



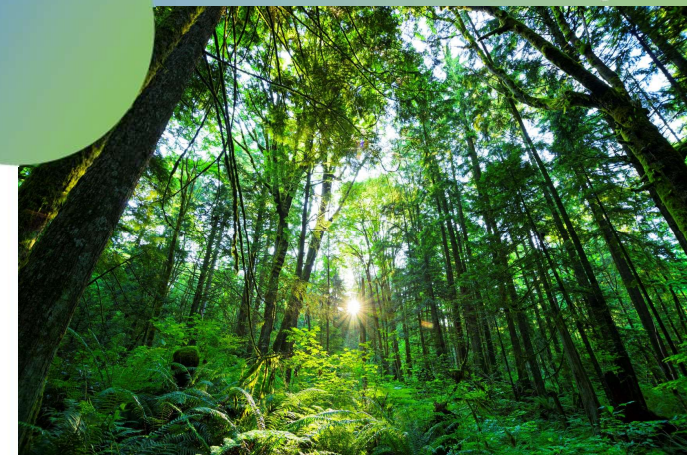
# Knowledge Exchange Platform on Forest Landscape Restoration in the Caucasus and Central Asia

Andrzej Talarczyk

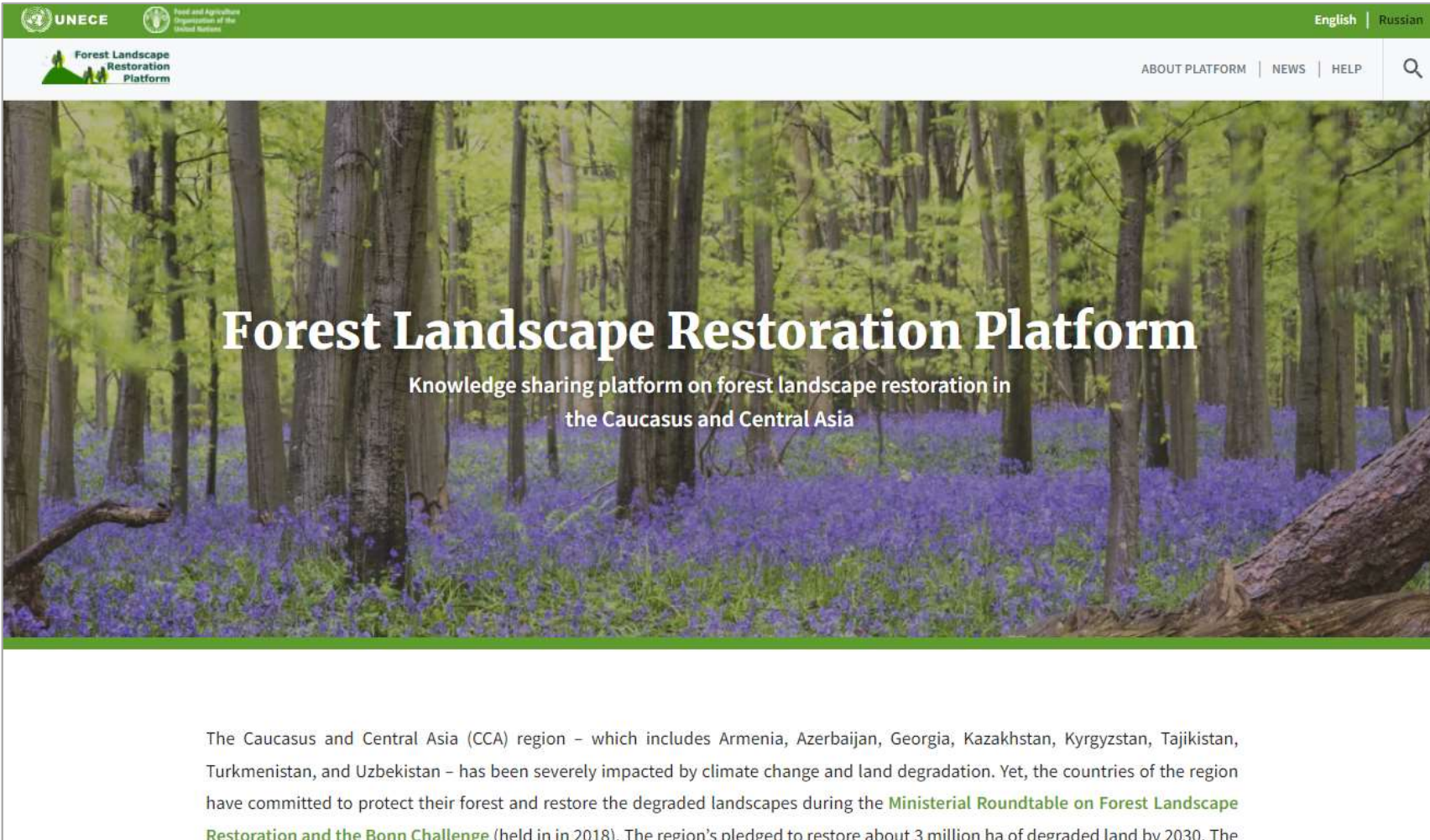
Validating a National Strategy  
Proposal for Forest Landscape  
Restoration in Kyrgyzstan

