

*Forest landscape restoration (FLR) contributes to Viet Nam's local and national economies, sequesters significant amounts of carbon, strengthens food security and clean water supplies, and safeguards biodiversity.*

## Why FLR

Located in central Viet Nam, Quang Tri Province embraced forest restoration in the 1980s by planting short-rotation acacia to produce low-value wood chips. Overall, however, natural forest cover has declined, especially due to land conversion for expanding agriculture.

The resilience of forest landscapes is undermined by the impacts of low-quality planted forests in rural communities and climate change, posing a serious threats to the forest-dependent communities' livelihoods in Quang Tri.

FLR has become widely recognised as an important means of restoring large areas of degraded and deforested land. The IUCN and Quang Tri Department of Forest Protection conducted an assessment to identify FLR opportunities in the province.

The goals of FLR in Quang Tri are to: increase forest biodiversity and quality; conserve and enhance ecosystem services (including watershed protection, erosion prevention, and habitat conservation for biodiversity); and improve livelihoods for local people to reduce the need to encroach on forests.

To meet these goals, 11% of the province was grouped according to the following restoration areas:

- Special-use forest (poor quality sites);
- Biodiversity corridor (selected areas);
- Plantations upstream of key river basins; and
- Agricultural land at high risk of erosion.

## QUICK FACTS

- **Quang Tri has 54,000 ha of priority areas for restoration.**
- **All the suggested FLR options increase carbon sequestration.**
- **Enrichment planting stores an extra 97 tCO<sub>2</sub>e per ha compared to poor quality forest.**
- **Proposed FLR interventions have higher investment return rates and increased yields compared to business-as-usual scenarios.**

Four intervention options were identified:

1. Enrichment planting and assisted natural regeneration in degraded natural forests, which improves forest quality and biodiversity, reduces erosion, improves water quality and provides alternative sources of income.
2. Extended rotation converts short-rotation acacia plantations into longer-rotation plantations, reducing soil erosion and sedimentation, and improving water quality, while increasing income from high-value timber.
3. Native species introduction in acacia plantations prepares for a shift from monoculture to a more diverse forest, improving ecological outcomes with a stronger emphasis on biodiversity.

4. Soil and water conservation in rainfed agriculture reduces erosion and increases water retention, contributing to higher yields. Good practices include use of fertiliser, intercropping, and sustainable use of cross-slope barriers.

## Benefits & opportunities

Enhancing forest quality would increase carbon stocks, improve soil and water conservation, and support biodiversity.

Intercropping, cross-slope barriers and other measures have shown to reduce soil loss, maintain soil fertility and increase yields.

The suggested interventions will increase ecosystem services and will result in better water retention capacity, reduced risk of erosion and landslides, enhanced climate regulation, reduced impacts from storms, pests and diseases, and increased biodiversity and carbon storage.

The analysis shows that the rates of return on investment in the suggested interventions are quite attractive when compared to business-as-usual scenarios. Yields are significantly increased and, in specific cases, profits can double or triple, despite the generally high investment costs.

Support from international donors is crucial for large scale implementation. However, donors require strong government commitment and willingness to implement FLR. By making a pledge to the Bonn Challenge, Viet Nam can demonstrate its regional leadership in Southeast Asia to achieve these ambitious FLR goals and attract more donor support for FLR financing.

## Next steps

Transitioning from a strategy focused on forest quantity to quality would take 20–30 years to complete. This would require reforms at the highest level of government, which has a critical role to play through improved outreach services and infrastructure development.

The following recommendations are proposed:

- **New vision and policy:** Quang Tri, along with neighboring provinces, should prepare a FLR vision that adopts a landscape approach to ensure strict protection of the remaining natural forest, reorient plantations to produce FSC-certified timber over longer rotations, and transition from acacia monocultures to native species forests.
- **Innovative financing:** Seek to reduce financial barriers to a FLR implementation and provide credit to households willing to invest in FLR initiatives; improve payment for ecosystem services mechanisms and set up insurance schemes to reduce risks and encourage farmers to intensify rainfed crops, especially cassava.
- **Improved outreach:** Develop pilot projects and organise visits to successful pilot sites in other provinces to encourage adoption and sustainable crop intensification; help secure group FSC certification for households with less than three hectares; help farmers source and care for native species in order to transition to higher-value timber production.

### For further information, please see:

[FLR Report: FLR in Quang Tri, Viet Nam](#)

[Executive Summary: Assessing Opportunities for FLR in Quang Tri, Viet Nam](#)

[Application of Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology in Asia](#)

### Resources:

[InfoFLR.org](http://InfoFLR.org)  
[iucn.org/forests](http://iucn.org/forests)

