



# UPSCALING FOREST AND LANDSCAPE RESTORATION

REGIONAL AND LOCAL MECHANISMS  
FOR SUCCESS

FRONTIERS  
OF CHANGE

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## Forest landscapes: Ecosystems under pressure

African forests and landscapes are under significant pressure and are severely compromised. The continent loses approximately 2.8 million hectares of forests each year, and about 50 million hectares of land are affected by degradation. Deforestation and landscape degradation threaten ecological functions vital to African economies. The consequences are enormous: lower food production, reduced quality of life and increased poverty, particularly amongst rural households and smallholder farmers whose livelihoods largely depend on stable weather patterns, healthy soils, tree cover and water.

Africa is home to the second largest rainforest on the planet – the Congo Basin. In global terms, Africa hosts 17% of the world's forests and 31% of its woodlands. Unfortunately, these natural assets are currently undergoing structural changes due to degradation as a result of both natural processes and human activities. As much as 65% of productive land in Africa is degraded, while desertification affects 45% of the continent's land area.

Degraded forest landscapes not only intensify the effects of climate change, but also severely threaten the ecological functions that are vital to building prosperous and resilient economies and communities. Rural smallholder farmers and households suffer disproportionately from degraded lands as their activities directly depend on healthy soils, tree cover and clean water.

## Moving forward

The urgent need to reverse these negative trends has prompted African leaders to commit to restoration of the continent's ecosystems. Through its roadmap Agenda 2063, the African continent has committed to ecosystem restoration by protecting, restoring and promoting sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably managing forests and combating desertification. Africa presents the largest restoration opportunity of any continent in the world – with more than 700 million hectares of degraded landscapes that can be restored.



## The African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100)

AFR100, launched in December 2015 during the Global Landscapes Forum at COP21 in Paris by representatives of participating African countries and a wide range of financial and technical partners (including the NEPAD Agency, BMZ and WRI), aims to reverse these negative trends. **AFR100** is an African-owned and country-led initiative to restore more than 100 million hectares of deforested and degraded landscapes across Africa by 2030. The commitments announced under AFR100 also support the Bonn Challenge adopted in Germany in 2011, whose overall objective is to restore 150 million hectares by 2020, the New York Declaration on Forests that stretches the goal to 350 million hectares by 2030, and finally the African Resilient Landscapes Initiative (ARLI) to promote integrated landscape management to promote adaptation to and mitigation of climate change.

The initiative, with its secretariat run by AUDA-NEPAD, builds on progress achieved through the TerraMatch Africa Partnership, Global Partnership for Forest Landscape Restoration (GPFLR), and related landscape restoration efforts like the AREECA BMU IKI programme. The Initiative now connects 32 participating African countries with technical and financial support to scale up restoration on the ground and capture associated benefits. These countries have now committed a combined 128 million hectares to restoration by 2030.

More than 30 AFR100 technical partners bring a broad range of expertise in assessing restoration opportunities and scaling up implementation on the ground. With the support of financial and private sector partners, AFR100 will help to translate ambitious commitments into action and results on the ground with support from private sector investors, development banks and bilateral and multilateral funders.

After six years of political commitment and targeted implementation, AFR100 is launching its second phase in 2022 with a major influx of financial commitments.



**Afr100 commitment tracker**  
(Screenshot AFR100 Website – Link: [AFR100 |](https://afr100.org/))





**Forest Landscape Restoration (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 ecological, social and economic functionality in deforested or degraded landscapes and thus improve human well-being.

## Relevance of upscaling

In response to the increasing and devastating degradation of ecosystems, African leaders committed to restore 100 million hectares by 2030 under AFR100. Yet, as national ambitions continue to grow, so does the demand for local stakeholders to match these commitments in the field. In order to reverse degradation and achieve nationally determined contributions under the Paris Agreement, it is crucial to unblock large-scale restoration efforts, include all levels of stakeholders and build on existing achievements on the ground. The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration adds another spotlight onto the relevance of large-scale restoration.

## Challenges of upscaling

- Insufficient property rights | leading to a lack of incentive for local and indigenous communities to restore and maintain forest landscapes.
- Insufficient human and technical capacity | forest services are often overstretched and insufficiently trained. More locally adapted monitoring, practical tools for local mapping, and more research materials are also needed.
- Lack of adequate infrastructure | renders the access of many areas difficult.
- Complexity of FLR | and its diverse dimensions complicate implementation.
- Seed supply systems | lack appropriate species as well as genetic diversity.
- Financing | the lack of access to financial services for farmers acts as a barrier to invest in landscapes. Much of the funding for FLR comes from bilateral or multilateral donors, yet those investments are mostly short term and often fail to reach local restoration champions.
- Illegal exploitation of natural resources | remains a major cause of forest degradation.
- Climate change | can be a driver of degradation, but FLR also has the potential to fight this very challenge.



