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## The topic of presentation is

- Keynote presentation 1: Forests in carbon-neutral/ net-zero commitments: challenges and opportunities in EU
- Keynote presentation 2: Six principles for successful FLR: ITTO Guidelines for FLR in the Tropics





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# Guidelines for Forest Landscape Restoration in the Tropics



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

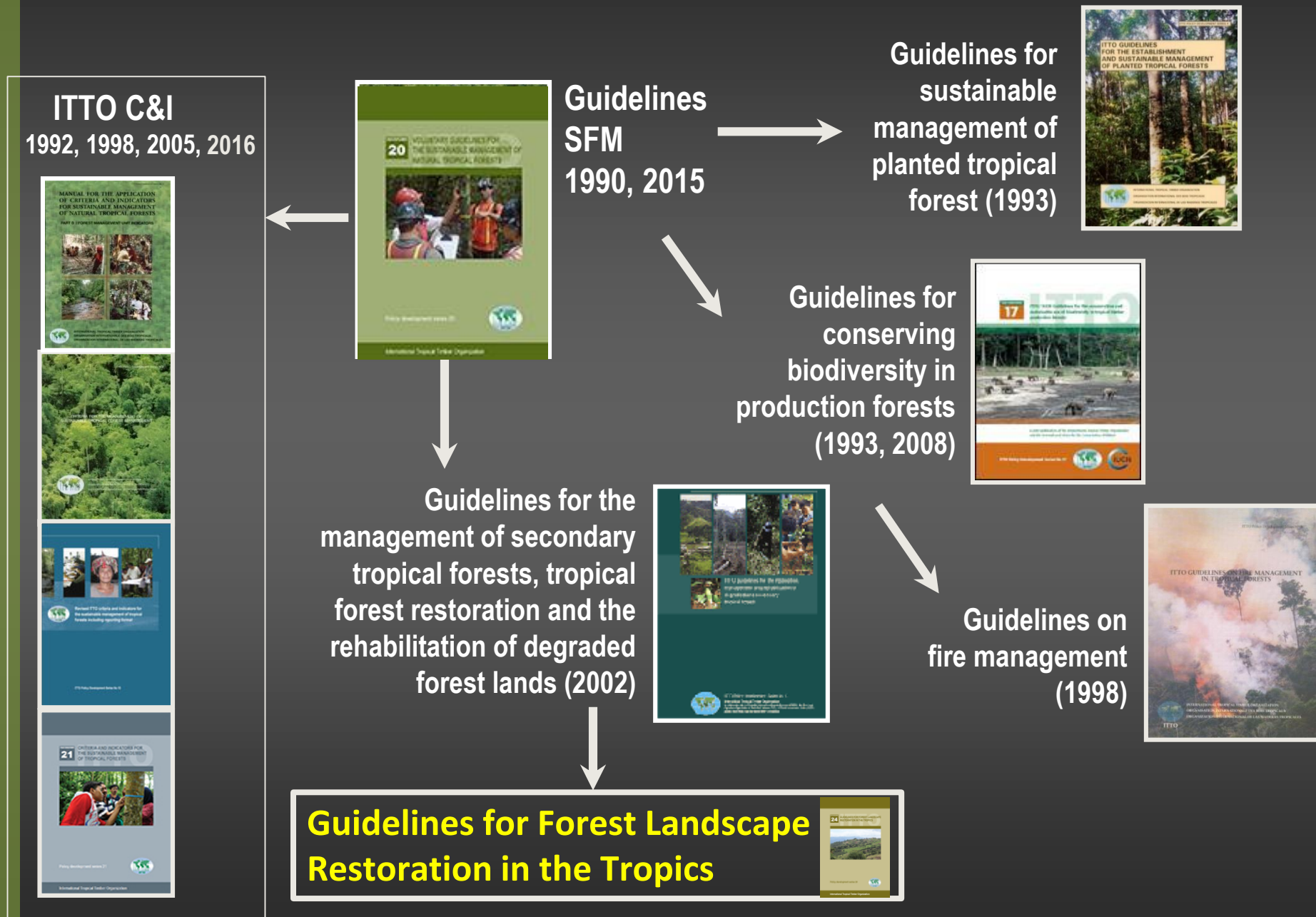


AFoCO-ITTO Capacity Development Workshop on Forest Landscape Restoration  
in the Asia-Pacific Region  
Virtual meeting - 30 August 2021

