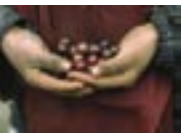# SEE THE BIGGER PICTURE

Forests provide a wealth of benefits, from clean water, regulation of climate and biodiversity protection to sources of income, fuel and food. In a time of widespread global poverty, increasing population and degraded ecosystems, these benefits are increasingly important.

Whether you are concerned about the environment, business opportunities, improving rural livelihoods or a host of other issues, you have a stake in the contributions that forests can make.

Forest landscape restoration brings people together to identify, negotiate and implement practices that restore an agreed optimal balance of the ecological, social and economic benefits of forests and trees within a broader pattern of land uses.

- The global rate of deforestation (mainly land converted to other uses) is about 13 million hectares (ha) per year.
- Between 2000 and 2005, Africa and South America had the largest net loss of forests while Oceania and North and Central America also had a net loss of forests.
- The net loss in forest area 2000-2005 is estimated at 7.3 million ha per year, an area about the size of Sierra Leone or Panama).
- 850 million ha of forest — the size of the U.S. — is in a degraded state in tropical Africa, Asia and America. (Sources: FAO, ITTO)

An estimated 1.6 billion people in the world rely heavily on forest resources for their livelihoods. They range from multinational companies to rural farmers. However, the ability of forests to deliver the economic, environmental and social benefits we all need to survive and prosper is under threat.

Bad as the situation is, we can reverse the trend through Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR). Forests are being restored for many purposes in many ways and at increasing rates.

Estimates of the land available for different types of restoration activities (afforestation, agro-forestry, etc.) differ widely from 350 to 850 million ha, though social, legal and other factors may reduce the area actually available. Nevertheless, given the extent of degradation that is known to exist, it is clear that the opportunity for forest landscape restoration is significant.

FLR – Restoring, not replicating

First and foremost, to be considered as forest landscape restoration, efforts should aim to balance the trade-offs between and improve ecological integrity and peoples' livelihoods.

FLR is a practical approach. It does not try to re-establish the pristine forests of the past. Instead, it is about restoring a balance of forest goods and services — forest functions — that are needed now and in the future, to serve the broad range of interests that rely on forests, and doing so across an entire landscape or large, watershed-sized area.

Photo: Roberto Faidutti, FAO, CFU000883

These are the main principles of forest landscape restoration:
- restoration of a balanced and agreed package of forest functions;
- active engagement, collaboration and negotiation among a mix of stakeholders;
- working across a landscape; and
- learning and adapting.

There is nothing radically new about the individual elements of FLR. Our approach builds on a number of existing and proven rural development, conservation and natural resource management principles and approaches. It cuts across sectors and disciplines to take a more holistic approach. The difference is the primary emphasis on function — on the goods and services that forest landscapes provide — rather than only on the zoning or configuration of sites.

Photo of plantation, right: Veracel, Bahia, Brazil.

No small solutions

Small-scale and narrow approaches to restoring forests, such as simply replanting individual sites that have been cut without taking into account the broader area, have proven to be limited solutions. They do not address the complex issues that cause deforestation and forest degradation in the first place. They also tend to have one focus only, such as protection of habitats or timber extraction.

Forest restoration at a landscape scale – rather than at a site scale — is better suited today for addressing a broader range of issues and needs.

A varied and productive landscape

A landscape is an area of land that the eye can see in one glance, with a specific set of ecological, cultural and socio-economic characteristics that is distinct from its neighbours. A restored forest landscape might contain an agreed combination of these elements, among others:
- areas protected for watershed management and nature conservation;
- well-managed commercial plantations;
- wilderness areas that retain their natural character;

- areas that have been replanted after timber felling or fire;
- tree buffers or strips along rivers that protect against flooding and erosion;
- forested areas that are valuable for tourism and ecosystem health;
- on-farm trees and other agro-forestry systems;
- areas that are regenerating naturally after marginal agricultural use; and
- planned community development.

