Forest Restoration Catalyst
Unlocking and scaling investment for forest restoration

TRILLION TREES

WCS · WWF · BirdLife INTERNATIONAL

High quality Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) sequesters carbon, increases food security, addresses rural poverty, and benefits biodiversity. Delivering it at scale requires substantial financing, hinging on a robust investment case and a strong enabling environment. But few projects pioneering nature-based solutions have the resources to reach investment readiness.

The **Forest Restoration Catalyst (FRC)** has been developed by Trillion Trees (the combined force and expertise of BirdLife International, Wildlife Conservation Society and WWF) to address this need. The FRC will aim to support the development of 10 landscape initiatives by 2030, creating the conditions to leverage $1 billion of investment for forest restoration.

The FRC provides catalytic funding to forest restoration initiatives with the potential to leverage outcomes-based finance to achieve scale. It is a landscape preparation facility to help create the enabling environments for nature-based investment by co-designing initiatives with local stakeholders, supporting pilot projects, and ensuring equitable benefit sharing models are the foundation of any investment.

By catalysing the flow of finance to our conservation partnerships in key geographies, the FRC creates a delivery pathway for the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, meeting national restoration commitments under the Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 2 and 10, and those made at COP26 by over 140 world leaders to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030.
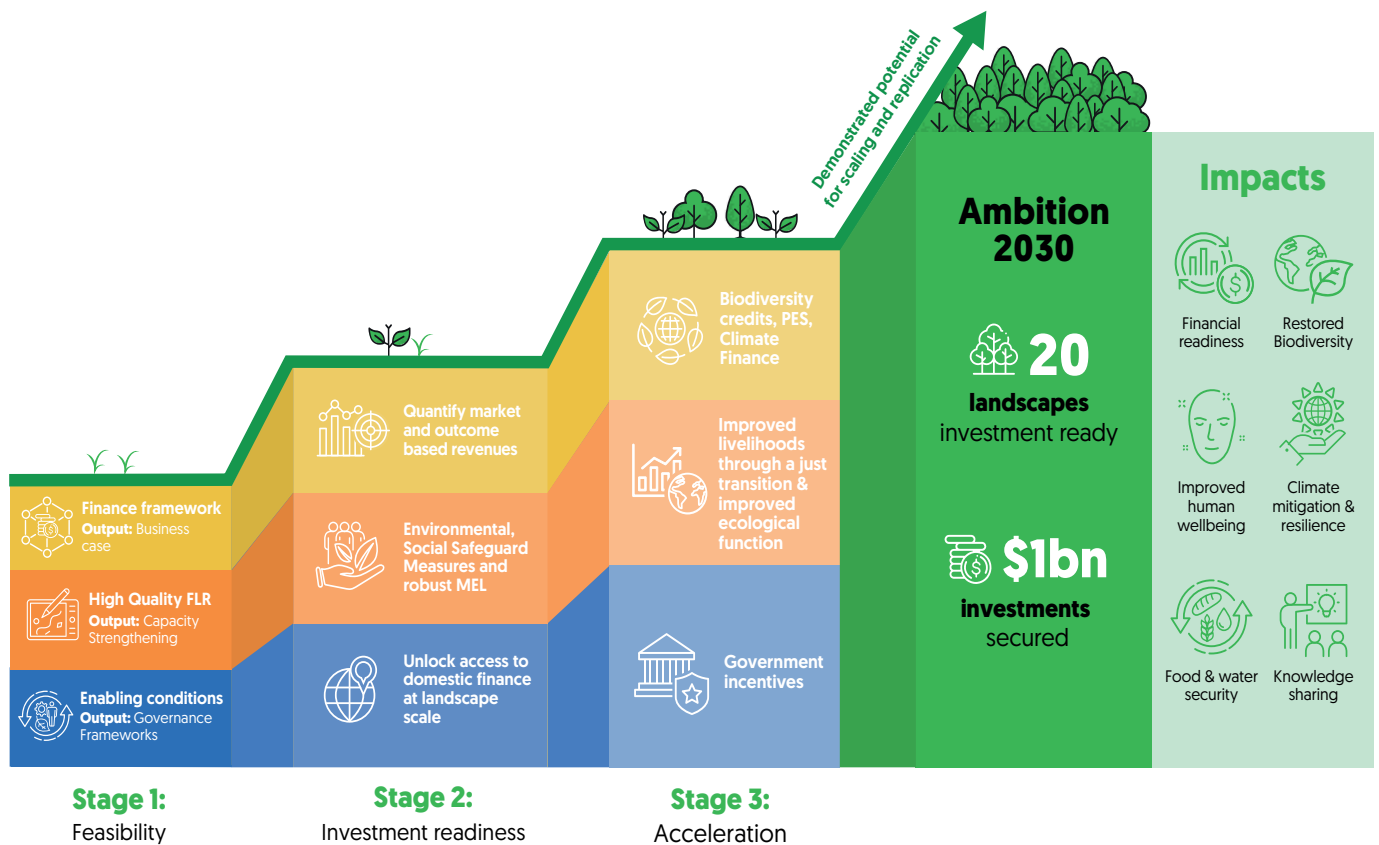
How it works