Jürgen Blaser, Bern University of Applied Sciences



# Context: ITTO Policy guidelines on tropical forest management



# Process of preparation of the guidelines

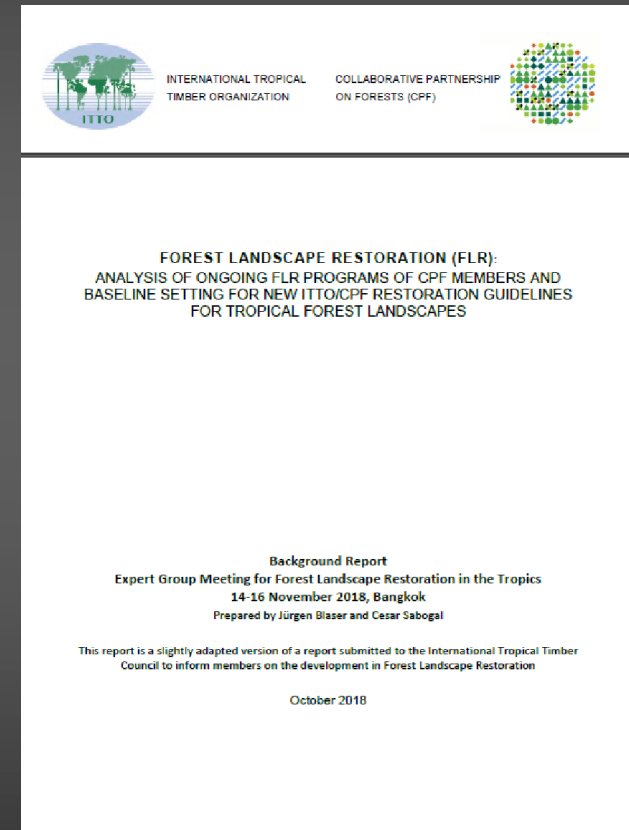
- Decision of ITTO Council in 2017 to review “ITTO guidelines for the restoration, management and rehabilitation of degraded and secondary tropical forests” (ITTO 2002).
- Preparation of a background report setting for new ITTO/CPF restoration guidelines through a CPF Joint Initiative on Forest Landscape Restoration
- Preparation of the Draft Guidelines by two consultants (Blaser/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
  - Presentation of advance work at the Global Landscape Forum in Bonn, Germany, in December 2018 and in June 2019
  - Technical and Financial support by AFoCO, ITTO and Swiss Development Agency
- 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



