



# Forest management and restoration

SDGs in focus



Read all Forest management and restoration highlights: [ar2016.cifor.org/FMR](http://ar2016.cifor.org/FMR)

A number of ambitious global plans are asking countries to restore millions of hectares of forest by 2020, including the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR 100), the Bonn Challenge, the Convention on Biological Diversity Aichi Targets and Initiative 20x20.

To help nations meet their restoration targets, the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) is working on two main areas: forest landscape restoration and building national and local capacity in forest management. Scientists aim to address factors that help or hinder rural people's access to forest resources and to find more equitable ways to manage forests for better productivity.

## Research priorities

### Putting forest landscape restoration into practice

- **Finding bottlenecks to restoration success:** CIFOR is identifying what promotes or blocks good outcomes from restoration activities by comparing legal and policy frameworks, national plans and regulatory instruments dealing with restoration and reforestation – including natural regeneration.
- **Assessing Latin America's carbon storage potential:** CIFOR is building evidence of how much carbon may be stored up to 2030 through natural regeneration, tree planting and restoring high-carbon ecosystems such as wetlands and peatlands.
- **Determining where to restore and with what approach:** Through literature reviews and expert interviews, researchers aim to identify the best tools and approaches for forest landscape restoration in specific geographies and sociopolitical contexts.
- **Involving local people in monitoring:** CIFOR's research on participatory monitoring of forest restoration activities throughout the tropics is delivering lessons on how to chart a path to success.

### Strengthening capacity in forest management

- **Biodiversity and restoration in Colombia:** CIFOR is assessing what factors help or hinder the success of legally mandated restoration activities that aim to compensate environmental damage and loss of biodiversity in the mining, hydrocarbon, infrastructure and renewable energy sectors.
- **Redefining 'secondary forests' in Mexico:** CIFOR is supporting the Government of Mexico as it drafts its National Restoration Plan, through a national gap needs assessment and a reexamination of how secondary

forests are defined. As a result, forest-dependent communities that were blocked from harvesting timber and other forest products will be able to continue their traditional practices under the new law.

- **Connecting forest experts in Asia and Africa:** By bringing together researchers from China and Ethiopia, CIFOR is helping to generate new evidence on best practices in forest management. Scientists are sharing their experiences on the role of the state in financing restoration initiatives, as well as on monitoring and follow-up. The aim is to facilitate co-learning and to design targeted support for communities engaged in restoring landscapes.
- **Synthesis work on topics that are important for policy and practice:** In Latin America, researchers are finalizing a regional assessment on how existing legal frameworks and policy instruments either hinder or promote forest landscape restoration. CIFOR is also finalizing a global review to assess the cost effectiveness of existing prioritization restoration tools and approaches, from a biophysical and socioeconomic angle.

## The way we work

- **Capacity building:** CIFOR links training through research by master's and PhD students in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and engages with local and national institutions in several tropical countries on forest management issues in which governments have a role to play.
- **Sustainable development:** In order to achieve the greatest impact, all of the work of the forest management and restoration team is aligned with the [Sustainable Development Goals](#), particularly Goal 14: Life below water and Goal 15: Life on land.

- **Gender-inclusive restoration planning:** CIFOR is lobbying restoration practitioners and researchers to ensure their work includes local participants and gender-balanced audiences, to promote equitable and socially inclusive planning and monitoring. Research on participatory approaches to monitoring forest restoration will include lessons learned about how gender affects the outcomes of a given restoration practice.

## Outreach

The forest management and restoration team shares key research findings on forest landscape restoration with practitioners, decision makers and policy experts through publications, presentations, blogs and social media. The team actively participates in events such as the [Global Landscapes Forum](#), the [Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity](#) and the [Society for Ecological Restoration's World Conference](#).

## Story of change

### How to reach global goals while meeting local needs

As countries around the world rise to the Bonn Challenge of restoring 150 million hectares of forest by 2020, China has valuable experience to offer. Drawing on years of collaborative research on China's Conversion of Cropland to Forests Program (CCFP) – the world's largest afforestation and environmental compensation initiative – CIFOR's Sloping Lands in Transition (SLANT) project brought together scientists and government forestry officials in China and Ethiopia to exchange knowledge and draw insights on how countries can find solutions for both forests and people.

Since 1999, the CCFP helped upstream farmers restore 30 million hectares of sloping lands with trees and grasses in 25 Chinese provinces, in exchange for seeds, training and subsidies to cover lost farm income.

**Project:** Sloping Lands in Transition (SLANT).

**Countries:** China, Ethiopia, Nepal.

**Read more:** [ar2016.cifor.org/FMRstory](http://ar2016.cifor.org/FMRstory)

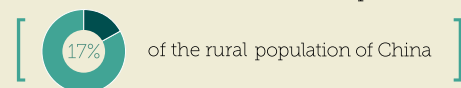
# \$50 billion

US dollars invested in CCFP since 1999

30 million hectares restored under CCFP

15 million hectares committed to be restored by Ethiopia for the Bonn Challenge

32 million households compensated



**Restoration is learning by practice. You can't define it from the start, but need to learn it step by step. To learn that, you need to monitor and document it for the next generation.**

**Emiru Birhane**, PhD, Professor at Mekelle University, Ethiopia, on drawing lessons from China's experience.



RESEARCH PROGRAM ON Forests, Trees and Agroforestry

The CGIAR Research Program on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry (FTA) is the world's largest research for development program to enhance the role of forests, trees and agroforestry in sustainable development and food security and to address climate change. CIFOR leads FTA in partnership with Bioversity International, CATIE, CIRAD, ICRAF, INBAR and TBI.



### Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)

CIFOR advances human well-being, equity and environmental integrity by conducting innovative research, developing partners' capacity, and actively engaging in dialogue with all stakeholders to inform policies and practices that affect forests and people. CIFOR is a CGIAR Research Center, and leads the CGIAR Research Program on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry (FTA). Our headquarters are in Bogor, Indonesia, with offices in Nairobi, Kenya; Yaounde, Cameroon; and Lima, Peru.

