

The Essence of Forest and Landscape Restoration: Beyond Bandwagons and Business as Usual

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PARTNERS Research Coordination Network**



Why is FLR needed?

In many forest regions, social and biophysical systems are in a degradative cycle

Threatened and endangered species are at risk of local extinction due to continued deforestation and forest degradation

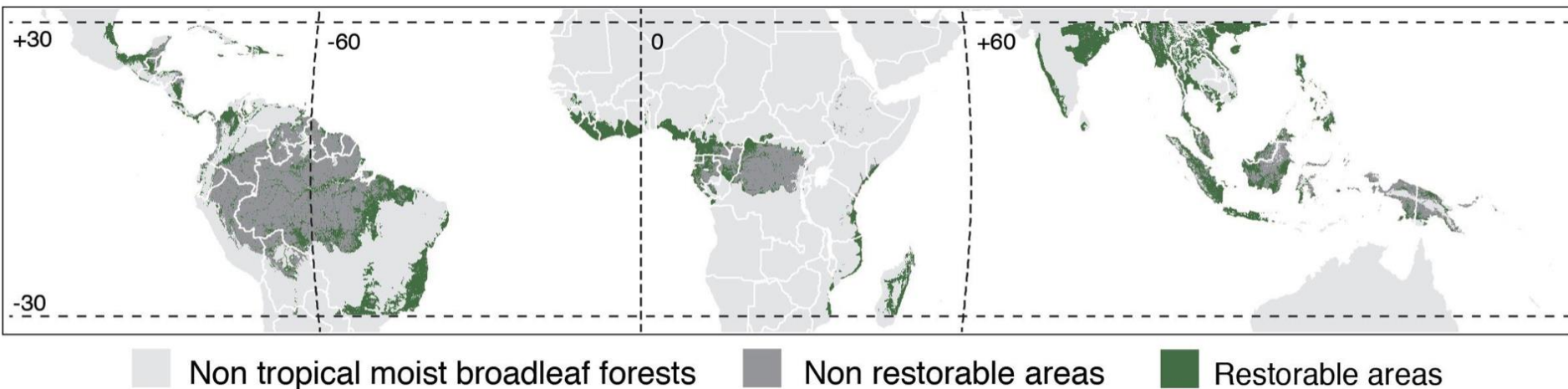
Ecosystem services and productivity are severely reduced

Site-level interventions are inadequate to recover landscape functions

Sectoral approaches have failed to meet needs of local people and cause social and economic conflicts



Global restorable area in lowland tropical rainforest landscapes (863 Mha)



Brancalion, P. H. S., A. Niamir, E. N. Broadbent, R. Crouzeilles, F. Barros, A. M. Almeyda Zambrano, A. Baccini, J. Aronson, S. Goetz, J. L. Reid, B. N. Strassburg, L. Tambosi, S. Wilson, and R. L. Chazdon. 2019. Global restoration opportunities in tropical rainforest landscapes. *Science Advances* (in review).

Beyond business as usual

Deforestation: loss of biodiversity and timber stock

monoculture plantation
forestry



Failure to deliver
ecosystem services and
other societal benefits
of forests

conservation in
protected areas

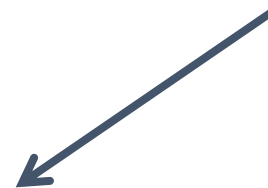


Failure to prevent
deforestation and
biodiversity loss outside
of protected areas

forest ecosystem
restoration



Failure to achieve scale
and provide benefits
for local people

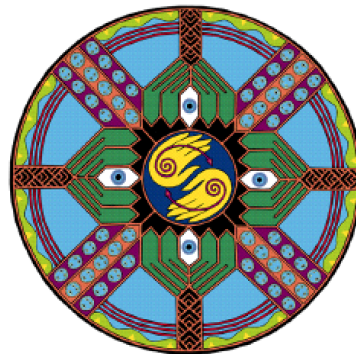


Holistic approach that strives to balance improvement in ecological integrity, livelihoods, human well-being, and landscape functions in deforested or degraded forest landscapes



