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The Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism (FLRM)

Achievements in Lebanon and Upcoming Activities

Sixth Mediterranean Forest Week
Broummana, Lebanon
April 1, 2019

Land degradation

- Land degradation, caused by the mismanagement or overexploitation of resources, involves the full or partial loss of ecosystem productivity and derived services, soil resources, the vegetation cover, species diversity, and environmental resilience.
- Despite continued degradation, there is a great opportunity to intervene as more than 2 billion hectares of the world's degraded landscapes have the potential for forest and landscape restoration (FLR).



Severely degraded wooded landscapes in the Rachaya district

The FLRM Approach

The FLRM approach is a powerful tool that will assist Lebanon to meet its:

- Voluntary “Land Degradation Neutrality” targets approved by the Ministry of Agriculture and key stakeholders.
- Commitment to the UNFCCC and the CBD.
- 40 Million Trees Program.

Thanks to its balanced and integrated restoration approach, the FLRM will allow, in conjunction with other initiatives, to restore ecosystems and increase their resilience for the benefit of local communities and nature alike.



FLRM – Lebanon

Phase One

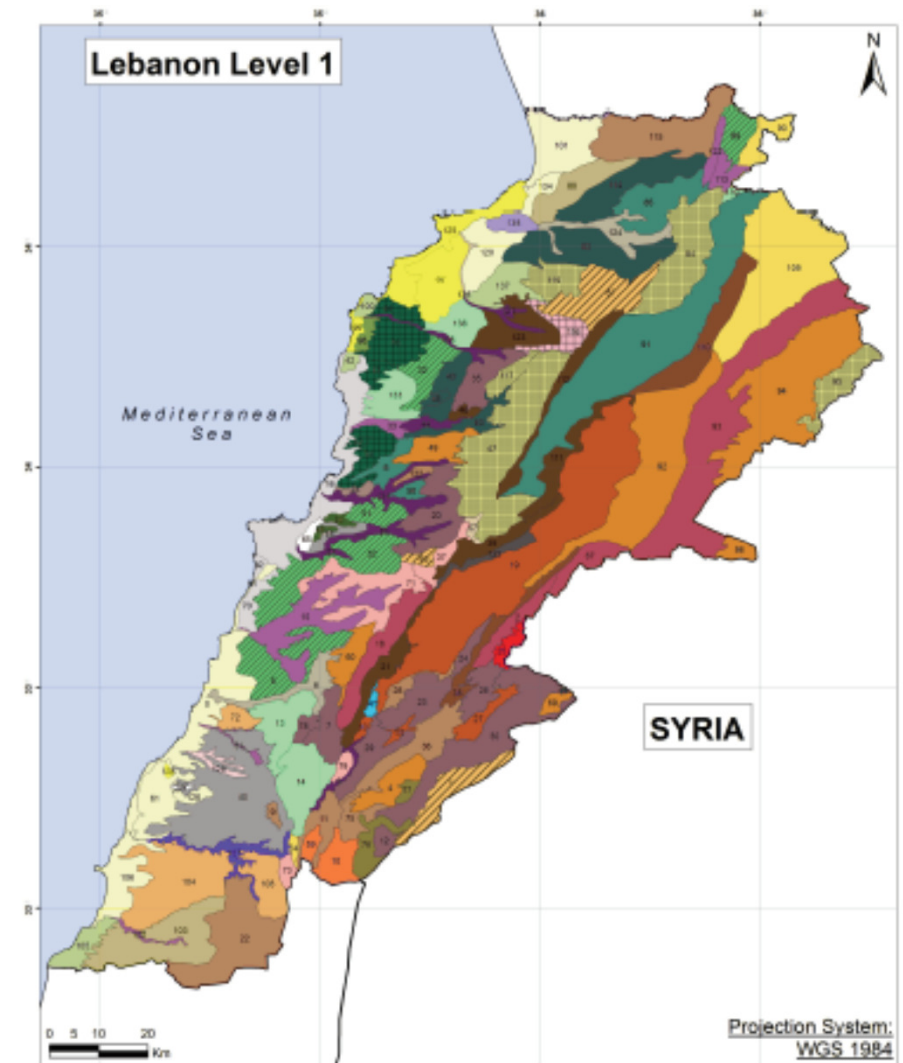
- Implemented between 2016-2018, thanks to a successful collaboration between the MoA and FAO and the funding of the Korean Republic.
 - The project managed to achieve its core targets through careful planning, a judicious use of its modest budget, and the creating of strong linkages and synergies with ongoing initiatives.
 - The project implemented actions on a national scale and in key pilot areas.
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FLRM – Lebanon

Phase One

Actions implemented at the national level:

- A landscape character assessment of the diversity of Lebanese landscapes (AUB-SPNL).
- Forest law revision lead by the MoA and in collaboration with relevant stakeholders.