# 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



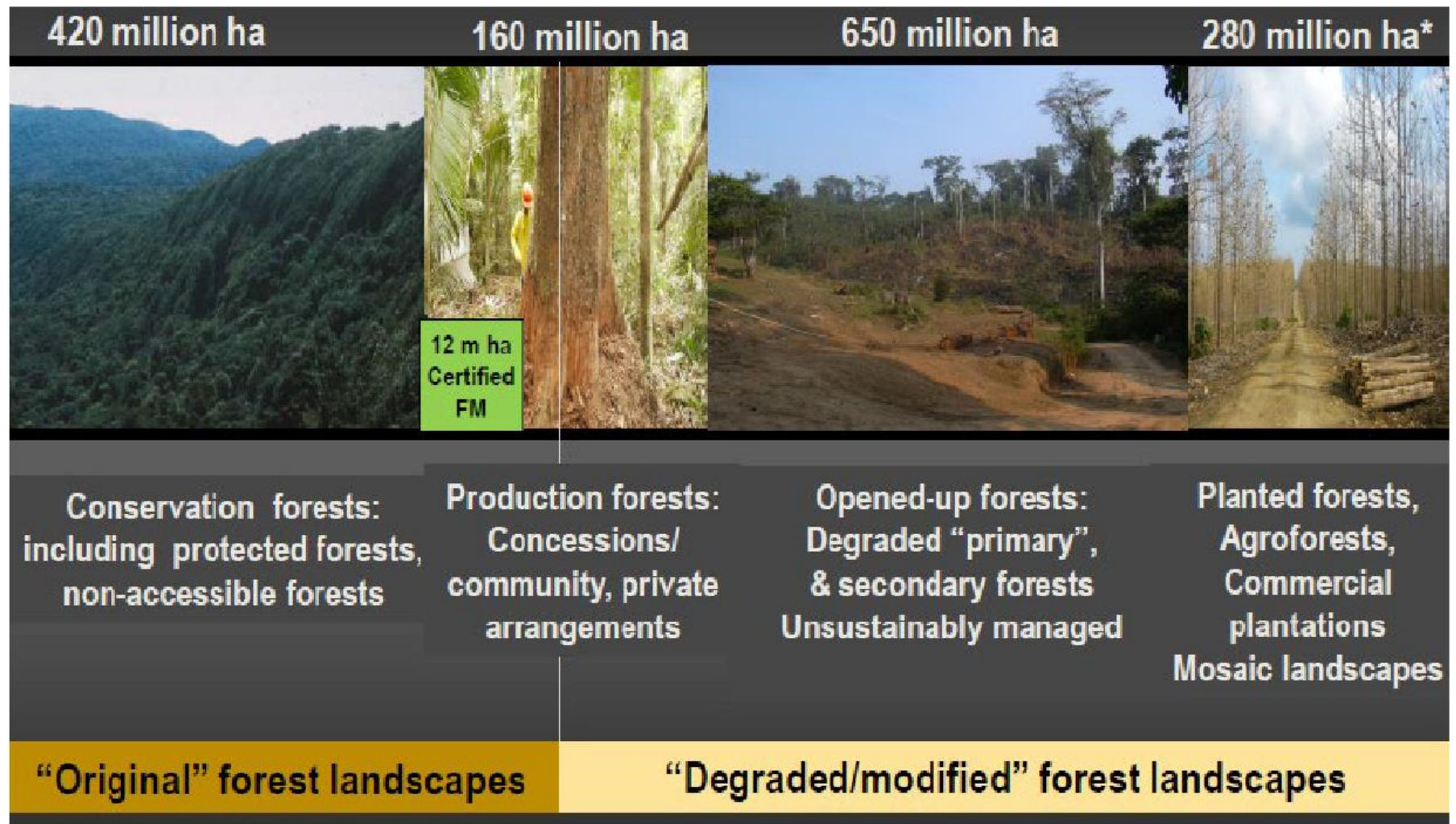


# Forest Landscape Restoration

- 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



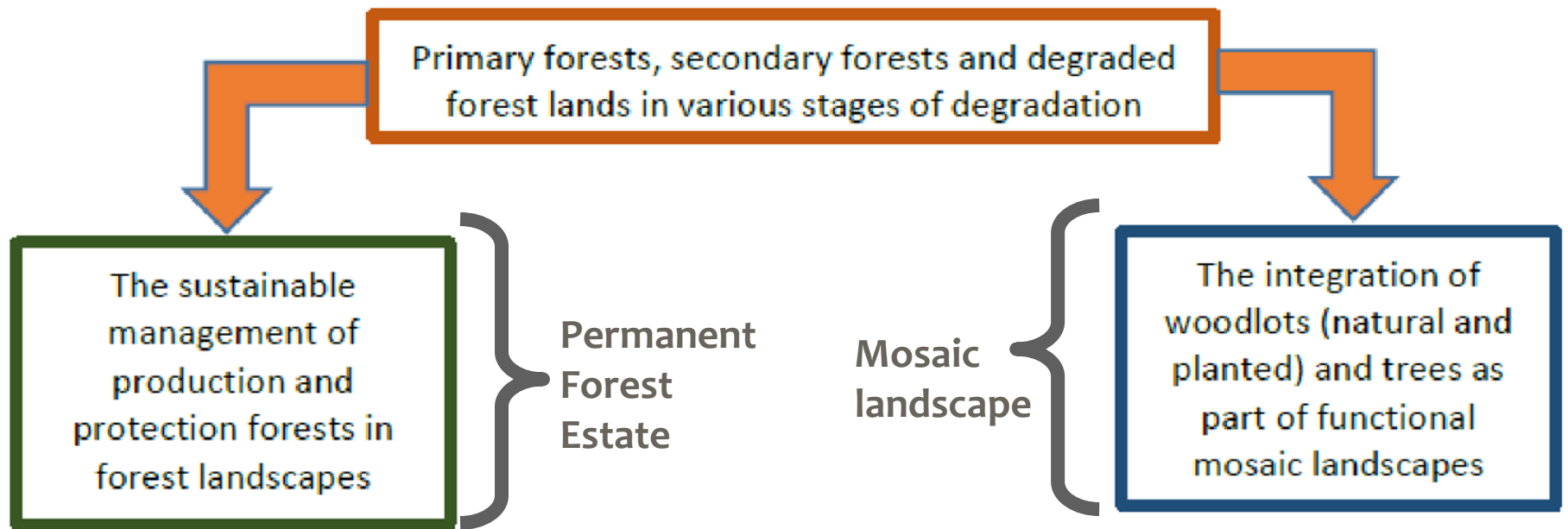
# Context: Extent of tropical forest landscapes globally



