



THE FILM-MAKER MEETS THE FOREST-MAKER

THE STORY BEHIND FMNR AND ITS ROLE FOR
RESTORATION OF AFRICAN LANDSCAPES !

**FRONTIERS
OF CHANGE**

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On behalf of:

Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) is one method of Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR), which is one of the three pillars of the **BMZ Forest Strategy**, mainly being implemented by The African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (**AFR100**). With this initiative, BMZ is making an internationally visible contribution to the implementation of international forest conservation and reforestation targets. The global project **Forests4Future** contributes directly to the implementation of the AFR100 objectives in various African countries. There are currently about 20 ongoing projects with a total volume of almost 200 million euros that implement measures on FLR in Africa, including FMNR-activities.

The FMNR Hub within World Vision Australia's Climate Action and Resilience team leads and fosters the development

of FMNR globally through co-ordination, communication, collaboration, technical support, building scientific credibility, advocacy and project fundraising.

World Vision Australia's Principle Climate Action Advisor, **Tony Rinaudo**, pioneered FMNR in Niger during the 1983 famine and is regarded as the leading expert in FMNR worldwide, being awarded with the Alternative Nobel Prize for his work.

To disseminate knowledge about FMNR, German film director and Oscar winner **Volker Schlöndorff** had already released an educational film, which underlines the importance of greening desertified areas in order to achieve the climate goals. He has now produced a documentary about the vision and the work of the "forest-maker" for the broader public as well.

Degraded landscapes threaten communities and ecosystems

Degradation of entire ecosystems, watersheds, and agricultural and grazing lands, 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, and improving food security and life-sustaining watersheds.



A catalyst for sustainable development

The Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) approach involves systematic regeneration, management and regrowth of trees and shrubs from felled tree stumps, roots and seedlings. Communities discover how the simple act of pruning can release the untapped energy of deep, underground root systems, rapidly turning shrubs and stumps into mature trees and forests in a matter of years, completely transforming the world around them. The method is a farmer-driven catalyst for sustainable development, impacting current and future generations. The tangible outcomes benefit not just the environment, but the communities who rely on it for survival. Integrated farmers can increase their food and timber production, their resilience to climate extremes, put more food on the table, earn and save more income, build better homes, and focus on providing a brighter future for their children – helping to break the cycle of poverty.

