Want to find out more about national assessments?

If you are interested in undertaking an assessment of the potential for forest and landscape restoration, please contact the GPFLR Secretariat.

We can provide you with:

- high-level support to kick-start the assessment in your country;
- a guideline for conducting your own national assessment;
- case study information; and
- access to trained facilitators to help you conduct a national assessment in your country.

We would welcome your participation in an online training module to be launched soon on our online learning platform.

Your experiences will provide valuable feedback to improve the method for future users.

For more information please go the GPFLR website.

www.ideastransformlandscapes.org

Who is the GPFLR?

The Global Partnership on Forest and Landscape Restoration (GPFLR) was launched in 2003 by IUCN, WWF and the Forestry Commission of Great Britain. Since then many governments and international and non-governmental organizations have joined. It is a proactive network that unites governments, organizations, communities and individuals with a common goal to catalyze and reinforce a network of diverse examples of restoration of forests and degraded lands that deliver benefits to local communities and to nature, and fulfill international commitments on forests.

Acknowledgments

We are indebted to the International Climate Initiative of the German Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) for their generous financial support to IUCN for the development and dissemination of the methodology. Many partners and stakeholders provided invaluable contributions to developing this methodology, including particularly: the World Resources Institute and the University of Maryland; CERSGIS, Resource Management Support Centre (RMSC) of the Forestry Commission, and the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources in Ghana; and CONAFOR, CONABIO, CONANP and REDMOCAF in Mexico. We are also grateful to PROFOR for seed funding provided for the Ghana assessment, and to the UK Department for International Development (DfID) whose support is making possible the further development and application of this methodology and related tools.

For more information:

For more information, please contact:

Carole Saint-Laurent
Coordinator
Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration
1630 Connecticut Avenue Northwest
Washington, DC 20009
United States

Tel: + 1 416 763 3437
carole.saint-laurent@iucn.org
Or visit: www.ideastransformlandscapes.org

THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP ON FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION

Assessing national potential for landscape restoration

A Briefing Note for Decision-Makers

Are you sitting on an opportunity?

There are 2 billion hectares of deforested or degraded lands worldwide where opportunities for restoration may be found.

THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP ON FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION

These forgotten hectares can be restored to more productive use by making well-targeted investments that look across sectors, linking forest, agrarian and other policies, and tweaking incentives to favour such an approach.

By restoring degraded forest landscapes, you can help enrich communities, improve the environment and stimulate enterprises large and small. At the same time you can enhance food security and local livelihoods, and conserve biodiversity. This can also reduce pressure on the world's natural resources.

The post Kyoto agreement being negotiated under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) clearly targets the role of forests in storing carbon and this may offer additional opportunities for generating multiple benefits through carbon-intensive land stewardship.

The opportunity is too great to ignore. We know this can be done and the benefits are clear. For example:

- The Republic of Korea estimates a 50-fold return on its investment that improved and restored forests on over 50% of its territory since 1953..
- Costa Rica almost doubled its forest cover in a period of 25 years reinforcing its green image as the basis for a highly lucrative tourism industry.
- The people of Shinyanga, northern Tanzania took only 15 years to restore 2 million hectares of forest and agricultural land, doubling household income.

Forest and landscape restoration (FLR)

"An active process that brings people together to identify, negotiate and implement practices that restore an agreed optimal balance of the ecological, social and economic benefits of forests and trees within a broader pattern of land uses."

What type and scale is your opportunity?

The GPFLR and its partners are developing a methodology and tools to help you identify where degraded lands are located in your country, estimate their extent, and what benefits their restoration could bring, to whom, and at what cost.

These tools help move from a 2 billion hectare global estimate of landscape restoration potential to identifying specific operational opportunities using national or sub-national information.

Pilot experiences in Ghana and Mexico provided the foundation for these tools.

Using existing national land use data, a range of landscapes were identified in which restoration could be possible; this included both deforested and degraded lands as well as other relevant land uses such as fallow lands. Through a participatory process national teams identified, mapped and prioritized those landscapes where the demand for restoration is most urgent, the benefits are most immediate, and the likelihood of success was deemed greatest. These spatially explicit opportunity areas were then overlayed with a set of restoration interventions that would best address local needs. From this both carbon mitigation potential and economic costs and benefits could be assessed.

