

Online meeting

Towards better information on the
costs and benefits of
Forest and Landscape Restoration

Wednesday, 7 November 2018
15h00-17h00 Rome time

FLRM
Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism

Restoring Landscapes for Enhanced Livelihoods

Accounting for the costs and benefits of Forest and Landscape Restoration (FLR) interventions provides an opportunity to evaluate their effectiveness and eventually adapt the design of restoration programmes to effectively combat land degradation and habitat fragmentation.

The current lack of consistent data on the relative costs and benefits of a specific type of FLR intervention means that decisions may be delayed or poorly informed, based on unrealistic costs and/or benefits. This lack of information, which depends also on the uncertainties associated with valuing and pricing ecosystem services, is also a missed opportunity to learn from past activities. Moreover, it affects the need to improve practices for more effective restoration projects in the future. Finally, missing or incomplete accounting evidence can generate a perception that restoration initiatives are not economically viable.

This situation underlines the need for a reliable database/clearing house that donors, investors, project implementers, governments, and other stakeholders can consult for reliable cost and benefit data for their decision-making.

For all these reasons and building on its works on forest and landscape restoration in some 40 countries, FAO has initiated this project, with support from the Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative, managed by the CBD Secretariat.

Agenda

15h00 - 15h15 Participants join the call and technical instructions

15h15 - 15h25 Previous steps under this initiative and objectives of the online meeting

15h25 - 15h30 Tour de table of participants

15h30 - 15h45 Presentation of the objectives of the study and feedback from the participants

15h45 – 16h00 Presentation of the expected results/products from the study and feedback from the participants

16h00 – 16h15 Review of proposed contributions from participating organizations (in terms of expertise, data, past or ongoing relevant initiatives and/or products) (the expert meeting in 2019 will allow for more detailed presentations)

16h15 – 16h45 Discussion on the organization of the first meeting of the expert group:

- What should the objectives be for this first meeting? (development of a road map, agreement on the costs and benefits variables on which information needs to be collected, agreement on the typology of restoration interventions, ecosystems and levels of degradation)
- How will the work be organized? (sub groups working on different issues?)
- Logistical aspects (Proposed dates and location, 2 or 3 days?)

16h45 – 16h50 Any other business

16h50 – 17h00 Wrap up of the meeting and conclusions

Minutes of the meeting

Participants

	Name	Institution	Email address
1	Douglas McGuire	FAO	Douglas.McGuire@fao.org
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5	Elisabetta Gotor	Bioversity	e.gotor@cgiar.org
6	Marta Kozicka		M.Kozicka@cgiar.org
7	Denny Def		danny.nef@gmail.com
8	Pablo Munoz	UNCCD	PMunoz@unccd.int
9	Victoria Gutierrez	WeForest	victoria.gutierrez@weforest.org
10	Radikha Dave	IUCN	Radhika.Dave@iucn.org
11	Vincent Gitz	CIFOR	V.Gitz@cgiar.org
12	Joris de Vente	Commonland	joris@cebas.csic.es
13	Helen Ding	WRI	helen.ding@wri.org
14	Fred Stolle		FStolle@wri.org

Participants' introduction (be further edited by the participants):

- Doug McGuire, Daowei Zhang, Valentina Garavaglia, **FAO** FLRM – FAO initiated this study
- Blaise Bodin, **CBD Secretariat** (Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative) – co-initiator of the study and contributor to the initial review of projects
- Elisabetta Gotor, Marta Kozicka and Denny Def (**Bioversity**): study on forest restoration to develop a conceptual framework to identify the costs of implementing genetic diversity in restoration
- Pablo Munoz (**UNCCD**): study on making the economic case for restoration
- Vincent Gitz (**CGIAR**): Director of the CGIAR Research Program on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry
- Joris de Vente (**Spanish National Research Council, CEBAS-CSIC for Commonland**): academic working on the benefits of FLR
- Helen Ding and Fred Stolle (**WRI**): work on the economics and finance of restoration
- Victoria Gutierrez (**WeForest**) FLR implementers and designers
- Radhika Dave (**IUCN**): forest and climate change programme - Bonn Challenge Barometer

Main points raised in the discussion on objectives of the study and expected results:

Objective and outputs of the study

- The study is much needed and timely. The objective of the study is the same that was identified by WRI in 2017. In Latin American Countries detailed economic data can be found, associated with monitoring of impacts on the ground, whereas in Africa there are many countries, but partners often did not have time to capture the costs and benefits, and most of available data is based on *ex ante* assessments (documented in feasibility studies). Most projects have stated benefits, but we should also consider other benefits that may not have included explicitly.

