

The FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION Newsletter: News from the Forest Landscape Restoration Network – Welcome to the 6th issue (October 2003)!

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide you with a brief overview of recent information on **Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR)** and related topics. You can find all the FLR information on **WWF's Forests For Life Programme - FLR website** <http://www.panda.org/forests/restoration/>.

You are encouraged to contribute information to the FLR newsletter! Please send any FLR related issues that you wish to share with the group, to the editor. We appreciate your active involvement as a member of the informal FLR network!

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1. FLR PROJECT NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Africa

Tanzania

Further to the mention in [the last newsletter](#) of exploratory work to develop a Forest Landscape Restoration programme in the coastal forests of Tanzania, we can now report that the **East Usambara Mountains** have been selected as an initial priority landscape. A project proposal "*Conserving forests and improving livelihoods in a multifunctional landscape*" has been prepared in collaboration with WWF Tanzania and local NGO partner TFCG - the Tanzanian Forest Conservation Group. Key objectives of the project are i) to enhance connectivity between remaining forest areas; ii) to improve livelihoods, especially through enhanced income generating opportunities based on sustainable utilisation of forest goods and services; and iii) to increase recognition of the values and importance of forests and proper land use.

Employing the principles of FLR, the project will aim to scale up conservation efforts which to date have been focused principally at the site level, to the wider landscape. This will most likely involve the expansion of ongoing activities which have mainly focused on protection and management issues, along with an increased focus on restoring/rehabilitating damaged or degraded forest areas, towards an integrated set of strategic interventions that will restore and enhance the multiple functions of forests in the landscape.

Madagascar

WWF-Madagascar Forest Programme staff and partners recently completed a reconnaissance exercise for five landscapes in the Malagasy moist forest ecoregion. Each of the evaluated landscapes measured between 100,000 and 200,000 ha. Besides WWF staff, the reconnaissance team was composed of members of the **Malagasy FLR working group** representing organizations such as the Forestry Department of the University of Antananarivo, the government's applied agricultural and environmental research institution, the Wildlife Conservation Society and the Missouri Botanical Garden.

During the reconnaissance, the team interviewed local stakeholders and made firsthand observations. The landscapes were then rated according to over 20 socio-cultural, economic, ecological/biophysical and policy-related criteria. At the same time the landscapes were also rated based on their potential contribution to biodiversity conservation. Both evaluation systems rated the **Fandriana-Marolambo** landscape first. The existence of functional rural development organizations and initiatives to develop community-based protected areas were among the main important factors.

Work on the development of a full-fledged FLR initiative in the landscape will be ongoing. A 2nd field trip is planned to discuss the FLR concept with representatives of local communities and local decision-makers; and a workshop on a preliminary land use vision in preparation. Funding is being sought for the next phases.

Asia & South America

Minshan Landscape Initiative, China

Since the beginning of 2003, the forest restoration team has been working closely with various stakeholders to set up forest restoration models and put forward a manual for forest restoration for landscape conservation. Part of the team are well-known scientists from the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the State Forestry Administration.

During field trips in April, the FLR team identified five priority working areas in the Minshan, of which four are situated in the Sichuan and one in the Gansu Province.

The team members met in September to review results of field studies carried through from July till September 2003 at Huangtuliang, one of the priority working areas. The field studies analysed 1) landscape patterns and their environmental and socio-economical functions and services and 2) existing restoration/ plantation models and cost information. The results were discussed before drafting a forest landscape restoration manual and setting up forest landscape restoration models in the other priority working areas.

Following the agreement between WWF's China Programme Office and the Sichuan Forestry Department to develop *Provincial Regulations for Protecting the Environment and Biodiversity in Implementing Afforestation/Reforestation* in Sichuan, the regulations have been drafted and will be adopted by the end of 2003. First of its kind in China, they will possibly state an example for similar regulations in other provinces. The regulations will guide efforts to implement afforestation/reforestation with respect to the environment and biodiversity.

