



भारत सरकार  
GOVERNMENT  
OF INDIA



# GIR-GIP Alliance

# Gandhinagar Implementation Roadmap (GIR) and Gandhinagar Information Platform (GIP) Alliance for strengthening the G20 Global Land Initiative

*by encouraging the ecological/ecosystem restoration of identified landscapes (forest fire impacted areas and mining affected areas)*

## Brief

The GIR-GIP alliance for strengthening the G20 Global Land Initiative (GLI), will be an alliance of countries led by national nodal institutions/experts/organizations to accelerate ecological restoration of **identified priority landscapes viz. forest fire and mining affected areas**.

## Need for an alliance

The G20 voluntary target to achieve 50% reduction in degraded land by 2040 and the G20 GLI was set in 2020 under the Saudi Arabian G20 Presidency. The Indian G20 Presidency proposes an alliance of interested Country parties to contribute to strengthening the implementation of the G20 GLI and G20 voluntary target, by sharing knowledge and best practices, creating a network of experts and identifying and supporting projects that can help unlock high impacts.

## Vision of the Alliance

To set and advance the agenda of restoration of identified degraded landscapes through voluntary collaboration of national nodal institutions, experts, organizations to facilitate the fulfilment of the global restoration objectives and targets in the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, SDGs including Land Degradation Neutrality (SDG 15.3) and the UN Decade for Ecosystem Restoration.

## Mission of the Alliance

1. **Shaping the global agenda** for restoration of identified priority landscapes
2. **Creating a network of nodal institutions/experts** to enable knowledge sharing and capacity building
3. **Building a knowledge platform** to enhance capacity of organizations/individuals engaged in restoration activities
4. **Identifying and supporting lighthouse projects** that can demonstrate measurable impacts and act as a template for restoration of identified landscapes

# The Agenda

The Agenda for eco-restoration of identified priority landscapes involves four key elements –

1. **Define the need** - A clear articulation of the **need to work** on eco-restoration of selected landscapes needs to be **familiarized at various multilateral fora**.
2. **Gather support** – **Bilateral and multilateral fora** need to be leveraged **to include new members into the alliance** as well as **drive global dialogue** on the eco-restoration of prioritized landscapes.
3. **Take collaborative action** – The alliance needs to be used as a platform to **drive global action** on prioritized landscapes by ensuring **primacy of these landscapes in all multilateral discussions**.
4. **Showcase results** – **Regular reports on status of initiatives** need to be showcased at multilateral fora to showcase the work of the alliance while ensuring its **recognition in the outcomes** of these fora.

## Structure

### Alliance coordination committee

This committee will consist of **1 HoD level officer** from all member countries.

This committee will oversee the operations of the alliance including –

1. **Agenda Setting** - Representing the alliance and advancing the land restoration agenda at various international and multilateral platforms
2. **Agenda Implementation** -
  - a. Guiding Secretariat and Expert Working group in implementation activities
  - b. Approve new technical and financing partnerships
3. **Agenda Expansion** - Approve addition of new members and landscapes

### Expert working group

Comprising of **1 member** from national institutions/organizations/experts nominated by the alliance coordination committee, this committee will be the backbone of the alliance and will help the alliance to achieve its **objectives of** -

1. **Collaborate on land restoration research** by leveraging the Gandhinagar Information Platform (GIP).
2. **Publish annual reports** sharing the research and initiatives taken on the identified landscapes.
3. **Identify and Support Restoration Projects** with potential to create new restoration templates and enable these projects to receive appropriate financial and technology support by providing them the platform to present their work at various multilateral fora for eg., UNFCCC COPs, CBD COPs, UNCCD COPs etc.

4. **Identify further landscapes** based on consensus between member countries and include research institutes/experts with relevant experience in restoring these landscapes, pending ratification from the alliance coordination committee.

