



Global Landscapes Forum

Bonn, Germany, 19 and 20 December 2017

Discussion Forum

organized by International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), and the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)

Building capacities for the restoration of tropical forest landscapes and the enhancement of their ecosystem goods and services

Recognising the challenges of implementing large-scale restoration of land as promoted by the Bonn Challenge (150 million ha by 2020), the New York Declaration on Forests (350 million ha by 2030), and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (land net degradation neutrality by 2030, it is envisaged that significant changes in both the institutional environment and human resource capacity will be needed in order to achieve real long-term impact.

The focus of this session will be on individual and institutional capacities that are required for implementing restoration projects in complex socio-ecological and -political environments. The session aims to seek input from the participants, sharing their experiences on the most important elements of FLR, indispensable for effective training and capacity building and that may need emphasis in the short and medium term. The results of these discussions will contribute to developing focused FLR training programmes for practitioners and decision makers who are tasked with restoring and enhancing resilient and productive ecosystems.

The deliberations will focus on the following specific capacities, knowledge and skills pillars required for successfully designing and implementing forest landscape restoration projects:

- Communicating in local, specific socio-political contexts for achieving consensus among multiple stakeholders on objectives, processes, and outcomes of restoring landscapes;
- Methodology and mechanisms for successful participatory landscape planning;
- Assessing innovative incentive mechanisms and investment options aiming at mobilizing “risk-free” and economically viable large-scale investments;
- Integrating multiple-stakeholder learning and technical knowledge during all phases of project planning, implementation, and monitoring through systematic application of flexible project management tools; monitoring indicators to assess the success of different phases of restoration process; and
- Establishing multiple-use concepts and green supply chains for achieving successful landscape restoration outcomes.



The main target group to benefit from this session includes mainly forest landscape restoration planners and practitioners. In order for countries to embark on large-scale forest landscape restoration initiatives, sufficient FLR practitioners need to be trained at national and sub-national levels in order to initiate and facilitate FLR projects. On one hand, such experts need to have full understanding of the global forest landscape restoration policy agenda.

On the other hand – they need to be able to translate these policies into workable planning concepts and projects for implementation in specific local contexts at subnational levels (i.e. provinces, districts, villages). Besides the fact that such facilitators should be well-connected to the various local stakeholders, they also need sufficient competences in communicating and negotiating governance issues; knowledge on evaluating innovative investment options as well as adequate management skills for applying flexible project management approaches and tools.

Following the opening remarks by ITTO and IUFRO explaining the objectives of the discussion forum, a keynote

address on incentive systems for forest landscape restoration by Dr. Gerhard Dieterle, Executive Director of ITTO, will set the stage for the session. The keynote address will be followed by four very short presentations addressing the main focal areas of capacities required for successful FLR implementation. Each presentation will close with a list of major skills and competences needed by FLR practitioners to successfully guide implementation on the ground.

Assisted by a moderator, a panel of four eminent landscape planning and restoration experts/stakeholders will then engage the audience into discussions on the knowledge, skills and competences required by individuals and institutions for successful FLR implementation. In addition, the panel will also include Manuel Guariguata from CIFOR bringing to the discussions the results of the latest global survey on extra-curricular training on restoration. The interactive discussions of the panel members with the audience will help deepening insights into the capacity building needs and the way forward towards restoring degraded landscapes on a large scale.

Preliminary Programme

<u>Time</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Actor</u>
5 minutes	Welcome and opening remarks	ITTO, IUFRO, CIFOR
15 minutes	Keynote address “Incentive mechanisms for forest landscape restoration”	Gerhard Dieterle (ITTO)
Short statements on “Competences and Capacities for restoration” (6 minutes each):		
Total: 25 minutes	Communicating governance issues in local, specific socio-political contexts	Stephanie Mansourian (IUFRO)
	Approaches to successful participatory landscape assessment and planning	Christine Fürst (University Halle, Germany) -tbc
	Evaluating innovative investment options and financial risks	Martin Cremer (FS-UNEP Collaborating Centre) -tbc
	Integrating stakeholder learning and technical knowledge into systematic planning, project design and monitoring	John Stanturf (US Forest Service)
40 minutes	Panel discussion with audience Q&A	Moderator: Michael Kleine (IUFRO)
5 minutes	Summary and closing	

Contribution of this session to the objectives of the Global Landscape Forum

The session will contribute to the mission of the GLF in various ways. The integration of institutional and technical capacities will greatly enhance landscape learning (one of the GLF goals) as the issues to be addressed in restoration are always highly context-specific within a particular ecological and socio-economic setting. IUFRO as the global forest science network in partnership with ITTO as a

global institution promoting trade and the conservation and sustainable management of tropical forests will bring to the table latest research findings and real-world experiences from landscapes and share them effectively with practitioners and stakeholders. The session thus represents a knowledge-hub and is fully in line with another goal of the GLF.