

Forest landscape restoration (FLR) can generate economic benefits for local communities and safeguard forest goods and services necessary for the social and economic stability of future generations.

Why FLR

In the last two decades, Peru has lost more than 2 million ha of Amazon forest. Another 3.5 million ha correspond to a mosaic of forest, crops, pasture and *purmas* rotation systems managed by small-scale farmers.

The government of Peru has committed the restoration of 3.2 million ha of degraded and deforested land to the Bonn Challenge, simultaneously helping the country respond to national priorities, such as water and food security and rural development. As the National Restoration Programme was developed, FLR emerged as a key strategy, focusing on the restoration of ecological functions (including productivity), and surpassed the limited approach of reforestation through plantations.

In Padre Abad province, located in central Amazon region of Ucayali, a Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM) was carried out by ICRAF, National Forestry and Wildlife Service and IUCN to identify the best restoration options to implement climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies. Although the province still retains 75% forest cover, it has lost approximately 144,000 ha of forest in the last 18 years as a result of the expansion of the agricultural frontier. The ecosystem goods and services to be restored in Padre Abad include: water regulation; soil fertility; production of wood and non-timber forest products; and biodiversity.

For further information: [Lessons learnt for FLR in Peru](#)

QUICK FACTS

- **Peru has pledged 3.2 million ha to the Bonn Challenge.**
- **Average maximum carbon storage for suggested FLR interventions range from +14.5 to +200.5 tCO₂ per ha.**
- **Establishing ‘perennial crops associated with trees’ in Shambillo pilot site alone can reduce net emissions by over 4 million tCO₂eq/year by 2027, compared to a business-as-usual scenario.**

How to restore the landscape

After mapping the degraded areas and prioritising zones in Padre Abad Province, 78,510 ha were identified as having potential to implement selected practices for FLR, grouped according to:

- Practices aimed at restoration/protection;
- practices oriented to forestry production; and
- practices focused on agricultural production.

The proposed eight FLR interventions are strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and manage degraded areas,

FLR INTERVENTIONS

1. **Purmas or remnant forest, enrichment by strip planting**
2. **Mixed tree species plantations in the open fields**
3. **Monospecific tree plantations associated with annual crops**
4. **Mixed tree plantations associated with annual crops**
5. **Perennial crops associated with trees**
6. **Management of natural regeneration in pasture**
7. **Hedges; in pasture, boundary areas and crops**
8. **Forest in riparian areas and basin headwater**

which clearly align with regional, national and international plans and policies.

High costs can represent barriers to the adoption of any of the suggested FLR interventions. At the same time, it also offers the opportunity to develop appropriate and attractive incentives for the adoption, and scaling-up of practices.

BENEFITS & OPPORTUNITIES

FLR addresses both climate change mitigation and adaptation issues. With regard to mitigation, FLR results in the reforestation and the rehabilitation of degraded landscapes at scale, leading to the enhancement of carbon sinks. Carbon benefits will be generated as soon as restoration actions are initiated.

In terms of adaptation to climate change, FLR enhances ecosystem resilience and reduces social and economic vulnerabilities of forest-dependent people and local communities. Restoring forests, as well as the number and health of trees in landscapes, can reduce soil erosion and flooding associated with extreme weather events, regulate and restore micro-climatic conditions, improve water quality, and increase biodiversity and livelihood resilience.

Increasing forest cover can enhance biodiversity conservation. Strategically located restoration efforts can expand protected areas, create species migration corridors and reintroduce habitats that have all but disappeared. Promoting vast array of social benefits (poverty reduction, food security, empowerment of communities, gender responsive implementation, etc.) and ecological benefits from restored landscapes will attract private sector and public investments.

At the national level, the FLR agenda contributes to the implementation of subnational REDD+, in collaboration with the Regional Environmental Authority.

Next steps

The following recommendations are proposed:

- Align the climate change adaptation, mitigation and restoration agendas.
- Establish a technical committee to follow-up on FLR planning and implementation process with binding decisions across all sectors and stakeholders.
- Promote continued involvement of small-scale producers during the detailed FLR planning process.
- Strengthen municipal governments and improve the use of instruments to comply with FLR commitments.
- Seek spatial data on different land uses to ground decision making in terms of best options for carbon storage.
- Integrate traditional and scientific knowledge to improve management.
- Promote coordination across different institutions to secure funds for the Alto Shambillo pilot site implementation.

For further information,:

- [FLR Opportunities in Padre Abad](#)
- [Cost-Benefit Analysis of FLR in Peru](#)
- [Experiences of FLR with ROAM in Peru](#)

Resources:

InfoFLR.org
iucn.org/forests

