



RESTORING AFRICA'S DRYLANDS
ACCELERATING ACTION ON THE GROUND



ROOTS OF RESTORATION

Sustainability through community-based forest landscape restoration

#GLFAfrica

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WHITE PAPER



LANDSCAPE DEGRADATION THREATENS ECOSYSTEM FUNCTIONALITY ACROSS THE WORLD

Degradation of entire ecosystems, agricultural and grazing lands, watersheds and the loss of forests, is increasing worldwide – not only releasing large amounts of stored carbon, but also decreasing biodiversity and damaging important ecosystem functions. Forest landscapes and the services they provide are critical to the well-being of local populations. In addition to providing timber and non-timber products, forest landscapes are climate-regulating carbon sinks and serve as crucial wildlife habitats. Restoring the ecosystem functions of these forest landscapes is crucial to conserving biodiversity, adapting to climate change, improving food security and life-sustaining watersheds.



FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION (FLR)

FLR refers to the restoration of ecological and productive functions of degraded ecosystems in tree-rich landscapes – i.e., FLR is a process that aims to restore the ecological, social, and economic functionality in deforested or degraded landscapes and thus improve human well-being. With the start of the UN Decade for Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030, FLR has gained even more importance as it addresses the triad of human well-being, biodiversity and climate protection on a large scale.



COMMUNITY-BASED/ COMMUNITY-LED

Community-based work requires active commitment and participation by communities in the planning and implementation processes of FLR intervention. Therefore, communities are encouraged to identify and voice their challenges, concerns and desired solutions and thus, co-determine the design of the implementation project.

Important aspects of community-based approaches, also referred to as community-led approaches, are:

- Adaptation of intervention designs to meet the needs, strengths and opportunities of the respective communities
- Empowerment and participation through capacity-building of community members
- Holistic understanding of ecosystems, political contexts and connections between culture, nature and economy.

COMMUNITY-BASED FLR

Through years of implementing landscape restoration activities, it has become clear that embedding interventions in the local communities is essential to the sustainability and success of such initiatives. FLR actively engages all levels of stakeholders (including vulnerable groups) in planning and decision-making and encourages ownership through participatory governance structures. As restoration is a long-term process, it requires the contributions and efforts of local communities well beyond most intervention cycles. The commitment of community members and their early and extensive participation is the seed that allows the necessary rooting of approaches and thus, their sustainability. Sustainable and productive land-use practices, empowered ownership and inclusive governance concepts are the tools that FLR provides.

Challenges: Community members must receive meaningful and sustainable incentives – the benefits of protection and restoration must outweigh the costs. In addition, unclear ownership and land-use rights often hinder self-reliant restoration.

THE FUTURE IS YOUNG

Africa has a fast-growing and very young population. Empowerment should therefore be particularly promoted with regard to Africa's youth. The next generation will determine how sustainable the implementation of restoration activity in the landscape can be. Capacity-building plays a major role in education and knowledge transfer between generations and among local communities.