National Forest Policy Dialogue

23-24 June 2022



# Knowledge Exchange Platform for FLR



UNECE Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations English | Russian

Forest Landscape Restoration Platform ABOUT PLATFORM | NEWS | HELP

## Forest Landscape Restoration Platform

Knowledge sharing platform on forest landscape restoration in the Caucasus and Central Asia

The Caucasus and Central Asia (CCA) region – which includes Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan – has been severely impacted by climate change and land degradation. Yet, the countries of the region have committed to protect their forest and restore the degraded landscapes during the [Ministerial Roundtable on Forest Landscape Restoration and the Bonn Challenge](#) (held in in 2018). The region's pledged to restore about 3 million ha of degraded land by 2030. The

# Objectives of the Platform

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- **Facilitate the process of information exchange**
- **Accelerate the regional forest restoration efforts**

by

- sharing information, methodologies, training materials,
- providing a forum for exchange and discussion among national and international experts and stakeholders

# Platform Structure

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- Four thematic modules:

FLR in the  
World

Forests and  
FLR in CCA

Knowledge  
Exchange Hub

Participation  
Opportunities

# Platform Structure – Four Thematic Modules

The screenshot displays the Forest Landscape Restoration Platform website. At the top, there is a green header with the UNECE logo, the text 'United Nations Economic Commission for Europe', and language options for 'English' and 'Русский'. Below the header is a navigation bar with 'ABOUT PLATFORM', 'NEWS', 'HELP', and a search icon. The main content area features four thematic modules, each with a representative image, a title, a brief description, and a 'LEARN MORE' or 'READ MORE' button.

