



# Water-smart Forest and Landscape Restoration Tool



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Forest ecosystems and water security are highly interdependent. As such, any forest and landscape restoration effort must consider water aspects, as well as being participatory and transparent. SIWI is developing the Water-smart FLR (W-FLR) Tool, to ensure that forest and landscape restoration initiatives are sustainable, resilient, and successful in the long-term.

## What is the W-FLR Tool?

The overall objective of the W-FLR Tool is to assess water risks and opportunities, and mainstream water into FLR-relevant plans and initiatives. The tool will enable mainstreaming of water related to hydrological flows, water availability, and water quality etc., into sectors that are important for making forest and landscape restoration (FLR) sustainable, such as the forestry, agriculture, and environment sectors.

## Why is the tool needed?

FLR is a long-term, planned process that aims to regain ecological functionality and enhance human wellbeing in deforested or degraded multifunctional forest landscapes.

Until now, many FLR initiatives have not integrated hydrological processes in the landscape. Current forest

and landscape restoration tools do not address water risks in the landscape either, whilst other water-relevant tools and best-practices focus primarily on agriculture, downstream areas, and coastal issues.

There is a risk that ill-conceived or poorly defined local-scale FLR measures could reduce local water availability or impair other ecosystem services and ecological functions. It is essential, therefore, to consider hydrological aspects when restoring forest landscapes, to avoid unintended consequences and to harness synergies, ensuring that restoration efforts are successful both in the short- and long-term.

## Who is the target group?

The tool's main target groups are line ministries, organizations, agencies, and practitioners involved in FLR or other relevant landscape interventions at national, sub-national, and/or local level.

## How is the tool used?

The tool is designed as a handbook, consisting of practical tasks and step-by-step guidance that will lead to the development of a roadmap for water-smart FLR. The method can be used to incorporate water perspectives in the planning phase of new FLR initiatives, whilst ensuring that water is adequately addressed in existing and ongoing interventions. It also ensures that the FLR intervention is participatory, inclusive, and transparent.