



The Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration is a worldwide network that unites influential governments, and major UN and non-governmental organisations and businesses. Our aim is to accelerate the restoration of the world's forests and degraded lands to improve ecological integrity and human wellbeing. We do so by building support for FLR, fostering learning and innovation, and providing resources for policy-makers and practitioners.

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A World of Opportunity

Across the globe lie more than a billion hectares of lost and degraded forest land that could be restored. It's a vast area with the potential to enrich communities, their environment and enterprises large and small. It's an opportunity we can't afford to miss.

In mankind's time on Earth, the area of forest on the planet has almost halved. South of the boreal forest that stretches across northern latitudes from Alaska and Canada to Scandinavia and Russia, only a fifth of the world's forests remain undisturbed.

The pressure on the world's natural resources is too great for any business or political leader to ignore. As the world's population spirals, forests continue to fall, taking with them forest goods and services vital to local communities such as clean, secure water supplies, wood for fuel and timber and habitats for wildlife.

Measures to put a brake on deforestation are high on the international political agenda. But while we're preventing further losses, we can make precious gains, too.

Turning the tide

In countries across the world, there are pockets of damaged and degraded forests that we can bring back to life. Both local and large-scale restoration projects have already made a dramatic difference to landscapes and livelihoods. And the techniques applied there could have a similar effect on other damaged landscapes.

Growing demand for bioenergy and forest products, the pressure on carbon densities and food security, plus the desperate need for socioeconomic opportunities among forest communities, all underline the need for forest landscape restoration. But it's a new and evolving practice that begs many questions. How large an area is available and suitable for restoration? Where are the main opportunity areas located? What types of opportunities do they present? What are the potential benefits?

Evidence gathered by the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration (GPFLR) from around the world has started to provide answers to these questions, and to map the extraordinary potential of landscape restoration in addressing the challenges facing societies today and in the future.

Forests for the 21st Century: The evidence of opportunity

Our analysis considered two types of restoration opportunity:

- Mosaic-type restoration, in more populated and higher-land-use areas with significantly-reduced tree cover, and
- Broad-scale restoration, in areas where the land-use pressure is low and forests can grow more freely.

Our map plots those areas where there is a high likelihood of finding these opportunities, rather than pinpointing restoration sites precisely.

The preliminary findings of our assessment indicate that there is a total area of lost and degraded forest lands of more than a billion hectares that is suitable and available for restoration – an area greater than that of China.

These areas should not all be restored in the same fashion. There is no one-size-fits-all solution. Each forest landscape is unique and needs its own restoration design which responds in a balanced way to local preferences and needs. Lands that are currently used for crop production or grazing, for example, are not suitable for broad-scale restoration. They may, however, offer opportunities for restoration in mixed land-use mosaics. Many historically deforested areas belong to this category.

The opportunities we have identified represent a vital piece of the climate change jigsaw; one that we can put in place immediately, and which allows all countries, not just those who still have forests, to help bring landscapes back to life.

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A world map showing forest landscape restoration opportunities. The map is overlaid with a grid and color-coded regions. Dark green indicates broad-scale restoration opportunities, medium green indicates mosaic-scale restoration in non-agricultural areas, orange indicates mosaic-scale restoration in irrigated croplands, and yellow indicates mosaic-scale restoration in rainfed croplands. The map shows high concentrations of dark green in the Amazon basin, Central Africa, and parts of Southeast Asia. Orange and yellow areas are prominent in South America, Europe, and parts of Asia and Africa.

A World of Opportunity


The World from a Forest Landscape Restoration Perspective


AREAS WITH HIGHER LIKELIHOOD OF FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION OPPORTUNITIES

 Broad-scale restoration of areas that are currently either degraded forest, or density reduced to woodland, or deforested. They have a low population density and are not used for agriculture. They are somewhat concentrated in occurrence.

 Mosaic-scale restoration of degraded or deforested areas, mainly of woodlands type. They are not used for crop production. Population density is high but the land use is either not intensive or not known.

AREAS WITH LOWER LIKELIHOOD OF FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION OPPORTUNITIES

 Mosaic-scale restoration within deforested landscapes dominated by irrigated croplands.

 Mosaic-scale restoration within deforested landscapes dominated by rainfed croplands.