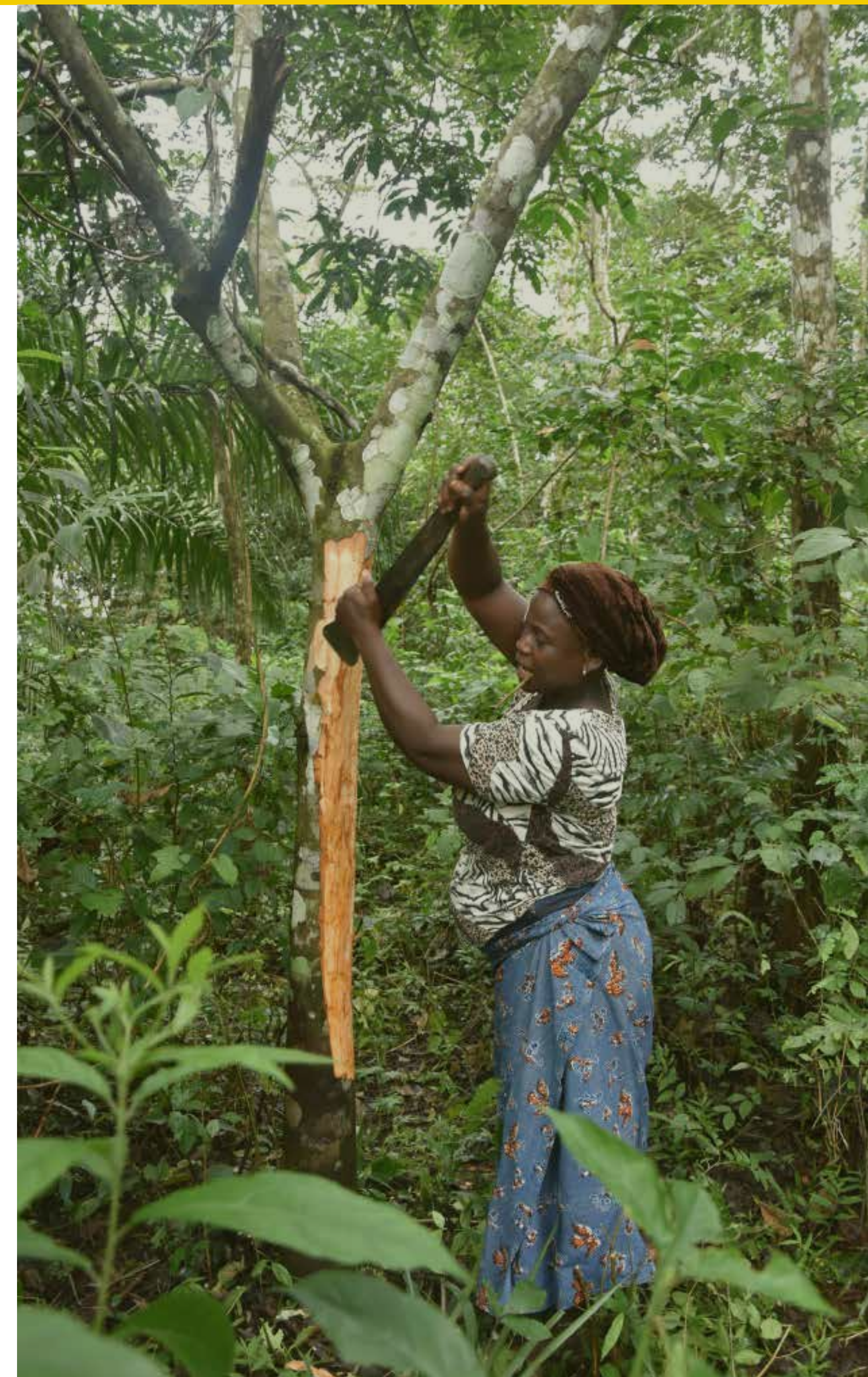
The AFR100 Secretariat has selected Youth Ambassadors to create momentum by engaging with its target audiences, providing an example for other youth to follow, and creating awareness among policy- and decision-makers.



GENDER EMPOWERMENT THROUGH PARTICIPATION

Motivation and awareness-raising are of great importance, when working with local communities. When implementing FLR measures, a community-based approach not only draws on local knowledge to ensure inclusive decision-making, but also strengthens women's agency in these decision-making processes. In order to mobilize the potential of the communities and the restoration efforts, strong female voices and supportive men are needed to foster gender equality, women's well-being and sustainable ecosystem restoration.

Gender-balanced restoration implementation provides greater opportunities and enhanced well-being for the entire community. Women's agency and ownership are of particular importance in the implementation of FLR measures, as women often have valuable expertise in the use of certain trees and non-timber species and products, and play key roles in the associated value chains. In addition to promoting an equal say in strategic decisions, we as practitioners, need to ensure equal distribution of benefits to achieve sustainable empowerment through participation and thereby enable sustainably rooted and successful FLR.



