



Guidelines for Forest Landscape Restoration in the Tropics



A joint CPF initiative of ITTO (2017-2020), in collaboration with CPF members [CIFOR, FAO, GEF, IUCN, IUFRO, UN-Environment], AFoCO, RECOFTC, WeForest and WRI

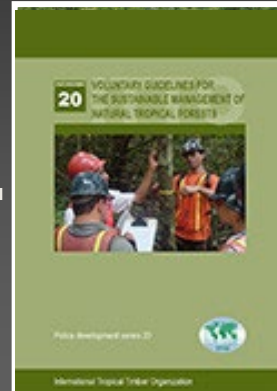
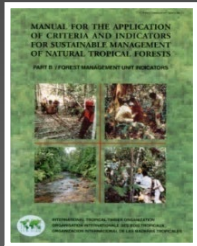


ITTO C&I Workshop for Trinidad and Tobago
February 2024
Jürgen Blaser, Bern University of Applied Sciences

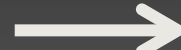


Context: ITTO Policy guidelines on tropical forest management

ITTO C&I
1992, 1998, 2005, 2016



Guidelines SFM
1990, 2015



Guidelines for sustainable management of planted tropical forest (1993)



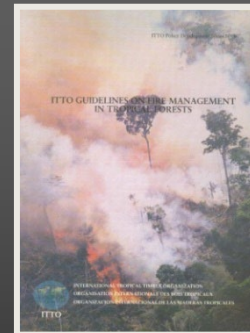
Guidelines for conserving biodiversity in production forests (1993, 2008)



Guidelines for the management of secondary tropical forests, tropical forest restoration and the rehabilitation of degraded forest lands (2002)



Guidelines on fire management (1998)



Guidelines for Forest Landscape Restoration in the Tropics 2020



FLR as defined in the Guidelines

- ➔ An ongoing process of **regaining ecological functionality** and **enhancing human wellbeing** across degraded and deforested forest landscapes.
- ➔ The process has three key components:
 - Participation
 - Adaptive management; and
 - Consistent monitoring and learning framework



Forest Landscape Restoration

- ⇒ Enormous changes have occurred in tropical forest landscapes in recent decades, and large areas—nearly a billion hectares—have become degraded and require restoration
- ⇒ Considerable knowledge and experience exists on how to restore degraded forest landscapes, and there are many inspiring examples of success in the tropics
- ⇒ Today, with the new challenges ahead, it is widely recognized that an inclusive, whole-of-landscape approach can help reverse land degradation, increase carbon storage, conserve biodiversity and create sustainable livelihoods for local communities



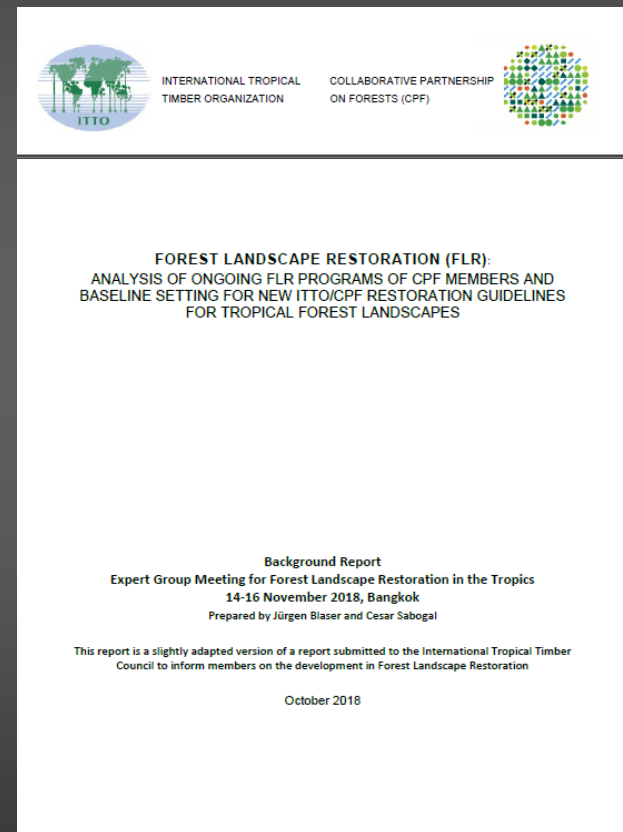
Process of preparation of the guidelines