The FRC provides grant support and technical assistance to FLR projects through three stages: feasibility, investment readiness, and acceleration to identify and develop sustainable revenue streams.

Through these stages the FRC works closely with landscape partnerships to identify key pathways across **three work streams** that, together, create:
- **Finance frameworks:** Establishing sustainable financing models through robust feasibility assessments, developing viable landscape financing transition plans, alongside commitments from all relevant stakeholders, including buyers.
- **High quality FLR:** Strengthening capacity for our partnerships to implement and scale sectoral best practices for impact forecasting, monitoring, and accountability by co-developing interventions with rights holders and partners strengthening marginalized voices to support just transition.
- **Enabling conditions:** Identifying policies and regulations to promote and secure restoration. Developing governance frameworks ensuring equitable decision making and benefit sharing.

The FRC aims to deliver sufficient returns from blended finance structures for landscapes to be self-sustaining in their scaling and development within 5 years. Over the longer term, successful projects can return a portion of the development finance they have received to enable recycling of funds to a growing pipeline of landscape partnerships.

Stage 1: Feasibility

Finance framework Output: Business case

High Quality FLR Output: Capacity Strengthening

Enabling conditions Output: Governance Frameworks

Stage 2: Investment readiness

Quantify market and outcome based revenues

Environmental, Social Safeguard Measures and robust MEL

Unlock access to domestic finance at landscape scale

Stage 3: Acceleration

Biodiversity credits, PES, Climate Finance

Improved livelihoods through a just transition & improved ecological function

Government incentives

Demonstrated potential for scaling and replication

Ambition 2030

20 landscapes investment ready

$1bn investments secured

Impacts

- Financial readiness
- Restored Biodiversity
- Improved human wellbeing
- Climate mitigation & resilience
- Food & water security
- Knowledge sharing

Pilot programmes

We have two pilot projects underway with support from Finance Earth, a financial advisory company based in the UK.

1. **Atlantic Forest, Brazil** – Led by WWF Brazil, this project is developing a scalable restoration strategy and business model for the Upper Parana to tackle underlying conservation challenges and incentivize farmers to protect and restore natural forest on their properties.
2. **Bukit Barisan Selatan Kekal, Indonesia** – Led by WCS, this project is improving coffee farmer livelihoods (productivity, profitability, resilience), whilst reducing deforestation and restoring connectivity between high value ecosystems.

As these programmes progress to the investment stage, we are building the pipeline of investment opportunities from our portfolio of over 50 restoration projects across 20 tropical forest countries, and formally establishing the FRC as a blended finance vehicle.

What scale is the FRC is looking for, and what are the conditions/criteria?

The FRC is seeking to support landscapes that have significant potential for FLR at scale and where there is potential for outcomes-based finance to unlock this. We work with landscapes to identify and co-develop scalable business models in the local context, based on a landscape-scale strategic restoration plan. These could include, for example, payment for ecosystem services, supply chain contributions and sustainable enterprises.

We are seeking further philanthropic funds to support the early-stage development of landscape business plans, increase the number of landscapes we support, and to support the development of the FRC to be a self-sustaining entity.

Contact

If you're interested in supporting or investing in the Forest Restoration Catalyst or would like to find out more, please contact April Bagwill at action@trilliontrees.org.