

ADVANCED INTERNATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMME



ITP: **Locally controlled forest restoration – A governance and market-oriented approach for resilient landscapes**

Web-based preparatory course April – June 2021.

3 weeks training in Sweden in September 2021,
followed by 4-6 months of a home-based project.



Closing date
for applications:
> **1st March
2021**

Welcome

In the last decade, Forest and Landscape Restoration (FLR) has been adopted for global, regional and national commitments for multiple goals such as climate mitigation, water security, biodiversity and forest resources to support rural livelihoods. Despite extensive international support for climate and development cooperation, practical results and continuity have been limited after project-based support ends. Incentives for local actors is one major driver often missing. The failure of FLR to reduce poverty by creating local value maintains the status quo of land use dependency, forest degradation and loss while also failing to create the desired benefits for biodiversity, water management and carbon mitigation.

This International Training Programme (ITP) uses a systemic approach to build capacity broadly in all actors with a stake in FLR. As the programme title indicates, the emphasis is on driving scalable FLR outside of support programmes. The programme objective is to build capacity in organisations to establish governance, tenure and business support that encourages local smallholders, communities and entrepreneurs to become agents of change based on competitive, transparent and scalable value chains, leaving no one behind.

The ITP is based on current evidence of the economic, social and ecological aspects of FLR and on sharing experiences between a multitude of actors and country contexts during the training. Swedish forest history is used as a background and inspiration. Sweden managed to restore unsustainably exploited forests through broad societal investment to sustain forest production and increase industrial value. Swedish smallholder organisations, governance and policies, make an interesting backdrop, as it balances different goals for forest legislation and the work on improving the protection of water and biodiversity to meet forest certification standards as well as EU-legislation. This is set against the global challenges of meeting future demands for biobased forest products as well as biodiversity, water management, carbon storage and fossil materials substitution.

The Swedish Forest Agency is proud to provide this International Training Programme on Locally Controlled Forest Restoration on behalf of Sida. Together we can make a difference.



Alan AtKisson
DIRECTOR OF PARTNERSHIP
AND INNOVATION
Sida



Herman Sundqvist
DIRECTOR GENERAL
Swedish Forest Agency

Programme objectives

The ITP's overall objective is to accumulate competences in **Locally Controlled Forest Restoration (LoCoFoRest)** to enable scalable local business as a driver for FLR and, therefore, improved livelihoods as well as ecosystem services. Using a systemic approach, the programme aims to attract participants from across the FLR sector (government, civil society, private sector, research and education). The participants will broaden their understanding of:

- FLR challenges, opportunities and prerequisites for multiple desired goals
- Water and other ecosystem services in developing landscapes
- Social and governance aspects of LoCoFoRest
- How forest product value-chains can drive sustainable rural/urban development and FLR.
- Analysing and preparing proposals for organisational change to promote LoCoFoRest

DIRECT BENEFITS FOR PARTICIPANTS

- › **Broadened understanding, experiences and exchange of knowledge**
- › **Developing and connecting to national, regional and international FLR networks**
- › **Improved capacity to contribute to LoCoFoRest in their own organisations**

Expected outcomes include increased understanding and better ability to support and interact around, LoCoFoRest in FLR.

One long-term target impact is for smallholders to have tenure and have obtained incentives and capacity to restore and manage forests sustainably in connection to growing bio-economical markets.

Contents

This training programme focuses on the economic, social and ecological aspects of forest restoration as well as the potential of rural development based on forest products and eco-system services. The first part of the course is an online preparatory course, aimed at giving all participants a minimum level of knowledge of the key aspects of the programme.

The second part is a three-week course in Sweden. This part aims to exemplify, analyse and discuss ecological, governance and industrial aspects of FLR using participants' experiences as well as the historical and current development in Sweden as a background.

At the end of the course in Sweden, mentors will support participants to plan and implement the "Change Project" (see below). Annual FLR conferences will be organised in conjunction with mentor visits to the Change Project.

The Change Project

Each participant will create and implement a Change Project (CP) to be carried out in their own organisation, part-time for about six months after the intensive course. Applicants must include their project idea in their application. The idea will be developed and initiated with help from mentors and other participants during the course in Sweden.

