



TO: André Corrêa do Lago - COP30 President, UNFCCC

FROM: Anita Diederichsen- Chair, GPFLR

April, 10th, 2026

Subject: Views on the roadmaps development

Dear Mr André Corrêa do Lago,

We hope this letter finds you well.

The **Global Partnership on Forest and Landscape Restoration** would like to submit our view related to the development of the roadmaps on:

- Transition Away from Fossil Fuels in a Just, Orderly and Equitable Manner; and
- Halting and Reversing Deforestation and Forest Degradation by 2030.

We hope to have your consideration for these ideas, and we would like to take this opportunity to invite UNFCCC to become a member of the Global Partnership on Forest and Landscape Restoration,

Best regards,

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GPFLR

James G. Hallett
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Anita Diederichsen
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The Global Partnership on Forest and Landscape Restoration (GPFLR) warmly welcomes the COP30 Presidency's initiative to develop roadmaps for transitioning away from fossil fuels and for halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation by 2030.

GPFLR is a global network uniting governments, civil society, and research institutions around the shared mission of restoring forests and other ecosystems at the landscape scale. Our work was originally anchored in the Bonn Challenge — the global goal to restore 350 million hectares by 2030, towards which more than 210 million hectares have already been pledged¹.

Forest and landscape restoration (FLR) is defined as a process that aims to regain ecological functionality and enhance human well-being in deforested or degraded landscapes. FLR is not an end in itself, but a means of regaining, improving, and maintaining vital ecological and social functions, that in the long-term leads to more resilient and sustainable landscapes. The GPFLR developed a set of 6 principles to improve the quality of FLR outcomes (Fig. 1).

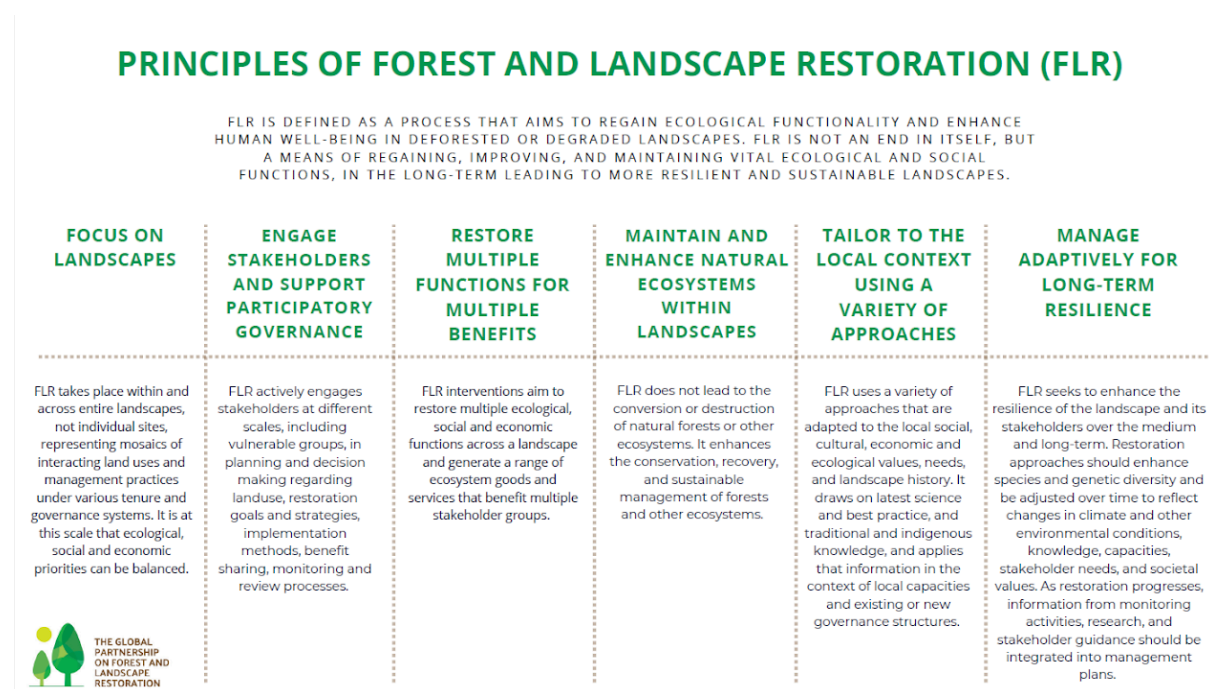


Figure 1 - The GPFLR principles are at the heart of all the GPFLR's members work.