- ➔ Decision at ITTC 53 in November 2017 to review “ITTO guidelines for the restoration, management and rehabilitation of degraded and secondary tropical forests” (ITTO 2002).
- ➔ Preparation of a background report setting for new ITTO/CPF restoration guidelines through a CPF Joint Initiative on Forest Landscape Restoration, presentation of report and outline at ITTC 54, Nov 2018
- ➔ Preparation of the Draft Guidelines by Jürgen Blaser and Cesar Sabogal, supported by two Expert Group Meetings and exchanges at GLF:
 - Expert Panel in Bangkok, Thailand, in November 2018
 - Expert Panel in the Emmental, Switzerland in June 2019, both chaired by John Parotta
 - Presentation of advance work at the Global Landscape Forum in Bonn, Germany, in December 2018 and in June 2019 (Jürgen Blaser)
 - Financial support by AFoCO, Swiss Development Agency and ITTO
- ➔ Approved by the Council session, ITCC 55 in Nov 2019 in Lomé, Togo
- ➔ Final editing and publication in 2020

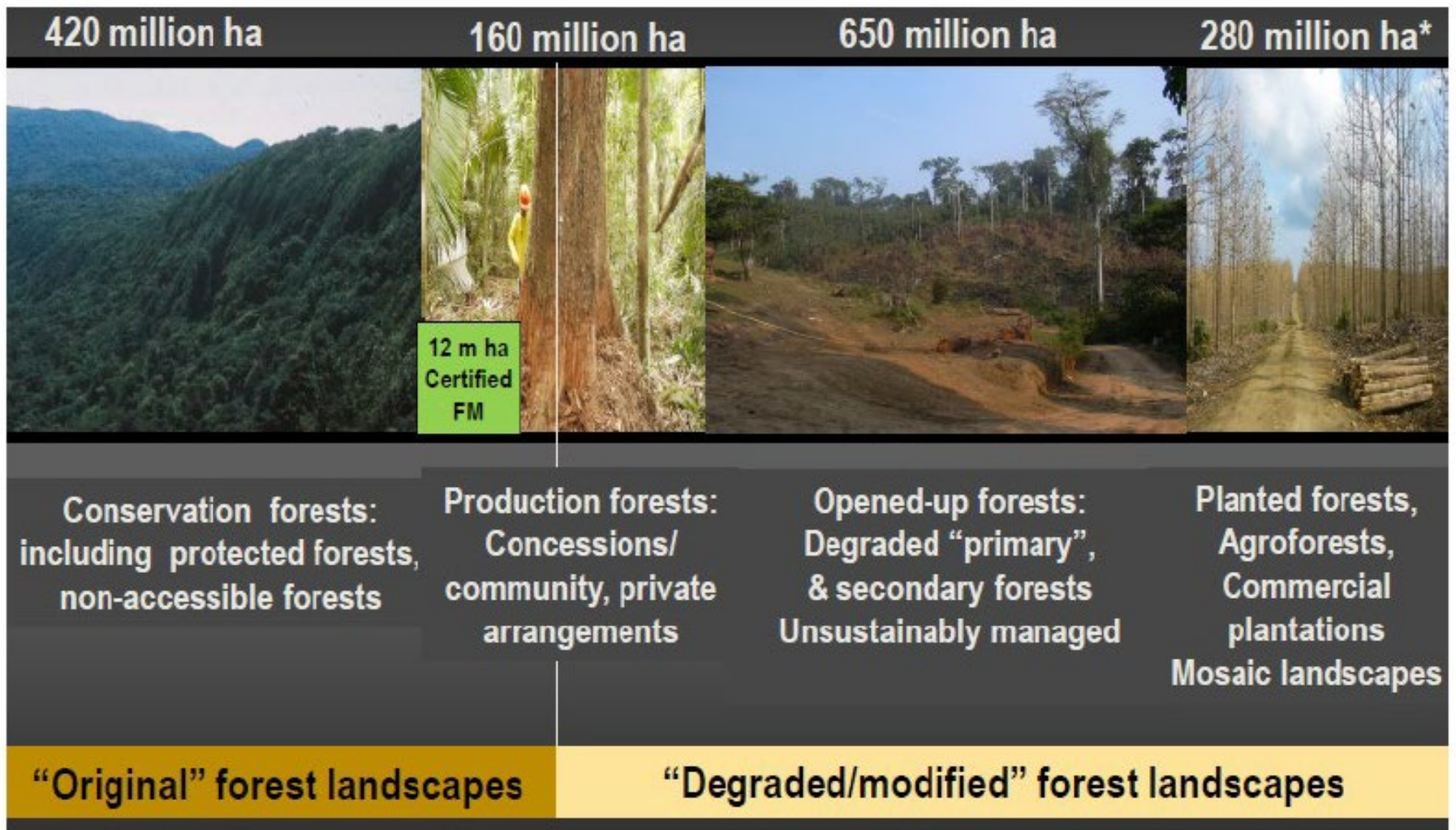
Raising attention to landscape restoration globally



