

Collaborative roadmap for monitoring forest and landscape restoration: an opportunity for Mediterranean partners

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Monitoring Forest and Landscape Restoration (FLR) plays a key role in supporting the implementation of interventions at all scales and provide feedback for adaptive management and learning. It provides evidence of progress, achievements and impact in relation to expected targets and permits communicating results and outcomes to keep the momentum going and inspire emulation. FLR monitoring is also key to support FLR investors and foster additional investments by demonstrating the multiple benefits of FLR investments and their key contribution to national, regional and international commitments.

The “Monitoring and evaluation of impacts” session of FLR that was held during the 5th Mediterranean Forest Week aimed to promote a common understanding of needs and challenges regarding monitoring and evaluation of FLR in the Mediterranean context. It was the opportunity to show different monitoring tools that have been used in the Mediterranean region, as well as other initiatives at a wider level. The session started with the presentation of the Collaborative Roadmap for FLR monitoring, which was jointly designed by several organizations during the “Drylands & Forest and Landscape Restoration (FLR) Monitoring Week (2016)”. It was followed by the presentation of the Collect Earth Open Foris, a tool developed by the FAO¹ applied, in the case of Tunisia, at national level to monitor land use change; and of the tools developed by the Observatory of the Sahara and Sahel (OSS) used to monitor natural resources at spatial and local scales. The Drylands

1 - <http://www.openforis.org/tools/collect-earth.html>

2 - <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6509e.pdf>
 3 - Biodiversity International, Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza (CATIE), Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), Society for Ecological Restoration (SER), The Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration (GPFLR), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Wageningen University, World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), World Resources Institute (WRI)

Restoration Initiative Platform (DRIP)² from the FAO was also presented as an evolving database supporting restoration efforts in drylands by: compiling and analysing data from projects and initiatives; capturing and sharing lessons learned; and by facilitating communication and networking among restoration actors in drylands worldwide.

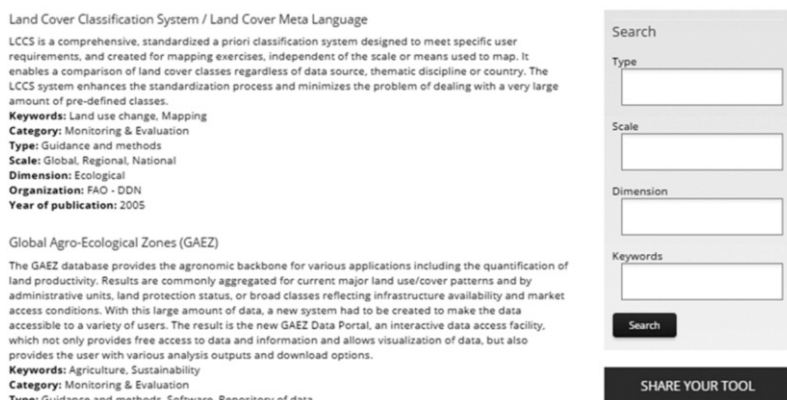
In the context of the collaborative roadmap, partners³ are actively working together on five different activity streams: 1) Developing and refining guidance document(s) on the design, establishment and operation of FLR monitoring systems, aligned with existing processes and fostering cross-sectoral coordination; 2) Developing and maintaining an interactive FLR knowledge platform; 3) Forming and testing evolving technical alliances, mechanisms and / or networks to support effective FLR processes (including monitoring) in selected countries and regions; 4) Creating and facilitating a community of learning, supported amongst other things, by knowledge-sharing events; 5) Forming an innovation hub to support

other activity streams, harnessing contributions from the scientific, technology and innovation communities.

Specific actions have already been taken as part of the activity streams 1, 2 and 4. A guidance document for a monitoring FLR framework is under preparation, led by WRI and the FAO. It will provide assistance to different stakeholders when choosing the relevant indicators to monitor their restoration activities. An online knowledge platform (See picture 1) has already been set up to facilitate the access to a comprehensive database of monitoring resources in a user-friendly way, providing users with the opportunity to submit resources they also consider relevant⁴. Tool submission is open to everyone, and all tools submitted will be validated by experts through a peer review process before being published online.

Mediterranean actors are encouraged to get involved in this collaborative roadmap⁵ by participating in the process of developing and testing the guidance document on FLR monitoring indicators, by sharing relevant methods, tools and approaches to be included in the knowledge platform and by being involved in the online and face-to-face events organised by the community of learning on FLR monitoring.

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4 - <http://www.fao.org/in-action/forest-landscape-restoration-mechanism/knowledge-base/monitoring-evaluation/en/>

5 - To join the collaborative roadmap on FLR monitoring and take part into one or several of the activity streams, please contact us at FO-FLR-Mechanism@fao.org