Global guidelines for the restoration of degraded forests and landscapes in drylands
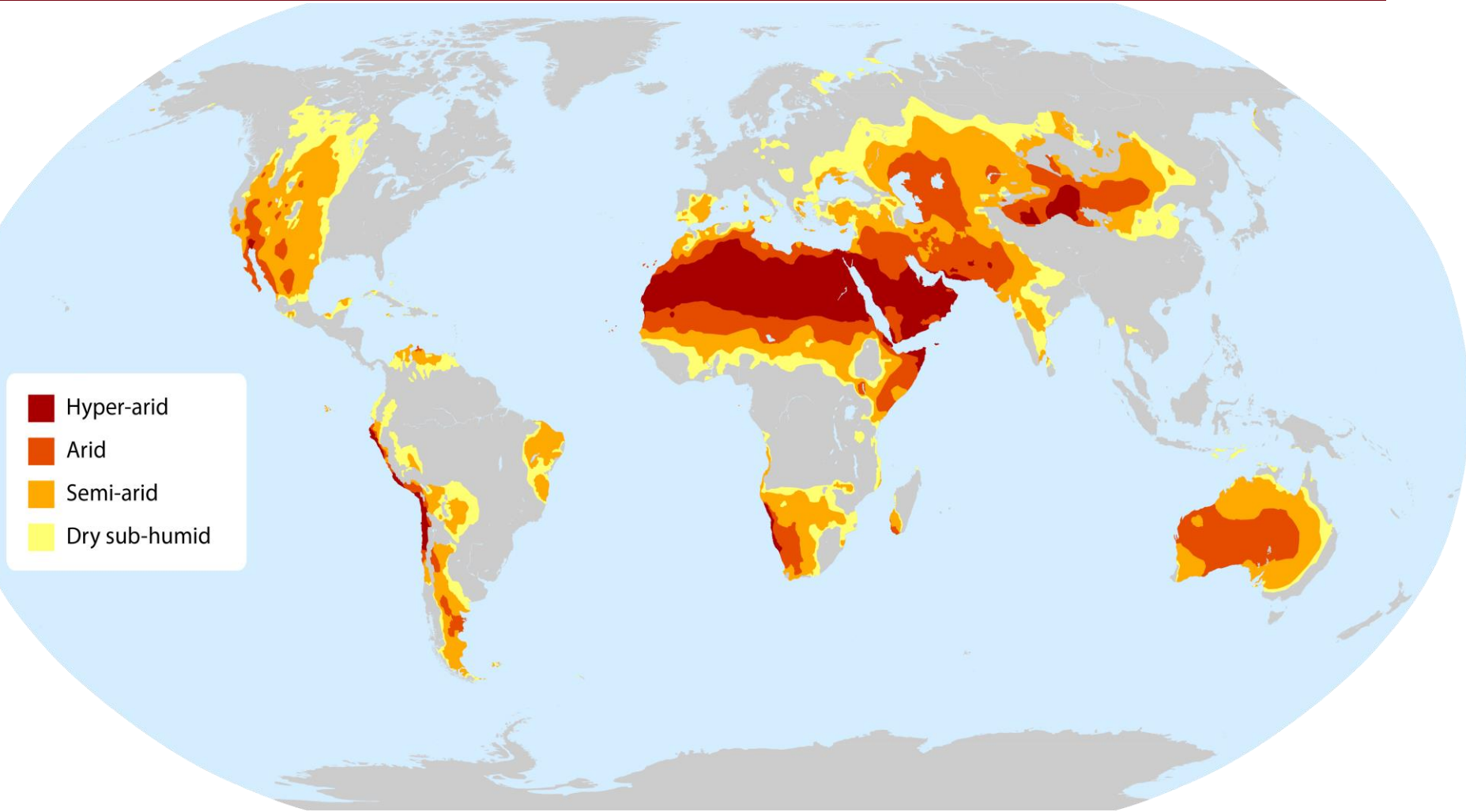
Building resilience and benefiting livelihoods

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The world's drylands

Legend:
- Hyper-arid
- Arid
- Semi-arid
- Dry sub-humid

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Challenges in drylands

- Desertification, land degradation, drought

- Poverty and food insecurity

- Climate change

- Biodiversity loss

- Lack of technical capacity for sustainable management and restoration

- Lack of investment and lack of understanding of their importance and vulnerability

➔ Potential of **restoration** to address simultaneously these challenges

Why guidelines?