- Forest landscape restoration in the world**  
Forests and other natural ecosystems are under threat now and there is an urgent need to accelerate existing global restoration efforts. This module summarises global available knowledge on ecosystem restoration, provides information on existing global and regional forest landscape restoration initiatives and efforts, and outlines tools and policy guidelines to reinforce forest landscape restoration activities.  
[LEARN MORE >](#)
- Forest and forest landscape restoration in the Caucasus and Central Asia**  
Forest loss, landscape degradation and decline in ecosystems services is growing across the Caucasus and Central Asia region. Yet, strong signs of commitment to restoring degraded landscapes and conserving biodiversity and natural resources are evidenced by the range of ongoing restoration efforts across the region.  
[LEARN MORE >](#)
- Knowledge exchange hub**  
This module provides space for know-how exchange on forest landscape restoration between the Caucasus and Central Asia countries and relevant stakeholders. It contains newly developed learning materials and training courses, which help to develop skills and problem-solving abilities required for implementation of successful forest landscape restoration.  
[LEARN MORE >](#)
- Take the opportunity to support the region in forest restoration endeavours!**  
Forest restoration efforts across CCA region are ongoing. The countries efforts in FLR depend on and capacity and financial opportunities to implement a project. In this section you will find which restoration projects planned to be implemented in the countries of the region and seeking financial support.  
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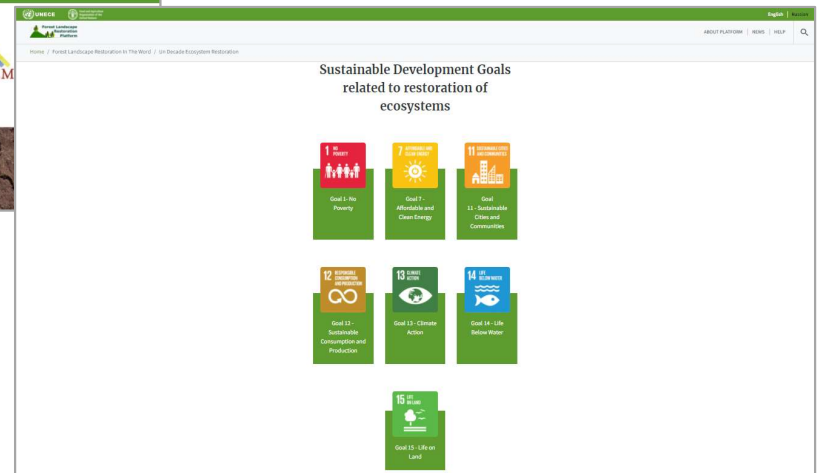
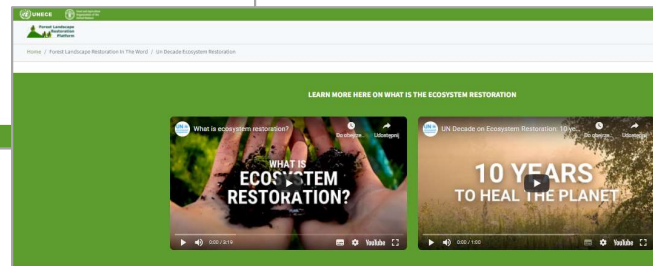
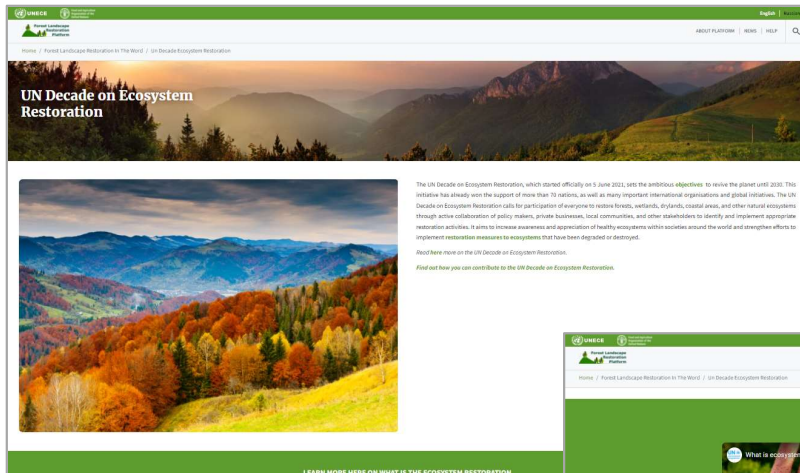
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# Module 1 – General Information on FLR

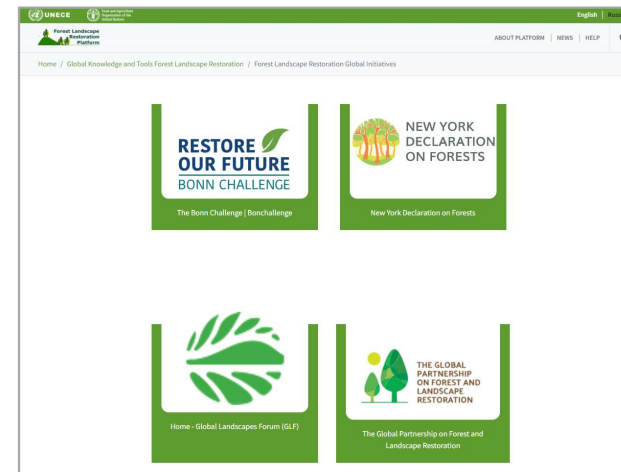
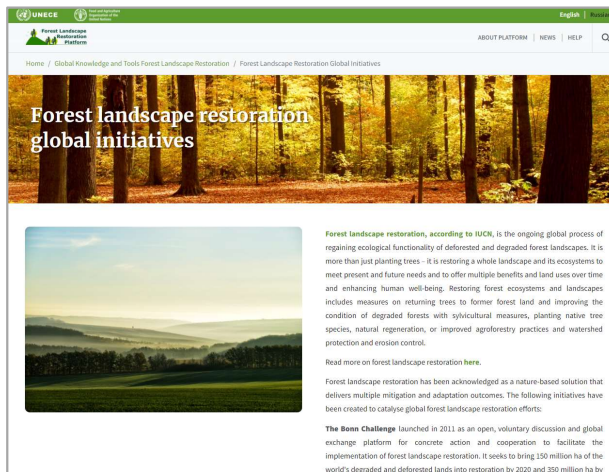
The screenshot shows the homepage of the Forest Landscape Restoration Platform. At the top, there is a green header with the UNECE logo on the left and 'English | Russian' on the right. Below the header, the 'Forest Landscape Restoration Platform' logo is on the left, and navigation links for 'ABOUT PLATFORM', 'NEWS', and 'HELP' are on the right, along with a search icon. The main content area features a large banner image of a forest with the text 'Forest Landscape Restoration in the World'. Below the banner are four smaller image-based cards: 'UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration' (snowy trees), 'Forest landscape restoration global initiatives' (green forest), 'Regional initiatives on forest landscape restoration' (autumn forest), and 'Policy guiding principles for forest landscape restoration' (autumn forest).

