

Title: How can Forest Funds enhance Landscape Governance for improved restoration? Lessons learned from existing fund cases

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Relevant WFC themes:

3) The green pathway to growth and sustainability

6) Forests without boundaries: enhancing management and cooperation

The landscape approach, notably in the context of Forest and Landscape Restoration (FLR) requires sound land use planning involving various sectors and related value chains, as well as multiple ecosystems and land use types. GPFLR¹ (2013) defines FLR as “an active process that brings people together to identify, negotiate and implement practices that restore an agreed optimal balance of the ecological, social and economic benefits of forests and trees within a broader pattern of land uses”. While the international community enters the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, the importance of landscape governance for successful restoration appears as a critical success factor.

In this context forest funds may play an important role. Indeed, one of their key features focuses on governance (FAO, 2015), and they can operate as catalysts for partnerships, pooling resources, and effective delivery at landscape level. The proposed paper will thus analyse how forest funds could lead to improved landscape governance. In particular the paper will question the interaction between forests funds’ design and operations and landscape governance, addressing some of the key following questions:

- What forest funds’ characteristics make them better equipped to support landscape governance?
- Can landscape governance be improved with the establishment of a forest fund?
- How can the governance of the funds themselves be critical for landscape coordination?
- What are the main impacts of forest funds’ operations on landscape governance?
- What are criteria for effective landscape governance through forest funds?

Case studies will be used for the analysis, among others: the Luxembourg Forest and Climate Change Fund (FCCF)², the National Forest Fund in Madagascar, the Vietnamese Forest Fund (VNFF)³, the Costa Rican Forest Financing Fund (FONAFIFO)⁴, etc and their diversity will enable to identify lessons learned and good practices suitable in a variety of contexts.

¹ <https://www.forestlandscaperestoration.org/>

² <https://www.forestryandclimate.com/>

³ <http://vnff.vn/>

⁴ <https://www.fonafifo.go.cr/>