- Regional forestry commissions and Committee on Forestry: FAO was requested to conduct a comprehensive **analysis, evaluation and documentation** of relevant afforestation, reforestation and restoration projects and programs

- Contribution to :
  - Global targets/frameworks on restoration: UNCBD Strategic plan for biodiversity 2011-2020 (Aichi target 15), Bonn challenge, SDG goal 15, GPFLR
  - UNCCD 10-year strategic plan and framework (2008-2018)
  - UNFCCC: Climate change mitigation, adaptation, resilience
  - The Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel

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The process

- Desk research

- International workshops (Konya, Dakar)

- Monitoring and reporting tool

- Feedback on draft versions by experts

For whom?

The guidelines are designed for:

- Policy and Decision-makers (forestry and rural development)

- Restoration practitioners (officers, technicians, NGOs)

In a nutshell

1. Introduction
2. Drylands and the benefits of restoration
3. Guidelines for policy and other decision –makers: establishing a strong enabling environment
4. Guidelines for practitioners: restoration in action
5. Monitoring and evaluation
6. Case studies
7. The Way Forward

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Guidelines for policymakers & other decision-makers

- *Enable and invest in assessment and monitoring*
- *Address drivers of land degradation by engaging in cross-sectoral dialogue and planning at the landscape level*
- *Enable and invest in capacity assessment and development*
- *Improve the supply of, and access to, plant reproductive material for restoration*
- *Improve the governance and policy framework*
- *Create the right conditions for investment and resource mobilization for restoration*
- *Encourage knowledge, research, learning and experimenting*

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Guidelines for practitioners

Overview of the main restoration approaches in drylands

Type of approach	Goal	Common measures
Protection and management (see section 4.2)	To protect against potential threats and prevent further degradation, and to remove barriers to natural forest regeneration	Protection of soils against erosion (see Box 4.2) Grazing management Fire management
Assisted natural regeneration (see section 4.3)	Enhance the natural processes to regenerate tree and vegetation cover	Enhancing seed dispersal Farmer-managed natural regeneration
Planting (see section 4.4)	Planting trees, shrubs and herbaceous species, and ensuring their survival and growth	Species selection Production of planting material Site preparation Planting Silvicultural operations

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Guidelines for practitioners

- *Plan and choose the most cost-effective restoration strategies*

- *Protect and manage*

- *Promote natural regeneration*

- *Plant where and when necessary*

Guidelines for practitioners

If planting:

- Right species in the right place selected by local communities

- Preferably native species with multipurpose use (trees, shrubs and grasses)

- Adapted genetic material

- Maximize species and genetic diversity

- Nursery techniques

- Planting period and density

Monitoring and evaluation

- Monitoring as part of adaptive management

- Monitoring starts at the planning phase (baseline)

- Participation of all stakeholders in monitoring

- Consistently monitor, evaluate, and share lessons learnt

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Monitoring and Reporting Tool for Forest and Landscape Restoration

Why the tool?

➢ Comprehensive **Reporting** on FLR initiatives in countries and worldwide;

➢ Monitoring **progress** and **impacts** of such initiatives

➢ Capturing **case studies** and **lessons learned**

➢ Supporting users in the **design** of their projects

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Monitoring and Reporting Tool for Forest and Landscape Restoration

- **On-line questionnaire** to be filled in by leaders, managers of restoration programmes and projects