- 16 international organizations (incl. 11 CPF members) with major programmes and projects on (forest) landscape restoration
- At least 10 global initiatives and 3 regional FLR initiatives started and under implementation
- 8 major FLR guidelines / guidance developed
- At least 7 FLR tools designed and made available
- Climate Funding: LULUCF/REDD+
→ Green Climate Fund (GCF), others



Context: Extent of tropical forest landscapes globally



*Area estimates are by J. Blaser and C. Sabogal.

Pathways of tropical FLR

Primary forests, secondary forests and degraded forest lands in various stages of degradation

The sustainable management of production and protection forests in forest landscapes

Permanent Forest Estate

Mosaic landscape

The integration of woodlots (natural and planted) and trees as part of functional mosaic landscapes



Goal and Purpose of the Guidelines



⇒ Goal: Building sustainable tropical forest landscapes

⇒ Purpose:

- A **knowledge base** for tropical forest landscape restoration focusing on forest-/tree-based land use systems
- A **guidance tool for planning and implementing** restoration and management practices at the site (local) and landscape level
- A contribution to a **policy framework** for tropical forest landscape restoration

Target Audience



- ➔ The guidelines are intended for:
 - National and subnational forest and natural-resource policymakers and legislators in tropical countries
 - Restoration practitioners
 - Community-based organizations
 - Private-sector organizations
 - Civil-society organizations
 - Research and education institutions
 - International organizations, governments outside the tropics, and donor agencies

Overall focus



→ “Building sustainable forest landscapes in the tropics”

- FLR as a means to achieve – in the long-term - a more sustainable land use with enhanced social, economic and ecological benefits → **functional restoration**
- Ultimate objective is SFM, sustainable agriculture and all other forms of conserving and managing landscapes
- The future landscape is in mind, which is different from the past: restoration is not necessarily “restoring” what was before



Structure of the Guidelines

- ⇒ Background
 - existing guidelines and tools, **definitions**
 - technical content, communication, **financing...**
- ⇒ **6 Principles and 32 guiding elements** for the restoration of tropical forest landscapes
- ⇒ **Implementation processes** and operational guidance
- ⇒ **Case studies** on tropical forest landscape restoration
- ⇒ The way forward

Six internationally agreed principles of FLR adopted in 2018 by the Global Partnership on forests landscape restoration (described by Besseau et al. 2018)



- (1) Focus on landscapes
- (2) Engage stakeholders and support participatory governance
- (3) Restore multiple functions for multiple benefits
- (4) Maintain and enhance natural forest ecosystems within landscapes
- (5) Tailor to the local context using a variety of approaches
- (6) Manage adaptively for long-term resilience.



Six internationally agreed principles of FLR

Adopted in 2018 by the Global Partnership on forests landscape restoration (incl. ITTO)

Principle 1: Focus on landscapes

FLR takes place within and across entire landscapes. FLR needs to be planned and organized at the landscape scale and not in forested areas alone. It should consider the variety of existing interacting land uses and tenure and governance arrangements in the landscape.

Principle 2: Engage stakeholders and support participatory governance

FLR should actively engage stakeholders—including women, young people and vulnerable groups—in planning and decision-making regarding land use, restoration goals and strategies, implementation methods, benefit sharing

Principle 3: Restore multiple functions for multiple benefits

FLR should aim to restore multiple economic, social and environmental functions in a landscape and to generate a wide range of ecosystem goods and services that equitably benefit stakeholders.

