Forest Landscape Restoration in the spotlight

Contributions of FLR to the implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests and the thematic priorities of the SDGs under review at HLPF 2019

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Take away messages

Scaling up the contribution of FLR to the UNSPF and the SDGs under review in 2019
The FLR approach recognizes connections and interactions between various land uses and the environmental and socio-economic benefits provided by restored landscapes. In order to scale up the achievements of the Global Forest Goals and SDGs through the FLR approach, countries can tap into the opportunities that the following actions can create:

SDG 8
- Strenghten the role of and benefits to smallholders, who play a key role in generating value from forest landscape restoration activitities. Governments could develop targeted policies to facilitate economic grow through restoration activities.

SDG 13
- Recognize the important role of healthy ecosystems, including forests, in climate change adaptation, and deploying forest landscape restoration strategies to generate sustained mitigatioacross forn outcomes across forest landscapes, address climate change risks and vulnerability.

SDG 17
- Increase cooperation and exchange of technologies, knowledge and capacities for accelerated implementation of forest and landscape restoration on the ground.
- Fostering of concerted commitment between international financing sources, governments, and private sector to address the bottlenecks that impede scaling up resource efficient food, timber and non-timber forest products systems while restoring degraded ecosystems.
- Adopt and improve cross-sectoral policies where forest and landscape restoration is an essential way to address current national developmental challenges due to land degradation, biodiversity loss, and climate change vulnerability.
- With the support of international agencies and organizations, mobilize and facilitate international funding opportunities for the implementation of forest-related international commitments where ecosystem restoration is a centerpiece.

Introduction

This year at the UN Forum on Forests 14th meeting, countries will have the opportunity to review the status of implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests (UNSPF), with an in-depth look at the intrinsic contributions from healthy and fully functional forests and landscapes to the SDGs under review at the 2019 High-Level Political Forum. IUCN is actively engaged in the multi-dimensional implementation of the SDGs, and this submission presents experiences and practical information that showcase progress on the sustainable management of forests[1] relevant to the UNSPF, as well as stresses the need to scale up and replicate actions in order to potentiate

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[1] Global Forest Goal 1: Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through SFM, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation and contribute to the global effort of addressing climate change.

the contribution of forests landscapes to SDGs. Country examples provided in this document focus on the contribution from forests and landscapes to economic growth (SDG 8), climate action (SDG 13), and opportunities to generate partnerships for the attainment of the SDGs (SDG 17).

Three key strands of Sustainable Development -human well-being, social inclusion and environmental sustainability – are linked together through land and forests. However, it is known that 20% of the world's forests faces some degree of degradation and that 20% of cultivated areas are degraded[2]. Degraded areas and forests landscapes impair livelihoods, biodiversity, and the planets' ability to combat climate change. Degraded areas also threat the permanence of many of the standing forests, as human needs for fuel, food and resources cannot be fulfilled by infertile or deserted land. Land degradation through human activities is negatively impacting the well-being of at least 3.2 billion people, costing more than 10% of the annual global gross product in loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services.[3] But as the world faces this global challenge, the opportunity to tackle it through restoration action arises. IUCN has taken this evidence as motor to generate opportunities that drive and support change and restore landscapes across countries at any scale.

One of the main initiatives that IUCN supports on forests landscapes is the Bonn Challenge, which emerged in 2011 as a global effort to bring 150 million hectares of deforested and degraded land into restoration by 2020 and 350 million hectares by 2030. The Bonn Challenge is seen as a unifying mechanism to help countries to implement landscape restoration at scale in support of the CBD Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, the Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) goal and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in connection to the UN Strategic Plan on Forests. To date, 57 countries, private associations and other organisations have signaled their desire to be leaders on restoration by joining the Bonn Challenge and pledging restoration in over 170 million ha.

