



The Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration is a worldwide network that unites influential governments, and major UN and non-governmental organisations and businesses. Our aim is to accelerate the restoration of the world's forests and degraded lands to improve ecological integrity and human wellbeing. We do so by building support for FLR, fostering learning and innovation, and providing resources for policy-makers and practitioners.

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Buitenlandse Zaken
**Ontwikkelings
samenwerking**



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Spreading Our Branches

In pockets of countries across the world, in many different ways, forest landscape restoration is bringing communities, enterprises and environments back to life. The GPFLR Learning Network is capturing those experiences for use further afield.

The world's forests are an endangered species. Since the turn of the year, an area of forest the size of Greece has disappeared. The same will happen in 2010 and 2011. All the time, the planet's capacity to support itself is being whittled away.

Governments, industry and campaigning groups are working hard to reduce deforestation. But that alone is not enough. Forest landscape restoration (FLR) can make good the damage done to landscapes and livelihoods by the destruction of forests. It can help to build sustainable relationships between communities, commercial interests and the damaged ecosystems on which they depend.

But it is not a quick or easy fix. There is no one-size-fits-all formula for restoring forest landscapes. Simply planting trees and crossing fingers doesn't work. Every landscape, every set of social, economic, environmental and legal circumstances is different and complex.

Solutions have to be tailored to each individual situation. They have to be flexible over time and incorporate sustainable practices that can serve the needs of many stakeholders in the long term. They demand specialist expertise, a supportive policy environment and economic conditions that favour renewed forest activities.

A store of FLR experiences

How do we make sense of so many varied experiences? Practitioners, researchers, policy-makers and intergovernmental agencies have all called for a resource that will allow them to learn from the diversity of solutions and apply the transferable elements from them.

In answer to those calls, we are establishing the GPFLR Learning Network. Its aim is to provide a store of FLR experiences, capturing out the real-world nuances and uniquenesses of different approaches, and generating tools and knowledge that can support practitioners in the field. The network will link policy-makers, advisors and researchers with restoration practitioners and projects across the globe, so that policy development is brought closer to what is happening on the ground, as it happens.

At the heart of the learning network will be a core, diverse group of FLR projects spanning every continent, from China, Thailand and Indonesia to central Africa, Scotland and the Brazilian Amazon. As the group grows, the network will develop and evolve according to its members' needs.

Levels of learning opportunity

The main aims of the GPFLR Learning Network will be:

- To establish a global network of 'good FLR practice' projects, allowing better learning and knowledge exchange between them
- To support national and regional networks that allow sites to learn from the experiences of those closer by
- To further develop the GPFLR website as an online learning platform
- To help develop national and regional guidelines for FLR practice, as well as other tools and knowledge resources
- To provide technical support and training such as national FLR workshops and short courses on different approaches
- To generate much-needed robust data and information on, for example, restoration opportunities around the world and the costs and benefits of FLR
- To share stories about FLR initiatives around the world with a global audience through the GPFLR website, events and contributions to the key policy arenas

The GPFLR Learning Network will help to make a step-change on forest landscape restoration, strengthening local initiatives, spreading best practice and celebrating extraordinary restoration stories. It will have a profound effect on both policy and practice, and help forest landscapes across the world to flourish again.