Principle 4: Maintain and enhance natural forest ecosystems within landscapes

FLR should restore dynamic forest processes related to species composition, structure, productivity, biodiversity, pollination, and floral and faunal genetic diversity. FLR interventions, therefore, should aim to restore the productivity, ecosystem functions and carbon stocks of degraded tropical forests.

Principle 5: Tailor to the local context using a variety of approaches

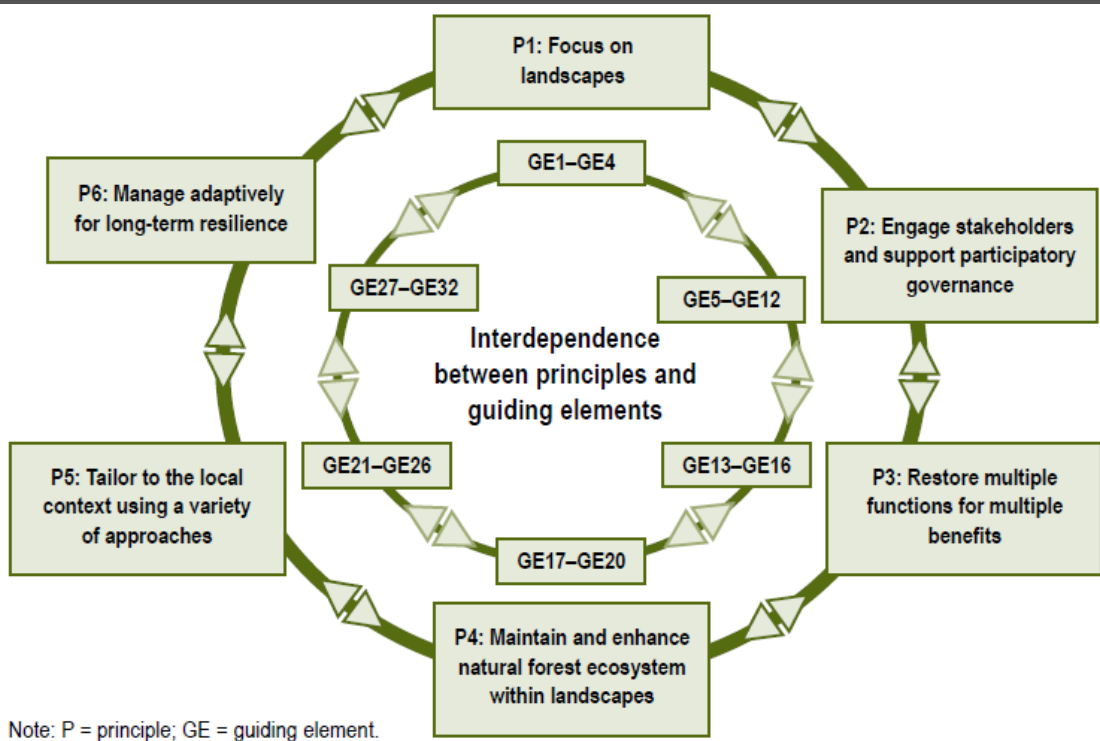
This principle helps ensure that the planning and implementation of FLR respond to the needs of local people and ecosystems. The best way to ensure that FLR is well adapted to local conditions is for local stakeholders to be fully involved in its development, implementation, monitoring and assessment.

Principle 6: Manage adaptively for long-term resilience

FLR is a long-term undertaking. FLR must be tailored to the local conditions prevailing at the time of commencement but be capable of adaptation to changing economic, social and environmental circumstances

Guiding elements

The principles and guiding elements form a continuum defining FLR as a concept (pages 26-27 of the guidelines)



Note: P = principle; GE = guiding element.