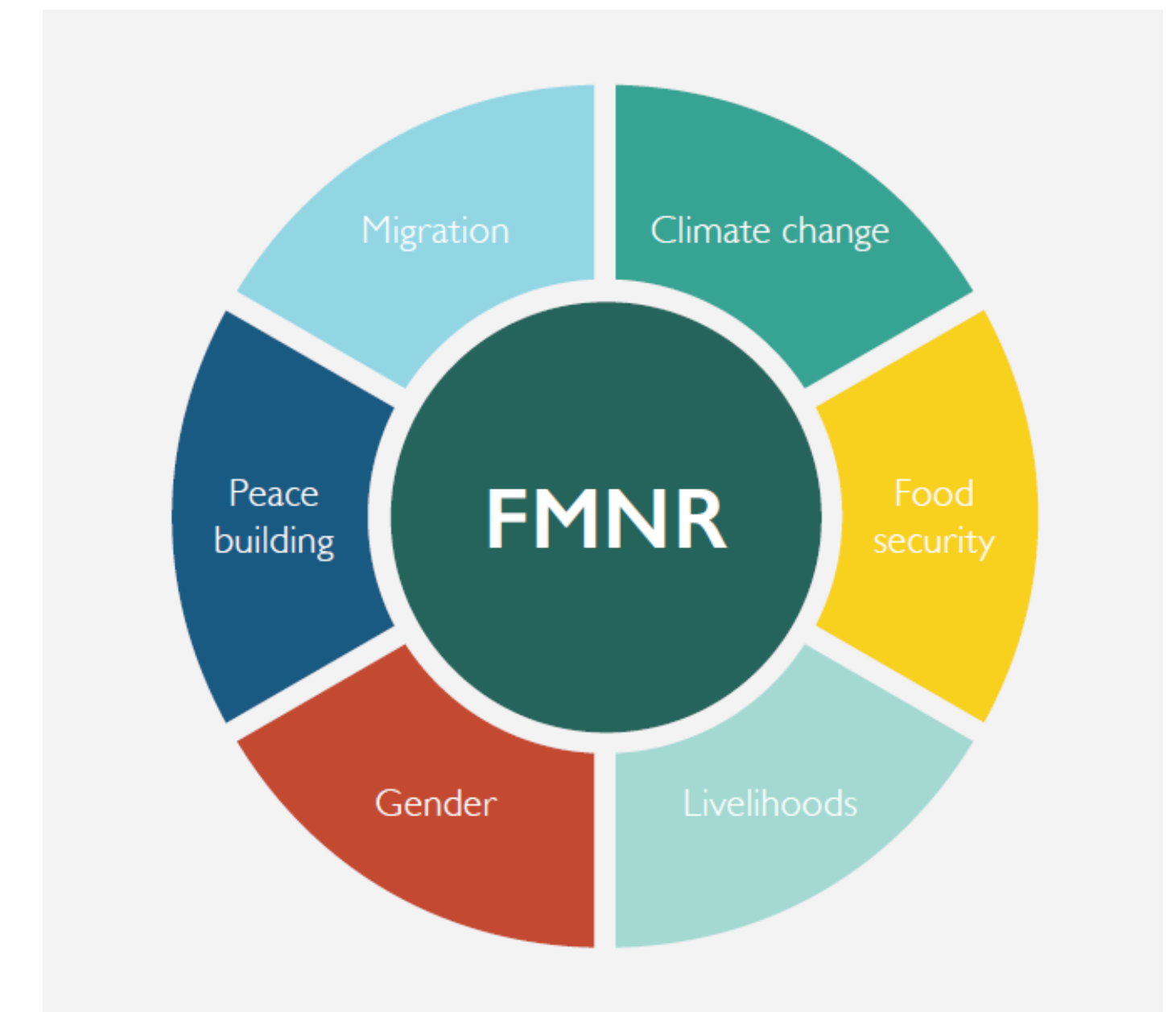
When the environment thrives, the community thrives

Research shows that FMNR has a range of direct and indirect benefits, including climate change adaptation and mitigation, improved food security, increased household income, and improved and equitable gender relations. It also addresses the root causes of irregular migration and supports peace-building efforts by bringing communities together to agree on solutions to shared problems.

World Vision has developed an integrated approach to FMNR, including:

- Coaching communities to advocate for improved environmental policy
- Mobilizing, empowering and enabling communities to take action on environmental and development issues
- Training farmers in complementary sustainable agricultural practices, and water and livestock management
- Linking farmers to economic services such as savings groups and markets
- Reaching marginalized people who may not be involved in other agricultural projects

- Empowering communities in conflict-sensitive natural resource management and peace building
- Enhancing participation by women and youth in restoration activities
- Strengthening farmers' capacity in adaptation and mitigation efforts
- Enhancing abilities to deal with threats including fire, livestock and tree theft.

