

## **INDIA**

### **Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM) for Landscape Stewardship from Natural Disasters: A Way Forward**

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The geo-climatic conditions and socio-economic vulnerability of India ranks the country at 77<sup>th</sup> place on the World Risk Index of natural disaster in 2016 (UNU-EHS). This implies that lack of critical infrastructure and weak logistic chains will gradually drag the country towards the increased risk of extreme natural events. The time is now ripe to look beyond the planning aspects and step in for implementation stages. One such effort is based on the phenomenon of landscape restoration technique known as Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM), which has been conceptualized by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) and World Resources Institute (WRI). It is a forward-looking and dynamic approach that incorporates powerful combination of stake-holder engagement ('best knowledge') and analysis of documented data ('best science') to identify and investigate Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) opportunities applicable to the area in question in order to reinforce disaster risk reduction and landscape resilience. By integrating potential economic and carbon sequestration via cost-benefit modeling, it also encapsulates economic viability of the assessments to facilitate validation of strategic recommendations for preventing natural extreme events. Not limiting itself to field data estimates, it further opens the avenues for accomplishing the Bonn Challenge target to restore 150 million hectares of land worldwide by 2020 and substantially contribute to national and international programmes viz., National Adaptation Programmes of Actions (NAPAs), United Nations Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (UN-REDD+), United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Additionally, in order to comprehend the methodological

framework of ROAM, its pilot applications conducted in Rwanda (2013) are discussed. In due course, this robust tool has finally been initiated in the Indian states of Madhya Pradesh and Uttarakhand, which are notably the two most disaster prone (flood, landslides, drought) regions of the country, thereby mitigating, improving and restoring the landscapes and livelihoods.