Each guiding elements is shortly described (pages 28-38 of the guidelines)

P1	Focus on landscapes
GE1	Undertake inclusive, gender-responsive landscape-level assessment and land-use planning
GE2	Gain recognition that FLR must transcend sector policies
GE3	Conduct FLR at an appropriate scale
GE4	Address tenure and access rights
P2	Engage stakeholders and support participatory governance
GE5	Build adequate governance capacity for decentralized FLR
GE6	Obtain strong stakeholder engagement
GE7	Conduct joint stakeholder analysis of the drivers of degradation
GE8	Strive for social equity and benefit sharing
GE9	Conduct participatory FLR planning, decision-making and monitoring
GE10	Build stakeholder capacity for sharing responsibility for FLR
GE11	Address long-term financing for FLR initiatives
GE12	Establish a favourable investment environment for FLR
P3	Restore multiple functions for multiple benefits
GE13	Generate multiple functions and benefits
GE14	Conserve biodiversity and restore ecological functions
GE15	Improve livelihoods
GE16	Make full use of locally based knowledge
P4	Maintain and enhance natural forest ecosystems within landscapes
GE17	Avoid the conversion of natural forests
GE18	Restore degraded forests and rehabilitate degraded forest land
GE19	Avoid forest fragmentation
GE20	Conserve natural grasslands, savannas and wetlands
P5	Tailor to the local context using a variety of approaches
GE21	Assess local context and restrictions
GE22	Allow for future changes in conditions
GE23	Tailor FLR interventions to the local context and generate local benefits
GE24	Achieve the financial and economic viability of FLR investments
GE25	Identify opportunities to increase local incomes
GE26	Develop sustainable supply chains
P6	Manage adaptively for long-term resilience
GE27	Take an adaptive management approach
GE28	Continually measure the biophysical dimensions of the landscape
GE29	Periodically assess vulnerability to climate change
GE30	Develop participatory monitoring of FLR
GE31	Encourage open access to, and the sharing of, information and knowledge
GE32	Report on FLR outcomes

Note: P = principle; GE = guiding element.

Implementation arrangements (Pages 42-60)

- ➔ **Principles** are implemented as a package
- ➔ For each principle: a number of **Guiding elements** that further describe the respective principle
- ➔ For each Guiding element: **FLR interventions** identified and structured **according to project phases** (visioning, conceptualizing, acting, sustaining)



Operational framework

➔ Visioning (preparation)

- short time to define the goal, long term to reach the vision

➔ Conceptualization (planning)

- Relatively short-term time frame (1 year)

➔ Implementation (acting)

- Mid-term framework (3-6 years for example)