FLRM – Lebanon

Phase One

Actions implemented at the national level:

The FLRM promoted knowledge sharing and an enabling environment for FLR through a series of training and capacity building sessions that tackled:

- Irrigation in reforestation and means to reduce water consumption in restoration projects.
- Mapping of restoration projects and monitoring of land degradation-restoration through open-source tools
- Use of native species in landscape restoration.
- Economic returns of forest and landscape restoration.
- Forest and range management criteria and indicators.

Over 280 beneficiaries from various restoration stakeholders benefitted from these sessions.

FLRM – Lebanon

Phase One

Pilot local actions:

- The project implemented model landscape restoration activities focusing on the rehabilitation of abandoned stone terraces in Lebanese regions distinguished by their rich cultural and natural heritage.
 - The choice of pilot sites was based on a technical assessment of landscape values and the socioeconomic goods and services offered by terraces in the targeted regions.
 - These restoration activities were meant to deliver a well-balanced package of landscape derived goods and services that reduce degradation and enhance the socioeconomic conditions of local communities.
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FLRM – Lebanon, Phase One

Pilot local actions: Qadisha Valley

- The project, in collaboration with the Maronite Patriarchate, selected three sites with abandoned and dilapidated terraces once planted with typical mountain crops including vineyards, olives, figs, and apples.
- In each site the project cleared the competing vegetation, rehabilitated the stones walls, *Origanum syriacum* planted the lands with productive species such as and pomegranate and installed fences whenever the risk of damage by wild boars was high.





Restoration work in Qadisha Valley



Restored terraces in Qadisha Valley



FLRM – Lebanon; Phase One

Pilot local actions: The Shouf Biosphere Reserve (SBR)

The project, in collaboration with the SBR, selected seven sites in five villages that were suitable for restoration.

The selected sites were dispersed over several areas to help in promoting the value of stone terrace restoration and encourage farmers to follow the model presented by the project.

In addition to the restoration of stone walls, pre-existing stone ponds that were no longer functional were cleaned and restored to support farmers in securing reliable water sources for irrigation.

All restored terraces were planted with a diverse set of trees, shrubs, and aromatic plants



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Pre and post rehabilitation
of terraces in the SBR





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Cleaning and restoration of a
water pond that is now able to
hold water to capacity, even
during summer.





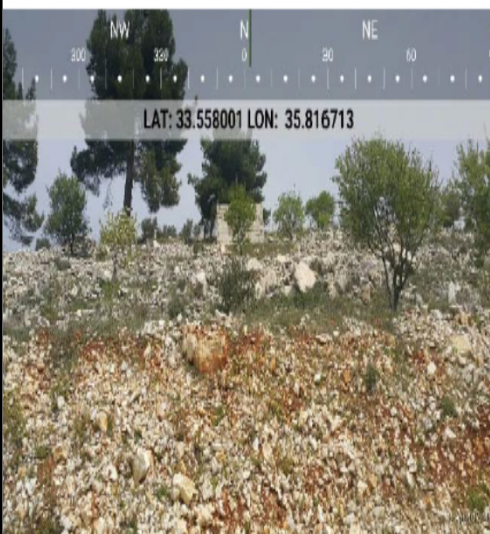
A restored site in the SBR

FLRM – Lebanon

Phase One

Pilot local actions: Mhaidthe (Rashaya)

- A socio-economic study to assess the impact of climate change on local communities was conducted.
 - The study allowed the selection of a site for rehabilitation in the village of Mhaidthe to mitigate the impact of climate change and reduce the risk of soil erosion.
 - The project rehabilitated, in collaboration with LRI, a site with degraded stone walls and planted a mixture of native and productive trees and shrubs to support a local women's cooperative.
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The Mhaidthe site, before and after

FLRM – Lebanon

Phase Two – Overview

INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE INITIATIVE (IKI)



Following the success of the first phase of the project, the FLRM phase two will be implemented for the coming three years thanks to the IKI funding.

The project will be implemented in several countries:

- Asia-Pacific region: the Philippines and Fiji.
- Sahel region: Ethiopia and Niger
- Mediterranean region: Lebanon and Morocco.

A well-balanced mix of regional and national activities will be implemented across partner countries to highlight the importance of FLR activities.

FLRM – Lebanon

Phase Two – Overview

Outcome: Forest and Landscape Restoration initiatives/programs are implemented in Lebanon with an integrated landscape approach taking into consideration the multiple land uses and the diverse interests of the local stakeholders.