Forests Reborn

Sustainable
published by the International



Developments
Institute for Sustainable Development

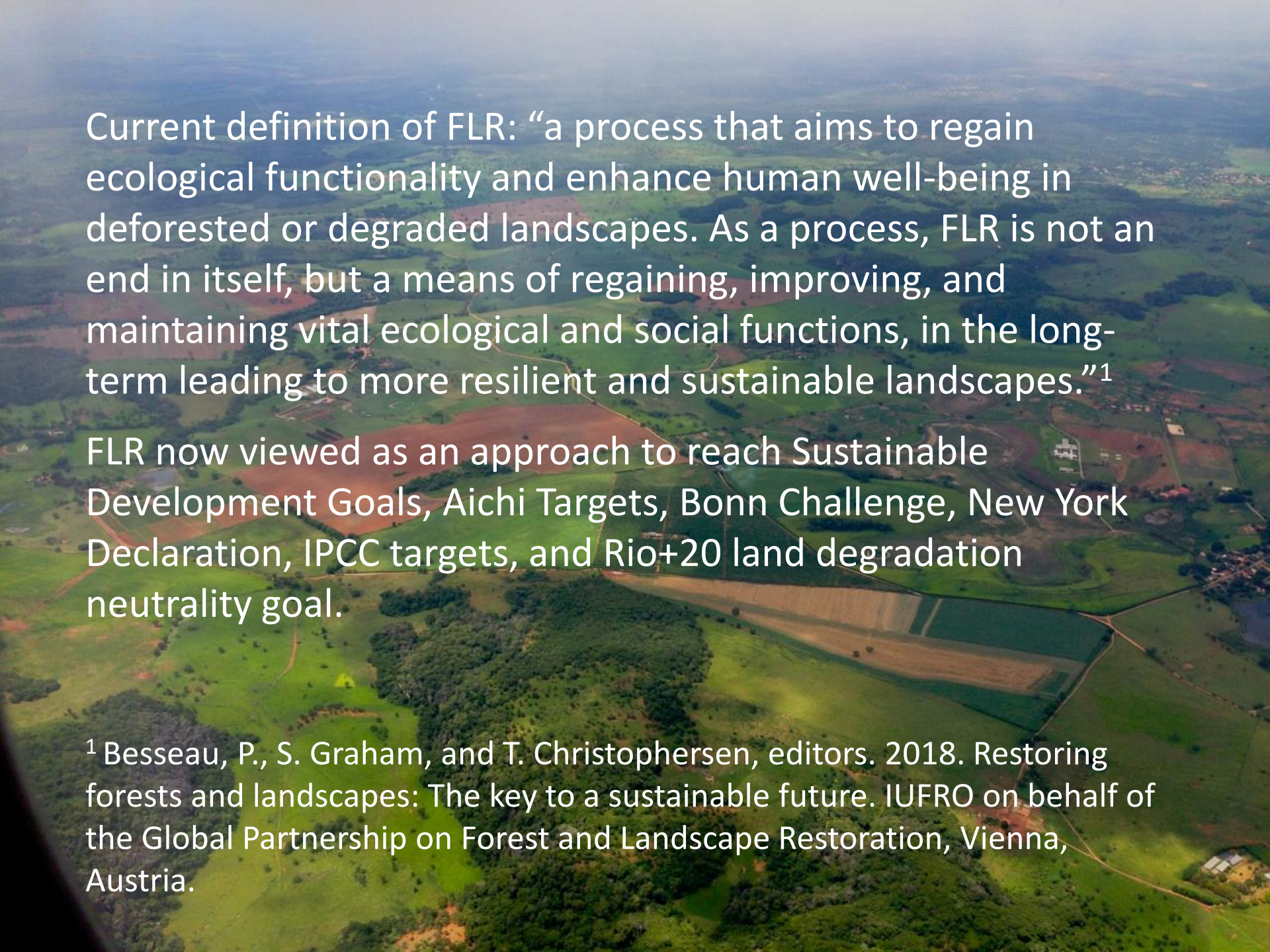
Volume 71, Number 1

Saturday, 2 March 2002

A SUMMARY REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL EXPERT MEETING ON FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION
ON-LINE AT [HTTP://WWW.IISD.CA/LINKAGES/SD/SDCFR/](http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/sd/sdcfr/)

**SUMMARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL EXPERT
MEETING ON FOREST LANDSCAPE
RESTORATION
27-28 FEBRUARY 2002**

In July 2000, WWF and IUCN held a workshop on forest restoration in Segovia, Spain. The workshop aimed to forge a framework and process, taking into account regional variations and priorities, for exploring and promoting innovative approaches to socially and



Current definition of FLR: “a process that aims to regain ecological functionality and enhance human well-being in deforested or degraded landscapes. As a process, FLR is not an end in itself, but a means of regaining, improving, and maintaining vital ecological and social functions, in the long-term leading to more resilient and sustainable landscapes.”¹

FLR now viewed as an approach to reach Sustainable Development Goals, Aichi Targets, Bonn Challenge, New York Declaration, IPCC targets, and Rio+20 land degradation neutrality goal.

