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## Towards a Regional Strategy and Action Plan for Forest and Landscape Restoration (FLR) in the Asia-Pacific

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# Initiation of the process

- ▶ High-level consultation on forest and landscape restoration at APFW 2016
- ▶ 26<sup>th</sup> APFC recommendation for FAO to further develop the regional strategy and action plan on FLR
- ▶ Written and/or verbal feedback from 14 countries and 24 other agencies and experts

Can an FLR regional initiative add value to national efforts?

Australia	✓
Cambodia	✓
China	?
Indonesia	✓
Lao PDR	?
Malaysia	
Myanmar	✓

Nepal	✓
New Zealand	✓
Philippines	✓
Thailand	✓
Tuvalu	
Viet Nam	✓
Vanuatu	

22 of the 24 agencies and experts felt a regional initiative would be useful

# Scope and Process - reiterated views from APFW consultation with some additions

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## That the regional FLR initiative should:

- Be based on country needs, partners, approaches
  - Set general goals & let countries come back with own objectives, targets, sites and existing initiatives that fit in
  - Build on successes & ongoing activities in countries
  - Compile and use existing information as far as possible
  - Start slowly and build modestly
  - Few selective interventions where greatest value added
  - Good communications, PR, innovative approaches, partnerships, financing
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# Nature of regional strategy and action plan

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- ▶ Voluntary and non-binding
- ▶ All countries can be part of initiative and play different roles depending on interest, needs and experience
  - ▶ Some could directly undertake FLR activities on their lands
  - ▶ Others may choose to play mainly supportive roles based on their domestic experiences



## Vision

- Restored and sustainably managed landscapes across the Asia-Pacific region providing an agreed optimal balance of ecological, economic and social benefits of forests and trees within a broader pattern of land uses.

## Mission

- To restore and enhance ecological functioning and human well-being in degraded and deforested landscapes of the Asia-Pacific region through scaled-up targets, actions, investment and collaboration.

# Proposed Objectives

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1. Restore XXX million hectares of degraded and deforested landscapes in the Asia-Pacific region by 2030, with an interim target of XXX million hectares by 2025
2. **Alternative to Objective 1:** Support the countries to identify, revise and implement realistic FLR targets
3. Strengthen stakeholder collaboration, ecological integrity, local livelihood benefits and long-term sustainability of the restoration efforts
4. Enhance regional coordination and collaboration
5. Promote the investment of funds for forest and landscape restoration efforts



# Regional Target

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## Useful to

- indicate magnitude of problem
- create enthusiasm
- organize the activities
- connect to media
- mobilize finances
- scale up FLR efforts

## Should be

- meaningful and ground-based
- aligned with SDGs, other international goals
- disaggregated by country
- voluntary
- Timeframe 2030

## What to target

- Prioritize areas with both high biophysical and socio-political potential for restoration, where other support agencies are active
- Forest lands and Trees outside forests

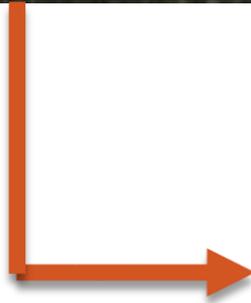
## Type of target

- Area-based target easily understood
- Ideally indicating approx. locations, # hectares, main problem to be addressed



# 7 Proposed Strategies

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# Strategy 1: Regional Network, and small Regional Institution or Secretariat

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- ▶ Regional network – inexpensive, first step to begin engagement
- ▶ Based on longer-term funding availability, a full-time small institution or secretariat recommended - with a mandate, few staff and dedicated budget
- ▶ FAO RAP could potentially lead in collaboration with other partners, pooling together strengths and experience
- ▶ National FLR focal point to link to the regional initiative



## Strategy 2: National level FLR Programs and restoration targets (country actions w support)

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1. National stocktaking & identification of landscapes with good FLR potential - biophysical & socio-political
2. Participatory development and implementation of national-level FLR programs and restoration targets – mobilizing technical assistance, policy guidance and partnerships (incl. south-south) as required
3. National-level partnerships and information sharing among key actors - regular meetings, FLR network or working groups, exchanges
4. Information gathering/monitoring systems, reporting, promoting benchmarks accomplished



## Strategy 3: Promote regional dialogue and coordinated action on FLR (Proposed Actions)

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1. Mobilize political leverage, raise awareness on FLR
2. Consolidate a regional restoration target using available national data and targets in interested countries; and WRI assessment of potential
3. Monitoring and reporting plan
4. Knowledge and learning hub
5. Collaboration and learning on FLR between countries, organizations and investors
6. Effective communication strategy
7. Annual forum and other meetings to share lessons, create commitment, and reorient strategies

## Strategy 4: Build recognition and support use of different technical, social and institutional approaches as appropriate for different landscapes and objectives

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- ▶ FLR is more than plantations and area protection, the two traditional ways of rehabilitating degraded forests/ lands
- ▶ Approaches tailored to the local contexts
- ▶ Need for more multi-functional forests & landscapes to provide the lost diversity of goods and ecosystems services (both conservation & production)
- ▶ FLR uses different techniques and approaches to suit different landscapes, site requirements and objectives
- ▶ FLR process larger than the conventional tree planting process