In recent years the global ecosystem restoration community has accelerated efforts to stop and reverse the destruction and degradation of millions of hectares of ecosystems. For this reason, numerous global and regional initiatives have been launched, and various tools and mechanisms, guiding principles and policy recommendations have been developed to better achieve the restoration targets.

# Module 1 – General Information on FLR



# Module 1 – General Information on FLR





# Module 1 – General Information on FLR

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## Regional initiatives on forest landscape restoration

Regional initiatives on forest landscape restoration bring together countries that share borders, ecosystems, and economies to collaboratively restore their degraded forest and deforested landscapes, attract finance to support common restoration efforts, foster leadership and build countries' profile in responding to global challenges, learn, exchange, and share best practices and knowledge.

In Europe, Caucasus, and Central Asia the ECCA30 regional initiative seeks to bring 30

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## ECCA30 30 million hectares by 2030

In Europe, Caucasus, and Central Asia the ECCA30 regional initiative seeks to bring 30 million ha of degraded and deforested land into restoration by 2030. The initiative aims to reinforce regional cooperation to achieve the Bonn Challenge global goals, facilitate access to technical and financial support and foster capacity building on forest landscape restoration, make a tangible regional contribution to the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and drive progress across multiple Sustainable Development Goals.

The UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section supports countries of the region by providing a platform for policy dialogue, capacity building and knowledge exchange for forest landscape restoration. High-level ministerial meetings have been organised in the region to build regional alliances and reinforce political will to restore landscapes and attract new pledges and funding.

**Ministerial Roundtable on Forest Landscape Restoration in the Caucasus and Central Asia**  
21-22 June 2018 | Armenia | Kazakhstan

The Ministerial Roundtable on Forest Landscape Restoration and the Bonn Challenge for the Caucasus and Central Asia region (held in Kazakhistan in 2018) was the first opportunity to align national and regional efforts in the Caucasus and Central Asia with the global Bonn Challenge. Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan committed to restore over 2.5 million hectares of forest landscape by 2030. Azerbaijan joined the initiative in 2019, bringing the

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- Restoration of forests and landscapes in UNECE region
- African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFLRI30)
- Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative in Latin America
- Asia and the Pacific Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative

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Home / Forest Landscape Restoration in The World / Policy Guiding Principles for Forest Landscape Restoration

## Policy guiding principles for forest landscape restoration

Supportive policies and effective national strategies that incentivise, facilitate and mobilise implementation of forest landscape restoration initiatives are of key importance to deliver nature-based solutions for environmental problems. International guidelines, policy recommendations and tools for forest landscape restoration supports development of national policies to achieve restoration goals, and to address related social, economic and environmental challenges.

Home / Forest Landscape Restoration in The World / Policy Guiding Principles for Forest Landscape Restoration

READ MORE ON THE RECENTLY DEVELOPED POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION:

- A guide to the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology
- Policy tool that support forest landscape restoration
- Guidelines for leading implementation of 2030 NDCs, Nationally Determined Contributions through Policy Brief
- When institutional coordination mechanisms for forest landscape restoration
- Forest Landscape Restoration Mechanism
- Guidelines for forest landscape restoration in the Tropics

