



RESTORING AFRICA'S DRYLANDS
ACCELERATING ACTION ON THE GROUND



KNOW-HOW NEEDED FOR SUCCESSFUL FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION IN AFRICA

#GLFAfrica

White paper prepared by



WHITE PAPER



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PURPOSE OF THE SESSION

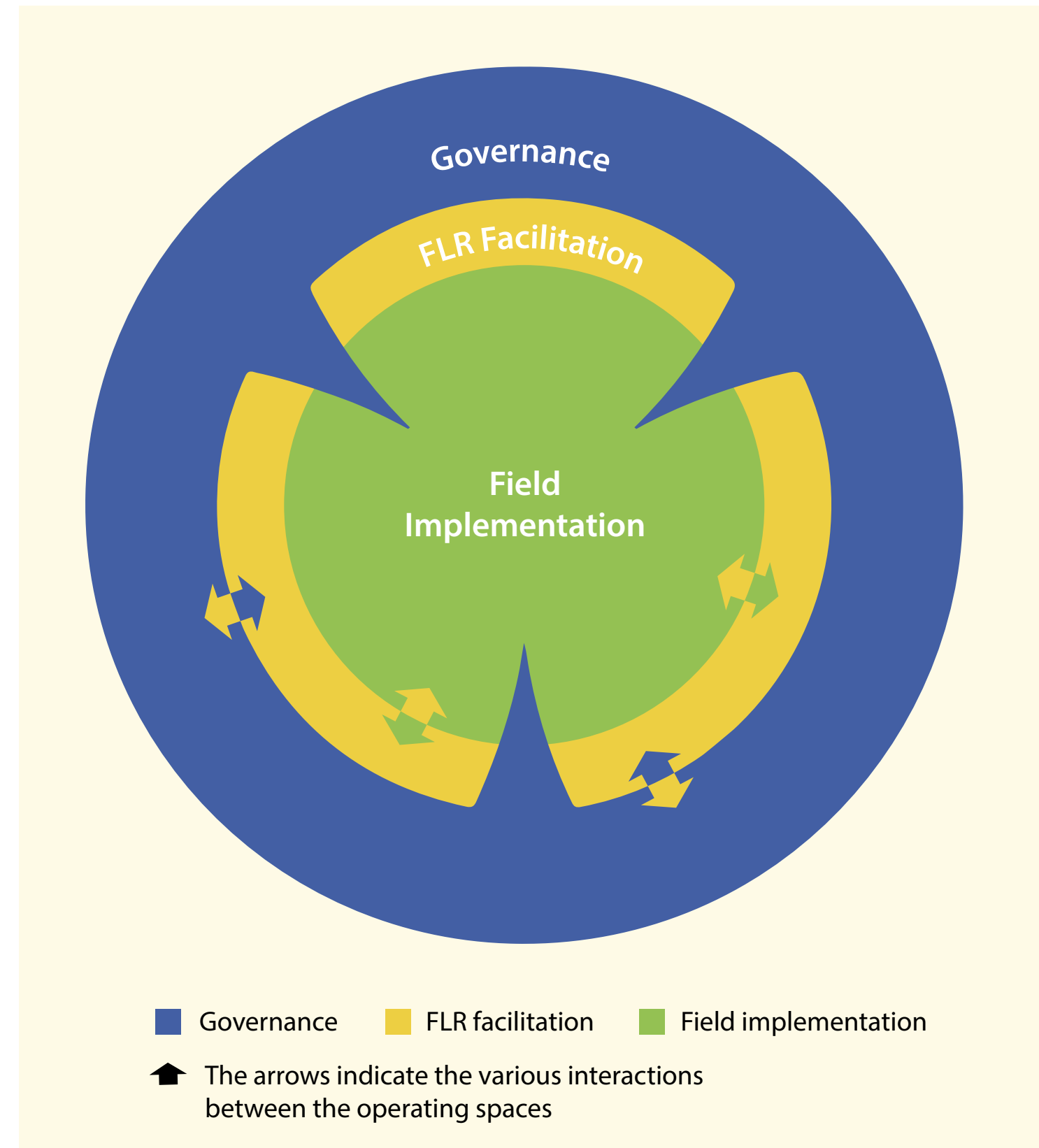
Based on IUFRO's research (Stanturf et al., 2020; Höhl et al., 2020) this session aims to present some of the enabling factors for forest landscape restoration (FLR). It emphasizes the capacities needed to implement FLR, highlighting three operating spaces in which stakeholders require specific capacities: governance, facilitation, and field implementation.

HOW DOES THE SESSION TOPIC ADDRESS THE CENTRAL GLF AFRICA 2021 THEMES?

This session will provide insights into existing challenges within the three operating spaces listed above, and provide guidance and examples of positive action on the ground.

SESSION OBJECTIVES

This session aims to address the questions of what is needed for: (i) raising awareness of governance to inform policymakers in creating an FLR-enabling environment; (ii) FLR facilitation through change agents trained to coordinate and assist local stakeholders; and (iii) field implementation with local FLR actors enabled to effectively restore the landscape.



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Lead organization
International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO)

Figure 1. The three operating spaces in which FLR-relevant activities take place.

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THE SESSION

This session will share fundamental practices and skills needed by different actors to support progress in FLR on the ground in Africa, including: (i) sensitizing policymakers for the right mix of regulations and policies that need to be in place for local actors to successfully restore land and for moving towards sustainable land management practices; (ii) preparing FLR facilitators to assist stakeholders in organizing platforms for interaction, reconciliation of conflicting views and planning FLR activities, as well as gathering information, linking actors and monitoring progress; and (iii) co-developing FLR and improvement measures with local actors.

Two introductory presentations will provide some of the context and research led by IUFRO on factors of success and failure in FLR and the context to the three operating spaces noted above. Three speakers will then briefly present an example from each of the operating spaces. A panel discussion at the end of the session will allow the speakers to respond to specific questions. The audience will be engaged through a couple of polls during the session.

KEY MESSAGES

- Viewing capacity needs and interventions in FLR in the framework of three operating spaces can help to better frame the overall challenge of FLR implementation.
- The **governance space** for FLR is fundamental to creating the long-term conditions for FLR. It extends from local through international levels and is comprised of actors and institutions involved in decision-making.
- The **facilitation space** is a critical intermediary where change agents – FLR facilitators – can leverage and multiply actions. Mentorship programs for FLR facilitators provide hands-on learning opportunities that grow confidence, competence, and connections needed to accelerate action on the ground and the shift to long-term sustainable land use.
- The **field implementation space** is where local communities act to restore landscapes. The role, interest and preferences of local stakeholders are fundamental to the long-term success of restoration.
- Choice of intervention will be dictated by the local context and requires adaptive management to achieve and maintain more resilient and sustainable landscapes in the long term.

Local women crafting fuel-efficient ceramic cookstove, Malawi.

Photo © Jesuit Centre for Ecology and Development





Photo © Michael Klejne / IUFRO

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The Global Landscapes Forum (GLF) is the world's largest knowledge-led platform on integrated land use, dedicated to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and Paris Climate Agreement. The Forum takes a holistic approach to create sustainable landscapes that are productive, prosperous, equitable and resilient and considers five cohesive themes of food and livelihood initiatives, landscape restoration, rights, finance and measuring progress. It is led by the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), in collaboration with its co-founders UN Environment and the World Bank and Charter Members.

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