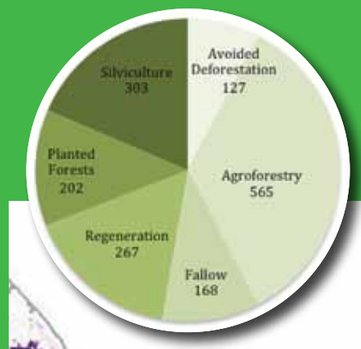

Figure 1.
Mitigation potential by intervention type in Ghana (MtCO2e)

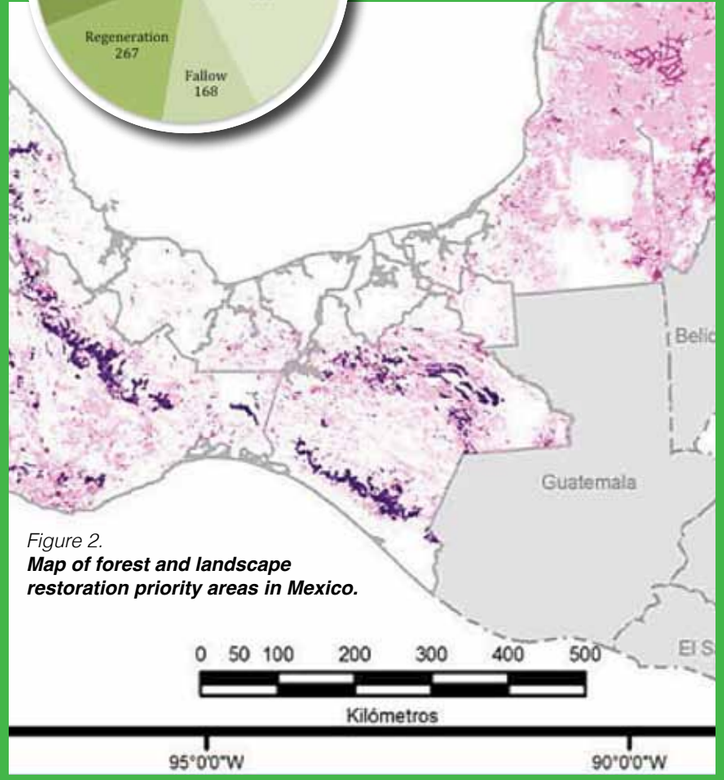

Figure 2.
Map of forest and landscape restoration priority areas in Mexico.

The results - prioritised sites for restoration

In both countries, multiple sources of data were combined to produce maps showing potential restoration sites in order of priority, and cost abatement curves that identify the cost-benefit of a series of interventions. The results were then validated at the national level and are now serving as a sound basis for further planning, and investment. For example the design of Ghana's Forest Investment Program is strongly influenced by the forest and landscape restoration assessment.

The methodology will empower decision-makers and stakeholders to work together to plan major new forest and other land use investments and identify necessary reforms to ensure their success. Guatemala has already followed the Mexico example and completed a national assessment of forest landscape restoration potential, and these are planned in several other countries.

A new guideline tailored to your needs

This new methodology and a set of useful planning tools for forest and landscape restoration will be captured in a forthcoming GPFLR guideline to support decision makers, technical staff, stakeholders and investors within countries, or regions within a country, where degraded forest landscapes are located and where they have decided to explore the possibility of restoring them.

National level assessment of opportunities for forest and landscape restoration will help you to:

- **Underpin policy decisions, land management initiatives and 'value for money' investments** such as biodiversity-supportive REDD+ strategies. The method is designed to make sure that the landscape restoration opportunities and the costs and benefits that they can bring are known and understood, and to help you to include landscape restoration in your policy processes and investment plans.
- **Build understanding and support for restoration** by engaging line managers, research staff of government, private sector and civil society organizations, and other stakeholders to invest greater collaborative efforts in restoration.
- **Identify who needs to be involved.** The guideline helps you identify stakeholders that must be engaged at each stage: from assessing the potential for landscape restoration through to implementation to make sure that the strategies are realistic and implementable.

The process combines technical mapping and data analysis from high-tech sources such as satellite imagery with a process of engaging national and global experts and local stakeholders to combine all sources of information and local knowledge. The maps and data provide visual prompts to stakeholders to help them think through, and negotiate possible management interventions suitable for restoring a particular landscape.