Forest landscape restoration is a collaborative venture. To succeed, it must involve everyone with a stake in the role of forests and trees in the landscape, from local farmers to charcoal makers, from government land-use managers to private forest owners, from municipal water providers to tourism operators, from game hunters to logging companies. They must identify the various goods and services that matter most, and work out how best to restore them.

Benefits of FLR

If done more holistically, forest landscape restoration increases the range of future options for the environment, investors (whether public or private sector) and local communities.

Where competing demands on land use are strong, FLR offers an approach to conflict resolution and negotiation, thereby creating a more stable environment in which to live, work and do business. In other words, FLR can be not only environmentally and socially beneficial but also provide sound economic opportunities. For countries, it also offers a practical way of meeting their international environmental and development commitments. These are some of the benefits of forest landscape restoration:

- adequate and sustainable income and employment opportunities for rural communities;
- sustainable source of timber for forest industries and local communities;
- sound return on investment for forestry investors;
- increased and higher quality habitats for animals and plants;
- increased resistance and resilience to climate change;
- a secure and high-quality supply of water;
- prevention and reduction of land degradation;
- additional sources of non-timber forest products such as medicinal plants and marketable goods;
- recreation and tourism opportunities;
- a secure source of biomass and biofuel energy
- environmentally sound and social equitable carbon sequestration;
- increased property values near restored areas; and
- enhanced economic and environmental security and mitigation of risk from global economic and environmental change.

Forest landscape restoration brings stakeholders together to better manage forest landscapes. Successful FLR needs and contributes to greater transparency and accountability and better governance practices. Our growing experience is showing that FLR can help promote forest governance arrangements that improve livelihoods and promote sustainable forest management, complementing initiatives that address forest law enforcement and governance.

A global partnership for future forests

More than 25 countries and organizations around the world have formed a growing network called the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration (GPFLR). Together we are working to develop and strengthen FLR efforts around the world. Our objective is to catalyze, promote and reinforce

WESTERN GHANA: Promoting corporate opportunities while growing alternatives to poverty

In Western Ghana a public-private partnership has been formed to incorporate the native species of *Allanblakcia floribunda* as shade trees in cocoa farms, which will restore these degraded landscapes while providing a source of income for local farmers and communities. This will be achieved through the production and international marketing of the extracted oil, which can be used in soaps and margarines. The partners are Unilever, the World Conservation Union (IUCN), the International Centre for Research and Agroforestry (ICRAF), and the Netherlands Development Organization (SNV). The stakeholders negotiate with

each other on those needs, such as biodiversity conservation, enhanced options for livelihoods and a well functioning environment, that can be accommodated at the landscape level. This venture revolves around the willingness and ability of a multinational corporation to guarantee a market for a fixed price and of small farmers to give up short-term financial gains from cutting trees in exchange for a chance at a more sustainable livelihood. The project is being extended to Tanzania, Nigeria and Cameroon. *Photo: Harrie Hendrickx*

LOCH KATRINE, SCOTLAND:
Return of the native woodland on a giant scale

In the Loch Katrine area of central Scotland, Forestry Commission Scotland is developing plans to restore close to 10,000 hectares of rare native forest and associated habitats. Benefits will include improved water quality and a secure water supply for Glasgow, increased nature conservation and greater economic and tourism opportunities. The other partners included in the project are the Scottish Water agency, local communities, the Scottish Forest Alliance (comprised of British Petroleum, RSPB Scotland, Woodland Trust Scotland) and others. Consultations with local communities and neighbouring landowners are helping to create better opportunities for the development of forest landscape restoration on a bigger scale. Activities will include planting of new native woodland, natural regeneration, removal of exotic conifers, agricultural and deer grazing, enhancement of the network of trails, as well as an interpretation strategy for visitors. BP (through the Scottish Forest Alliance) has committed £10 million in 2000 to assist with the financing of native forest restoration in Scotland over the next ten years. This is part of an effort to reverse centuries of deforestation and combined with the work of the neighbouring estates will create the largest native broadleaved woodland in Scotland since the middle ages. *Loch Katrine. Forestry Commission Picture Library, Crown Copyright. Isobel Cameron, photographer.*

conditions for, and approaches to, forest landscape restoration that deliver benefits to local communities and nature, as well as fulfil international commitments on forests.

