FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION

The world is losing over 9 million hectares of forest each year and at least double that amount is being fragmented and degraded. With nearly half the world’s original forest cover gone and a third of remaining forests under threat from climate change, decision-makers must consider not only how to halt forest loss and degradation but also how to reverse it. To complicate matters, conventional tree planting schemes have singularly failed to restore the range of forest goods and services necessary to maintain healthy ecosystems and contribute to human well-being.

“Forest Landscape Restoration is a planned process that aims to regain ecological integrity and enhance human wellbeing in degraded or deforested forest landscapes”

A vision for restoring forest landscapes for 2050: The world’s forest ecoregions will have diverse and connected forest landscapes that will support viable populations of native species throughout their natural range, meet essential human needs and enhance the ability of key ecosystems to resist and adapt to threats.
WHAT IS FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION?

*Building forest assets for people and nature*

**Forest landscape restoration** is an all-encompassing approach proposed by WWF and IUCN that goes far beyond just planting trees. It aims to get the right activities in the right places in order to conserve biodiversity and enhance options for people's livelihoods at the landscape level. Like a good investment portfolio, it sets out both to reduce risk and ensure a good, long-term rate of return.

No single solution fits all cases. WWF and IUCN believe that good restoration can only take place when key stakeholders are involved in making informed choices about the type and configuration of forest establishment they wish to see in their landscape. Moreover local involvement cannot stop there – communities everywhere, from Scotland to Sudan, have to be given a meaningful role in shaping, and benefiting from, the management of future forest resources.

**An example:**

In the **Kinabatangan River** landscape in Sabah, WWF is working with local oil palm companies and communities to restore forest cover on either side of the river in such a way that it:

- restores a corridor for endangered species such as the elephant and rhino;
- improves the quality of water (meeting the needs of the downstream communities for clean water and healthy fish stocks);
- supports, and further develops, an existing ecotourism industry that has already contributed to the economic development of local communities;
- promotes best practice within the plantations, protecting the oil palm from seasonal flooding and minimising fertilizer contamination of the water course.

**Why is Forest Landscape Restoration important?**

In their work on forest conservation, WWF and IUCN have identified the need for more than just protecting some areas and effectively managing others. There is no time to lose - up to 50% of the world's forests have already been lost and simply planting trees is only a small part of the solution. **Forest landscape restoration** offers governments, communities and companies a package of tools and measures to reverse negative trends and turn landscapes into a source of benefits for people and the environment.

WWF and IUCN have identified the need to **halt and reverse the loss and degradation of forests and woodlands worldwide**.
Forest Landscape Restoration will:

- **Restore environmental** functions:
  - preserving watersheds and improving water quality and quantity
  - improving and/or expanding habitats for endangered species
  - expanding the range of species
  - nutrient cycling
  - soil stabilisation

- **Restore benefits for people**, including:
  - products for food and raw materials (eg: Fruit, nuts, rubber, rattan, etc.)
  - reducing the risk of landslides
  - providing recreation areas
  - providing clean water

- **Reduce the vulnerability** of forests and biodiversity to threats such as:
  - climate change, and
  - pests/disease
  - fires

- **Address root causes** of forest loss and degradation in order to reverse trends
  - consulting and involving local people
  - changing policies related to land use
  - replacing harmful incentives with more positive ones

Forest Landscape Restoration involves:

- a **package of solutions**, such as natural regeneration, enrichment planting, selective logging, re-introduction of native species, fencing, agroforestry

- connecting **forest fragments** and creates a link between protected areas and well-managed forests.

- **valuing** forest goods and services to begin to quantify and evaluate how stakeholders can directly benefit from these

- planning with key **stakeholders** to identify solutions that are acceptable to all. It will imply working with **local communities**, informing and training people, - building capacity and recognising traditional values and knowledge

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