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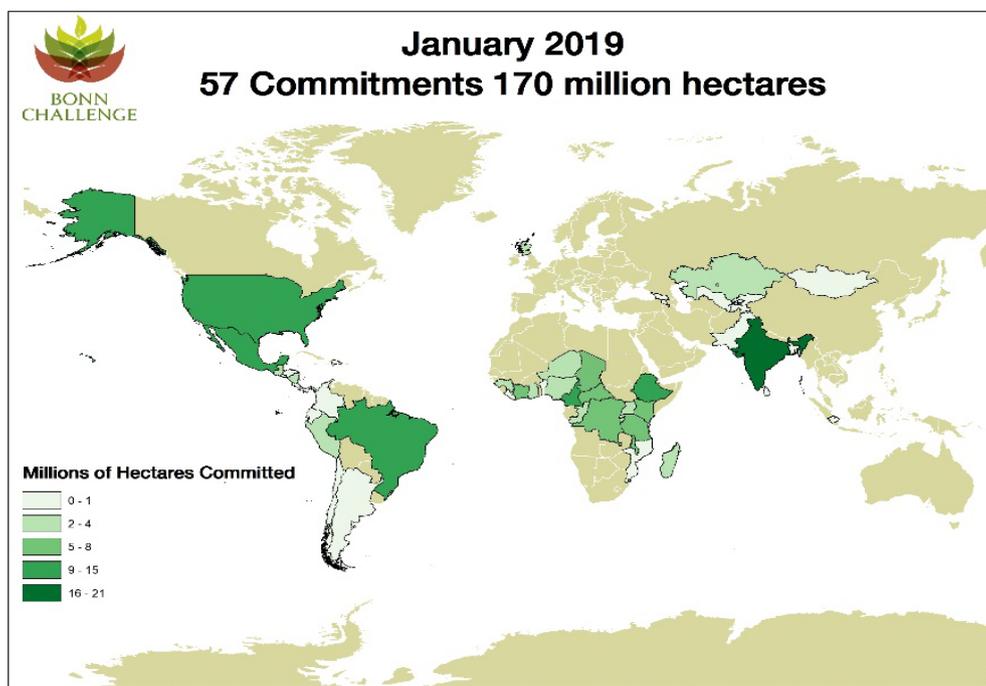
[2] Atlas of Forest and Landscape Restoration opportunities (2014), blog available at https://bit.ly/2HxvNre. H.K. Gibbs, J.M. Salmon. Mapping the world's degraded lands. Applied Geography 57 (2015) 12-21
[3] IPBES (2018): Summary for policymakers of the assessment report on land degradation and restoration

Underlying the Bonn Challenge is the forest landscape restoration (FLR) approach. FLR is the long-term process of regaining ecological functionality and enhancing human well-being across deforested and degraded landscapes, encompassing a mosaic of different land uses in space and over time. FLR is not an end in itself, but a means of regaining, improving, and maintaining vital ecological, economic and social functions for more resilient and sustainable landscapes. Importantly, FLR is about restoring forward to meet peoples' needs and not per se about restoring back to original vegetation or habitat, recognising that nature is dynamic, spatially and temporally.[4]

FLR benefits extend well beyond an increase in the density of trees on the land. The FLR approach addresses the drivers of deforestation and degradation in a comprehensive manner – by focusing on the cause and not only the symptoms, the FLR approach can help reduce threats to standing forests and avoid further deforestation and degradation. Through restoration of landscapes, it is possible to generate alternative livelihoods and fuel sources while increasing forests and trees in the landscape, to improve agricultural systems and reduce its impact on landscapes and to restore already degraded areas to health. Benefits include boosting landscape productivity, improving food and water security, and conserving biodiversity. Landscape restoration plays an important role in mitigation by increasing climate change resilience, reducing disaster risk and combating desertification. By building and maintaining a countries' natural capital, landscape restoration catalyses action that can directly deliver on national sustainable development priorities.

Restoration of forests landscapes contributes to several targets of the Global Forest Goals and in tandem to several **Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs).[5]

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[4] Beatty, C.R., Vidal, A., Devesa, T., and M.E. Kuzee (2018) *Accelerating biodiversity commitments through forest landscape restoration; Evidence from assessments in 26 countries using the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM)* (Working Paper). Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. vii + 59pp.
[5] See sources for SDG table at the end of the document.

Forest Landscape Restoration contributions to selected SDGs

Restoring ecosystems and natural resources generate concrete income opportunities for people, whereby the presence of income-generating activities from the forestry and agriculture sectors depend upon the health and resilient capacity of these ecological systems. Via green development, diversifying livelihood options, generating jobs and increasing household income, FLR actions is targeted to end poverty in all its dimensions therefore contributing to **SDG 1**.