Similarly, members of the GPFLR contributed to development of principles and standards of practice for the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030). The UN Decade was initiated because of the severity of the interconnected crises of biodiversity, climate change, land degradation and desertification, food and water

¹<https://www.bonnchallenge.org/progress>



insecurity, socio-economic inequality, and the urgent need for reversal. Further, the GPFLR and the international movement for ecosystem restoration will provide the expertise to ensure that the UN Decade on Afforestation and Reforestation (2027-2036) results in net gain for ecological integrity, biodiversity, and human well-being, while mitigating climate change.

Our submission addresses both of the UNFCCC roadmaps. Crucially, we wish to underline from the outset that **these two agendas are not parallel tracks: they are deeply interdependent**. Forests and healthy landscapes are essential carbon sinks and regulators of the Earth's climate system. Protecting them is among the most cost-effective and nature-based responses to the fossil fuel era's legacy of atmospheric carbon loading. Conversely, a fossil fuel transition that ignores land use and ecosystem integrity will fall short of the ambition required by the Paris Agreement.

Two cross-cutting principles guide our submission. The first is the landscape approach: the recognition that forests can only be protected and restored sustainably when the full landscape — forests, farmlands, waterways, and the communities living within them — is the unit of planning and action. The second is policy coherence and social justice: the evidence is unambiguous that neither roadmap will succeed without aligning policies across sectors and without addressing the structural inequalities that deprive the world's most effective forest guardians — Indigenous Peoples and local communities — of the rights, resources, and recognition they require.

Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels: The Landscape Dimension

The world's forests hold approximately 861 gigatonnes of carbon² and absorb around 7.6 billion tonnes of CO₂ annually³ — a sink that is already weakening due to deforestation and climate stress. The fossil fuel transition cannot reach net zero without protecting and restoring this natural carbon infrastructure. The two roadmaps must therefore be designed as mutually reinforcing. Currently ~1% of climate finance goes to support reversing deforestation.

Policy coherence and social justice in the transition

- Transition policies must be assessed for their impacts on forests and landscapes. Bioenergy expansion and critical mineral extraction, if ungoverned, risk driving land conversion and displacing forest-dependent communities. Sustainability guardrails, FPIC requirements, and binding benefit-sharing arrangements are non-negotiable.
- Agricultural subsidies, trade rules, and fiscal incentives that reward forest conversion must be reformed.

²Pan, Y. et al. (2011). A large and persistent carbon sink in the world's forests. *Science*, 333, 988–993. <https://doi.org/10.1126/science.1201609>

³Harris, N.L. et al. (2021). Global maps of twenty-first century forest carbon fluxes. *Nature Climate Change*, 11, 234–240. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41558-020-00976-6>



- A just transition demands that fossil-fuel-dependent workers and communities receive income support and alternative livelihoods. For forest-rich developing countries, this means supported pathways to a bioeconomy grounded in sustainable forest and landscape management — not a replication of high-emissions development trajectories.
- Land-based carbon markets must be governed by integrity frameworks that deliver verified climate and community benefits, not mechanisms that entrench fossil fuel combustion while placing the burden of compensation on the world's most marginalised peoples.
- Ensure that adequate finance mechanisms are considered, developed and implemented promoting high quality landscape restoration as part of the transition.

Halting and Reversing Deforestation and Forest Degradation

A 2025 review in *Nature Reviews Earth & Environment* found that 86% of global deforestation between 2001 and 2022 is attributable to crop and cattle production⁴. Forest policy alone cannot address it; what is required is transformation of land use systems, supply chains, and the sectoral policies that govern them.

Our proposition is that restoration should be elevated as a central and immediate solution within this Roadmap. While halting deforestation is essential, it is not sufficient to meet climate, biodiversity, and development goals. Large-scale, high-integrity restoration offers one of the most concrete, readily available, and cost-effective pathways to deliver simultaneous outcomes across these agendas. When implemented at landscape scale and integrated with sustainable production systems, restoration can recover ecological functionality, enhance climate resilience, rebuild biodiversity, and generate inclusive economic opportunities. As such, restoration is not a complementary action, but a core pillar of land-use transformation, capable of turning degraded lands into productive, resilient, and nature-positive landscapes.