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



# Pathways of tropical FLR



# 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 (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



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# Six internationally agreed principles of FLR

Adopted in 2018 by the Global Partnership on forests landscape restoration (Besseau et al. 2018)

## **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**

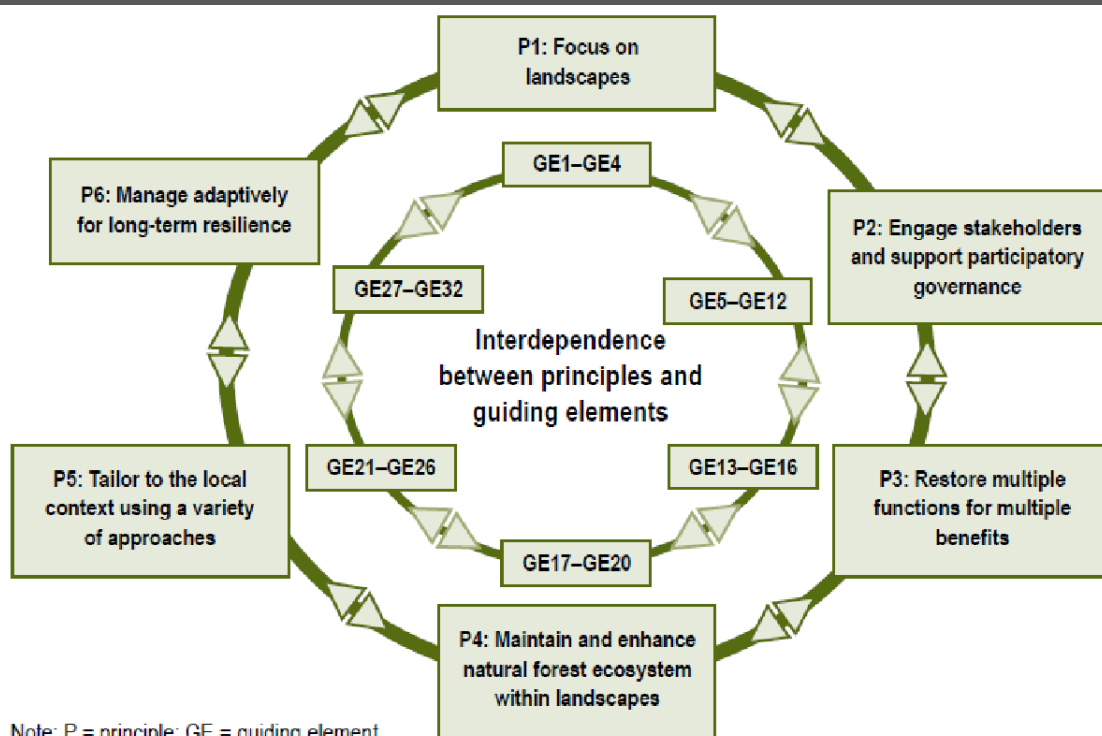
This principle helps ensure that the planning and implementation of FLR respond to the needs of local people and ecosystems. The best way to ensure that FLR is well adapted to local conditions is for local stakeholders to be fully involved in its development, implementation, monitoring and assessment.