By enhancing food security systems through watershed protection, erosion control, agroforestry and conservation agriculture, FLR can contribute to **SDG 2**. The restoration of degraded and fragmented forests can increase the supply of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) that are an important source of food and income for rural communities. A global analysis showed that including productive landscapes in restoration can reduce the number of malnourished children from 3 to 6 million and increase yields and productivity of maize, rice, wheat from 2 to 10%.

Direct benefits from improved tree cover (medicines and fuelwood) and enhanced tree systems that provide better water access are often key resources for maintaining good health especially in forest dependent communities, which is promoted trough **SDG 3**

For **SDG 5**, FLR provides a framework for enhanced gender equality and empowerment and engages wide-variety of stakeholders. IUCN has proven this in Armenia where FLR interventions increased income opportunities and fuel wood for forest dependent communities, particularly vulnerable sections including women-headed households and the elderly. In Uganda, the FLR approach provided a framework to enhance gender equality and women's empowerment under the SDG framework, thanks to its emphasis on engaging with all stakeholders. The inclusive social arrangements that promote and support FLR plays pertinent role in ensuring the equitable allocation (SDG 10) of benefits from restored lands (SDG1, SDG2, SDG8).

Forests play a vital role in the hydrological cycle. For instance, by applying and scaling up the FLR approach around Rio de Janeiro in Brazil could significantly improve water availability by meeting the increasing city's demand for water (projected to increase up to 50% by 2030), as well as water quality, by saving USD 79 million in water treatment costs. In Guatemala, by protecting and restoring water-related ecosystems, FLR addresses water scarcity for household consumption, irrigated agriculture and hydropower generation; and, enhances the availability and sustainability of biomass energy.

Fuelwood is an underlining cause of deforestation in countries with big rural areas and with lack of alternative energy sources. Reducing the dependency of fuel wood coupled with restoring deforested and degraded areas have transformed livelihoods and the integrity of ecosystems in Teknaf, Bangladesh, in terms of health and financial benefits.

FLR can contribute to SDG 8 by spurring low carbon development and creating green jobs. For example, using a collaborative forest management system, the U.S. has produced more than 94 million cubic feet of timber sales and created 6,000 new restoration jobs.

The adoption of deforestation-free food and commodity production that relies on restoration strategies provides a profitable and sustainable alternative for a national low carbon economy and sustainable supply chain development. FLR is a viable nature-based solution to agrocomodity-driven deforestation and degradation and provides more sustainable production patterns.

Restored and resilient landscapes are better able to adapt to and mitigate climate change and strengthen the resilience and adaptive capacity of communities to climate-related hazards and natural disasters. Restoration activities generate increases the carbon sequestration and increase storage potential from forests.

FLR implementation generates partnerships for multidimensional achievement of SDGs. Through a participatory approach and by involving government and non-governmental actors that impact forest and land use management, investment, and policy design and implementation, it is possible to identify potential for collaboration and enhanced implementation.

Restoration efforts are already proving successful in several countries. In them, forest landscape restoration plans and activities have been positioned as the unifying thread of cross-sectoral government priorities, including agricultural, energy, water supply and rural employment goals. IUCN has been supporting countries in providing evidence that contributes with identification of restoration opportunities and with the identification of a roadmap for restoration implementation.

In the following paragraphs, highlights are presented regarding assessments of restoration opportunities or early country action in connection with the direct contributions that they generate to the UNSPF and to SDGs 8, 17 and 13, which are amongst the SDGs under review this year during the High-Level Political Forum.

