

**APFW**

**High-level Regional Consultation to Develop an Action Plan for  
Forest and Landscape Restoration in Asia-Pacific**

# **Forest Landscape Restoration**

## **From aspirations to action**

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# Global aspirations

- APEC Forest Cover Goal 2020-increase forest cover by at least 20 million ha by 2020;
- Bonn Challenge-restore 150 million ha of the world's deforested and degraded lands by 2020;
- New York Declaration on Forests (2014) – restore an additional 200 million ha by 2030 (i.e. total of 350 million ha);
- CBD Aichi Target-restore at least 15% of degraded ecosystems by 2020;
- UNCCD and UNFCCC both have goals related to decreasing deforestation and increasing reforestation. 2

# Characteristics of successful large scale forest restoration

## (China, Indonesia, Korea, Nepal, Viet Nam)

- Strong government commitment (enabling regulatory framework—policies, etc.)
- Local communities/smallholders are major land owners/managers of restored land and carry out restoration activities (secure tenure)
- Suitable technical package available (germplasm, technical skills)
- Largely economic rather than environmental focus
- Narrow range of tree species (Indonesia and Nepal are exceptions)
- Government and local interests have converged (>forests and local livelihoods improved)

# Characteristics of unsuccessful restoration

- Failure to address underlying causes of degradation (especially the livelihood needs of local communities).
- Inadequate consideration of local tenure realities (as opposed to legal/formal tenure).
- Projects dependent on large external funding often fail when funding ceases—no sustainability.

In short:

- Restoration failures are generally associated with social, institutional and financial issues and less with technical ones.

# Considerable reforestation is already underway in the Asia-Pacific region\*

<b>Region</b>	<b>Area of planted forest 2015 (million ha)</b>	<b>Annual % change 2010-2015</b>
Asia-Pacific	133	1.4
World	290	1.0

# What is different about the new global agenda?

1. Is it to increase the rate and amount of restoration?
2. Is it to change the type of restoration being carried out?
3. Is it to target specific 'degraded' areas that should be restored?

**OR**

4. Is it all of the above?

# 1. Is it to accelerate the rate and increase the amount of restoration?

If so, how might that be done?

- Leave to market forces to provide incentives?
- Subsidise or provide incentives? (which might be best?)
- Involve new landowners?

What might be the implications for future food security?

## 2. Is it to change the type of restoration being carried out

If so, then what sort of restoration?

- For production or supply of ecosystem services (or both)?
- Plantations using short rotations or long rotations?
- Using exotic species or native species?
- Monocultures or multi-species plantations?
- Ecological restoration (to original state)?
- Natural regrowth?



### 3. Is it to target specific 'degraded' areas that should be restored?

- Land which is readily available (e.g. state owned?)
- That which is most degraded?
- That able to generate the widest range of ecosystem services?
- That able to generate the most of a specific ecosystem service?
- That which is best able to improve the livelihoods of rural people?
- That which can be restored most cheaply (e.g. by natural regeneration)?



## 4. OR...is it all of the above?

- Reality is that most landscapes will need a variety of approaches (mixed/monoculture plantation, natural regeneration, etc.) to accommodate landscape complexity and differing landowner goals.
- So how to implement an enlarged restoration effort?
- Use Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) approaches? (reconcile BD conservation with both commercial agriculture and local peoples' demands for land).
- The challenges of implementing FLR:
  - Reconcile the global top-down vision with the need for bottom up inputs.
  - Develop new silvicultural tools rather than use methods suitable for past industrial plantations.
  - Develop appropriate enabling policies (and an overall regulatory framework).
  - Develop new (local as well as national) institutions.
  - Find ways of involving communities in planning and undertaking restoration.

# State of knowledge

Availability of knowledge on technical, social and environmental aspects of restoration—drawn from analysis of experiences.



# But--we don't know everything

## Ciamis District-W. Java

- Well developed “tree planting culture”;
- Trees integrated into farming landscape;
- 32,000 ha of well managed mixed species private forest;
- Private forests produce 360,000 m<sup>3</sup> logs to > 500 sawmills in district and beyond.



## Lake Toba catchment-N. Sumatra

- No tree planting culture;
- Continuing conversion of forest to agriculture;
- Complex land tenure (much under clan tenure).

# Translating global aspirations to action at the national level (1)

- Landscapes are complex and consist of multiple tenures, causes of deforestation, different stages in the degradation/restoration trajectory, etc.
- Different approaches are needed for different parts of the landscape (one size does not fit all situations)
- Governments can not do it alone. Partnerships are critical (government/community; corporate/community; ..... )
- National planning must be based on local realities (political, social, economic, environmental, etc.)

# Translating global aspirations to action at the national level (2)

- Restoration interventions need to address causes of deforestation—different in different situations (often associated with needs of local people to obtain livelihood)
- Engage with local stakeholders early and ensure government and local objectives converge. (top down planning needs to meet bottom up interests)
- Design interventions based on incentives (market or other) for local stakeholders to have a strong vested interest to invest in restoration in the long term.

# Translating global aspirations to action at the national level (3)

Key questions:

- What are the objectives? (and whose objectives—government or landowners/managers?) Objectives may change over time.
- Who will carry out restoration activities and what incentives and institutional mechanisms are needed for sustainability?
- How can restoration that aims to restore non market values (BD, watershed functions, etc) be paid for and managed?

# Elements of a 'regional mechanism' to support national actions

- Create regional forum for exchanging ideas and experiences
- Bridge existing regional initiatives/institutions (APFNet, APAFRI, IUCN, etc.)
- Mobilise capacity building
- Coordinate communications between countries in the region
- Facilitate provision of targeted financial support

# Conclusions

Targets for increased forest restoration are a clarion call for national action, but all countries are faced with differing policy uncertainties.

- Lack of clarity about what is new about this call for increased restoration.
- Uncertainty on how to reconcile global targets with national objectives and local needs.
- Concerns that increased reforestation may disadvantage some sections of society.
- Uncertainty about the implications for food security.

Thank you