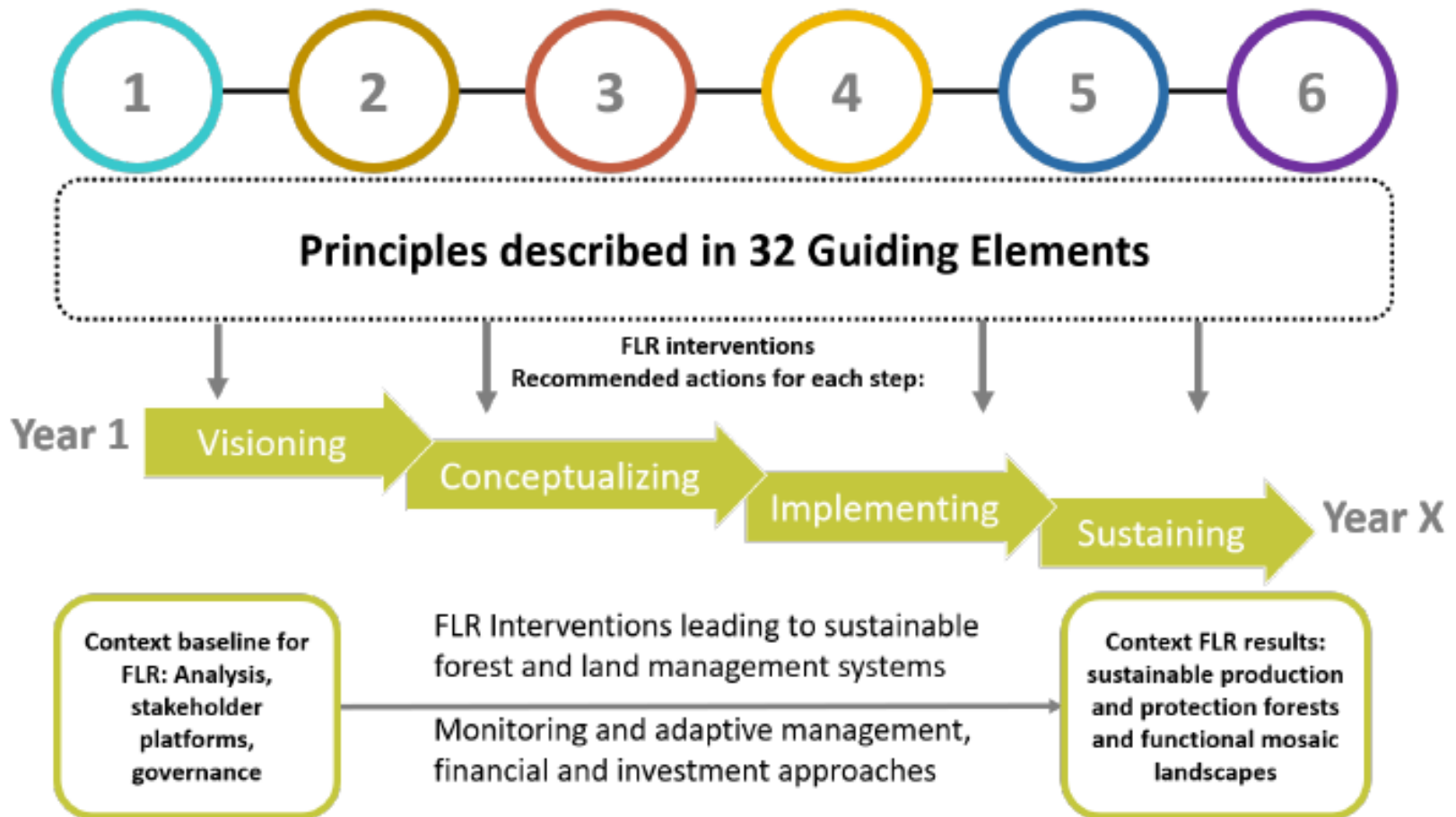
➔ Sustainability (sustaining the achievement)

- long-term time frame (decades and beyond)



Implementation arrangements

FLR Process based on 6 principles



Implementation arrangements (example p. 42)

Principles and guiding elements	FLR INTERVENTIONS IN THE PROJECT MANAGEMENT CYCLE			
	<i>Visioning</i>	<i>Conceptualizing</i>	<i>Acting</i>	<i>Sustaining</i>
Principle 1: FOCUS ON LANDSCAPES				
GE1: Undertake inclusive, gender-responsive landscape-level assessment and land-use planning	<p>Define the appropriate landscape in a given biophysical, sociocultural, economic and political environment</p> <p>Identify and engage stakeholders and their interests by gender in the forest landscape through baseline surveys and the use of participatory rural appraisal or similar techniques</p>	<p>Develop a technical baseline through initial landscape mapping and resource inventory (including carbon) on which the state of the landscape is assessed and the intended FLR outcomes are formulated</p> <p>Endorse the ecological and socioeconomic baseline through an adequate consultation process and obtain agreement on it</p>	<p>Develop and endorse a land-use plan as a key instrument that contributes to responsible land governance. Ensure that the plan reconciles competing interests in the landscape and thereby minimizes land-use conflict</p> <p>If a decision is taken that a degraded forest landscape should remain or be established as</p>	<p>Develop and operationalize socioeconomic and ecological criteria for the evaluation of FLR scenarios</p> <p>Define and legally implement, at the landscape scale, the permanent forest estate as a key element for sustaining existing natural forests, restoring degraded forests and rehabilitating degraded forest land]</p>

Case studies (page 80 following)

18 case studies selected at pantropical level, developed with partners; using a common template; including lessons learned

- (1) Restoration of degraded forests for production
- (2) Restoration of degraded forests for protection (soil, water, biodiv.)
- (3) Rehabilitation of degraded forest land through planted forests
- (4) Rehabilitation of degraded forest land through agroforestry or silvopastoral systems
- (5) Restoration and management of secondary forests
- (6) Restoration or rehabilitation of mangroves



