

## Improving the flow of the reforestation pipeline to support regeneration and ecosystem function for the future

Forests around the globe provide a wide variety of ecosystem services. The need for increased forest protection, forest restoration, and adaptation of forest management to climate change is well established, yet global forest cover continues to decline. This has prompted many global, regional and national organizations to set targets for large-scale forest landscape restoration and reforestation. Examples include the Great Green Wall of the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative in Africa, The Bonn Challenge, and the One Trillion Trees Initiative. Additionally, the European Union (EU) Biodiversity Strategy 2030 includes a roadmap for planting at least 3 billion trees in the EU by 2030. Following the Declaration on Forest and Land Use from the United Nations Climate Summit (COP26) at Glasgow, 137 countries committed to collectively end forest loss and land degradation by 2030, which included funding pledges for forest restoration.

In many regions, significant land area is available for reforestation and restoration programs to help accomplish such initiatives. Nevertheless, successful large-scale restoration faces many challenges including costs, selection of appropriate species, a shortage of regeneration material, and continued maintenance following tree planting. Thus, to meet these ambitious tree planting goals, the steps in the “pipeline” for tree planting operations need to be scaled up.

In this technical session, we will present examples from around the world of how reforestation and restoration operations, as well as the communities that they support, are working collaboratively to help meet tree planting goals at local, regional, and global level. Based on the presentations we will identify critical weak links that exist in the flow of the reforestation pipeline and develop potential solutions to help overcome these in order to transform landscapes and reach reforestation and restoration targets.

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