FLR generates opportunities for sustainable economic growth (GFG 2, SDG 8)

Forest landscape restoration, as a type of approach for the sustainable management of forests, generate opportunities for economic growth as well as generates opportunities for small landowners to make decisions on landscape planning and gain capacities on sustainable practices. For instance, in Para State in Brazil, the adoption of deforestation-free food and commodity production that relies on restoration strategies provides a profitable and sustainable alternative to extensive and unplanned cattle-ranching, generating economic benefits smallholders as well as improving what was a degraded and disaster-prone landscape. In Mexico, restoration opportunities assessments carried out in the Yucatan Peninsula states of Campeche, Quintana Roo, and Yucatan, as well in the State of Chiapas, identified over 3.35 million hectares where restoration would produce a positive rate of return through the application of nine transition models that, in turn, are backed by technological packages and business models. Currently, coordinated efforts are underway to implement government budget allocations at the federal and the subnational level, as well as leveraging additional private finance that will facilitate the generation of income to many smallholders and farmers. The assessments were developed in support of the National Forestry Commission (CONAFOR) and the Secretary of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (SAGARPA)'s commitments at the federal level to the Bonn Challenge, as well of the pledges at the state level.

FLR for more resilient and adaptable forest ecosystems (GFG 1, SDG 13)

More and more countries are adopting national-level policies that identify strategies to address current vulnerabilities to climate change and natural disasters through forest landscape restoration. That is the case of Malawi, where national action to restore forest landscapes was triggered by the economic, social and environmental challenges created by land degradation and deforestation, worsened by the extreme vulnerability of people to climate change and extreme weather patterns. Through the implementation of Malawi's National Forest Landscape Restoration Strategy (2017) with an overall goal of restoring 4.5 million ha, the country will advance its national goals of food security, increase climate change resilience and mitigation potential, and conserve and restore biodiversity, building a robust contribution across SDGs 1, 2, 6, 7, 12, 13, and 15. A more in-depth analysis of Malawi's forest and landscape restoration activities contribution to some of the SDGs under review in 2019 is presented at the end of this document.

El Salvador has a National Programme for Restoration of Ecosystems and Landscapes (PREP), developed in synergy with other strategies under the National Environmental Policy, which a mandate of implementing restoration and conservation of ecosystems in one million ha of its territory in order to rehabilitate ecosystems processes and recover resilience and services,

reduce risks and adapt to the adverse effects of climate change, addressing issues such as floods and hurricanes.

FLR implementation generates partnerships for multidimensional achievement of SDGs (GFG 5 & 6, SDG 17)

The adoption of FLR as a pillar of the forest management approach in Guatemala resulted from the formation of partnerships and cross-sectoral cooperation spaces –such as the National Forest Landscape Restoration Roundtable- where all relevant stakeholder provided input to shape a better implementation of Guatemala's National Strategy for Forest Landscape Restoration and its landmark forest incentive law, PROBOSQUE.[6] IUCN has been supporting Guatemala's policy processes to reinforce the coherent utilization of FLR from the national policy level down to the identification of restoration activities and evidence for its cost-effective implementation on the ground, acknowledging that cooperation and partnerships generate strength and spin the motor of creativity and opportunities.

FLR planning and implementation is based on increased collaboration between the stakeholders and includes pertinent inter-ministerial arrangements and coordination for restoration (e.g., in Burundi and Guatemala). In Uganda, increased cooperation amongst government, academia, grass-root movements, CSOs, development partners led significant FLR-related progress - particularly by way of policies and institutional frameworks- has been made in Uganda's FLR commitment and in on-ground actions (e.g. Bonn challenge, inclusion of FLR approach in the Uganda's REDD+ strategy and budget allocations for FLR in National Development Programme). In Malawi, the partnership and coordination is embedded in the National FLR Strategy that outlines the cross-sectoral program and key stakeholders to coordinate and accelerate the implementation of FLR.

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The countries featured in the examples above have designed their policies and plans with technical outputs generated by the application of the Restoration Opportunity Assessment

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[6] Julien Colomer et al. Value for Money: Guatemala's Forest Landscape Restoration. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. x + 64pp.

Methodology (ROAM), and are part of a total of 26 countries and 40 separate jurisdictions where IUCN-facilitated ROAMs have helped identifying FLR opportunities in over 160 million hectares. Within the application of ROAM, tools and approaches are utilised to generate information on ecosystem services, degradation, biodiversity, food security, or the costs and benefits of restoration, to name a few. The methodology also assesses the enabling conditions for landscape restoration and has been used to develop landscape restoration roadmaps at different spatial and temporal scales. These include many different types of restoration interventions that range from small management actions that can have a positive impact on the sustainability of a landscape to the complete ecological restoration of an area. The information and evidence generated by ROAM assessments have successfully informed countries in their efforts to advance national goals.

