



The Way Forward

With an increasing focus on implementing forest conservation at a landscape scale, WWF's Forests for Life Programme is now actively working on integrating its three main approaches i.e. protection, responsible forestry, and restoration - within priority landscapes identified under the *Global 200 Ecoregions*.

Under the forest restoration component of its Forests for Life Programme, WWF is working with Governments, international organisations, indigenous peoples and other communities, as well as the private sector on the following activities:

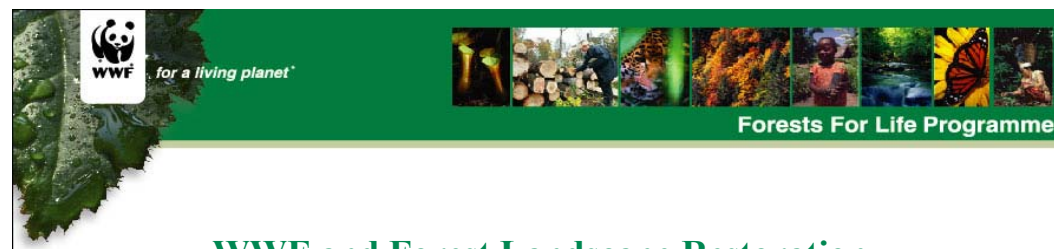
- assisting others, and building local capacity to plan and implement forest restoration interventions within the broader landscape;
- developing suitable monitoring tools and techniques to measure progress;
- promoting the use of a Forest Landscape Restoration approach through both local collaboration and broader partnerships such as the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration;
- documenting, exchanging and disseminating lessons learnt and experiences;
- highlighting the ways in which Governments and the private sector, including plantation companies, can contribute to restoring forests and their full range of functions in degraded areas;
- working to eliminate/redirect economic, financial and/or policy incentives that contribute to forest loss or degradation; and
- identifying, researching and catalysing potential investments and funding mechanisms which can support forest landscape restoration activities e.g. carbon knowledge projects, and payments for environmental services schemes.

Forest Landscape Restoration Handbook and Newsletter

WWF has compiled a handbook to provide guidance on how best to approach Forest Landscape Restoration, bringing together the expertise of over 60 specialists and practitioners. "*Beyond Planting Trees: Forest Restoration in Landscapes*" will be published by Springer in August 2005. WWF also produces a quarterly FLR e-mail newsletter. For more information, visit <http://www.panda.org/forests/restoration/> or contact Mark Aldrich, Manager - Forest Landscape Restoration, Forests For Life Programme, WWF International, email: maldrich@wwfint.org.



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WWF and Forest Landscape Restoration

Restoring forest functions in landscapes

Despite the value of forests to humanity, over 50 per cent of the world's original forest cover has disappeared. From 1990 to 2000, the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation estimated that forests were lost at a net rate of 9.4 million hectares per year, with actual deforestation reaching 16 million hectares per year. In addition, the quality of much of the remaining forests is declining rapidly. With millions of people depending on forest goods and services – for food, fuelwood, medicinal plants, fodder and drinking water – these losses pose serious development as well as environmental problems.

In response to these challenges, WWF, working in collaboration with IUCN and other partners, has adopted a Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) approach, which aims to do much more than simply restore or increase forest cover.

FLR is defined as "*a planned process that aims to regain ecological integrity and enhance human wellbeing in deforested or degraded forest landscapes*". It focuses on re-establishing functions and key ecosystem processes through specific interventions within the context of a whole landscape rather than at just planting or restoring individual sites. As such, FLR looks at a mosaic of land uses including agricultural lands and forest types ranging from plantations to natural forests.

For its part, WWF's Forests for Life Programme in 2001 adopted a third global target on forest restoration within a landscape context. The target is: "*by 2020, restore forest goods, services and processes in 20 landscapes of outstanding importance within priority ecoregions to regain ecological integrity and enhance human wellbeing*".

To meet this target, WWF is actively developing a portfolio of FLR initiatives in a number of countries. For more, see map overleaf or visit <http://www.panda.org/forests/restoration/>.



WWF's Portfolio of Forest Landscape Restoration Initiatives

Southern Portugal Green Belt: Restoring semi-natural woodlands (including coastal pines, cork and holm oaks) to re-establish ecological continuity for species such as the Iberian lynx and provide enhanced benefits to local rural communities.

Middle Atlas, Morocco: Restoring critically endangered forest habitats to help ensure fresh-water supply, reduce the risks of desertification, provide tangible benefits to local communities, and set the basis for the long-term conservation of biodiversity.

Atlantic Forests - Misiones Green Corridor, Argentina: Working to maintain and restore connectivity to ensure the viability of threatened species, i.e. jaguars, whilst providing sustainable land use methods.

Atlantic Forests, Brazil: Working in 3 landscapes - Upper Paraná Atlantic Forest, Serra do Mar and Pernambuco Coastal Forests, including the development of participatory multi-stakeholder landscape plans, to promote the ability of the Atlantic Forests to maintain biodiversity and environmental services.

Fandriana - Marolambo, Madagascar: Initiation of major restoration initiative with full stakeholder participation and development, including detailed socio-economic study and the creation of a national working group on Forest Landscape Restoration.

East Usambara Mountains; Tanzania: Restoring quality of degraded forests and improving connectivity in key gaps to regain key forest functions and improve livelihoods of the local population.

Minshan, China: Restoring the forests of the Upper Yangtze to improve connectivity, increase panda habitat and restore key benefits for local communities. Includes cost/benefit studies of different restoration interventions, feeding into development of policy guidelines.

Rinjani, Lombok, Indonesia: Restoring multi-purpose mixed species forest on degraded land through the development of community forests, and developing PES to help protect the forests and their vital watershed functions.

New Caledonia: Working alongside 8 local partners as technical partner and facilitator to restore dry tropical forests of which only 1% remain.

Shimba Hills, Kenya: Working with communities to restore the degraded and heavily fragmented East African coastal forests - important source of fuelwood, water and medicinal plants.