¹ Besseau, P., S. Graham, and T. Christophersen, editors. 2018. Restoring forests and landscapes: The key to a sustainable future. IUFRO on behalf of the Global Partnership on Forest and Landscape Restoration, Vienna, Austria.

FLR aligned with Sustainable Development Goals



Emphasis on people-centered functions in landscapes rather than eco-centric goal of forest restoration

Landscape approach addresses trade-offs in land use and outcomes and engages multiple stakeholder groups



Departure from sectoral view of land use that builds on the complementarity functions and activities within a landscape

Core principles of Forest and Landscape Restoration

Focus on
landscapes

Restore multiple
landscape functions

Engage diverse
stakeholders and
support participatory
governance

Tailor to local context using
a variety of approaches

Maintain and enhance
natural ecosystems

Manage adaptively for
long-term resilience

Forest Landscape Restoration

CARBON CAPTURE & STORAGE

By increasing vegetation extent and density cover

BIOLOGICALLY DIVERSE HABITATS

By ecological restoration with native species

STABLE & RICH SOILS

By active regeneration on degraded slopes.

VIABLE INDIGENOUS & LOCAL COMMUNITIES

By collaborating with forest users

STABLE SUPPLIES OF CLEAN WATER

By planting trees along streams and rivers

FOOD SECURITY & NUTRITION

By diversifying food sources

PRODUCTIVE CROPS

By using trees for shade, nutrients, and other benefits in agroforestry

CULTURAL HERITAGE

By sustaining local identities and knowledge

ENERGY FOR COOKING & HEAT

By improving management of woodlots

FOREST PRODUCTS

By improving management of plantations

OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECREATION & ECOTOURISM

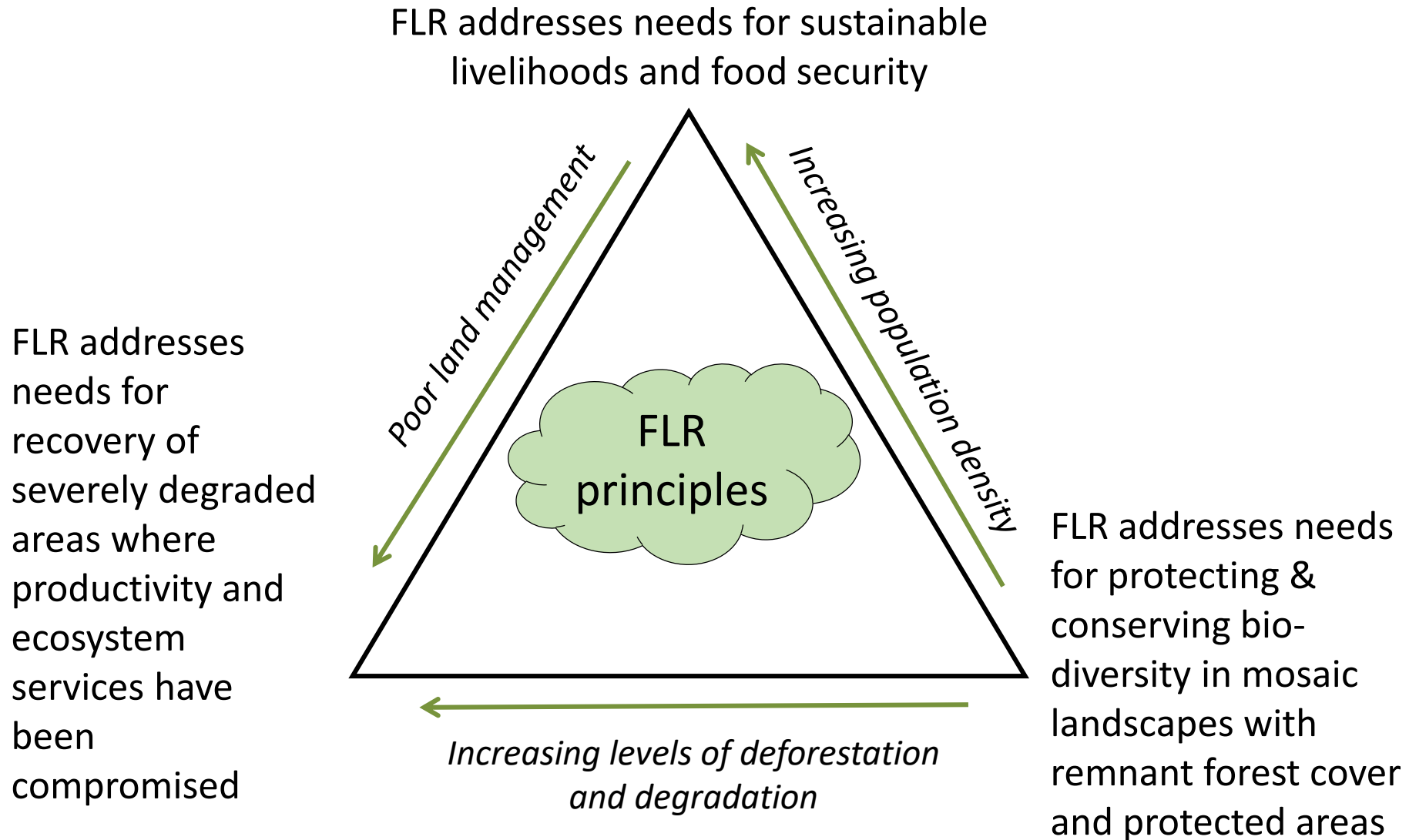
By natural regeneration in forest buffers