Update CIFOR project "Review of rehabilitation projects - Lessons from the past"

We already presented the CIFOR – Center for International Forestry Research - project in the [4th FLR Newsletter – February 2003](#). A detailed website now exists that presents the entire project, its background, goals and expected outputs. A project database has been started and rehabilitation project coordinators are invited to contribute their project details. Country overviews for China, Vietnam, the Philippines, Indonesia, Peru and Brazil have started being pulled together, and various past and ongoing forest rehabilitation projects resumed. The lessons learned from the project will provide recommendations for future forest rehabilitation projects and the FLR process. A strong collaboration between WWF and CIFOR exists on this study in Vietnam and China. If you wish to learn more or want to contribute to the database, please visit <http://www.cifor.cgiar.org/rehab/>

Forest rehabilitation workshop in Vietnam

On Thursday June 12, 2003, the Vietnamese Department of Forestry Development (Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development - MARD), CIFOR, and WWF Indochina co-hosted a one-day workshop in Hanoi to present the above described **CIFOR project in Vietnam**. The 21 participants included forest experts and specialists from CIFOR, WWF Indochina, MARD, IUCN, FAO, JICA, and other local and international organizations and institutes with active involvements in the forest rehabilitation cause in the country. The project will include an inventory and characterization of rehabilitation initiatives in Vietnam, followed by a more detailed review and analysis of selected case studies.

[More info about the workshop...](#)

[More on the CIFOR project in Vietnam...](#)

Vietnam: Model tool for land use planning and negotiation in the Central Annamites

In Central Vietnam, WWF together with its partners in Quang Nam Province built two three-dimensional models of the Song Thanh Nature Reserve and Que Son District of Quang Nam, to discuss planning activities with local people. The area is home of Vietnam's last remaining Asian elephants.

The models, representing an area of 400km², geo-referenced and scaled both vertically and horizontally, were constructed using simple tools, a basic geographical map, and high input from local, indigenous people. Local community representatives, from all levels, came together to help complete the models, choose the features to display, and added local names and knowledge. This participatory approach was used as basis for allocation of tenure rights, forest zoning, and for planning development assistance for upland communities.

The models have also been useful for research and conservation planning; especially in highlighting and communicating key issues to decision-makers with full participation of local residents. For instance, in Song Thanh, the protected area boundary is now under revision

following local calls for increased resource access. The models have significantly helped target natural resource management in the Central Annamites of Vietnam. They prove a useful tool for negotiating action with district and corporate stakeholders; orientation and planning for the Government *Five Million Hectare Reforestation Programme* on forest rehabilitation and plantation; and development planning for agro-forestry and irrigation in tandem with Government's programmes on poverty alleviation and development NGO's and projects.

New Caledonia

Jacques Chirac supports New Caledonia Dry Forest Conservation Programme

The conservation programme to protect New Caledonian dry tropical forests has recently been recognised at the highest national level. During his official visit to New Caledonia in July 2003, French President Jacques Chirac welcomed the work of the successful partnership and underlined the need to continue: « *I bring my whole support to the conservation programme and sustainable management of the dry forests in New Caledonia ... I congratulate all the partners of the program* ».

For the past two years, WWF together with its 8 local partners has worked towards the protection and restoration of New Caledonia's dry forests. In August 2003, the press was convened to the first experimental planting of dry forests' species which took place in one of the 19 identified priority sites.

Europe

Mediterranean

FLR and cork forest landscapes in the South-western Mediterranean Ecoregion

WWF together with representative local partners (NGOs, research institutions, forest managers, local farmers, and local/regional administration departments) are developing an integrated protect-manage-restore strategy for conserving cork oak forests in two functional landscapes in southern Portugal and North-western Tunisia. Priority areas for cork oak forest restoration have been identified in order to: reverse the current desertification trend in these two landscapes; recreate the necessary habitat conditions for endangered mammals such as Iberian lynx in Portugal and Barbary deer in Tunisia; improve the productivity and quality of cork and the wide range of NTFPs; and provide opportunities for improving people's livelihood.

The Tunisian project team has organised a one-week training workshop for forest managers, farmers and local NGOs to improve the existing cork harvesting practices which cause a significant tree mortality and regeneration problems, and to introduce the FSC certification scheme as a tool to secure community-based sustainable cork oak management.

The Portuguese team is currently working with local administration offices in charge of the CAP subsidies and farmers based in priority cork forest areas, in order to agree upon how to implement urgent cork restoration activities in burnt areas following the FLR recommendations to restore lynx habitat requirements and support local income based on NTFPs (cork, strawberry tree spirits, aromatic plant production). An FLR handbook for raising awareness and supporting foresters, farmers and local NGOs in securing funding from EC budget lines, and implementing adequate field restoration activities is foreseen by the end of 2003.