### Secretariat

The Indian Nodal Institutions shall house and fund the operation of a secretariat that will perform the following functions –

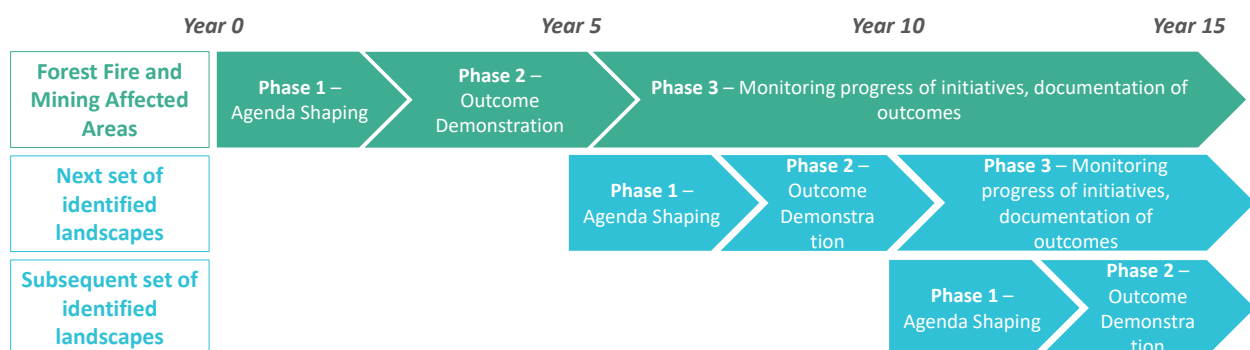
- Manage day-to-day operations, coordination committee and expert working group meetings
- Create a hopper of land projects from member countries
- Manage events, logistics, internal communications, social media
- Member onboarding & recruitment, partnerships in other forums
- Gandhinagar Information Platform (GIP) upkeep to update technical content

The secretariat shall consist of **3-4 permanent staff** who will leverage **existing resources of the Indian Nodal Institutions to ensure smooth day to day functioning.**

## 15 Year Roadmap

The alliance aims to strengthen the implementation of multilateral and international land restoration targets and initiatives in the following ways –

1. Implementation of restoration agenda on identified landscapes via a three-phase approach (details in exhibit and subsequent sections)
2. Expansion of template to new landscapes

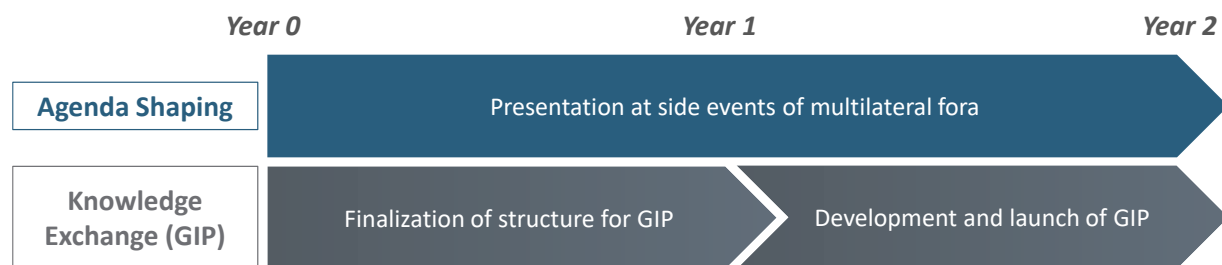


# Detailed Roadmap

## Detailed Phase 1 Roadmap

In phase 1 of the restoration agenda implementation, the alliance shall –

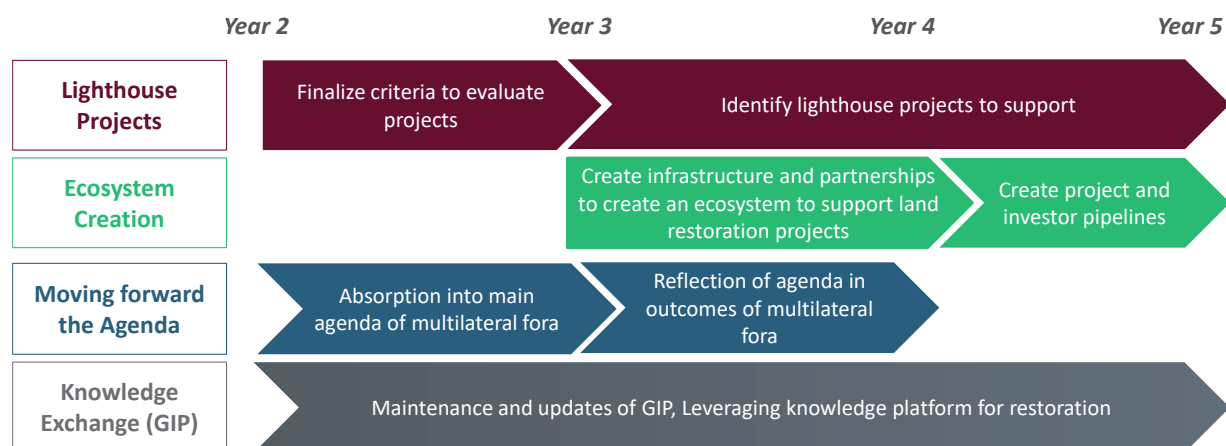
1. **Set the restoration agenda** by presenting the case for restoration of identified landscapes in side events of important global environmental and climate fora (UNFCCC COP, CBD COP, UNCCD COP etc.) and work towards their inclusion in the main agenda of these fora.
2. **Create and update knowledge** on the restoration of these landscapes through the **Gandhinagar Information Platform** that will –
  - a. **House best practices and case studies** of restoration techniques, policy frameworks, monitoring methods, community involvement templates, use of Traditional and Indigenous Knowledge and financial instruments
  - b. **Enhance collaboration** between technical experts/national nodal institutions/organizations nominated by member countries