Cases

Cases presenting (successful and unsuccessful) **experiences** in one or more of the **TFLR scenarios** to help elicit different **restoration responses to specific** biophysical, socioeconomic and governance **contexts**, stakeholder **objectives** and **resources** available

Projects selected

- a. Refer to a **concrete experience** restoring degraded tropical forests and forest lands **with landscape approach**
- b. **Show enough evidence** supporting the replicability and sustainability of the experience
- c. **Highlight benefits**, e.g. to local communities' wellbeing and respect of their rights, contributions to SDG, green economy
- d. **Long enough** initiative to be able to refer to failures
- e. **Include economic and financial information** to assess the costs of the restoration interventions

Described cases

- 3 from Africa (Ethiopia, Ghana and Madagascar)
- 7 are from tropical Asia (Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines and Thailand)
- 8 are from Latin America (Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala and Peru).

Projects selected



Ghana:
Community timber
plantation forests
©A.Aglebe



Myanmar:
Mangrove nursery
©M.Feurer



Ecuador:
Watershed restoration
©S.Wilson

The way forward

Immediate actions can be taken to encourage the use of the guidelines at the national and local levels, *inter alia*:

- ⇒ Apply the guidelines as a reference and guiding document in the development of FLR interventions at the national and subnational levels.
- ⇒ Use the guidelines as a vehicle for increasing capacity in tropical countries to undertake FLR, in combination with other specific guidelines, tools and approaches.
- ⇒ Identify landscapes where FLR is necessary, feasible and a local priority and make a long-term commitment to its implementation, including by putting in place mechanisms for learning and exchanging information among stakeholders in such landscapes and at sites within them.
- ⇒ Promote the guidelines among international organizations and interested stakeholders as an important contribution to the existing community of practice, and support strategies for influencing the development of FLR conducive strategies at the national and subnational levels.
- ⇒ Promote the dissemination and application of the guidelines by local actors and other stakeholders. This may involve the production of simplified versions adapted to local contexts and in local languages.
- ⇒ Use the guidelines to advocate FLR in broader international conventions and processes.
- ⇒ Monitor the impacts of these guidelines on changing practices in forest and landscape use throughout the tropics.



Promoviendo la diseminación de las Directrices de la Organización Internacional de las Maderas Tropicales (OIMT) para la Restauración de Paisajes Forestales en los Trópicos

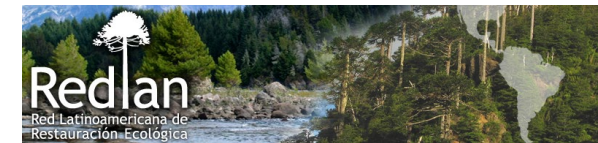
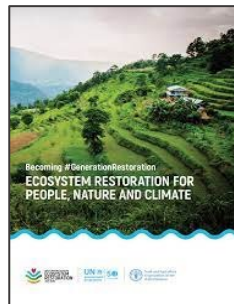
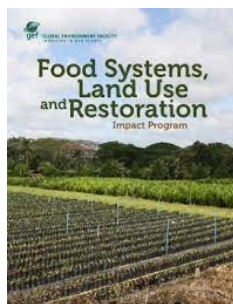


Seminario virtual para Sudamérica

Directrices para la restauración de paisajes forestales en los trópicos

- ✓ **Dr. César Sabogal**
- ✓ Ex funcionario FAO (Oficial para Manejo Forestal).
Consultor para la OIMT
- ✓ 23 de septiembre de 2021

Examples of FLR Initiatives among others



FLR in a theory of change



- ⇒ Restoring forest landscapes and sustainably managing and protecting existing forests against degradation constitutes a cost-effective strategy for reaching the goals of the Paris Agreement on climate change.
- ⇒ The Sustainable Development Goals and several other globally agreed policy instruments, including the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021– 2030), recognize FLR as an important tool for achieving the aspirations such instruments embody
- ⇒ ITTO: Re-imagining the future of forests with the way how we manage and restore our forest landscapes

FLR cases: financing and investment context:

Building back better in an environment of change

Different investment situations
with different opportunities:
developing a **portfolio** approach



FLR cases in tropical contexts

Investment prospects

Integrated tree-based models

(trees with cash crops cocoa, coffee)*

+++

Commercial ***planted forest models***

(timber, fibre, rubber, biofuel, bamboo...)