Restore forests to fight Mediterranean desertification

WWF MedPO and IUCN took the occasion of the *World Day to Combat Desertification* on June 17, to highlight the regional need for forest restoration. Both organizations urged Mediterranean national governments to combat desertification by restoring forest landscapes and the full range of environmental and socio-economic benefits they provide. About 300,000 km² of land in the European coastal zone of the Mediterranean is undergoing desertification, affecting the livelihood of 16.5 million people.

[More information...](#)

Latin America & Caribbean

Argentina, Misiones Green Corridor Project

The Misiones Green Corridor is located in the Upper Parana Atlantic Forest ecoregion; an area originally covered by a continuous subtropical semi-deciduous forest with a high diversity of animal and plant species. Threats to this region exist mainly in forest fragmentation and degradation due to agriculture (soy bean), large-scale pine plantations, cattle ranching, small-scale tobacco and yerba mate plantations.

The last forest remnants of the Upper Paraná Atlantic Forest not only need protection, but also efficient connectivity and buffer zones to conserve biological diversity, ie. jaguars that require large areas of forest. Conservation efforts focus on the Iguassu tri-national region of Brazil, Argentina, and Paraguay, and in particular an area of privately owned agricultural land (Andresito) which constitutes a dangerous bottleneck in the forest connectivity.

FVSA (Fundación Vida Silvestre Argentina) – a WWF partner organization - is seeking to work with landholders in the municipality of Andresito on the development and implementation of a sustainable fine scale landscape design to eliminate the bottleneck.

Its implementation not only requires the adequate legal and political framework but also the development of inexpensive forest restoration methods and viable economic activities and benefits that make restoration and conservation more attractive to landowners.

Work has already begun in Andresito to develop a Forest Landscape Restoration initiative, which can benefit local people and biodiversity. Amongst the main first achievements are: the Misiones Green Corridor Law; a fine-scale land-use analysis in the municipality of Andresito; forest restoration pilot projects; studies on natural regeneration of abandoned lands; and the identification and development of forest friendly economic activities (sustainable palmito and yerba mate production, ecotourism).

[More information on the project](#) (FVSA website, in Spanish)...

[More on the Atlantic Forests Ecoregion...](#)

2. INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS & EVENTS

Forthcoming events

[SERI's 2003 Conference in Austin, Texas](#)

Assembling the Pieces: Restoration, Design & Landscape Ecology, 19-22 November 2003

[International Conference on Eco-Restoration](#)

New Delhi and Dehradun (India), 14-21 October 2003

[Annual meeting of the working group for restoration ecology of the GfÖ](#) (German Ecological Society)

1 - 3 April 2004, Berlin, Germany

"How to assess and measure biodiversity within restoration projects?"

The workshop aims to discuss different approaches towards the assessment and measurement of 'biodiversity', especially within restoration projects. Abstract for presentations and posters are to be submitted until 31st January 2004.

Symposium on Financing Reforestation in Latin America

The Native Species Reforestation Project (PRORENA) of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute and the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental studies invite to a "Symposium on Financing Reforestation in Latin America". The symposium will explore the challenges and opportunities for financing reforestation activities in Latin America at a variety of scales.

The Symposium will be held on November 21, 2003.

For more information please contact info@prorena.org.

Update from past events

WWF - Lafarge Event at the World Forestry Congress

On September 25th, WWF and Lafarge held a side event at the **World Forestry Congress** in Quebec City, underlining their mutual conservation partnership of which forest restoration is a central part.

Michel Picard, Vice-President Environmental Issues at Lafarge, and Dr. Jill Bowling, Deputy Director of WWF's Forests for Life Programme, both expressed the need of forest restoration as one major component of WWF's forest policy to combat diminishing biological diversity and forest cover around the world.

The partners made a new announcement about conservation collaboration in Canada, where WWF and Lafarge started to work together near Calgary, Alberta, just outside the world-renowned Banff National Park.

With an audience of about 60 people, the side event was well attended and a success. It produced radio, TV and newspaper coverage in Quebec media and several newspaper stories in Alberta papers regarding Lafarge.

A four-page brochure presenting the WWF - Lafarge partnership and some of the WWF FLR projects has been produced for this purpose.

[More information on panda.org](#) and on the [WWF-Canada web-site](#). French-language versions may be selected there, too.