This addition aims to strengthen the positioning of restoration in line with COP30 priorities, UNFCCC and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

While the current draft strongly focuses on deforestation, the Presidency call explicitly includes restoration as a core component. This paragraph ensures that restoration is clearly positioned as a central, high-integrity solution, alongside halting deforestation, particularly in delivering climate, biodiversity, and socio-economic outcomes at scale. And this is a key point where GPFLR has expertise and level of influence.

⁴West, C., Rabeschini, G., Singh, C., Kastner, T., Bastos Lima, M., Dermawan, A., Croft, S. & Persson, U.M. (2025). The global deforestation footprint of agriculture and forestry. *Nature Reviews Earth & Environment*, 6, 325–341. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s43017-025-00660-3>



Priority actions

- Adopt the **landscape approach** as a key operational framework: address all land uses across the full landscape through multi-stakeholder spatial plans, not only measures within forest boundaries.
- Recognise and enforce the land and territorial rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities as a foundational condition for forest governance. Deforestation rates in tenure-secure indigenous territories are two to three times lower than in comparable non-indigenous forests⁵. Rights recognition is the single highest-return investment available. Benefit-sharing from carbon and ecosystem service revenues must be equitable and community-determined.
- Reform agricultural incentives and align trade, infrastructure, and fiscal policy with forest and climate goals through binding inter-ministerial accountability mechanisms.
- Scale up direct, simplified climate finance access for forest-rich developing countries and community actors; strengthen near-real-time monitoring and law enforcement against forest crime.

Cross-Cutting Recommendations

- Design both roadmaps as interconnected: make explicit the ways fossil fuel transition and forest protection are mutually dependent and must be jointly financed.
 - Make policy coherence a headline deliverable: each roadmap must include binding mechanisms to align economic, agricultural, trade, and fiscal policy with climate and nature goals.
 - Place social justice at the structural centre: communities most affected by climate change and ecosystem loss, and least responsible for causing them, must be primary beneficiaries of transition and restoration finance — not its casualties.
 - Adopt the landscape approach: planning, finance, and monitoring must operate at landscape scale, integrating forests, farms, water systems, and the communities that depend on them.
 - Guarantee direct participation and finance access for Indigenous Peoples and local communities in implementation and oversight of both roadmaps.
 - Implement the roadmap as a platform to align climate, biodiversity, and land degradation agendas into a single implementation pathway at scale.
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⁵FAO & FILAC (2021). *Forest Governance by Indigenous and Tribal Peoples: An opportunity for climate action in Latin America and the Caribbean*. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations / Fund for the Development of Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean. <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb2953en>



The GPFLR offers its network and expertise in support of the COP30 Presidency. We stand ready to contribute to roadmaps that are ambitious, coherent, just, and grounded in the realities of the landscapes and communities where climate action is ultimately won or lost.

Members

1. African Union Development Agency-AUDA-NEPAD
2. Asian Forest Cooperation Organization - AFoCO
3. Bioversity International
4. Commonland
5. Convention on Biological Diversity Secretariat - CBD
6. Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought Management of Federal Ministry of Environment - Nigeria
7. Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection– BMUV, Germany
8. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations- FAO
9. Forest Stewardship Council - FSC
10. French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development – CIRAD
11. Global Environment Facility - GEF
12. Global Evergreening Alliance
13. Global Forest Generation
14. International Model Forest Network - IMFN
15. International Tropical Timber Organization - ITTO
16. International Union for Conservation of Nature - IUCN
17. International Union of Forest Research Organizations - IUFRO
18. Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Nature, Netherlands
19. Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Biodiversity, Luxembourg
20. Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative - NICFI
21. Preferred by Nature
22. Program on Forests, World Bank - PROFOR
23. Restor
24. Society for Ecological Restoration - SER
25. Sustainable Harvest International
26. Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC
27. The Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry - CIFOR-ICRAF
28. The Nature Conservancy - TNC
29. Tropenbos International
31. United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification - UNCCD
32. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe - UNECE
33. United Nations Environment Programme - UNEP
34. US Forest Service - USDA
35. Wageningen University and Research
36. WeForest
37. World Resources Institute - WRI
38. World Vision
39. World Wide Fund for Nature - WWF