The GPFLR acts as an informal but coordinated umbrella for member activities, helping to link and reinforce them so that greater progress is made than by individual efforts alone. We influence future action by creating links among existing FLR activities, projects, processes and institutions. Our strength lies in the fact that we welcome and include a range of perspectives: private and public, local and international.

Phase 1: 2003-2005

The Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration was publicly launched in Rome in March 2003. The first phase of the partnership's work:

- significantly raised the profile of FLR nationally, regionally and internationally;
- helped establish national working groups in a number of countries;
- improved local, national and international understanding of FLR;
- increased funding opportunities for a number of new FLR projects; and
- provided technical and political support to champions of FLR everywhere.

Among other things, we organized more than 20 national, sub-regional and regional FLR workshops, established a web site and produced a package of case studies, as well as an analysis of how FLR contributes to international agreements.

WWF-Canon: Matt Wilkinson

A major event was the International Forest Landscape Restoration Implementation Workshop in Petrópolis, Brazil, on April 4–8, 2005, which resulted in a global challenge *to restore forest landscapes to benefit people and nature and contribute to reversing the trends of forest loss and degradation.*

The recommendations of the Petrópolis workshop were presented to the 5th session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF-5) in New York on May 16-27, 2005, during its Roundtable on Restoring the World's Forests, where many Ministers expressed support for the FLR approach and the partnership.

Phase 2: 2006-2009

During its second phase of work (2006-09) the partnership is moving from sharing information and promoting to demonstration, learning and adaptation. We are doing this in the following ways:

- building a learning network to improve critical understanding and practice on FLR;
- continuing to build support for FLR with key decision-makers, the private sector, civil society, the media and others from the local to the global level;
- reinforcing legal, policy and institutional frameworks to support FLR, including laws, institutions and incentives; and
- providing people who have a stake in the role of forests and trees with the information and tools they need to help them make decisions on FLR, implement them and monitor their impacts in a holistic way that cuts across sectors and disciplines.

Are you a champion?

We offer you a unique opportunity to make a difference and be recognized as a champion for your contribution. Joining the partnership means that you commit to actively link your restoration initiatives to the partnership and participate in shared learning. You can contribute to this global effort in many ways:

• provide technical, policy or other expertise, advice or funding;

• participate in the learning network;

• establish a national working group on FLR;

• introduce a policy in your district or country in support of FLR;

• initiate or encourage a field project;

• reorient an existing programme, such as tree planting or environmental protection, to support FLR; and

• host or contribute to a workshop.

The rewards of global partnership

Through our network, you will be in contact with other FLR partners, building your own expertise and receiving advice on FLR issues from a global network of world leaders in this field: practitioners, governments, communities and businesses. By joining the partnership you will enjoy a range of rewards, including:

• earning the recognition you deserve, with many opportunities to highlight your achievements within the partnership and with a global audience;

• contributing to the learning network portfolio, which will be widely disseminated;

• access to the latest technical and policy information and tools related to restoration of forests and landscapes;

• tapping into an expanding international community of experts;

• building the capacity of your staff and collaborators working in this area; and

• improving your restoration efforts and the benefits they deliver for your country.

The partnership is about synergy: matching your needs to other partners' resources to benefit the world's forests.

A learning network

An important priority for the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration is to establish an international learning network of partners and collaborators who are committed to forest landscape restoration principles and practices and to joint learning. The learning network is designed to do the following:

• improve critical understanding and practice related to FLR; and

• demonstrate the great variety of FLR initiatives that exist and their role in improving economic, social and environmental conditions.