World Forestry Congress

The final statement of the World Forestry Congress - held in Québec, Canada end of September with an attendance of about 4000 forest specialists - specifically mentions Forest Landscape Restoration: "*congress participants commit themselves, and urge the world community, ... to accelerate progress through promotion of the following strategies and actions: ...*

** "intensify forest landscape restoration and rehabilitation activities: to support livelihoods, increase forest cover, enhance biological diversity and functionality, and minimize the impact of invasive alien species"*

[Download the final statement ...](#)

Scotland Border conference

The 2nd Restoring Borders Woodland conference took place on Thursday 28th and Friday 29th August 2003, ten years after the first conference. The conference reminded of the substantial achievements made since then; and laid out the future way. Main emphasis was laid on the vision and plan for restoring the original Ettrick Forest which once restored "could offer opportunities for all sorts of rural activities, including farming, timber production, grouse shooting, deerstalking, hill walking, and nature-based tourism". The following issues were enthusiastically discussed: the value of wilderness in restored natural landscapes, the use and re-introduction of native species, the need for good planning, the need and advantages of involving people, and the scientific background of Landscape Ecology models.

[Abstracts of presentations can be downloaded from their website.](#)

More information on the BFT [Ettrick Habitat Restoration Project...](#)

International Symposium on Forest Ecosystem and Landscape Research

The conference 'Towards the sustainable use of Europe's forests - Forest ecosystem and landscape research: scientific challenges and opportunities', organized by ENFOR (European Network for long-term Forest Ecosystem and Landscape Research), ECOFOR, EFI (European Forest Institute), and IUFRO (International Union of Forest Research Organizations) was held in Tours, France from 25 - 27 June 2003. One conference objective was to "*provide a scientific forum on forest ecosystem and landscape research*".

The [abstract book](#) can be downloaded from the [conference website](#).

3. PUBLICATIONS & LINKS

New publication: Rehabilitation and Restoration of Degraded Forests

WWF and IUCN are pleased to announce that the publication in the series "Issues in Forest Conservation" entitled "**Rehabilitation and Restoration of Degraded Forests**", and written

by Dr. David Lamb and Dr. Don Gilmour is now available. The publication provides a very clear overview of the key issues concerning forest loss and recovery. It looks at basic terminology related to reforestation, outlines the causes of forest loss and degradation, the biological and socio-economic implications, and demonstrates, using case studies, the technical solutions. Finally it looks at some of the key lessons derived from experience and how these can be used to shape our work on Forest Landscape Restoration. The authors draw on their considerable experience to highlight a number of case studies to illustrate this publication."

For a copy please contact Mette Bovenschulte at IUCN (e-mail: mette.bovenschulte@iucn.org) or Fabienne Badibanga at WWF (e-mail: fbadibanga@wwfint.org)

UNEP-WCMC BIOCORES project: Biodiversity Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use in Fragmented Landscapes (BIOCORES)

The overall objective of the project is to identify sustainable approaches to land use, by identifying how biodiversity may be conserved in landscapes subjected to human use. The aim of the research is to investigate the impact of human activity on the key processes influencing biodiversity in fragmented forest landscapes, and to use the research results to develop practical tools for evaluating land-use decisions, thereby indicating how sustainable development might be achieved in practice.

The research focuses on four areas where native forests have been subjected to intense human pressure in recent decades, resulting in severe deforestation: (i) the northern and central Highlands of Chiapas, and neighbouring areas of Oaxaca, Mexico; (ii) Central Veracruz, Mexico; (iii) the coastal range of the Chilean Lake District; and (iv) northern Chiloe, Chile, and neighbouring areas of Argentina.

These forest areas are among the most threatened ecoregions in the world, with many endemic, threatened species; and home to large and increasing rural populations, including indigenous communities, who rely on native forest resources for provision of a number of forest products.

[More information...](http://sea.unep-wcmc.org/collaborations/biocores/index.cfm) <http://sea.unep-wcmc.org/collaborations/biocores/index.cfm>

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Lafarge is committed to continuous improvement in its environmental performance. Accordingly, Lafarge and WWF have become worldwide partners in an effort to preserve biodiversity and restore forest landscapes. Through the partnership, Lafarge is supporting WWF's Forest Landscape Restoration project, which is part of the WWF's Forests for Life programme.