## **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 (32)

The principles and guiding elements form a continuum defining FLR as a concept



Note: P = principle; GE = guiding element.

<b>P1</b>	<b>Focus on landscapes</b>
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
<b>P2</b>	<b>Engage stakeholders and support participatory governance</b>
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
<b>P3</b>	<b>Restore multiple functions for multiple benefits</b>
GE13	Generate multiple functions and benefits
GE14	Conserve biodiversity and restore ecological functions
GE15	Improve livelihoods
GE16	Make full use of locally based knowledge
<b>P4</b>	<b>Maintain and enhance natural forest ecosystems within landscapes</b>
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
<b>P5</b>	<b>Tailor to the local context using a variety of approaches</b>
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
<b>P6</b>	<b>Manage adaptively for long-term resilience</b>
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

- **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)

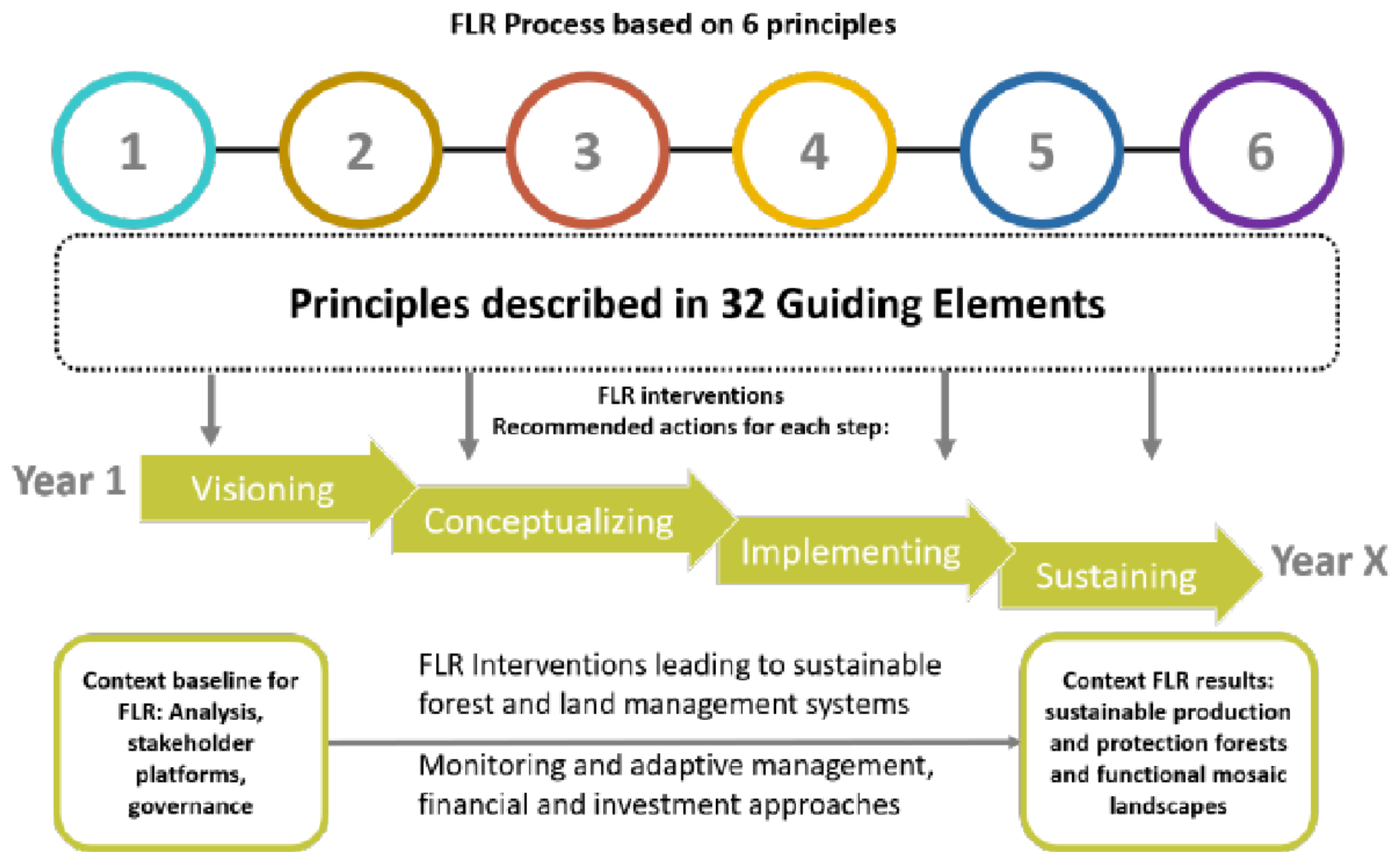
- long-term time frame (decennies and beyond)



