



Forest (Landscape) Restoration

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 ha/year, with actual deforestation reaching 16 million ha/year. In addition, the quality of much of the remaining forest is declining rapidly.

WWF believes that, with millions of people depending on forest goods and services – food, fuelwood, medicinal plants, fodder and drinking water – these losses pose serious developmental as well as environmental problems. WWF, working in collaboration with IUCN and other partners, has identified the need not only to protect and sustainably manage, but also to restore forests. As a result WWF has adopted a “Forest Landscape Restoration” approach, which contrary to some conventional approaches to forest regeneration aims to do more than simply to increase forest cover.

Forest Landscape Restoration (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. It might for example be used to help buffer a small and isolated protected area by re-establishing trees on surrounding land that, whilst having a range of social or commercial functions, could also help support native biodiversity. The key principles of FLR are that it:

- Is implemented at a landscape scale rather than a site
- Has both a socio-economic and ecological dimension
- Implies addressing the root causes of degradation and poor forest quality (such as perverse incentives and inequitable land tenure)
- Involves a full range of stakeholders in planning and decision-making to achieve a solution that is acceptable and therefore sustainable
- Involves identifying and negotiating trade-offs
- Opts for a package of solutions, which may include practical techniques – such as agroforestry, enrichment planting and natural regenerations at a landscape scale – but may also embrace issues such as policy analysis, research, training and capacity building, and development of alternative sources of income for local people.

WWF has therefore adopted a target for forest restoration: “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”.

This is the third of three global forest targets (also for i) protection, and ii) management of production forests, issued by WWF as a challenge to the world. WWF believes that given the greater scale (both in terms of space, and time) of forest restoration with the context of the broader landscape, and the need to re-orientate thinking, planning and financing of afforestation and reforestation activities towards a FLR approach, there is a need to focus on sharing lessons learned and on mobilising new partners.



Position Paper

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For its contribution towards the target **WWF is actively developing a portfolio of FLR programmes, and also working with governments, international organisations, indigenous peoples and other communities** to pursue its work on forest restoration within a landscape context, by:

- Initiating and facilitating projects/programmes within landscapes of high restoration priority in WWF Global 200 Ecoregions
- Assisting others, and building local capacity to plan and implement forest restoration interventions within the broader landscape context
- 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 FLR (URL?)
- Documenting, exchanging and disseminating lessons learnt and experiences
- Highlighting the ways in which Governments and the private sector, in particular, can make their contribution to the restoration of degraded forest areas
- Working to eliminate/redirect economic, financial and/or policy incentives that contribute to forest loss or degradation.