FOREST FRUIT, MUSHROOMS, MEDICINES, HONEY, ETC.

By increasing forest area and richness



Balance among FLR interventions can vary widely according to the context



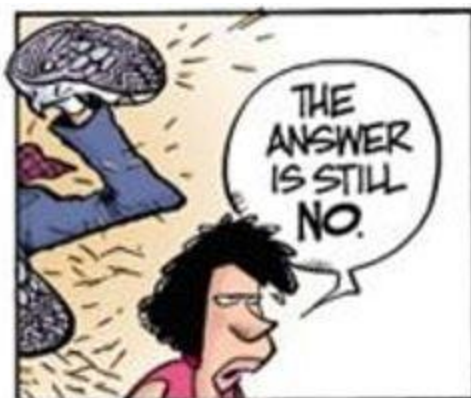
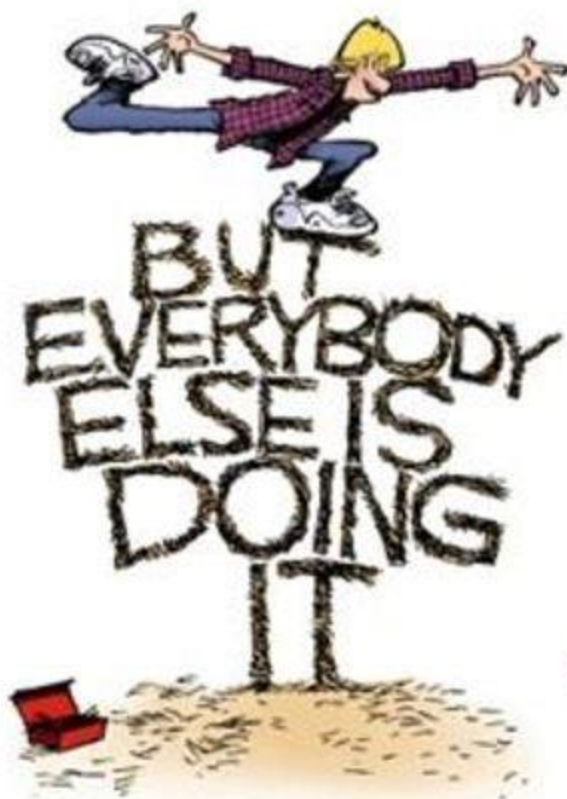
Local governance structure