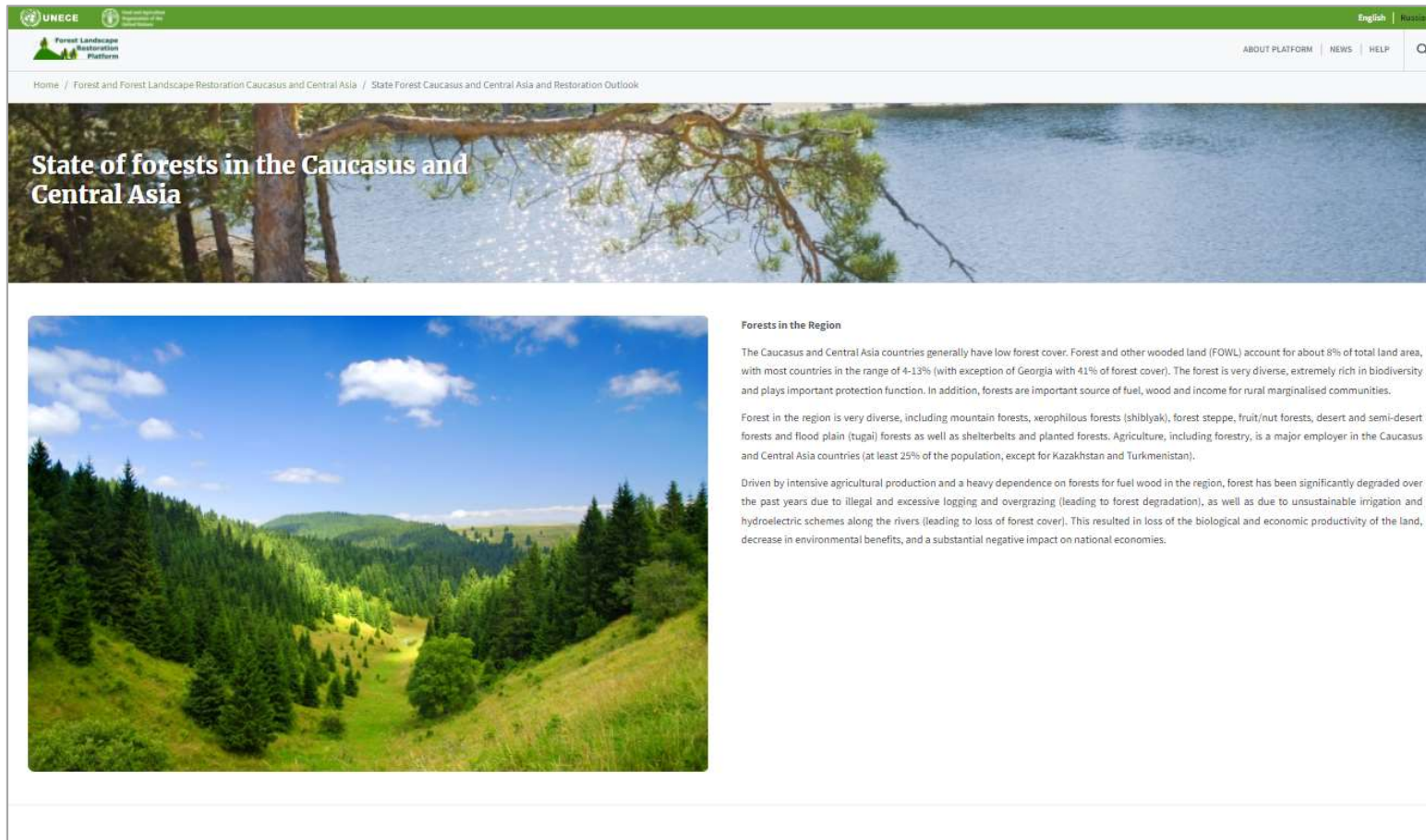
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# Module 2 – FLR in CCA

The screenshot displays the website for the Forest Landscape Restoration Platform. At the top, there is a green header with the UNECE logo and the text 'Forest Landscape Restoration Platform'. Below the header, a navigation bar includes 'ABOUT PLATFORM', 'NEWS', 'HELP', and a search icon. The main content area features a large banner image of a forest with autumn foliage, overlaid with the title 'Forest and forest landscape restoration in the Caucasus and Central Asia'. Below the banner are three rectangular cards, each with a different forest image and text: 1. 'State of forests in the Caucasus and Central Asia' with a landscape view of green hills under a blue sky. 2. 'Regional forest restoration outlook and policy developments' with a path leading through a dense green forest. 3. 'Forest landscape restoration country profiles' with a path through a forest with vibrant autumn trees.

# Module 2 – FLR in CCA

- State of Forests in the CCA



The screenshot displays the UNECE Forest Landscape Restoration Platform website. The header includes the UNECE logo, the platform name, and navigation links for 'ABOUT PLATFORM', 'NEWS', and 'HELP'. The main content area features a large banner image of a forest by a lake with the title 'State of forests in the Caucasus and Central Asia'. Below this is a smaller image of a forested valley. To the right of the smaller image is a text block titled 'Forests in the Region' containing three paragraphs of text.