Output 1: Regional platforms/ networks / initiatives are strengthened to promote more efficiently both preparation and implementation of large scale FLR programs to achieve the Paris Agreement and the Bonn Challenge.

Output 2: Large scale national FLR plans / programs are effectively implemented in the six targeted countries in order to maximize the contribution of FLR options to achieve the Paris Agreement and the Bonn Challenge.

FLRM – Lebanon

Phase Two – Indicative Activities

Output 1 will:

- Support collaboration between partners from different countries and knowledge-sharing.
- Promote key FLR concepts in partner countries.
- Build national capacities of partner countries to better access funding and financing instruments.



FLRM – Lebanon

Phase Two – Indicative Activities

Output 1, main activities:

- Support a high-level event to promote the integration of FLR options in the NDCs (VI – MWF).
- Provide technical assistance to partner countries to integrate FLR/LULUCF in investments frameworks of the NDCs:
 - Organize regional workshops to build the capacities of concept note preparation and project development allowing better access to relevant funding mechanisms.
 - On demand support for partner countries for preparation of concept notes on FLR and submission to relevant land degradation and climate financing instruments (e.g. GCF, LDN Fund etc.).

FLRM – Lebanon

Phase Two – Indicative Activities

Output 1, main activities:

- Organization of three regional capacity building workshops:
 - Assisted Natural Regeneration, a cost-effective option to scale up FLR in the context of the Paris Agreement.
 - Cost- benefit analysis of FLR investments to demonstrate their high interest to achieve the NDCs.
 - Monitoring of FLR impacts in the context of NDCs.

FLRM – Lebanon

Phase Two – Indicative Activities

Output 2, focuses on locally implemented activities and will:

- Promote intersectoral coordination and relevant policy for better national FLR actions.
- Implement restoration actions with high carbon and non-carbon benefits.
- Enhance national monitoring capacities of FLR actions.



FLRM – Lebanon

Phase Two – Indicative Activities

Promote intersectoral coordination and relevant policy for better national FLR actions:

- Complete Lebanon's forestry sector NAMAs.
- Support knowledge sharing and dissemination.
- Coordinate national actions related to rangeland management and rehabilitation.
- Review and update of the Lebanese Forest and Rangelands Code
- Finalize the documentation related to the National Forest Fund .

FLRM – Lebanon

Phase Two – Indicative Activities

Implement restoration actions with high carbon and non-carbon benefits.

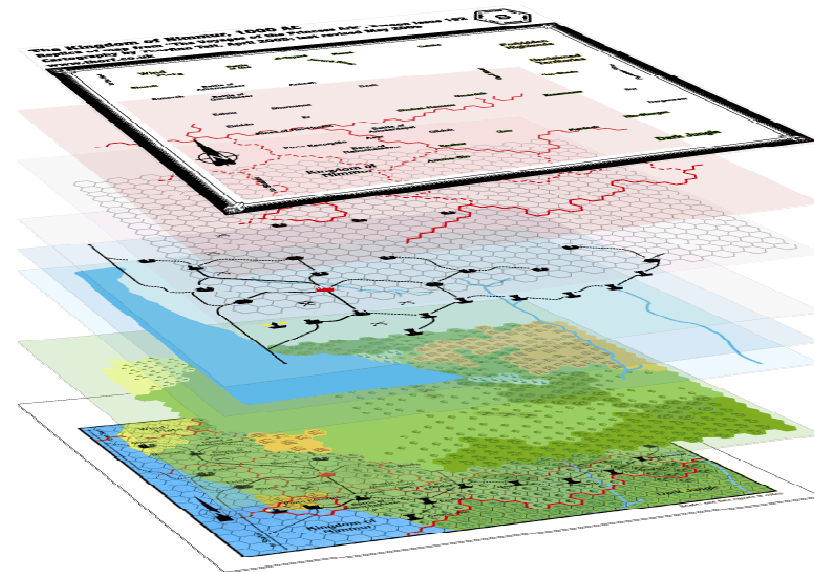
- Implementation of restoration options in rangelands and degraded forests:
 - Select intervention sites in regions affected by migrant crisis and marginalized areas and degradation.
 - Restore up to 1000 ha of degraded rangelands and forests using appropriate ANR modalities.
 - Engage communities in the planning and implementation of intervention activities.
 - Build the capacities of local communities and stakeholders on the monitoring of the implementation and success of the ANR activities.

FLRM – Lebanon

Phase Two – Indicative Activities

Enhance national monitoring capacities of FLR actions.

- Support the use of monitoring tools to regularly estimate the damage and recovery of forest and rangeland ecosystems.
- Support the establishment of a common repository of key mapping data to avoid duplication of efforts and enhance access to information for FLR stakeholders.





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Thank you