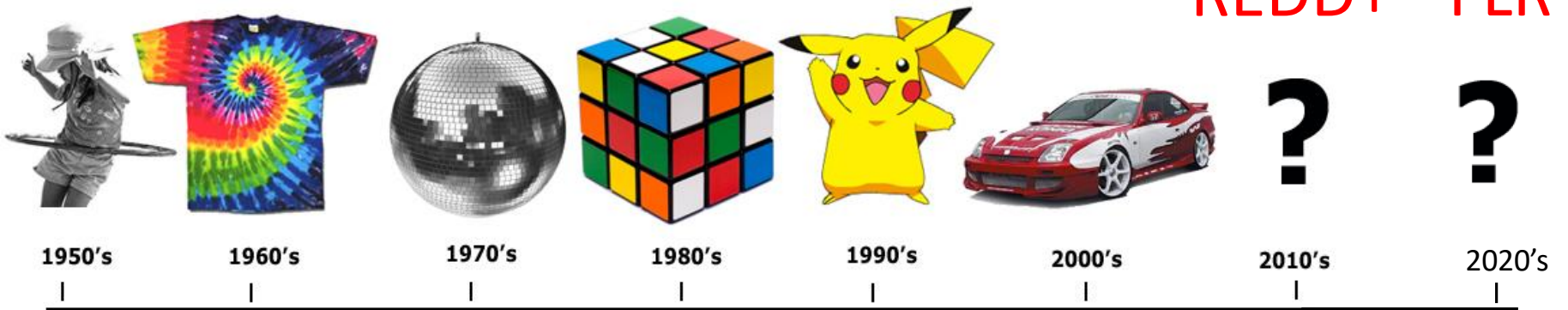
What FLR is about

- A process that unfolds over time
- Engagement of local stakeholders
- Based on socio-ecological principles
- Changing the status quo
- Long-term commitment and investment
- Departure from past practices that were ineffective or caused degradation
- Establishing restorative cycles and resilient socio-ecological systems
- Integrated landscape approaches