Philippines ANR ©P.Durst



# Implementation arrangements



# Implementation arrangements

Principles and guiding elements	FLR INTERVENTIONS IN THE PROJECT MANAGEMENT CYCLE			
	<i>Visioning</i>	<i>Conceptualizing</i>	<i>Acting</i>	<i>Sustaining</i>
<b>Principle 1: FOCUS ON LANDSCAPES</b>				
<b>GE1: Undertake inclusive, gender-responsive landscape-level assessment and land-use planning</b>	<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

18 case studies selected at pantropical level; using a common template; including lessons learned.

## Scenarios:

- (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 **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.





# FLR in a theory of change on nature-based solution

- Restoring forest landscapes, planting trees and sustainably managing and protecting existing forests against degradation constitutes a cost-effective strategy for reaching the goals of the Paris Agreement (including carbon-neutral commitments of countries)
- 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
- CPF: Re-imagining the future of forests in a post-COVID 19 recovery stands with the way how we restore and manage 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)

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Commercial ***planted forest models***  
(timber, fibre, biofuel, bamboo)

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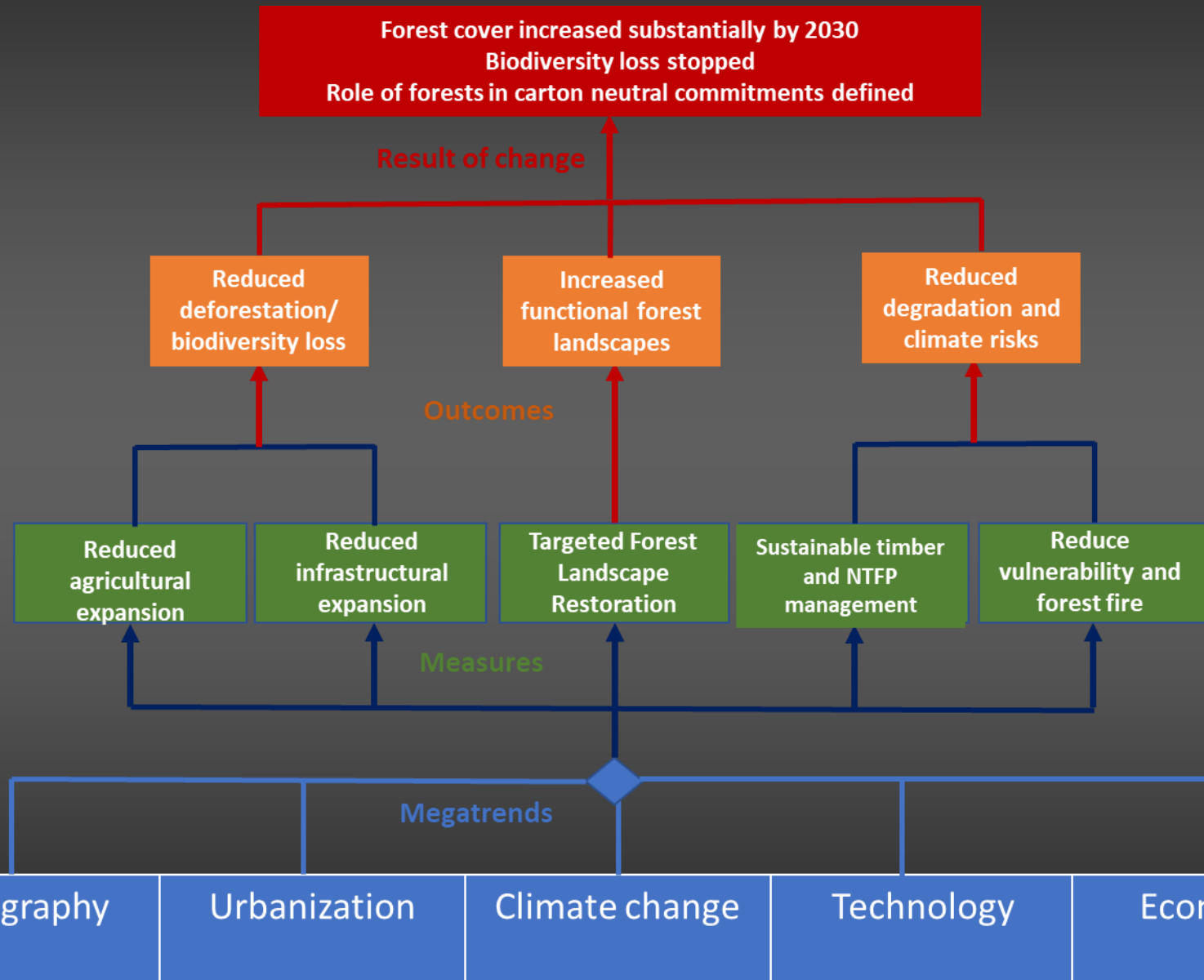
***Secondary forest*** production models  
(Enrichment, NTFP, monocyclic models)