PLENARY SESSION SPEAKER STATEMENTS

“ IUCN is committed to engaging communities, including youth and women, in implementation of FLR packages, which will provide benefits to human well-being through security of ecosystem services such as water, securing livelihoods as well as jobs to these groups both now and into the future. Community-driven FLR provides insurance on sustainability of action on the ground and brings long-lasting changes and transformation of degraded landscapes. ”

Charles Karangwa

Regional Lead- Forests, Landscapes and Livelihoods Programme; Country Representative for Rwanda, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

“ Without a healthy, functioning ecosystem, and in the face of cyclical patterns of droughts and floods, rural communities will be perpetually in survival mode. The risks of farming in their environment are so great that there is little incentive to invest in the necessary improvements that drive productivity gains and economic development. Farmer managed natural restoration FMNR [as one FLR technique] develops community capacity to restore the land, make it productive again, and builds community resilience and opportunity. ”

Tony Rinaudo

Principal Natural Resources Advisor, World Vision Australia

“ I have dedicated my life to Community Based Forest Land Restoration and FLR is the single greatest nature-based solution with disruptive potentials at scale for inclusive green growth benefits, and ecosystems services opportunities for jobs, income, livelihoods and resilience. ”

Tabi Joda

Executive Director, GreenAid

“ Promoting a holistic approach to natural resource management with a strong focus on income generation and modernization of local natural resource development techniques. It includes a strong emphasis on large-scale initiatives targeting the most disadvantaged and vulnerable social groups. ”