## Strategy 4 Proposed Actions: Compile and share in an accessible manner

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1. existing practical guidance/ experience on various restoration technologies, practicalities and costs
2. how the restored forests in different types of ecosystems can be used sustainably
3. how to carrying out the FLR process, and potential options and tools
4. current global best practice and latest insights for FLR in a range of settings

## Strategy 5: Mobilize finances for national FLR efforts from a broad variety of sources

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- ▶ Additional financial resources needed for scaled-up restoration
- ▶ Ideal if bulk of the funds and effort comes from within the country and local actors for long-term sustainability
- ▶ Providing technical support and seed funding to groups who want to change land use and get forests into their landscape more promising
- ▶ Attracting available green funding to FLR projects and countries requires identifying the various types of projects and investors, and matching and connecting the two
- ▶ Underfinancing often not a question of money but lack of enabling conditions for investment flows



## Strategy 5: Mobilize finances for national FLR efforts from a broad variety of sources (Actions)

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1. Identify types of financing and support at national and local levels that have been most successful or are promising for long-term restoration
2. Estimate resources already available for FLR through existing national/subnational programs in interested countries, and identify funding gaps
3. Integrate FLR into state budgets and public investment funds and use these financing instruments to implement public incentive schemes (**Country action**)
4. Connect the countries, FLR projects and programs to the wide variety of investors through an existing or new marketplace



## Strategy 6: Support private sector engagement in FLR

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- ▶ Private enterprises big and small, and farmers have a large influence on the landscape - engagement critical for FLR success and sustainability
- ▶ Could also take a more direct role as implementers or service providers for restoration activities
- ▶ Could play a positive role in all types of lands in partnership with farmers, communities and the state where scope exists for mutual benefit
- ▶ ROI and some profit key for scaled-up private sector action - viable approaches and commercial products for private sector to invest in tree growing



## Strategy 6: Support private sector engagement in FLR (Proposed Actions)

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1. Identify how and where private sector can play an active and useful role in FLR
2. Information on commercially viable restoration models that private sector can be involved in while contributing to restoring landscape functionality and human well-being
3. Showcase best restoration practices by the private sector including smallholders and startups, and help them connect to other actors such as market players and technical support agencies
4. Support the development of an enabling environment for their engagement



## Strategy 7: Support community-level action on FLR

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- ▶ Tremendous social capital available in local communities that can be harnessed for FLR through mass movements as was done in ROK, Viet Nam, China, Nepal, Australia,....
- ▶ Key opportunities for community action & benefit in
  - ▶ communal land
  - ▶ smallholder agricultural land
  - ▶ in partnership with the state in state forest areas
  - ▶ partner with private sector in outgrower/ agroforestry
- ▶ Ongoing local reforestation and spontaneous tree growing occurring in landscapes across the region



## Strategy 7: Support community-level action on FLR (Proposed Actions)

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1. Identify key areas/ opportunities for local people involvement and benefit in FLR and mobilize local people to take a lead role in these key areas
2. Compile/share information on promising technical, social, institutional approaches for short and long term benefits for communities; species, viable products
3. Document & show where success stories of community engagement are happening & what drives them
4. Promote an enabling environment for community efforts
5. Promote partnerships and collaboration on restoration

# Proposed Action Plan

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- ▶ Finalise and endorse Regional Strategy and Action Plan at the 27<sup>th</sup> APFC in late 2017
- ▶ Interim phase – Carry out certain preparatory actions and smaller-scale regional-level actions, depending on resource availability and interest from the countries.
- ▶ Once initiative is formally adopted and resources are mobilized, the other activities could follow.
- ▶ Direct country actions as specified in Strategy 2 and elsewhere can be carried out by the countries at any time with support from FAO, other partners and initiatives, depending on interest and resource availability.



Interim Actions	Who	When
1. Finalize regional strategy & action plan	APFC, countries- FAO, partners	From now to Dec 2017
2. Identify relevant actors, set up regional FLR network	FAO, APFNet, countries	By Dec 2016
3. Build formal collaboration with potential regional partners	APFC, FAO and partners	By Dec 2016
4. Agree on mandate & staffing for regional secretariat	APFC, FAO and partners	By Dec 2016
5. Raise a proposal /seek funds for creating regional secretariat	APFC, FAO and partners	By Dec 2016

Interim Actions	Who	When
6. Raise awareness on FLR concept & benefits	FAO & partners with countries depending on resource availability	Sept 2016 to Aug 2017
7. Consolidate a regional restoration target by identifying/ revising national restoration targets in interested countries using available data		
8. Draft a monitoring and reporting plan for assessing progress		
9. Create a knowledge and learning hub		



Interim Actions	Who	When
<p>10. Develop a good communication strategy for the regional initiative</p>	<p>FAO &amp; partners with countries developing resource availability</p>	<p>Sept 2016 to Aug 2017</p>
<p>11. Compile and share in an accessible manner existing practical guidance and experience on various restoration technologies, the FLR process, sustainable use of restored forests, current global best practice and insights</p>		

