State-level Stakeholder Consultative Workshop on restoration opportunities assessment for Uttarakhand

Venue: ICFRE, *Dehra Dun*
Date: *29 June, 2017*

IUCN along with WRI have developed a primary framework for building a forest landscape restoration (FLR) programme from the ground-up called the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM). This in-depth step-by-step methodology has been proven effective in assessing and laying the groundwork for FLR, suggesting practical steps for diverse stakeholders to restore landscapes at any scale.

ROAM is a flexible and cost-effective analytic process for identifying restoration opportunities at national or sub-national/district levels, as well as describing how those opportunities relate to food, water and energy security. The application of ROAM generates good context-specific knowledge relevant to understanding and addressing forest and land-use planning and management. Specifically, it helps to:

- identify priority areas for restoration;
- prioritise relevant and feasible restoration intervention types across the assessment area;
- quantify costs and benefits of each intervention type;
- analyse the finance and investment options for restoration in the assessment area;
- estimate the values of additional carbon sequestered by these intervention types; and
- come up with a diagnostic of 'restoration readiness' and strategies for addressing major policy and institutional bottlenecks.

IUCN is conducting a sub-national ROAM assessment in Uttarakhand. The state was selected because it has immense potential for successful land-use and land management driven mitigation and adaptation programmes. IUCN has partnered with the G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment and Sustainable Development (GBPNIHESD) for the technical aspect of the assessment. IUCN and GBPNIHESD have already presented this project at a meeting organized by the Uttarakhand Forest Department under the chairmanship of PCCF (Wildlife), Mr. DVS. Khati, on 27th April, 2017 at Dehra Dun. It was agreed that the ROAM sub-national assessment will identify restoration opportunities at the state-level while conducting deep dives into the districts of Pithoragarh and Pauri. Towards this end, a District level Stakeholder Consultation was organized at Pithoragarh on 2nd June, 2017, under the chairmanship of the District Magistrate of Pithoragarh, Mr. C. Ravishankar.

There is now a need to seek inputs and information on restoration and restoration priorities at state level. Thus, IUCN and GBPNIHESD are organizing a State-level Stakeholder Consultative Workshop at Dehra Dun on 29th June, 2017. The workshop intends to engage with all the relevant line departments, institutes and stakeholders who can contribute significantly towards the ROAM assessment. The workshop has been designed in the format of panel discussions so as to enable panelists from various sectors to elaborate on: (i) the initiatives/investments which have gone into restoration in the state, (ii)

successful interventions and lessons learnt from such restoration interventions, (iii) on-going priorities of actions that are relevant to restoration, and (iv) the enabling environment in the state for taking-up restoration actions. Towards the end, GBPNIHESD will present the progress on the ROAM sub-national assessment. The inputs received from panel discussions and feedback from the distinguished participants will help in driving further the ROAM process so that by the end of project, IUCN and GBPNIHESD are able to present a comprehensive and practically feasible document on restoration opportunities and strategies to the Government of Uttarakhand.