# Forest landscape restoration

**Forest landscape restoration** or FLR is defined as "a planned process to regain ecological integrity and enhance human well-being in deforested or degraded landscapes".[1] It comprises tools and procedures to integrate site-level forest restoration actions with desirable landscape-level objectives, which are decided upon via various participatory mechanisms among stakeholders. The concept has grown out of collaboration among some of the world's major international conservation organizations including the International Union for Conservation of Nature IUCN), the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO).

## Broad goals of FLR

The concept of FLR was conceived to bring about compromises between meeting the needs of both humans and wildlife, by restoring a range of forest functions at the landscape level. It includes actions to strengthen the resilience and ecological integrity of landscapes and thereby keep future management options open. The participation of local communities is central to the concept, because they play a critical role in shaping the landscape and gain significant benefits from restored forest resources. Therefore, FLR activities are inclusive and participatory.[2]

## Desirable outcomes of FLR

The desirable outcomes of an FLR program usually comprise a combination of the following, depending on local needs and aspirations:

- identification of the root causes of forest degradation and prevention of further deforestation,
- positive engagement of people in the planning of forest restoration, resolution of land-use conflicts and agreement on benefit-sharing systems,
- compromises over land-use trade-offs that are acceptable to the majority of stakeholders,
- a repository of biological diversity of both local and global value,
- delivery of a range of utilitarian benefits to local communities including:
    - a reliable supply of clean water,
    - environmental protection particularly watershed services (e.g. reduced soil erosion, lower landslide risk, flood/drought mitigation etc.),
    - a sustainable supply of a diverse range of forest products including foods, medicines, firewood etc.,
    - monetary income from various sources e.g. ecotourism, carbon trading via the REDD+ mechanism and from payments for other environmental services (PES)[3]

## FLR actions

FLR combines several existing principles and techniques of development, conservation and natural resource management, such as landscape character assessment, participatory rural appraisal, adaptive management etc. within a clear and consistent evaluation and learning framework. An FLR program may comprise various forestry practices on different sites within the landscape, depending on local environmental and socioeconomic factors. These may include protection and management of secondary and degraded primary forests, standard forest restoration techniques such as "assisted" or "accelerated" natural regeneration (ANR) and the planting of framework tree species to restore degraded areas, as well as conventional tree plantations and agroforestry systems to meet more immediate monetary needs [4]

The IUCN hosts the The Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration, which co-ordinates development of the concept around the world.

# References

[1]  Reitbergen-McCraken, J., S. Maginnis A. Sarre, 2007. *The Forest Landscape Restoration Handbook*. Earthscan, London, 175 pp

[2]  Lamb, D., 2011. *Regreening the Bare Hills*. Springer 547pp.

[3]  Mansourian, S., D. Vallauri, and N. , Dudley (eds.) (in co-operation with WWF International), *Forest Restoration in Landscapes: Beyond Planting Trees*. Springer, New York.

[4]  Elliott, S., D. Blakesley and K. Hardwick, in press. *Restoring Tropical Forests: a Practical Guide*. Kew Publications, London

# External links

- http://www.forestlandscaperestoration.org/
- http://www.wri.org/project/forest-landscape-restoration
- http://www.fs.fed.us/restoration/CFLR/index.shtml

# Article Sources and Contributors

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