Scaling up the contribution of FLR to the UNSPF and the SDGs under review in 2019

The FLR approach recognizes connections and interactions between various land uses and the environmental and socio-economic benefits provided by restored landscapes. In order to scale up the achievements of the Global Forest Goals and SDGs through the FLR approach, countries can tap into the opportunities that the following actions can create:

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SDG 17
- Increase cooperation and exchange of technologies, knowledge and capacities for accelerated implementation of forest and landscape restoration on the ground.
- Fostering of concerted commitment between international financing sources, governments, and private sector to address the bottlenecks that impede scaling up resource efficient food, timber and non-timber forest products systems while restoring degraded ecosystems.
- Adopt and improve cross-sectoral policies where forest and landscape restoration is an essential way to address current national developmental challenges due to land degradation, biodiversity loss, and climate change vulnerability.
- With the support of international agencies and organizations, mobilize and facilitate international funding opportunities for the implementation of forest-related international commitments where ecosystem restoration is a centerpiece.

Malawi

Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology: Gathering Good Practices, Success Stories and Lessons Learned

Background

Approximately one third of Malawi's land area is classified as forest. However, estimates suggest that 57% of Malawi's forests were lost between 1972 and 1992, declining from 4.4 million to 1.9 million ha and representing an annual loss of 2.8%. More recent estimates from Global Forest Watch suggest that tree canopy cover loss in 2014 alone was approximately 16,000 ha. Land degradation and deforestation creates significant economic, social, and environmental challenges in Malawi. As 98% of the cultivated land is rain fed, farmers are extremely vulnerable to climate change and shifting weather patterns.

In 2016, Malawi made an ambitious 4.5 million ha pledge to the Bonn Challenge and the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100). In order to advance its restoration commitment and make a significant contribution to the country's achievement of Sustainable Development Goals, the Government of Malawi launched the National Forest Landscape Restoration Assessment (NFLRA) using Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM)[7]. The NFLRA capitalized on the collective expertise of the stakeholders across districts and sectors to present a comprehensive analysis and ensure that the design and implementation of restoration interventions are firmly rooted in the needs of local communities.

The NFLRA and associated National Forest Landscape Restoration Strategy (NFLRS) addresses the persistent challenges of food insecurity, lack of income generating activities, declining soil fertility, deforestation, poor water quality and availability, vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters such as drought and floods. Five key forest landscape restoration (FLR) interventions were prioritized:

- ❖ Agricultural technologies (conservation agriculture, farmer-managed natural regeneration (FMNR), agroforestry)
- ❖ Community forests and woodlots
- ❖ Forest management
- ❖ Soil and water conservation
- ❖ River- and stream-bank restoration

In order to refine the priority of FLR implementation within each of the identified intervention types, a multi-criteria analysis was applied to identify degraded areas where FLR interventions could be targeted to support the national priorities of **increased food security, resilience to climate change, and enhanced biodiversity.**

Gathering good practices, success stories and lessons learned

The assessment provides information to help decision makers to optimize the benefits of FLR by knowing where to invest for restoration; the costs and benefits of scaling up FLR; favorable policy and institutional conditions and key success factors for restoration. This information is pertinent to inform and transform national budget-allocations, district level and national development plans and policies for wide-scale adoption, creation of cross-sectoral coordination mechanisms and building local capacity. Furthermore, strengthening women's roles in agriculture and forest management practices through gender-responsive FLR programming can help ensure that both women and men in forest-dependent communities sustainably use and manage the land and natural resources.

What we can learn from the assessment process is that Malawi seeks to capture the socio-economic and environmental benefits of FLR and make significant contributions to national development objectives - to enhance food security, increase climate change resilience and mitigation potential, and conserve biodiversity. The FLR opportunities identified in Malawi support the realization of Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Aichi Targets, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Global Forest Goals as well can make a major contribution to the implementation of the Paris Agreement on climate change adaptation and mitigation. For the purposes of current theme under the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, this brief highlights the contribution of Malawi's NFLRA and NFLRS to the Global Forest Goals and to SDGs 8, 13, and 17 under review at HLPF in 2019.