Project type and objective should be adapted to the context and needs of the participant's organisation. It should support a process to strengthen the enabling conditions for sustainable and scalable FLR. Depending on the mandate of the partici-

pant's organisation, this can be improved governance, support for ecosystem services or for local entrepreneurship, business and sustainable value chains, or a mix of all these. See www.locoforest.se for examples.

CPs must be approved by the applicant's organisation. Priority will be given to proposals where two or more participants from different organisations and/or sectors in the same country unite in one project. Please note that ***no funding is available from Sida or the project partners for project implementation*** other than the training supervision.

Programme structure

PROGRAMME COMPONENTS

The programme consists of five compulsory components and takes one year to complete. All components but one, are based in the participant's home country/office. The training is expected to take around 20% of full-time. See more details about the programme components, including examples of Change Projects at www.locoforest.se.

Due to the current pandemic situation, the course in 2021 may be prolonged to up to two years. It will cover the same content and take the same number of hours, but at a slower pace.

COMPONENT 1 – WEB-BASED PREPARATORY COURSE (PART-TIME IN YOUR HOME COUNTRY)

The training programme starts with three months online self-guided studies. The objective of this preparatory course is to ensure all participants have a minimum level of understanding about the key aspects of FLR. There are four sub-courses. The first looks at the LoCoFoRest programme objectives, context diversity of FLR and the role of FLR in the UN Agenda 2030. Subsequent sub-courses cover economic, social and ecological aspects of FLR and the links between them. Each sub-course contains three to four activities, each activity designed to take about one full working day (eight hours). However, the time needed for each activity can vary depending on the participant's level of knowledge of the subject.

COMPONENT 2 – COURSE IN SWEDEN (THREE WEEKS FULL TIME IN SWEDEN)

The short, intensive course in Sweden is the heart of the training programme. Participants meet and collaborate with people from other stakeholder organisations and countries, bringing together diverse economic, societal and ecological contexts. Using their own contexts as a starting point, participants will broaden their understanding of FLR drivers and the importance of interlinked economic, social and ecological values. The programme is based on the Swedish forest sector narrative; the historic restoration of unsustainable forest and the development of policies and governance systems to balance the economic, social and ecological values. Presentations by experts are mixed with interactive exercises and discussions, as well as field excursions and visits to different actors in the forest sector.

COMPONENT 3 – MENTORED CHANGE PROJECT (CP, PART-TIME IN THE HOME COUNTRY)

The applicant suggests a Change Project in their ITP application. Applicants from different organisations can suggest a joint project. All CPs must be approved by the applicant(s) organisation(s). During the course in Sweden, mentors assist participants to develop their CP's objectives and project-plans. Once participants return to their home countries and start to implement the CP, mentors will be in virtual contact to follow up on the plan and to address emerging questions and challenges. Mentors will visit the countries half-way through the project to offer on-site support. This visit will coincide with the annual national workshop (see below). The ITP will also provide a local contact in each country for general support. The finalised CP will be presented at annual regional seminars (one in Africa and one in Asia) at the end of the CP working period (see below).

COMPONENT 4 – ANNUAL NATIONAL RESTORATION CONFERENCE (HOME COUNTRY)

Around half-way through the projects, CP participants, staff and managers of relevant organisations will be invited to a national meeting. This event will give FLR stakeholders the opportunity to come together and discuss a range of topics such as the progress of local CP's, the ITP and other ongoing FLR programmes, as well as current progress and challenges for LoCoFoRest.

COMPONENT 5 – REGIONAL SEMINARS AND ALUMNI NETWORKING

Participants present their final CP reports at an annual regional event (one in Africa and one in Asia). In future years, alumni of earlier course rounds will be invited to these meetings, giving all attendees valuable networking opportunities. In addition, alumni will have access to a dedicated website for networking and exchanging relevant ideas, experiences and information.

Admission requirements

INVITED COUNTRIES

Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Laos, Nepal, Thailand and Vietnam.

TARGET GROUP

Only candidates nominated by an appropriate organisation to make individual applications in accordance with national rules will be considered. We are looking for a mix of participants: men, women, government, civil society, private sector, academia, teachers etc, from a variety of sectors/interest groups. In general, the programme only accepts nationals in FLR-relevant positions, employed (or engaged) with an organisation (non-UN) based in their country. Applicants should have a minimum of three to five years professional experience, but still have at least a decade or two to give in professional activity. Ideally you have an academic qualification, however we can also consider people without a university degree but with relevant experience.