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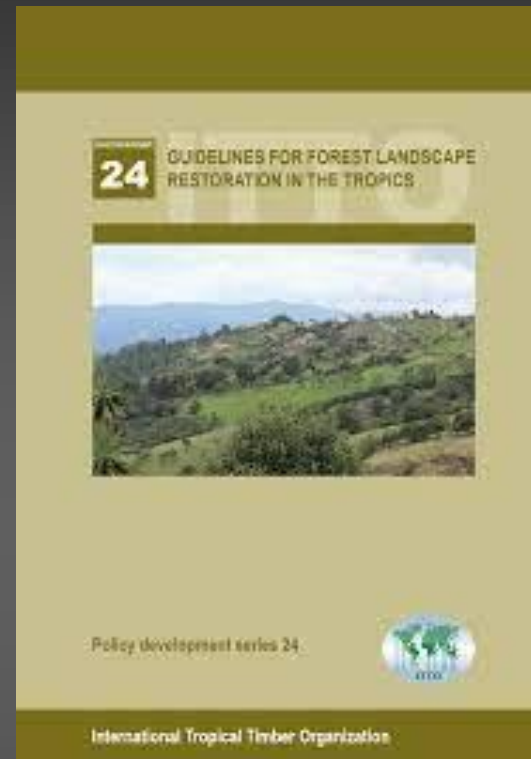
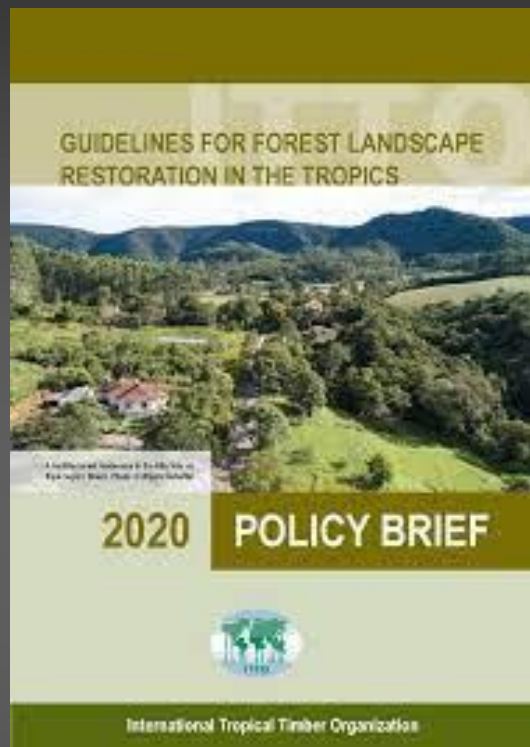
***Natural forest*** production models  
(Conservation; Ecosystem services; REDD+)

?

# FLR: central element in a change process



# The two tools proposed:



Thank you for your attention....