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[7] The Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM) was developed by IUCN and WRI in 2014. https://www.iucn.org/roam

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under review at HLPF (2019)	Global Forest Goals (GFG)	Forest Landscape Restoration contribution to targets (Interconnections addressed via ROAM analysis)
8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. Target: 8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services	Global Forest Goal 2: Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest dependent people. Targets: 2.1 Extreme poverty for all forest dependent people is eradicated. 2.3 The contribution of forests and trees to food security is significantly increased. 2.4 The contribution of forest industry, other forest-based enterprises and forest ecosystem services to social, economic and environmental development, among others, is significantly increased.	Enhanced biodiversity and ecosystem services from restored landscapes are pertinent for long-term sustainable economic growth. FLR contributes to economic growth via green development, diversifying livelihood options, creating green jobs and increasing household income. Rationale: One of the most critical benefits that FLR can achieve is creating productive and sustainable income generating activities. For example, FLR activities in community forests create several short and long-term opportunities for small and medium forest enterprises and additional revenue for smallholder farmers. Several Malawi-based enterprises are well positioned to receive private-sector investments and advance the restoration agenda. Although restoration business models are still in the early stages of development, examples of restoration-based enterprises include sustainable commercial tree plantations and improved nursery management for production of high-value seedlings, value-added processing and sale of timber, poles, fodder, and fruits from restored landscapes. About 13 percent of enterprises in Malawi sell forest-based products and could benefit from landscape restoration and improved management of trees and forests. In addition, the number of restoration activities have the potential to improve soil productivity in Malawi. For instance, agroforestry, farmer managed natural regeneration, conservation agriculture, and other restoration-related agricultural technologies that directly respond to the causes of land degradation and improve soil fertility could improve yields by 50 to 250%. In Malawi, compared to degraded conventional maize agriculture, agriculture-based restoration activities generate additional benefits of between 1.5 million MWK (2046$) and 2.1 million MWK (3,411$) per hectare over a 20-year period. Restoring degraded and fragmented forests with natural forest management could increase the supply of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) by as much as 164 billion MWK (est $224 million) each year. These FLR activities in forest dependent communities increase the access to and availability of food by increasing the production of timber, fuelwood, fodder, honey, mushrooms, and other NTFPs for subsistence and sale. FLR sustains per capita economic projections by mitigating degradation and climate change impacts in Malawi. The diversified restoration strategies are the drivers of sustainable businesses and markets that both restore

		degraded lands and create novel income-generating activities in rural economies.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under review at HLPF (2019)	Global Forest Goals (GFG)	Forest Landscape Restoration contribution to targets (Interconnections addressed via ROAM analysis)
13 CLIMATE ACTION Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. Targets: 13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries 13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning 13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning	Global Forest Goal 1: Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through SFM, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation and contribute to the global effort of addressing climate change. Targets: 1.1 Forest area is increased by 3% worldwide. 1.2 The world's forest carbon stocks are maintained or enhanced. 1.3 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally 1.4 The resilience and adaptive capacity of all types of forests to natural disasters and the impacts of climate change is significantly strengthened worldwide.	Restored and resilient landscapes are better able to adapt to and mitigate climate change and strengthen the resilience and adaptive capacity of communities to climate-related hazards and natural disasters. Restored and healthy ecosystems are natural carbon sinks. Rationale: With nearly 8 million hectares of degraded and deforested lands suitable for FLR, there are significant potential to mitigate the impacts of climate change. Vulnerability to climate related hazards and natural disasters was analyzed as the extent to which the biophysical, ecological and socio-economic systems are either in fragile state, sensitive or lack the adaptive and resilience capacity, which helped to design FLR interventions that respond to these factors whereas possible. The multi-criteria analysis for resilience identified and prioritized areas where FLR can achieve maximum benefits to increase resilience and adaptability to natural disasters and climate change. In the Mzimba District, for example, the analysis indicates that from the total opportunity area for Sustainable Forest Management (284,877 ha), 181,677 ha are a priority for resilience (64%). During the assessment, the stakeholders suggested the findings further to be strengthened by the National Resilience Plan as an enabling factor for cross-sectoral implementation. In addition, the carbon sequestration values were estimated with the InVEST model (Natural Capital Project 2016) by modeling the amount of carbon currently stored by different land uses in Malawi. When the values of carbon sequestration were accounted, the results show the additional benefits from the forestry-based restoration activities and agricultural-based restoration activities become larger. Primary contributions in ha to developing climate resilient landscapes as highlighted in NFLRS are: – Increase tree cover on degraded, low-yielding cropland and pastures in agricultural landscapes through farmer-managed and assisted natural regeneration, direct seeding, and planting of agroforestry trees and shrubs (3,730,790 ha); – Restore forest cover on degraded customary land and no arable land in agricultural landscapes by expanding area and improving management of village forest areas and woodlots through demarcation,