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

Candidates from countries where English is not an official language should have their English proficiency certified in the application, unless other documentation like a certified language test is available. The certification should be signed by someone in an official position at the nomination organisation.

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

Participants should be in good health and have full working capacity to undertake international travel and work away from home, including forest field visits. Therefore, candidates are recommended to have a medical examination before filling in the Medical Statement on the Application form.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

The 25 participants will represent a broad set of the six countries. A well-motivated outline for the CP is crucial and a joint CP bringing together candidates from different organisations may be prioritised.

Participants will need a laptop, internet access, an email-address and basic computer skills. Family members are not allowed to accompany participants.

COSTS

Training costs for lectures, documentation, mentoring, study tours and some social activities are covered by the organiser. The economy fare for international travel to Sweden and to the regional seminar as well as accommodation and food during these components are also covered. Airline reservations are made by the Swedish Forest Agency and issued by a Swedish travel agency.

Participants and their organisations must cover costs for personal expenses, domestic travel in home country, visa fees, local airport taxes and departure fees, as well as participants' salaries during training and any local cost for executing the Change Project.

VISA

Participants are responsible for obtaining all visas for travel to Sweden and the regional seminar.

INSURANCE

All participants are covered by a group insurance while attending the course in Sweden. General medical and dental check-ups are not included.

CERTIFICATE

Participants who successfully complete all training components will be awarded a certificate of completion of LoCoFoRest training.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Closing date for applications for the first course round in 2021, is March 1, 2021. Applications should be made using the designated form available at www.locoforest.se.

The form should be filled in electronically, printed and signed, scanned and sent as an attachment in an e-mail to locoforest.apply@skogsstyrelsen.se. The CP proposal should also be attached, please use the template available with the application form.

For further background, instructions, access to the template and contact information, please go to www.locoforest.se.

Closing date for applications:
> March 1, 2021

Individual applicants must be nominated by their organisation or institution by signature on the application form. The application should be submitted directly to the programme secretariat on the above e-mail. Successful applicants will be notified no later than March 29, 2021 and are expected to confirm participation not later than April 6, 2021. Detailed instructions for the course will follow promptly.

The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) offers, as part of its bilateral development assistance, capacity development activities in areas of strategic importance to the social, environmental and economic development in the participating countries. The purpose of the Advanced International Training Programmes is to provide resources and develop knowledge, skills and expertise to organisations with strong legitimacy in relation to target groups, democracy practices etc. in areas given priority in Swedish development cooperation, are based on identified priorities and needs and in which Swedish expertise is in demand.

ORGANISERS



Swedish Forest Agency

www.skogsstyrelsen.se/en/

The Swedish Forest Agency is the national expert authority for forest-related issues. The Agency is the lead organiser of the programme in cooperation with the partners below. The agency's main function is to supervise and uphold the Forestry Act and to promote and balance current forest policy values. It has 80 local offices throughout Sweden. The main office is situated in Jönköping in South-central Sweden where the intensive course component of this programme will be based.



**THE ECO
INNOVATION
FOUNDATION**

Eco-Innovation Foundation

www.eco-innovation.org

The Eco-Innovation Foundation is a non-profit foundation supporting the development of transparent, sustainable and competitive industrial systems as a lever to turn the negative trend of forest destruction into the opposite – rehabilitation and restoration. EIF is founded by a group of foresters and business consultants whose previous work includes green strategy and business development for corporations, cities, government agencies, leading NGO's and SME's in more than 40 countries.



Stockholm International Water Institute

www.siwi.org

SIWI is an international water institute aiming to leverage knowledge and its convening power to strengthen water governance for a just, prosperous and sustainable future. The interlinkages between forests, landscape management and water resources is one area where SIWI is engaged in multi stakeholder-dialogues and development projects.

SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY

Address: SE-105 25 Stockholm, Sweden.
Visiting address: Valhallavägen 199.
Phone: +46 (0)8-698 50 00. Fax: +46 (0)8-20 88 64.
www.sida.se sida@sida.se