**Forests in the Region**

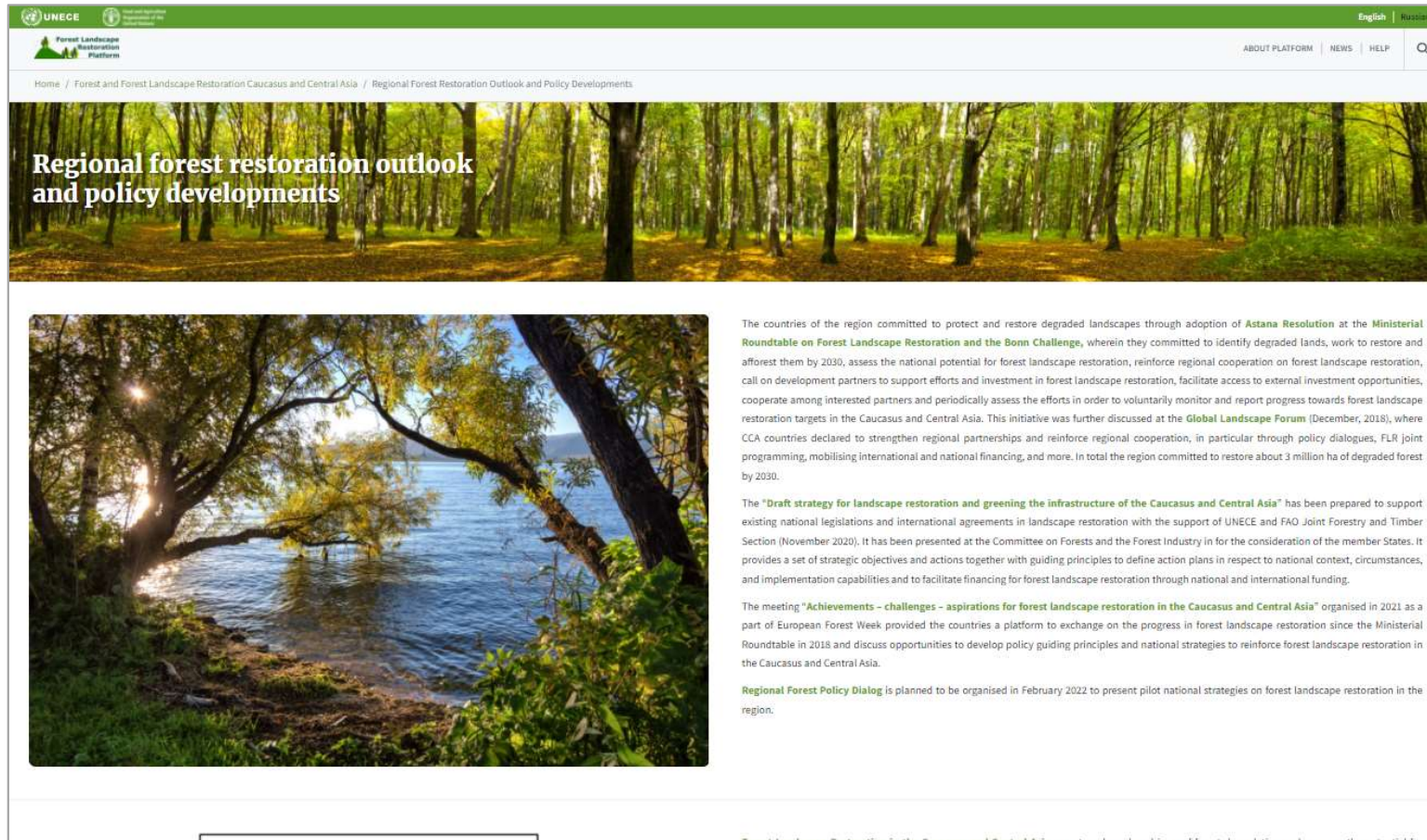
The Caucasus and Central Asia countries generally have low forest cover. Forest and other wooded land (FOWL) account for about 8% of total land area, with most countries in the range of 4-13% (with exception of Georgia with 41% of forest cover). The forest is very diverse, extremely rich in biodiversity and plays important protection function. In addition, forests are important source of fuel, wood and income for rural marginalised communities.

