the Pacific. Presentations will be recorded and made available on the CBD website to accommodate those who will not be able to take part. Each monthly session will be two hours long and will be comprised of three short presentations followed by a discussion. Sessions will be moderated by IIS and the Secretariat staff. Each session will be followed by a short survey that will inform the design of the platform. There is no limit to the number of participants nominated; however, responses to the post-webinar survey will be limited to one participant per country or organization, as well as one regional representative of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth.

Session title	Africa, Europe and the Americas	Asia and the Pacific
1 st session - Foundations of systematic spatial planning and spatial restoration optimisation”	<u>06 October 2020</u> 08:30 – 10:30 Mexico City 09:30 – 11:30 Montreal 10:30 – 12:30 Brasilia 15:30 – 17:30 Paris 16:30 – 18:30 Nairobi	<u>07 October 2020</u> 07:00 – 09:00 Moscow 09:30 – 11:30 New Delhi 12:00 – 14:00 Beijing 13:00 – 15:00 Seoul 16:00 – 18:00 Auckland
2 nd session - How to deliver forest restoration at scale: unlocking the potential of natural regeneration	<u>21 October 2020</u> 08:30 – 10:30 Mexico City 09:30 – 11:30 Montreal 10:30 – 12:30 Brasilia 15:30 – 17:30 Paris 16:30 – 18:30 Nairobi	<u>22 October 2020</u> 07:00 – 09:00 Moscow 09:30 – 11:30 New Delhi 12:00 – 14:00 Beijing 13:00 – 15:00 Seoul 16:00 – 18:00 Auckland
3 rd session - Implications of systematic spatial planning and spatial restoration optimisation for the economics of restoration and policy design	<u>18 November 2020</u> 08:30 – 10:30 Mexico City 09:30 – 11:30 Montreal 10:30 – 12:30 Brasilia 15:30 – 17:30 Paris 16:30 – 18:30 Nairobi	<u>19 November 2020</u> 07:00 – 09:00 Moscow 09:30 – 11:30 New Delhi 12:00 – 14:00 Beijing 13:00 – 15:00 Seoul 16:00 – 18:00 Auckland
4 th session - Launch of the Beta version of the online interface of the Decision-Support Platform	<u>8 December 2020</u> 08:30 – 10:30 Mexico City 09:30 – 11:30 Montreal 10:30 – 12:30 Brasilia 15:30 – 17:30 Paris 16:30 – 18:30 Nairobi	<u>9 December 2020</u> 07:00 – 09:00 Moscow 09:30 – 11:30 New Delhi 12:00 – 14:00 Beijing 13:00 – 15:00 Seoul 16:00 – 18:00 Auckland