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## The Government of Chile Promotes a National Plan for Landscape Restoration

The ministers of Agriculture and the Environment of Chile, in coordination with Corporación Nacional Forestal (CONAF), Instituto Forestal de Chile (INFOR) and international organizations, are now working on restoring degraded or deforested landscapes to contribute to the development of local stakeholders.

On August 29, 2018, the government began a participatory process to create a National Plan for Landscape Restoration in collaboration with the private sector, to restore ecosystems that are destroyed, damaged or degraded and to improve socioeconomic conditions.

The process began with a national workshop "Opportunities and Challenges for Landscape Restoration at Scale" in Santiago de Chile. The opening ceremony was attended by the Minister of Agriculture, Antonio Walker; the Vice Minister of Environment, Felipe Riesco; the executive director of CONAF, José Manuel Rebolledo; the executive director of INFOR, Fernando Raga, as well as international experts led by the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources of El Salvador, Lina Pohl; the Economic Counselor of the German Embassy in Chile, Inga Heuser; and the coordinator of Initiative 20x20, Walter Vergara. World Resources Institute (WRI) serves as the secretariat of Initiative 20x20, a country-led effort to bring 20 million hectares of degraded land across Latin America and the Caribbean under restoration by 2020.

The workshop convened around 100 stakeholders from landscapes across the country and released a letter of principles on restoration and a roadmap through which the following actions will be taken:

- 1) Convene a roundtable between the ministries of Agriculture and Environment and technical organizations, which will lead the participatory process and will coordinate with regional authorities through the Regional Ministerial Secretary of Environment, CONAF and INFOR;
- 2) Plan a participatory process with the significant involvement of actors from multiple levels, both public and private, and with several consultations at the national and regional levels;
- 3) Plan an online consultation process to collect opinions, suggestions and citizen observations that grant transparency and social legitimacy to the National Plan for Landscape Restoration;



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4) Present the proposed National Plan to the Council of Ministers for Sustainability during the second half of 2019.

According to Chile's Minister of Agriculture, Antonio Walker, "The first step towards work that will have a significant impact on people has been taken here. Chile's pledge to Initiative 20x20 has as its ambition the restoration of 400,000 hectares of degraded agricultural land and the restoration of 100,000 hectares of native forests. For this, we are articulating different policy instruments, such as the System of Incentives for the Recovery of Degraded Soils, from the Agriculture and Livestock Service (SAG) and the Institute of Agricultural Development (INDAP); the incentives for the recovery of the native forest and forest promotion, Law 20.283 from CONAF. Therefore, as a country, we are fully committed to the objective of generating this National Restoration Plan".

The Vice-Minister of the Environment, Felipe Riesco said, "The environmental sensitivity of the country has increased to the point where we can address the restoration of our ecosystems. Today there is a commitment of public and private actors, academia and society that allows us to join forces and efforts to recover natural capital and halt the loss of biodiversity. "

The Minister of Environment and Natural Resources of El Salvador, Lina Pohl added, "The restoration of landscapes can be a straight path for countries to achieve their long-term sustainability goals."

At the meeting, the stakeholders agreed that Chile has the knowledge and capacities in academic and research centers, civil society, private sector and public institutions to address the gaps and challenges and to scale-up landscape restoration. Action plans were then agreed on for governance, financing, public-private partnerships, innovation, market and economic development, communications, reporting and dissemination, science and technology, among others.