- A **quick** and **easy** tool

- **Easily understandable** even by non-specialists

- Provides a **harmonised** reporting system

- Facilitates the **sharing of know-how** and lessons learnt

Monitoring and Reporting Tool for Forest and Landscape Restoration

- **SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION**
  - Location, extent, timeframe, stakeholders
- **SECTION II: AREA DESCRIPTION**
  - Biophysical features including ecological features before the restoration actions; socio-Economic features; causes of degradation in the restoration area
- **SECTION III: RESTORATION OBJECTIVES**
  - Objectives and scope of the initiative
- **SECTION IV: SUPPORTIVE POLICY AND GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK**
  - Policy & Legislation context; stakeholders and type of involvement in the initiative
- **SECTION V: RESTORATION STRATEGY ADOPTED, PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION**
  - Type and description of the restoration intervention: assisted natural regeneration, soil and water conservation, seeding/planting
- **SECTION VI: MONITORING**
  - Monitoring plan, Baseline, monitoring actions and stakeholders
- **SECTION VII: RESULTS & SUSTAINABILITY**
  - Results and achievement of the restoration objectives, impacts and sustainability
- **SECTION VIII: FURTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION (maps, documents, photos,...)**
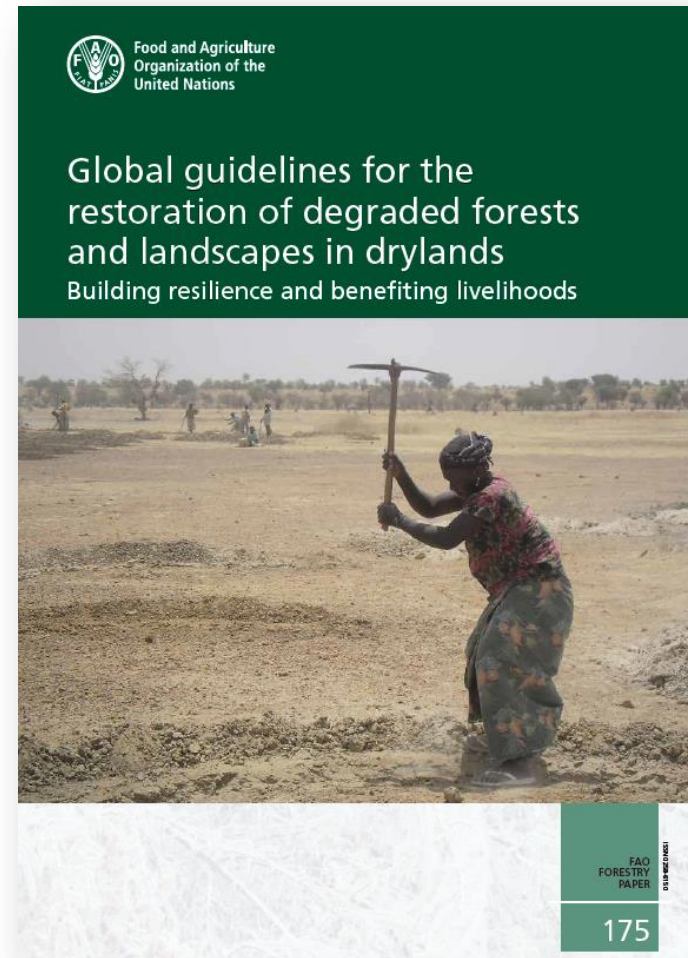
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27 Case studies

1. Threat
2. Approach
3. Impacts
4. Lessons learned
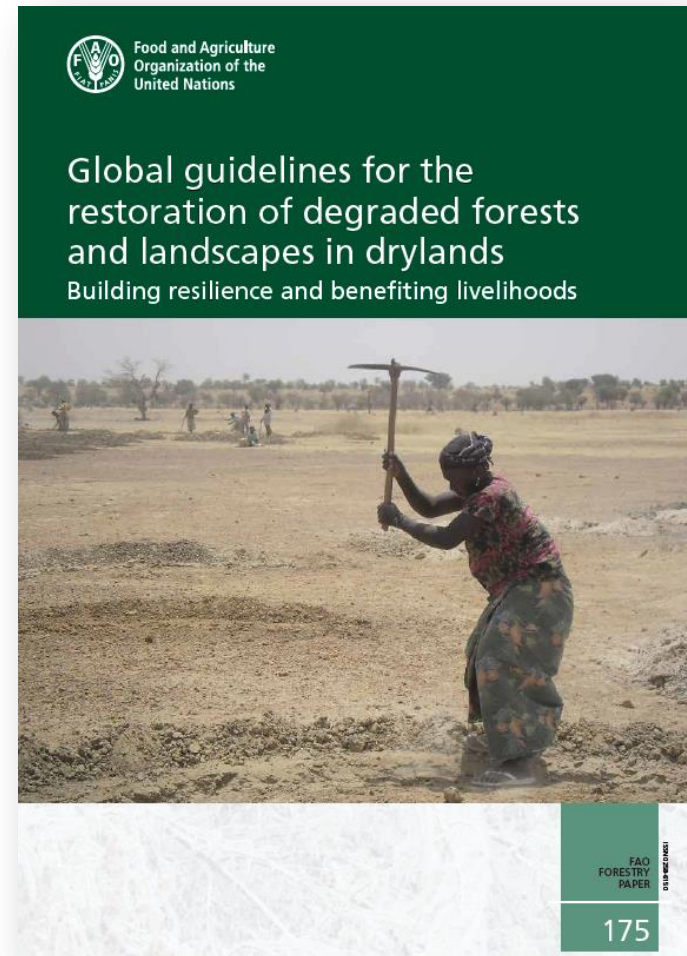
The Way Forward

- Launch at the UNCCD COP (October 2015)

- Translation into French

- Will be available on line : www.fao.org/forestry/aridzone

- We can send paper and PDF copies on demand

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The Way Forward

Questions to the floor:

- How to best disseminate the guidelines?

- How to encourage their use?

- How to adapt them to the regional, national, local contexts?

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Thank you