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Secondary forest production models

(Enrichment, NTFP, monocyclic models)

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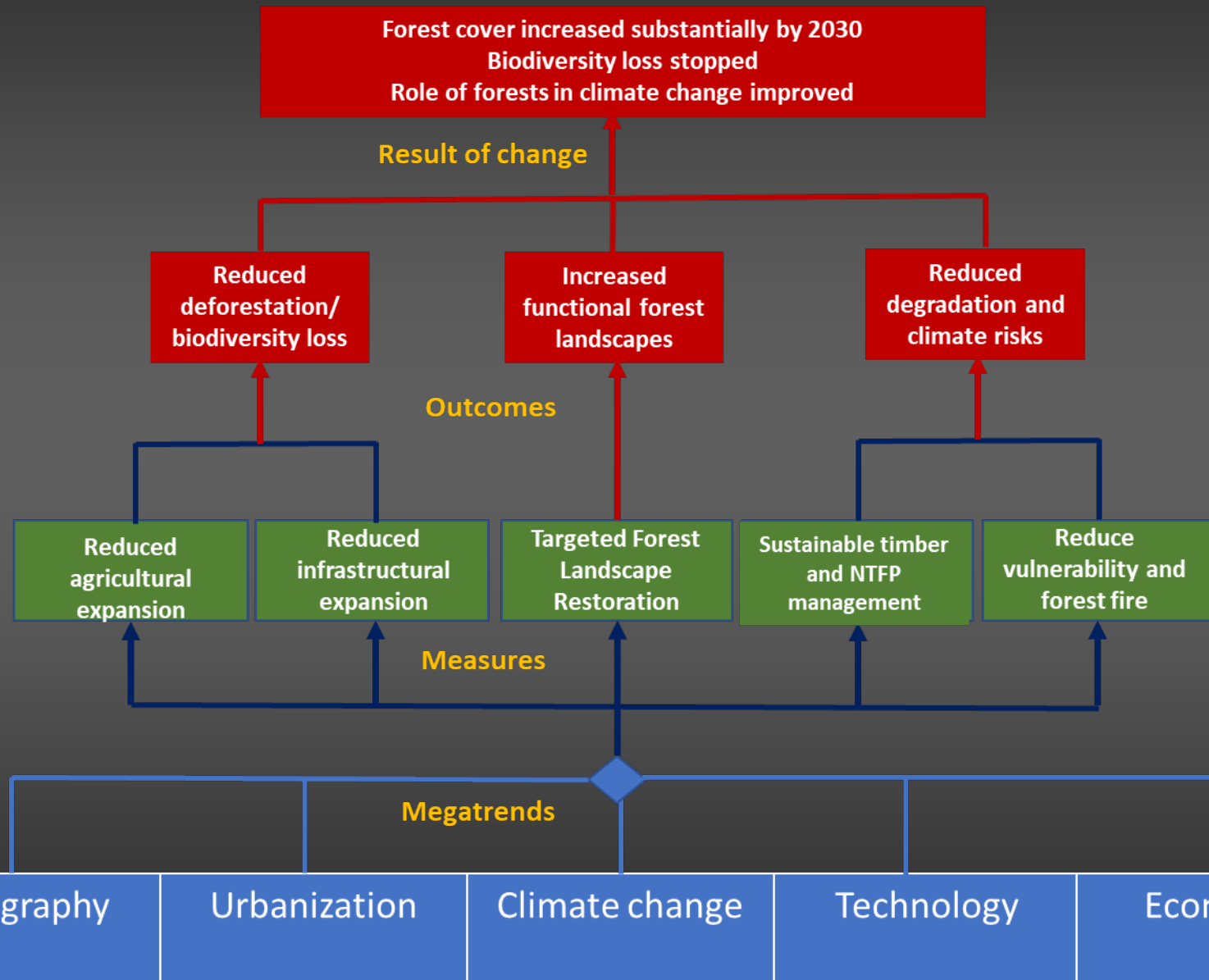
Natural forest production models

(Conservation; Ecosystem services; REDD+)

?

*today's challenge: deforestation-free!!!

FLR: central element in a change process



Two tools for application



Thank you for your attention....