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70 YEARS WORKING TOGETHER IN THE SERVICE OF FORESTS AND PEOPLE

Forest and Landscape Restoration works under climate change conditions in the region



**Las2017 - Joint Session of the ECE Committee on Forests and
the Forest Industry and the FAO European Forestry Commission**
9-13 October 2017, Warsaw, Poland

Background on Forest and Landscape Restoration (FLR)

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- Deforestation and land degradation are major causes of biodiversity loss and significantly reduce the productivity of the natural assets upon which the well-being of humanity relies
- Given the right tools and incentives, much of the deforested and degraded lands can be restored
- There is a growing awareness of the importance of forest and landscape restoration
 - NDCs
 - SDG 15
 - LDN
 - Bonn Challenge
 - Aichi Targets



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FAO's FLR Mechanism

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- Facilitating a multi-stakeholder process in selected countries to define needs and opportunities for FLR
- Developing, compiling and disseminating tools and best practices related to FLR
- Supporting the establishment of pilot projects and helping broker new large-scale projects and programmes (GCF, GEF, etc.)
- Leading work on FLR monitoring and sustainable financing, including more engagement by private sector

Importance of FLR for Europe and Central Asia

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- Degradation is not a major issue at the European level, but is important in specific regions and biomes, e.g. cork oak forests
- In entire Mediterranean basin, approximately 80 million ha of wooded landscapes were degraded to some extent
- Eastern European and Central Asian countries face important challenges
- lack of resources and capacities on personal, institutional and societal level is an important issue



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FAO support to FLR in Europe and Central Asia (1/2)

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- REU/SEC have been implementing several national and regional forest and land restoration projects in the region with landscape approaches
- Several sources of project funding (TCP, GEF, GCF, etc)
- FAO-Turkish Forest Partnership programme has been set up to further facilitate restoration and conservation of forests and landscapes
- FAO support through *Silva Mediterranea* working group on desertification and restoration in Mediterranean drylands



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FAO support to FLR in Europe and Central Asia (2/2)

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- FAO has produced “Global guidelines for the restoration of degraded forests and landscapes in drylands - Building resilience and sustainable livelihoods”
- 2018 State of Mediterranean Forests (SoMF) report will include chapter on FLR
- 5th Mediterranean Forest Week had special focus on forest and landscape restoration, and mitigation and adaptation of Mediterranean forest landscapes to climate change
- New regional Mediterranean initiative aims to restore at least 8 million hectares by 2030 – “Agadir Commitment”



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Points for consideration (1/3)

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The European Forestry Commission may wish to invite countries to:

1. develop or strengthen mechanisms to ensure greater inter-sectoral cooperation amongst various land management agencies responsible for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and livestock management through a more integrated landscape approach;
2. strengthen forest and landscape restoration activities at all levels and support the mobilization of adequate resources;
3. provide financial and/or in-kind contributions to scale up the FLR Mechanism at FAO.



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Points for consideration (2/3)

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The European Forestry Commission may wish to recommend to FAO to:

1. support country efforts in the region to plan and implement activities related to the restoration of forests and other degraded lands, in particular through activities of the FLR Mechanism, including national strategy and actions plan;
2. seek further cooperation with regional partners to promote the restoration of degraded lands, in particular through direct involvement in global partnerships and initiatives, including the GPFLR, International Model Forest Network, and the Landscapes for People, Food and Nature Initiative, as well as with the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests;



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Points for consideration (3/3)

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The European Forestry Commission may wish to recommend to FAO to:

3. Engage in cross-cutting and inter-departmental work to support landscape approaches;
4. Pursue active engagement with multilateral, bilateral and private sector resource partners, including the GEF, Green Climate Fund and multilateral and regional development banks, to enable FAO to increase its support to member countries in FLR activities.



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Thank you!

www.fao.org/in-action/forest-landscape-restoration-mechanism/en/



Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism

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UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section

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