Forest in the region is very diverse, including mountain forests, xerophilous forests (shiblyak), forest steppe, fruit/nut forests, desert and semi-desert forests and flood plain (tugai) forests as well as shelterbelts and planted forests. Agriculture, including forestry, is a major employer in the Caucasus and Central Asia countries (at least 25% of the population, except for Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan).

Driven by intensive agricultural production and a heavy dependence on forests for fuel wood in the region, forest has been significantly degraded over the past years due to illegal and excessive logging and overgrazing (leading to forest degradation), as well as due to unsustainable irrigation and hydroelectric schemes along the rivers (leading to loss of forest cover). This resulted in loss of the biological and economic productivity of the land, decrease in environmental benefits, and a substantial negative impact on national economies.

# Module 2 – FLR in CCA

- Regional forest restoration outlook and policy developments



The screenshot shows the UNECE Forest Landscape Restoration Platform website. The header includes the UNECE logo, the platform name, and navigation links for 'ABOUT PLATFORM', 'NEWS', and 'HELP'. The main content area features a large image of a forest with the title 'Regional forest restoration outlook and policy developments'. Below this, there is a smaller image of a lake surrounded by trees. To the right of the smaller image, there is a text block containing information about regional commitments and a draft strategy for landscape restoration and greening the infrastructure of the Caucasus and Central Asia.

Home / Forest and Forest Landscape Restoration Caucasus and Central Asia / Regional Forest Restoration Outlook and Policy Developments

## Regional forest restoration outlook and policy developments

The countries of the region committed to protect and restore degraded landscapes through adoption of **Astana Resolution** at the **Ministerial Roundtable on Forest Landscape Restoration and the Bonn Challenge**, wherein they committed to identify degraded lands, work to restore and afforest them by 2030, assess the national potential for forest landscape restoration, reinforce regional cooperation on forest landscape restoration, call on development partners to support efforts and investment in forest landscape restoration, facilitate access to external investment opportunities, cooperate among interested partners and periodically assess the efforts in order to voluntarily monitor and report progress towards forest landscape restoration targets in the Caucasus and Central Asia. This initiative was further discussed at the **Global Landscape Forum** (December, 2018), where CCA countries declared to strengthen regional partnerships and reinforce regional cooperation, in particular through policy dialogues, FLR joint programming, mobilising international and national financing, and more. In total the region committed to restore about 3 million ha of degraded forest by 2030.

The **"Draft strategy for landscape restoration and greening the infrastructure of the Caucasus and Central Asia"** has been prepared to support existing national legislations and international agreements in landscape restoration with the support of UNECE and FAO Joint Forestry and Timber Section (November 2020). It has been presented at the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry in for the consideration of the member States. It provides a set of strategic objectives and actions together with guiding principles to define action plans in respect to national context, circumstances, and implementation capabilities and to facilitate financing for forest landscape restoration through national and international funding.

The meeting **"Achievements - challenges - aspirations for forest landscape restoration in the Caucasus and Central Asia"** organised in 2021 as a part of European Forest Week provided the countries a platform to exchange on the progress in forest landscape restoration since the Ministerial Roundtable in 2018 and discuss opportunities to develop policy guiding principles and national strategies to reinforce forest landscape restoration in the Caucasus and Central Asia.

**Regional Forest Policy Dialog** is planned to be organised in February 2022 to present pilot national strategies on forest landscape restoration in the region.

# Module 2 – FLR in CCA

The image shows a screenshot of the UNECE Forest Landscape Restoration Platform website. The main heading is "Country profiles in forest landscape restoration". Below this, there are several country profile cards for Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. Each card features the country's flag and a "Read more" link. The Kyrgyzstan profile is expanded, showing a large landscape image of a mountain valley with green fields and snow-capped peaks. To the right of the image is a "Country Profile" section with the following data:

- Surface area: 199.9 thousand sq. km
- Population, total: 6636.8 million
- Population density: 33 people per sq. km of land area
- Human Development Index (value): 0.697
- Share of rural population: 65.6%
- Approximately 25.3% of population lives below the poverty line, and 75% of the country's poor people live in rural areas, often in remote, mountainous regions with limited infrastructure and market access.
- GDP per capita: 1,175 USD

At the bottom of the Kyrgyzstan profile, there is a blue bar with the word "Forest".

