



RESTORING AND SUSTAINING LANDSCAPES TOGETHER: A REGIONAL PROGRAMMATIC FRAMEWORK FOR FOREST AND LANDSCAPE RESTORATION TO ADVANCE THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION IN ASIA



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Ecosystems support all life on Earth. The healthier our ecosystems are, the healthier the planet and its people. Ecosystem Restoration for better production, nutrition, environment and life.

The Asia-Pacific is home to 4.3 billion people and is undergoing rapid economic growth with rising demand for food and natural resources. However, an estimated 647+ million hectares (~23%) of the land and resource base is degraded. Degraded landscapes provide diminished goods and ecosystem services, food security, livelihood opportunities, and climate change resilience.

In the past two decades, international fora such as the UNFCCC, UNCCD, UNFF and CBD have recognized the importance of FLR; highlighted by initiatives such as the Bonn Challenge, the New York Declaration on Forests and the Glasgow leaders' declaration.

In 2017, the Asia Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC) endorsed an Asia-Pacific Regional

Strategy and Action Plan for FLR (RSAP). Many of the countries have significant restoration targets and ongoing efforts. However, the efforts are far below the scale required to transform the region's degraded landscapes and meet national and global aspirations related to sustainable development, food security, health, biodiversity and climate change.

This Regional Programmatic Framework for FLR seeks to advance the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-30 in Asia in line with the strategic priorities of the RSAP. It aims for scaled-up high-quality FLR on the ground through a common overarching vision, innovative partnerships and financing, context-based multi-disciplinary approaches, and a joint monitoring protocol.

Why is this framework important?

Several challenges and barriers exist for successful implementation of Forest and Landscape Restoration (FLR), particularly for smallholders and communities. These include conflicts of interest, land tenure issues, developing viable FLR models, capacity gaps and low access to financing.

Past efforts in the region have not always been optimal in terms of quality of restored landscapes, analysis of local context and inclusion of stakeholders, and valorizing and funding the multiple restoration benefits among others.

The Regional Programmatic Framework is an essential step forward for framing tangible partnerships and actions to address these barriers and challenges, and thereby helping countries scale up and enhance their FLR initiatives and outcomes.



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Components and activities

-  **Component 1:**
National FLR plans & targets
-  **Component 2:**
Regional dialogue, learning, collaboration & coordinated action on FLR
- Component 3:**
 Recognition for & support use of various technical, institutional & social approaches suited to context
- Component 4:**
 Mobilization of financing for FLR
- Component 5:**
 Private sector participation and investment in FLR
- Component 6:**
 Smallholder and community action and benefit from FLR

Ecosystem Restoration can help end poverty, combat climate change and prevent mass extinction. It will only succeed if everyone plays a part.

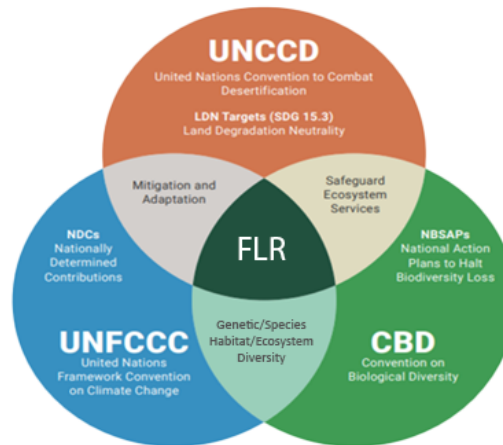
Countries targeted by the framework



Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Republic of Korea, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Viet Nam

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Adapted version. Original Source: <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/global-land-outlook-second-edition-land-restoration-recovery-and-resilience>

Implementation

A core team and a regional network of implementing partners will be formed to catalyze and support the implementation, monitoring and updating of the regional framework over time.

The framework will be implemented through interconnected national and regional projects and activities that leverage funding and partnerships to help meet the national and regional aspirations. The aim is to have an inclusive approach that captures all relevant initiatives.

How implementing agencies can get involved

- Apply to become regional network members and/or part of the core team
- Opt to lead or co-lead different components and outputs in a synergistic manner based on your priorities and funding availability
- Develop projects & mobilize resources to contribute to the regional vision
- Support country-led FAO-assisted proposals
- Nominate FLR champion countries

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FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
fao.org/in-action/forest-landscape-restoration-asia/

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