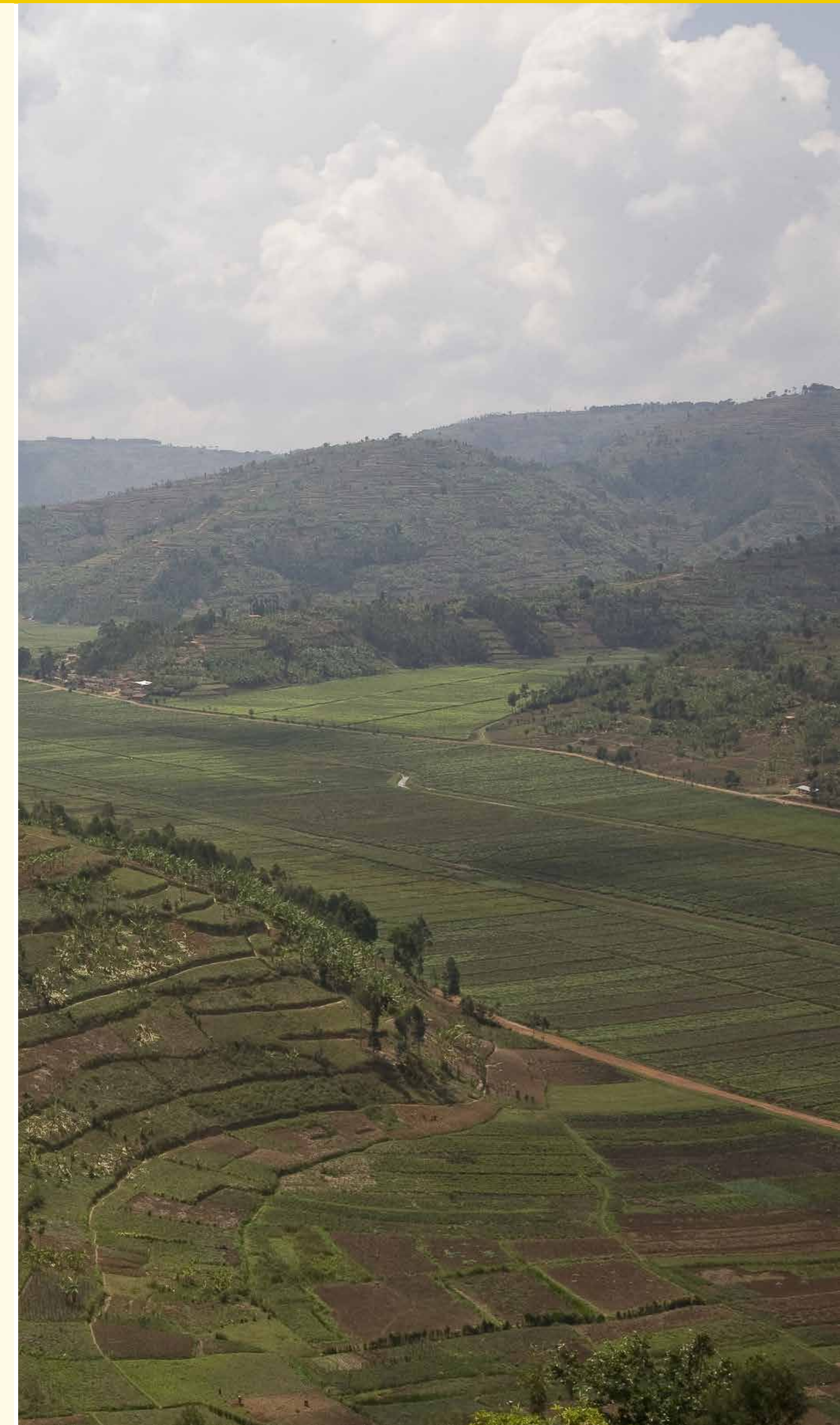
Joséphine Makueti

Senior Expert for Landscape Restoration, Associated Researcher, Forest and Environment Programme at German Cooperation (GIZ), CIRAD

“ The pertinence of FLR as a business case is now well established as it is estimated that investing in sustainable land use and food systems could generate up to US\$2.3 trillion in revenues and provide over 70 million jobs globally, by 2030. In that sense, restoration entrepreneurs, across Africa and worldwide, are proving that restoring degraded forests and agricultural lands is not only good for the planet, but is also a good business opportunity, as well. ”

Mamadou Moussa Diakhité

Head of the Environmental Sustainability Division at the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) and Executive Secretary of the AFR100 Secretariat



FORESTS4FUTURE (2020-2025)

The project “Forests4Future” is part of the BMZ initiative “OneWorld without Hunger”. The project combines landscape and forest approaches, thus highlighting the special role of forests in rural development in the context of food security. Objectives of the project include the following thematic areas:

- Reconstruction of forests and tree-rich, productive landscapes in Ethiopia, Madagascar and Togo,
- Improving governance in forestry, and
- Expanding the EU’s forest law enforcement, governance and trade process in collaboration with Côte d’Ivoire and Laos.

The target groups include forestry and environmental policymakers in international initiatives and poor, rural population groups in selected countries. Women and young people are to receive special support.

LARGE-SCALE FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION (FLR) IN AFRICA (2020-2025)

A BMU-IKI-financed programme of the consortium partners AUDA-NEPAD, FAO, IUCN, World Bank, WRI, WWF and coordinated by GIZ.

The programme aims to increase the economic, ecological and climate-related benefits from large-scale FLR in Cameroon, Kenya, Malawi and Rwanda.

The consortium partners will provide field support, capacity-building and policy advice to restore FLR at ground level, unblock large-scale FLR, leverage additional financial resources, share FLR experiences, and monitor the achieved results. Internationally, the project will contribute to a growing body of continent-wide best FLR practices and share them with a global community of practice.



PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

GLF Africa Digital Conference 2021 would not be possible without the support and participation of the following hosts, partners and organizations. For a full list of everyone involved, please visit: events.globallandscapesforum.org/africa-2021/partners

GLOBAL LANDSCAPES FORUM

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.

Charter Members: CIAT, CIFOR, CIRAD, Climate Focus, Conservation International, Crop Trust, Ecoagriculture Partners, EFI, Evergreen Agriculture, FSC, GEF, GIZ, ICIMOD, IFOAM - Organics International, ILRI, INBAR, IPMG, IUFRO, Rainforest Alliance, Rare, RRI, SAN, UN Environment, (TMG) Think Tank, Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation, part of Wageningen Research, WFO, World Agroforestry, World Bank Group, WRI, WWF Germany, Youth in Landscapes Initiative.



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