# Module 3 – Knowledge Exchange Hub

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Knowledge Exchange Hub. At the top, there is a green navigation bar with the UNECE logo, the text 'Forest Landscape Restoration Platform', and language options for 'English' and 'Russian'. Below this is a white header with 'Home / Knowledge Exchange Hub' and navigation links for 'ABOUT PLATFORM', 'NEWS', and 'HELP'. The main content area features a large banner image of a forest landscape with the title 'Knowledge Exchange Hub'. Below the banner are four content cards, each with a representative image and a 'READ MORE' button:

- Forest Landscape Restoration Practices in the Caucasus and Central Asia**: Here you will learn on best practices implemented in the countries of the Caucasus and Central Asia.
- Forest landscape restoration national Action Plans**: Many restoration efforts across the region are ongoing in the Caucasus and Central Asian countries. Here you will learn about restoration projects that are planned to be implemented in the countries of the region.
- Frequently asked questions on forest landscape restoration.**: Successful forest landscape restoration activities need to focus on strengthening the resilience of landscapes and creating conditions to adapt to climate change to further optimise ecosystem goods and services as societal needs change and new challenges arise. Here will learn on how to implement successful forest landscape restoration projects.
- Discussion forum**

# Module 3 – Knowledge Exchange Hub

The screenshot displays the website for the Forest Landscape Restoration Platform. At the top, there is a green header with the UNECE logo and the text 'Forest Landscape Restoration Platform'. To the right of the header, there are links for 'ABOUT PLATFORM', 'NEWS', 'HELP', and a search icon. Below the header, the main content area features a large banner image of a forest with the text 'Training materials for forest landscape restoration'. Underneath the banner, there are five smaller image-based cards, each with a title: 'Introduction to forest and landscape restoration', 'Monitoring forest and landscape restoration', 'Sustainable financing of Forest and Landscape Restoration', 'Forests and transparency under the Paris Agreement', and 'Climate-smart forestry'.

# Module 4 – FLR Opportunities



## Take the opportunity to support the region in forest restoration endeavours!

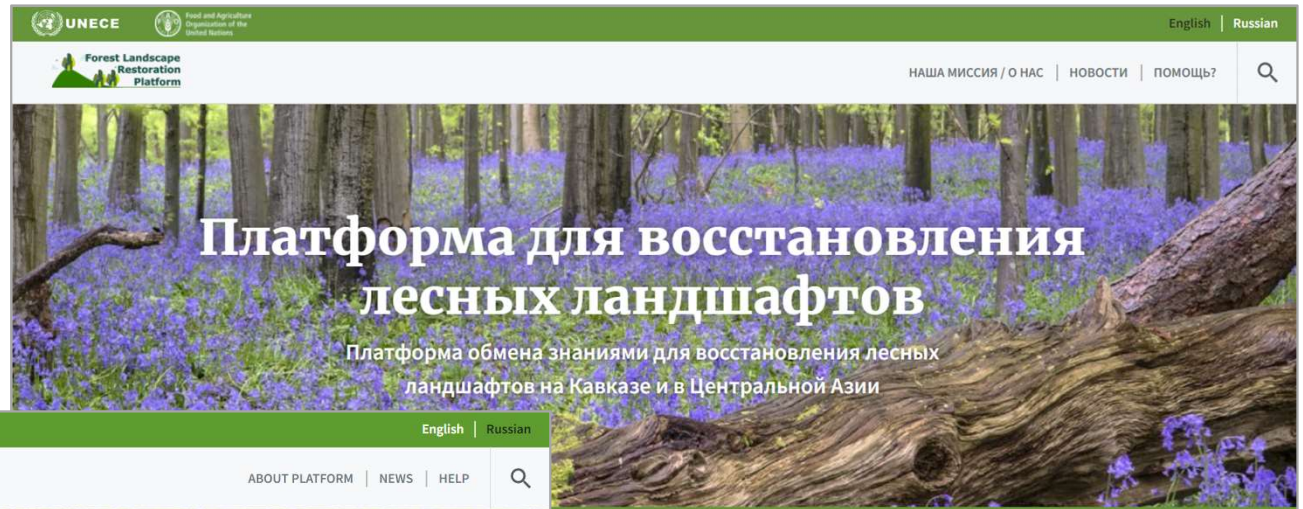
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[READ MORE](#)



# Other features

- News
- The site will be bi-lingual (Russian and English)
- Discussion forum





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# THANK YOU

Dr. Andrzej Talarczyk  
UNECE consultant  
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Bishkek, 23-24 June 2022