The learning network is an informal community of practice that you can use to explore issues and demonstrate action on the ground. It will evolve and adapt to meet the needs of its members. The learning network brings together:

• stakeholder groups with different ways of working together towards agreed goals;

• sites representing a diverse range of situations and challenges;

• tools and indicators to support decision-making and application of FLR in the field, build capacity and monitor progress; and

• legal, policy and institutional reforms and initiatives that support FLR.

UCAYALI VALLEY, PERU:
Providing enhanced incomes and alternatives to illegal activities

The Ucayali Valley is a large forested floodplain in the Peruvian Amazon that has been degraded by agriculture, logging and population increases. The Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), the International Centre for Research and Agroforestry (ICRAF) and Spain's National Institute for Agrarian Studies (INIA) have partnered with area residents, many of whom are migrant workers seeking new opportunities, to restore the area. This effort aims to increase income and contribute to growth in a region that offers few alternatives to resource-poor farmers other than the illicit cultivation of coca. Measures include replanting native species, restoring degraded soils and introducing agroforestry (mixed forest and crop) systems rather than cutting new forest for plantations. This initiative has also helped to bring together a private company (GEA Forestal) and local farmers' organizations in the production, processing and marketing of native timber species. *San Alejandro, Peru. Photo: D. Timmer-ASB (2003)*

SOUTH PLATTE WATERSHED:
Cutting across jurisdictions to prevent catastrophic fire

The Upper South Platte watershed in the Rocky Mountains of the United States covers more than 1.2 million acres of public and private lands. It provides municipal water for about 75% of the residents of Colorado. Unfortunately, it is an area vulnerable to wildfires, insects and disease, as well as residential and commercial development, timber extraction, a growing population and increased recreation. In 2002 the largest fire in Colorado history burned more than 137,000 acres in this area. A coalition of stakeholders — including local governments, federal and state agencies, businesses, water providers and individuals — is working to restore the mountain forest within the watershed by replanting trees; stabilizing roads, trails and streams; promoting sustainable development and community education; and other means. Contributing to the success of this project are such factors as committed individuals who are willing to work across jurisdictions and mandates, legislation and funding that support this collaboration and solid scientific information. *South Platte Watershed, Photo: Mike Elson, USDA Forest Service*

Demonstrating diversity

The sites, tools and policy initiatives of the members of the partnership represent a variety of geographical areas, stakeholder groups, socio-economic conditions and restoration strategies. They show diversity of conditions and capture the richness of how different stakeholders are addressing land management issues.

The sites in the learning network have:

1. the aim of balancing trade-offs between and improving ecological integrity and peoples' livelihoods;
2. initiated restoration activities;
3. a commitment to share information, monitor, learn and adapt;
4. a commitment to FLR principles and practices:
   a. restoration of a balanced package of forest functions;
   b. active engagement, collaboration and negotiation among a mix of stakeholders;
   c. working across a landscape; and
   d. learning and adapting.

Learning strategies

Learning about sites, tools and policy initiatives will be encouraged through a package of strategies and mechanisms, such as these:

- production of a portfolio of site, tools and policy initiative profiles and other resources;
- learning exchanges or study tours across sites
- dedicated capacity in the sites to participate in joint learning;
- targeted learning on specific topics that emerge from the network;
- thematic and national workshops;
- a roster of experts available to provide advice;
- analysis and facilitated discussion on specific topics or questions;
- a regular newsletter;
- political, private sector, institutional, community, scientific and other special events; and
- analysis and dissemination of lessons learned across and between projects or sites, countries and regions.

Results

The learning network aims to increase awareness of the conditions needed to implement FLR; highlight lessons from real world FLR sites, institutional settings, tools and policy actions; and offer guidance to influence the plans, policies and practices of governments, companies and civil society organizations.

Our purpose is not to produce a model of FLR that can be applied universally or be used to prove a particular hypothesis. Instead, the learning network will focus on the diversity of ways in which forest landscape restoration can contribute to meeting local, regional and international needs.

Please join us: To become a member, or for more information about what the partnership has done so far and is planning, please visit the partnership web site at: http://www.unep-wcmc.org/forest/restoration/globalpartnership

Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration