

ROAM: Restoration Opportunity Assessment Methodology

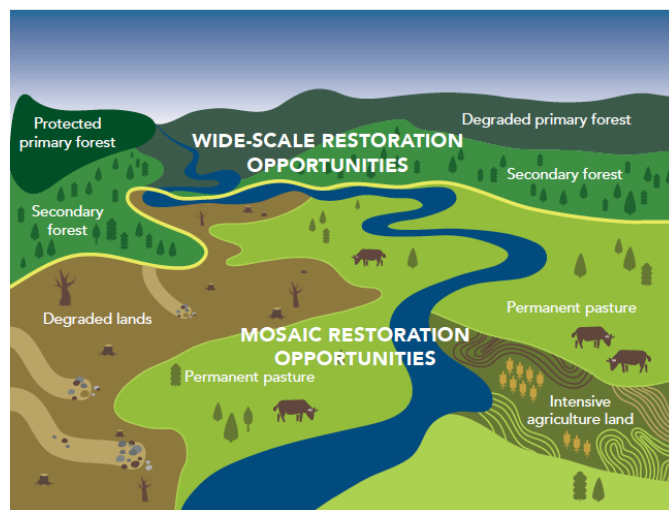
BRIEFING NOTE

Are you sitting on an opportunity?

With the launch of the Bonn Challenge in 2011, leaders from around the world committed to a global goal to collectively restore 150 million hectares of degraded and deforested land by 2020. Recent analysis of global restoration opportunity by the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration (GPFLR) revealed roughly two billion hectares of land suitable for restoration across the world. By the start of 2014 up to 50 million hectares of degraded land had been pledged for restoration, or were being considered for pledges, to the Bonn Challenge goal.

Your region likely contains significant restoration opportunity. The Restoration Opportunity Assessment Methodology (ROAM) represents a good first step on the path to restoring degraded and deforested lands – a simple, cost-effective and broadly participatory method for assessing restoration opportunity at the national or sub-national level.

Wide-scale and mosaic restoration opportunities



Most forest landscape restoration opportunities are “wide-scale” or “mosaic.” Wide-scale restoration aims to restore or create a landscape that most people would call a forest. Mosaic-type restoration aims to restore or create a landscape of multiple land uses, with trees added to improve farmland productivity and resilience, as well as soil, water, and biodiversity conservation.

How does ROAM work?

ROAM involves a series of analyses that together identify the best restoration opportunities to be found within a given area. As such, ROAM is designed to answer a number of important questions relevant to deforested and degraded land, including:

- Which types of restoration interventions are feasible in different parts of the land/country/region? Which of these restoration options are best?
- What is the total extent of restoration opportunity in the land/country/region?
- What are the potential costs and benefits, including carbon storage, associated with each restoration strategy and option?
- What policy, financial and social incentives exist or are needed to support restoration?
- Who are the stakeholders who need to be engaged?

For more information, please contact:

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The ROAM process includes three phases:

- **Engagement and planning:** Define assessment goals, engage key partners and stakeholders, identify restoration intervention options and desired benefits, plan for the larger assessment, etc;
- **Data collection and analysis:** Acquire and analyze spatial, socio-economic, policy and finance condition and other important data layers; and
- **Results validation and recommendation:** Present the findings and gain feedback from governments and stakeholders, assess final finance needs and options, create recommendations on restoration implementation, etc.

ROAM is not a land use planning tool. Rather, it is a way for interested users to identify landscapes that offer opportunities for restoration - considered at a national and subnational level - and to gain preliminary information about those lands in order to undertake successful restoration planning and eventual implementation.

Typical outputs of ROAM include:

- Identification of opportunity areas for restoration;
- Definition of key restoration intervention options;
- Analysis of the costs and benefits of restoration options, including estimation of carbon sequestration potential;
- Assessment of finance and investment needs and opportunities; and
- Identification of gaps in the enabling conditions for restoration. (See example at right).

One output: A Restoration "Readiness" Diagnostic

Enabling condition	Key success factor	Current status
Ecological conditions	Soil, water, climate, and fire conditions are suitable for restoration	Partly in place
	Plants and animals that can impede restoration are absent	Partly in place
	Native seeds, seedlings or source populations are readily available	Not in place
Market conditions	Competing demands (e.g., food, fuel) for degraded forestlands are declining	Not in place
	Value chains for products from restored area exists	Not in place
Policy conditions	Land and natural resource tenure are secure	In place
	Policies affecting restoration are aligned and streamlined	Partly in place
	Restrictions on clearing remaining natural forests exist	In place
Social conditions	Forest clearing restrictions are enforced	Partly in place
	Local people are empowered to make decisions about restoration	Not in place
Institutional conditions	Local people are able to benefit from restoration	In place
	Roles and responsibilities for restoration are clearly defined	Not in place
	Effective institutional coordination is in place	Not in place

In place ■ Partly in place ■ Not in place ■

Applying ROAM in your region

ROAM was developed by IUCN and WRI as a contribution to the GPFLR and the Bonn Challenge. The **ROAM Road-Test Handbook** is publically available now at www.IUCN.org/ROAM.



This handbook is designed to support those considering, commissioning conducting or contributing to a restoration opportunity assessment. With it you should be able to find the guidance you need to identify great opportunities for forest landscape restoration, engage key stakeholders, calculate the costs and benefits of restoration options, and begin planning for restoration success

Please contact the GPFLR at gpflr@iucn.org to get your own copy of the ROAM Handbook, learn more about the process, access case studies, or kick-start an assessment in your country or region.

Together we can achieve the Bonn Challenge: Restore 150 million hectares