strengthened community bylaws, and agreements for protection against uncontrolled cutting, grazing, and fire (753,471 ha);
– Restore forest cover and improve management in deforested and degraded forests, including forest reserves, natural forests outside reserves, and plantations (3,401,279 ha);
– Increase tree cover in denuded buffer zones of rivers and streams through natural regeneration and tree planting (36,478 ha).

Farm Radio Initiatives and ICT projects have been targeted in Malawi to ensure that the design and implementation of landscape restoration interventions is disseminated to farmers with increased access to FLR practices that is critical to improving their adaptive and resilient capacity. These initiatives improve education and awareness-raising strategies as well as the capacity of the farmers and smallholders to adopt sustainable management of all types of forests, half deforestation and restore degraded areas for increased resilience. Such initiatives has been suggested to be integrated into District Development Plans so that the low cost ICT applications and radio broadcasts in addition to extension workers can enable farmers and foresters access information on climate-smart practices. To mitigate climate change impact, some of the strategic priorities highlighted by the assessment are:
– Integrating NFLRS in District Development Plans, as well as across newly drafted or revised policies and laws, in particular into National Resilience Plan, disaster risk management projects and programmes;
– Supporting multiagency and cross-sectoral program design and aligning parallel initiatives within ministries and among stakeholders on restoration, climate change, and sustainable and climate resilient economic and social development.

Through the extensive landscape restoration efforts that will take place in Malawi over the coming years, deforested and degraded landscapes will be restored and transformed to be more resilient to climate change and natural disasters.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under review at HLPF (2019)	Global Forest Goals (GFG)	Forest Landscape Restoration contribution to targets (Interconnections addressed via ROAM analysis)
17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS — Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development. Targets: 17.3 Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources 17.14 Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development 17.16 Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries 17.17 Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships	Global Forest Goal 4: Mobilize significantly increased, new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of SFM and strengthen scientific and technical cooperation and partnerships. Targets: 4.2 Forest-related financing from all sources at all levels, including public (national, bilateral, multilateral and triangular), private and philanthropic financing is significantly increased. 4.5 The collection, availability and accessibility of forest-related information is improved through, for example, multi-disciplinary scientific assessments. Global Forest Goal 5: Promote governance frameworks to implement SFM, including through the UN Forest Instrument, and enhance the contribution of forests to the 2030 Agenda. Targets: 5.1 Number of countries which have integrated forests into their national sustainable development plans. 5.3 National and subnational forest-related policies and programs are coherent, coordinated and complementary across ministries, departments and authorities, consistent with national laws, and engage relevant stakeholders, local communities and indigenous peoples, fully recognizing	FLR can only be realized with a strong commitment to partnership and cross-sectoral coordination at national and local level. **Effective public-private-civil society and multi-stakeholder partnerships and cross-sectoral coordination:** The assessment involved equal, effective and active participation of stakeholders in decision-making processes complemented by knowledge sharing and dissemination to promote and support FLR implementation. The NLFRA was led by Malawi's Minister of Natural Resources, Energy and Mining in collaboration with government departments in the Ministries of Agriculture, Water and Irrigation; Lands; Local Government; Finance; Gender and Social Services; and other stakeholders. A multi-sector National Taskforce was organized to guide and support the national assessment process, including the consultations with academia, civil society, district authorities and communities. National Taskforce members were urged to take the NFLRA process as an integral part of their departmental and ministry's contribution to the national sustainable development agenda. National Forest Landscape Restoration Strategy advocates for a "whole of government" effort to support FLR scaling up, together with expanded communication, capacity building, and extension support and other policy measures. **Financing mechanisms identified for forest landscape restoration:** Potential sources of funding necessary to bring restoration to scale in Malawi and capitalize a national restoration fund included reprogramming and realigning domestic public funding toward restoration activities. For example, food/cash-for-work programs, reduce/remove subsidies that leads to unsustainable practices, national restoration fund, as exemplified in Rwanda and Guatemala, to transfer a portion of public tax revenues to a fund that finances sustainable land use and restoration activities and to attract private-sector financing. Other sources include: national and international private investments and public-private partnerships that provide a return on investment linked to restoration interventions; microfinance institutions, community development financial institutions, and revolving loan funds; development finance institutions (DFIs), Global Environment Facility and other climate related financing such as the Green Climate Fund. Several key strategies have been identified that will facilitate financial opportunities for restoration:

the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

5.4 Forest-related issues and the forest sector are fully integrated into decision-making processes of land use planning and development.

Global Forest Goal 6: Enhance cooperation, coordination, coherence and synergies on forest-related issues at all levels, including within the UN System and across CPF member organizations, as well as across sectors and relevant stakeholders.

<u>Targets:</u>

6.3 Cross-sectoral coordination and cooperation to promote SFM and halt deforestation and forest degradation is significantly enhanced at all levels.

- Supporting farming communities to use solidarity and community lending mechanisms to incentivize community investment in restoration;
- Creating and supporting local and national institutions to extend credit to smallholders;
- Increasing support and incentives for private investment to establish and manage commercial plantations aimed at production of high-value forest products;
- Increasing economic incentives and market access for sustainable and certified forest products from well-managed forests and plantations.

Coherent government frameworks, national and subnational policy, programmes and planning: The Assessment included policy analysis prepared for discussion by legislators to support implementation across sectors to ensure effective and equitable implementation. The NFLRA reviewed the legal frameworks, regulations and policies in Malawi to inform decision makers on the key areas where FLR can be integrated, and highlights the cross-sectoral support needed for ensuring multiple FLR outcomes. For example, FLR opportunities, priority areas and interventions were proposed to be integrated into existing food security and poverty reduction policies and plans, such as district development plans. Coordination between the Department of Forest and Department of Agriculture was proposed to help foster integration across sectors of policies, actions and strategies to meet FLR implementation objectives. Existing policies and strategies also recognize needs for coordination. For example, the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan II (2015) recommends cross-sectoral integration that can enhance the management and protection of forests, biodiversity, land and water. The National Water Policy (2005) and the National Forestry Policy (2016) are linked as they promote forestry sector participation in water resource conservation and management. The National Land Policy (2002) calls for community and village development organisations to be encouraged to practice agroforestry. Several key strategies have been identified that will facilitate cross-sectoral policy integration. For example, to create an enabling environment that fosters widespread adoption of agricultural technologies, existing agriculture, forest, and climate policies need harmonization. These include the National Agriculture Policy (2016), the National Forest Policy (2016), and the National Climate Change Policy (2015).

The multi-disciplinary scientific assessments and forest-related knowledge sharing: participatory restoration assessment process, like ROAM, used best knowledge of stakeholders with multi-disciplinary background combined with best science available globally to guide the effective implementation of FLR in

Malawi. Moreover, the assessment process has built the capacity of country FLR focal points seeking to implement or accelerate landscape restoration programmes and strategies across sectors. The stakeholders involved in the process are equipped with the tools and knowledge needed to assess the total extent of landscape restoration opportunities, priority areas for forest landscape restoration and facilitate achievement of domestic objectives and goals towards national low carbon development, enhance biodiversity and food security, and increase climate resilience. Several key strategies have been identified that will facilitate knowledge dissemination and awareness raising:

- Integrate FLR into the educational curriculum on climate change being implemented by schools in Malawi through the Department of Forestry engagement with school administrators
- Increase technical support and training, expand communication, and outreach through extension services, farm radio and ICT initiatives. Ensure that knowledge-sharing programs are designed for both women and men to reduce knowledge and skill barriers and promote adoption.
- Disseminating NFLRA outcomes across ministries to foster cross-sectoral collaboration as well as access to finance for implementation.
- Expand communication and outreach to share information broadly about restoration techniques and benefits, and to mobilize a restoration movement.

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