- The objective of the study should be accurately defined to make it more operational and go beyond the political commitment: it will need to be able to monitor the money in and the money out of the different restoration interventions. The aim of this study and the data that will be produced is to support and unlock investments and activities on the ground.
- The word “database”, talking about outputs, should be maybe reconsidered: a concept that goes beyond a database is needed. Need to think about the product and the end-users, propose a tool with concrete applications from the start. And need to be free and user-friendly.

Analytical framework for the study

- Such kind of study needs a clear framework (or various frameworks, considering that the objectives of restoration are very varied) describing the theory of change that FLR is creating.
- The preparation of the framework is a crucial part of the process. It needs to define clear variables for costs and benefits for which information will be gathered, from existing project information or future data collection exercise. These categories could go beyond what is currently reported by projects, and include more specific variables like level of degradation, labor cost, land grabbing, costs of displacement of people.
- Costs and benefits components should be compared in comparable contexts: A big challenge will be to establish and select the right typologies of restoration interventions/ecosystems/level of degradation.
- Costs are very country specific; the framework must consider also this aspect.
- While defining the framework, it must be also considered that other than FLR projects, countries are developing FLR national plans. The difference of scale between operational units for the implementation of national strategies and the pilot areas used for FLR projects is an additional challenge to account for
- Need to establish filters and protocols to assess reliability of the data collected. Balance between being context specific and comparability.
- For each data point, need to define the geographic area, spatial boundaries of the data collected
- Time aspect (when the project begins and ends) is important for the financial sector of the study

Budget

- it was estimated by FAO that half million USD for the implementation of the first 2 years of the study (framework and pilot study in the Sahel region), so the participation of 10 institutions with 50K USD each will allow to reach this target
- Discussion on the model of a “toll highway” or free access to data to fund the study in the long term

Organization of the expert meeting

- End of February/beginning of March 2009 (our doodle poll covers most of the 1st quarter)
- 2 and half day meeting
- Place to be decided: Rome is a first proposal; other proposed locations are welcome but need to be proposed soon
- Participants will take care of their own travel, hotel, per-diem and other expenses. Limited financial support may be available from FAO.

Next steps

- **By 18 November 2018**, FAO will set up a doodle to identify the most convenient date for the expert meeting in 2019 - <https://doodle.com/poll/8mt63arbagtyk3pa>
- **By 25 November 2018**, partners will send an email providing the name of the focal point for this study, their willingness to participate and specifying in which terms (data, expertise, budget)
- **By end of December 2018**, partners will send support documents for already ongoing studies on costs and benefits of FLR
- FAO will start drafting an agenda for the meeting; aimed to be delivered to experts **in December 2019**.
- FAO will start drafting a list of topics to be addressed in the study (type of costs and benefits, variables...); aimed to be delivered to experts **in early January or earlier**.

Annex – List of international meeting on environmental topics from that period (Source : IISD)

That list can be used to check on other commitments you might have. An idea could be also to piggy-back an existing meeting. From this list however, there does not appear to be an obvious candidate.

[Towards a Global Pact for the Environment: First Substantive Session](#)
[14-18 January 2019 | Nairobi, Kenya](#)

[International Water Summit 2019](#)
[14-17 January 2019 | Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates](#)

[Negotiation of the Summary for Policy Makers of the Sixth Global Environment Outlook](#)
[21-24 January 2019 | Nairobi, Kenya](#)

[World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2019](#)
[22-25 January 2019 | Davos-Klosters, Switzerland](#)

[1st World Summit on Leaving No One Behind](#)
[7-8 February 2019 | Geneva, Geneva, Switzerland](#)

[World Symposium on Climate Change and Tourism](#)
[13-15 February 2019 | Bariloche, Rio Negro, Patagonia, Argentina](#)

[Carbon Pricing Leadership Coalition Research Conference on Carbon Pricing](#)
[14-15 February 2019 | New Delhi, Delhi, India](#)

[CGRFA 17](#)
[18-22 February 2019 | Rome, Lazio, Italy](#)

[2nd Latin American Symposium on Climate Change Adaptation](#)
[20-21 February 2019 | Lima, Peru](#)

[World Resources Forum 2019](#)
[24-27 February 2019 | Antwerp, Antwerpen, Belgium](#)

[25th Session of the ISA Council \(Part I\)](#)

25 February - 1 March 2019 | Kingston, Saint Andrew, Jamaica

OECPR 4

4-8 March 2019 | Nairobi, Kenya

Expert Group Meeting on SDG 13

4-6 March 2019 | Copenhagen, Kobenhavn, Denmark

50th Session of UN Statistical Commission

5-8 March 2019 | New York City, US

Fourth Session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-4)

11-15 March 2019 | Nairobi, Kenya

Sustainable Investment Forum Europe

12 March 2019 | Paris, Ile-De-France, France

International Day of Forests 2019

21 March 2019 |