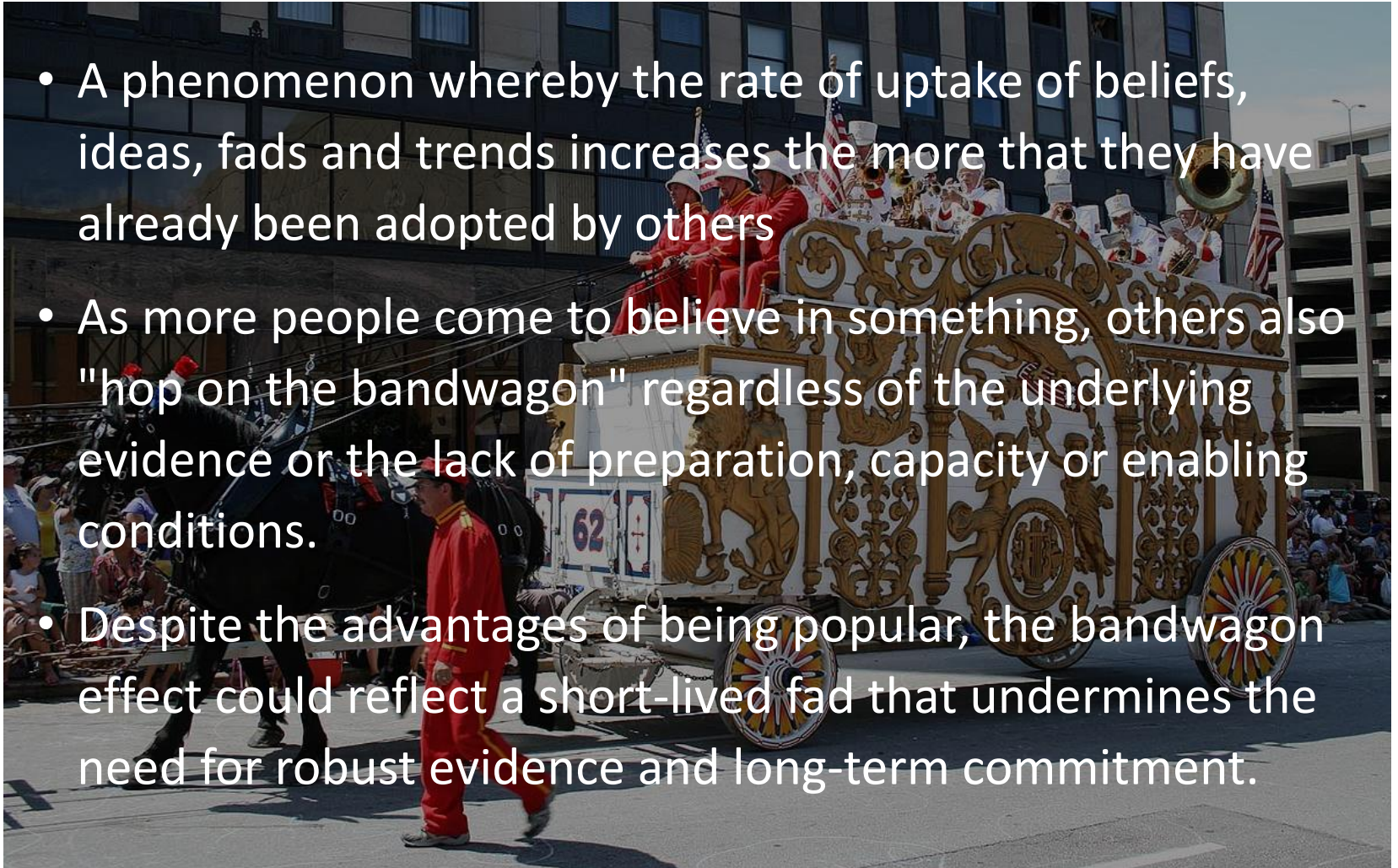


Popular Fads Over the Years



The *bandwagon effect*

- A phenomenon whereby the rate of uptake of beliefs, ideas, fads and trends increases the more that they have already been adopted by others
- As more people come to believe in something, others also "hop on the bandwagon" regardless of the underlying evidence or the lack of preparation, capacity or enabling conditions.
- Despite the advantages of being popular, the bandwagon effect could reflect a short-lived fad that undermines the need for robust evidence and long-term commitment.



How to avoid bandwagon effect?

- Initiate and generate wide support for a process
- Work to create enabling conditions
- Support local and regional leaders and champions
- Develop a robust evidence base that links interventions and socio-ecological outcomes
- Build strong motivations for action from multiple groups and levels
- Demonstrate additional benefits that derive from long-term commitment
- Avoid overly optimistic expectations
- Adaptive management
- Stick to principles!

Core principles of Forest and Landscape Restoration

An aerial photograph of a vast, green forested landscape. In the background, there are rolling hills and mountains under a clear sky. The foreground and middle ground are filled with dense, vibrant green trees and vegetation, with some lighter green patches indicating different types of forest or open areas. The overall scene is a healthy, thriving ecosystem.

Focus on
landscapes

Restore multiple
landscape functions

Engage diverse
stakeholders and
support participatory
governance

Tailor to local context using
a variety of approaches

Maintain and enhance
natural ecosystems

Manage adaptively for
long-term resilience

What FLR is NOT about

- Reforestation using intensive monoculture forestry of exotic species across entire landscape
- Short-term tree planting schemes with no emphasis on long-term success or community engagement
- Land grabbing for forestry operations
- Greenwashing
- Governments dictating how local people should manage their land
- Few benefits to local communities from interventions
- Tree planting to compensate for continued deforestation and forest degradation in the landscape or region
- An external intervention based on a 3-yr project with no follow up and no exit plan
- A race to break a tree-planting record!


ENVIRONMENT 02/27/2011 12:31 pm ET | Updated May 25, 2011

Tree Planting Record Broken In Philippines

By Joanna Zelman



Speedy tree planting may be the answer to the world's dwindling forest problem. This past Thursday, over 64,000 trees were planted in 15 minutes, breaking the world record for the most trees planted simultaneously.



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Chris Wallace Sternly Fart



Volunteers plant trees in Allahabad, India, on July 11, as part of an effort to restore 50 million trees in a day.

PHOTOGRAPH BY RAJESH KUMAR SINGH, ASSOCIATED PRESS

India Plants 50 Million Trees in One Day, Smashing World Record

More than 800,000 volunteers pitched in to help the country fight climate change.

[Home](#) > [All News](#) > [World](#) > India Plants Record-breaking 66 Million Trees in 12 Hours



[All News](#) [World](#)

India Plants Record-breaking 66 Million Trees in 12 Hours

By **McKinley Corbley** - Jul 6, 2017





Monte Alto Reserve, 25 yr secondary forest



1. ¿Cómo se transformó un terreno desolado en bosque?

La gente de esta zona, junto con la tierra generosa que heredó, logró que Monte Alto se llenara nuevamente de vida natural.

1. How was a desolate land transformed into forest?

The local people, along with the generous land they inherited, have managed to fill Monte Alto with natural life once more.



Embajada
de la República Federal de Alemania
San José

Donación para la Construcción del
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Programa Pequeños Proyectos

Fundación Pro Reserva Forestal Monte Alto
Hojancha - Guanacaste
29 de Agosto de 2008

Making Everything Easier!

3rd Edition

Forest & Landscape Restoration Kit

FOR
DUMMIES

Learn to:

- Set up and implement successful FLR practices
- Increase likelihood of effective landscape-scale outcomes
- Navigate organizational and institutional bureaucracy and reporting requirements



CD includes updated forms and contracts

Robin Chazdon
CEO, Forestation Partners, LLC



Thank you!

Salamat!