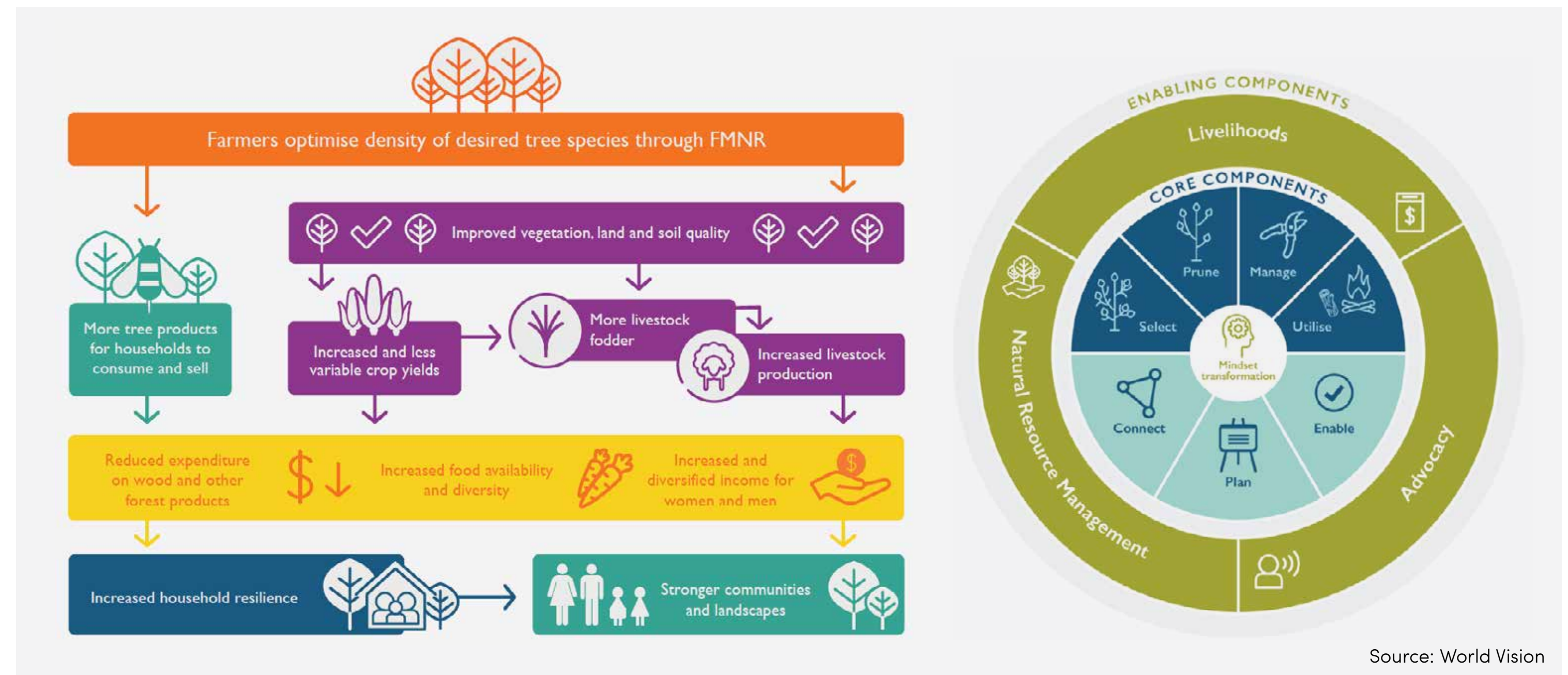


Source: World Vision

FMNR – How does it work?

Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) is both a **technical practice** and **community development approach** for mobilizing and empowering local communities to restore their natural environment through the systematic regrowth and management of existing trees and shrubs from tree stumps, sprouting root systems or wild seeds on diverse landscapes. The approach builds on traditional/Indigenous knowledge of tree management; hence, it is easily adaptable by many farmers.

Technical practice: As a technical practice, FMNR includes the selection of trees, regular pruning of selected stems and side branches (to allow maximum growth of desired stems) and the protection of selected trees and shrubs from potential threats (e.g. livestock, fire). It also includes the utilization of the by-products from pruning as well as certain species (e.g. medicinal plants) for fodder, firewood, wild fruits, gums and resins. To adopt



FMNR, community members are trained in technical knowledge and skills. This includes the identification and training of FMNR Champions, who actively work to enhance the spread and adoption of FMNR in their communities.

Community development: The adoption of FMNR also requires and enables community members

to connect and plan as a group concerning the definition of a common goal and strategy for landscape restoration within the community. The adoption of FMNR implies a mindset transformation at the individual and community levels associated with a shift in attitudes and agency towards addressing the causes and consequences of environmental degradation.

“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 environments are so great that there is little incentive to invest in the necessary improvements that drive productivity gains and economic development. FMNR develops community capacity to restore the land, make it productive again, and builds community resilience and opportunity.”

TONY RINAUDO,
WORLD VISION.



Source: World Vision

In the 1980s, Niger was devastated by drought. The almost total destruction of trees and shrubs intensified the impact of strong winds, drought, high temperatures and infertile soils, contributing to chronic hunger and periodic, acute famine. The country was in a state of severe environmental degradation. Women had to walk for miles to collect small branches, and cattle and goat manure was used for fuel.