## Key success factors

- **Engagement of local stakeholders:** In rural areas, FLR plays a fundamental role in meeting local stakeholders' needs.
- **True local ownership:** It is essential to ensure sustainability, so that FLR actions can continue, beyond short-term funding and donor attention.
- **High-level political support**
- **Champions of FLR:** They may be traditional leaders, faith leaders, government or NGO facilitators.
- **Financing:** Significant funding and accountability are required for FLR. Vast sums have already been committed. Yet, for FLR to succeed, sustainable income-generating activities need to be in place, and access to funding for those living in the landscapes is paramount.
- **Integration across sectors:** FLR activities can benefit and be implemented by a large variety of sectors.
- **Knowledge sharing:** It provides inspiration as well as models to replicate, scale up and multiply FLR experiences.
- **A favourable policy environment:** It provides the foundations for successful FLR implementation. Incentives, including rewarding local efforts, need to be in place.
- **A collaborative approach:** Partnerships are important both within the country and between neighbours and beyond.

## Upscaling what works:

### Tabi Joda, One Billion Trees for Africa



#### One Billion Trees for Africa

is a frontline response to climate degradation with a milestone of 2 million trees grown, 80 hectares restored

and 77 land-based jobs created in 33 communities in 11 countries.

Our approach focuses on three main activities: restore lands, create jobs and reduce climate migration. In restoration, we are committed to planting indigenous trees in the Sahel, using traditional and established methods for integrated agroforestry, developing value chains for non-timber forest products and creating jobs in the rural region.

It is succeeding because we prioritize tangible, visible and measurable practices that stimulate the appetite to restore landscapes and create holistic impact.



## Mechanisms for upscaling: Sharing what works

### The Land Accelerator



#### > Empowering Women & Youth Restoration Entrepreneurs

The **Land Accelerator Africa**, led by AUDA-NEPAD and World Resources Institute (WRI), is an exciting programme and curated network for entrepreneurs who restore degraded forests and farmlands. The aim of the programme is to encourage participation of women and youth in restoration entrepreneurship opportunities. By fostering entrepreneur-ship, this first-of-its-kind programme provides a cost-effective, yet sustainable and scalable approach to restoration. The participation of youth in FLR entrepreneurial activities addresses two

of the most significant challenges facing the youth today; the twin threats of environmental degradation and youth unemployment.

The Land Accelerator has now worked with 104 entrepreneurs from 34 countries in total, including 78 local businesses from 27 countries for its third cohort in 2021. In 2021, Land Accelerator Africa approved 100 entrepreneurs from 1,380 applicants, for grant funding and targeted entrepreneurship training.

### The TerraMatch funding initiative



**TerraMatch**, a partnership between AFR100 and WRI, seeks to finance FLR entrepreneurs in Africa using a similar model to the Land Accelerator. The initiative issued a call for proposals in September, offering an opportunity for FLR entrepreneurs to access funding between USD 50,000 and USD 500,000.

### PANORAMA – Solutions for a Healthy Planet



Learning from small-scale interventions, sharing experience and transferring knowledge is key to enable large-scale restoration. Knowledge sharing platforms like **PANORAMA** provide replicable solutions proven to be successful – over 1,000 solutions have already been shared. The new thematic community on FLR will collect local and regional solutions and foster the development of knowledge and communication networks.

### Request for proposals: Financing Africa's top 100 tree restoration enterprises and projects

WRI, One Tree Planted, and Realize Impact issued a call for proposals in September, offering an opportunity for top FLR entrepreneurs to access funding between USD 50,000 and USD 500,000. More than 3,200 entrepreneurs and project developers applied from 31 AFR100 countries, and the initial cohort of the top 100 will be announced at COP26.



## AREECA – Alliance for Restoration of Forest Landscapes and Ecosystems in Africa (2020–2025)



AREECA is BMU-ICI-financed programme implemented by consortium partners AUDA-NEPAD, FAO, IUCN, World Bank, WRI and WWF, and coordinated by GIZ. This programme enables large-scale FLR in tree-rich landscapes to foster biodiversity, climate change resilience and better livelihoods in selected landscapes in Cameroon, Kenya, Malawi and Rwanda.

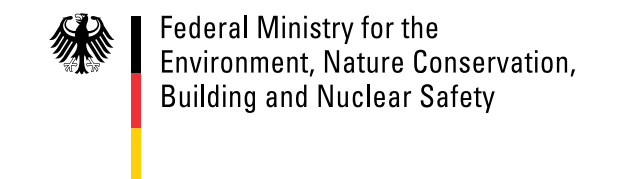
**Objective: Restore the ecological and productive functions of degraded ecosystems in tree-rich landscapes to increase the resilience of landscapes and communities**

The consortium partners will provide field support, capacity-building and policy advice to restore FLR at the 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.

AREECA is a catchment basin of expertise, knowledge and experience creating success through synergies. The programme actively engages all levels of stakeholders (including vulnerable groups) in planning and decision making, and encourages ownership through participatory governance structures. Besides supporting FLR activities on the ground, the concept addresses all the relevant actors and sectors to enable successful and sustainable upscaling; resourcing FLR, building capacity, monitoring intervention and sharing knowledge on proven approaches.



On behalf of:



of the Federal Republic of Germany





#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)

### Funding partners



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