## Detailed Phase 2 Roadmap

In phase 2 of the restoration agenda implementation, the alliance shall –

1. **Identify and Support Lighthouse Projects** by finalizing criteria for their selection and providing them with technical and financial support
2. **Create an enabling ecosystem** including appropriate infrastructure, partnerships, pipeline of projects and investors (marketplace) to ensure continued action on these landscapes.
3. **Move forward the eco-restoration agenda** to ensure absorption into multilateral fora.
4. **Ensure continued maintenance and updation** of the Gandhinagar Information Platform.



### Detailed Phase 3 Roadmap

In phase 3 of the restoration agenda implementation, the alliance shall –

1. **Monitor progress** of initiatives launched in phase 1
2. **Implement course correction** measures if required
3. **Document results and best practices** as well as replicable models that can be taken forward to other projects, landscapes, and countries
4. **Expand the agenda** to new countries on a voluntary basis

## 1 Year Activity Plan

Detailed activity plan for the next 1 year.

1. *26<sup>th</sup> July – 28<sup>th</sup> July 2023* – In person bilateral meetings at 4<sup>th</sup> ECSWG meeting
2. *1<sup>st</sup> August – 15<sup>th</sup> August 2023* – Meeting between nominated members of countries to decide on technical and legal modalities of the alliance
3. *15<sup>th</sup> Aug – 31<sup>st</sup> Aug 2023* – Constitution of the alliance coordination committee and expert working group
4. *8<sup>th</sup> September 2023* – Recognition at G20 Leaders' Summit
5. *Nov – Dec 2023* – Side event on “**Criticality of eco-restoration of forest fire and mining affected areas to climate action**” at UNFCCC COP 28 and launch of the alliance
6. *Jan/Feb 2023* – Launch of website during the 1<sup>st</sup> ECSWG meeting of the Brazilian Presidency
7. *Feb – Mar 2024* – Addition of 2-3 new landscapes by Brazil during its G20 Presidency
8. *June 2024* – First Annual capacity building meeting with GLI ICO
9. *Aug 2024* – Second meeting of nodal institutions to take stock of progress of action on identified landscapes and creation of a plan for incorporating new landscapes
10. *Dec 2024* – First annual report and update on eco-restoration of identified landscapes and panel discussion on learnings on capacity building for eco-restoration at UNCCD COP 16



## Commitments

### Financial

**The responsibility for initially funding the Secretariat and GIP Website shall lie with the Government of India.**

All funding for lighthouse projects shall be sourced from multilateral development banks, international financial institutions etc.

### Time

The time commitments required from member countries would be as follows –

1. **Nominees to Alliance Coordination Committee** – Attend quarterly update meetings in hybrid mode (2 hours) and attend annual meeting (on side-lines of G20 working group meetings).
2. **Nominees to Expert Working Group** – Attend monthly working group meetings (2 hours) and study project proposals as well ensure veracity of country data in GIP.

# Benefits for Members

## Fulfilment of Global Targets

1. **Achievement of global targets** of the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, SDGs including Land Degradation Neutrality (SDG 15.3) and the UN Decade for Ecosystem Restoration.

## Ecological Restoration

1. The alliance can provide opportunities for capacity building for participating Institutions and other relevant organizations on eco-restoration of identified landscapes.

## Financial

1. Members' restoration projects including those being carried out by government institutions can leverage financing from multilateral development banks, financial institutions etc.
2. The alliance can help create a financing ecosystem for underfunded land restoration projects and reduce their dependence on government grants.