Without protection from trees, crops were hit by 60–70 km/hour winds that damaged crops. Farmers often had to replant crops up to eight times in a single season. When FMNR was adopted, for the first time, whole communities were growing trees on their farms.

FMNR became a standard practice and over a 20-year period, the approach spread from farmer to farmer until five million hectares of farmland was regenerated through the hard work of communities, giving hope that environmental restoration could provide farmers with a brighter future.

US\$900 million
per year estimated gross income from
FMNR technology in Niger alone.

The story behind the “Film-maker meets the Forest-maker”

Volker Schlöndorff, the “film-maker” from Germany is fascinated by the idea of “natural restoration” of desertified areas, as pioneered by the Australian agronomist Tony Rinaudo, called the “forest-maker”. Since he heard about the potential of FMNR for greening desertified areas, he has been committed to spread this knowledge and raise awareness in the public. In co-operation with World Vision, the Oscar winner Schlöndorff had already produced an educational film about FMNR aimed at agro-forestry experts and smallholders in the countries of the Sahel as well as India and Latin America, when he decided to start an even bigger project – a documentary called “The Forest Maker”.

“The Forest Maker” is a cinema co-production by zero one film and Schlöndorff’s Volksfilm, with Volker Schlöndorff taking on conception and direction. “The Forest Maker (AT)” follows Tony Rinaudo, who was awarded the so-called

Alternative Nobel Prize in 2018. Over the past 30 years, in co-operation with farmers in countries of the Global South, he has regenerated degraded areas in more than 26 countries worldwide. In Niger alone, 5 million ha forest could be regenerated through FMNR. This was possible not by planting new seedlings, but by using the underground forest through pruning, tending and protecting tree shoots. Recently, his reforestation method received the World Future Council’s ‘Best Practice Agro-Ecology’ Award and in 2020, the UN declared FMNR a SDG Good Practice. Rinaudo’s ambitious plan is now to launch a global movement to regenerate one billion hectares of forest.



VOLKER SCHLÖNDORFF’S VOLKSFILM:

“Tony’s method and the farmers who are greening the desert again are important for all of us. If we want to achieve the climate goals, it is time to put aside our Western arrogance and learn from those who perform ‘small miracles’ day after day.”

ZERO ONE FILM’S PRODUCER THOMAS KUFUS SAYS OF THE PROJECT:

“The film should help to make Tony Rinaudo’s incredible ideas even better known and thus hopefully contribute to more and more politicians, governments and NGOs supporting his cause.”

For more details visit the following links:

FMNR Hub & Resources

- **FMNR Hub**
- **FMNR Manual**
- **FMNR Research and Reports**
- **FMNR: Regenerating Trees to Tackle Climate Change**
- **Improving the livelihoods of communities in arid and semi-arid lands**

FMNR – Educational videos & resources

- **FMNR case study & tutorial videos**
- **FMNR video on Kenya case study**
with a focus on links between land degradation and peace building
- **Educational movie on FMNR**
sponsored by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) assisted by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
- **NEW: Trailer of Schlöndorff's "The Forest Maker"**
- **NEW: First-time confidential preview at the GLF**





#GLFClimate

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 livelihoods, landscape restoration, rights, finance and measuring progress. It is led by the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), in collaboration with its co-founders UNEP and the World Bank and Charter Members.

Charter Members: CIAT, CIFOR, CIRAD, Climate Focus, Conservation International, Crop Trust, Ecoagriculture Partners, The European Forest Institute, Evergreen Agriculture, FSC, GEF, GIZ, ICIMOD, IFOAM – Organics International, The International Livestock Research Institute, INBAR, IPMG, IUFRO, Rainforest Alliance, Rare, Rights and Resources Initiative, SAN, TMG–Think Tank for Sustainability, UNEP, Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation part of Wageningen Research, World Farmer Organization, World Agroforestry, World Bank Group, World Resources Institute, WWF International, Youth in Landscapes Initiative (YIL)

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