Global Landscapes Forum
Nairobi

Prospects and Opportunities for Restoration in Africa

29–30 August 2018 | *Nairobi, Kenya*

OUTCOME STATEMENT

Key messages

- Implementing restoration commitments requires integrated landscape approaches that involve stakeholders across multiple sectors, working at many scales across different ecosystems.
- Communities are central to initiating, sustaining and scaling up landscape restoration in Africa – including efforts to meet regional commitments under AFR100 – but they need social, political and financial support.
- One key element of successful restoration is livelihood improvement, because livelihood security is a central motivator for local community engagement in restoration.
- Ensuring that women can participate effectively in the design, implementation, monitoring and sharing of benefits is the basis for successful restoration programs, and can help to address underlying gender inequalities.
- Land and tree tenure rights need to be clarified and strengthened – especially for marginalized groups – for landscape restoration efforts to succeed.
- Financing for landscape restoration will require a mix of national, international, private and public funding, but first forest and landscape restoration initiatives need to prove they are well-structured and viable.

Every year, Africa loses an estimated 2.8 million hectares of forest and about 50 million hectares of land to degradation, leading to serious impacts on its environment and people (FAO 2016, UNEP 2016). Worldwide, degradation is costing more than 10% of annual global gross domestic product in lost biodiversity and ecosystem services, with significant impacts on land and ecosystem productivity – especially in vulnerable areas in Sub-Saharan Africa, South-East Asia and Latin America (Scholes et al. 2018).

Forest and landscape restoration aims to bring back the ecological functionality of deforested or degraded landscapes, while enhancing human well-being (Besseau et al. 2018). Forest and landscape restoration creates opportunities for promoting resilience to the effects of climate change in rural Africa by helping to: achieve food, water and energy security; mitigate climate change; and create jobs for millions of Africans by harnessing opportunities in the green economy and sustainable development, as well as boosting trade and exports. There is high political will for forest and landscape restoration in Africa, as shown by the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100) – in which 27 African countries have committed to restoring 100 million hectares of degraded forest landscapes by 2030[1] – and many other initiatives described in this report.

1 Tanzania and Togo added their commitments of 5.2 million ha and 1.4 million ha, respectively, ahead of the recently held 3rd AFR100 annual meeting in Nairobi on 26–28 August 2018. Burkina Faso and the Republic of Sudan pledged to restore 5 million ha and 14.6 million ha, respectively, in the margins of the meeting.

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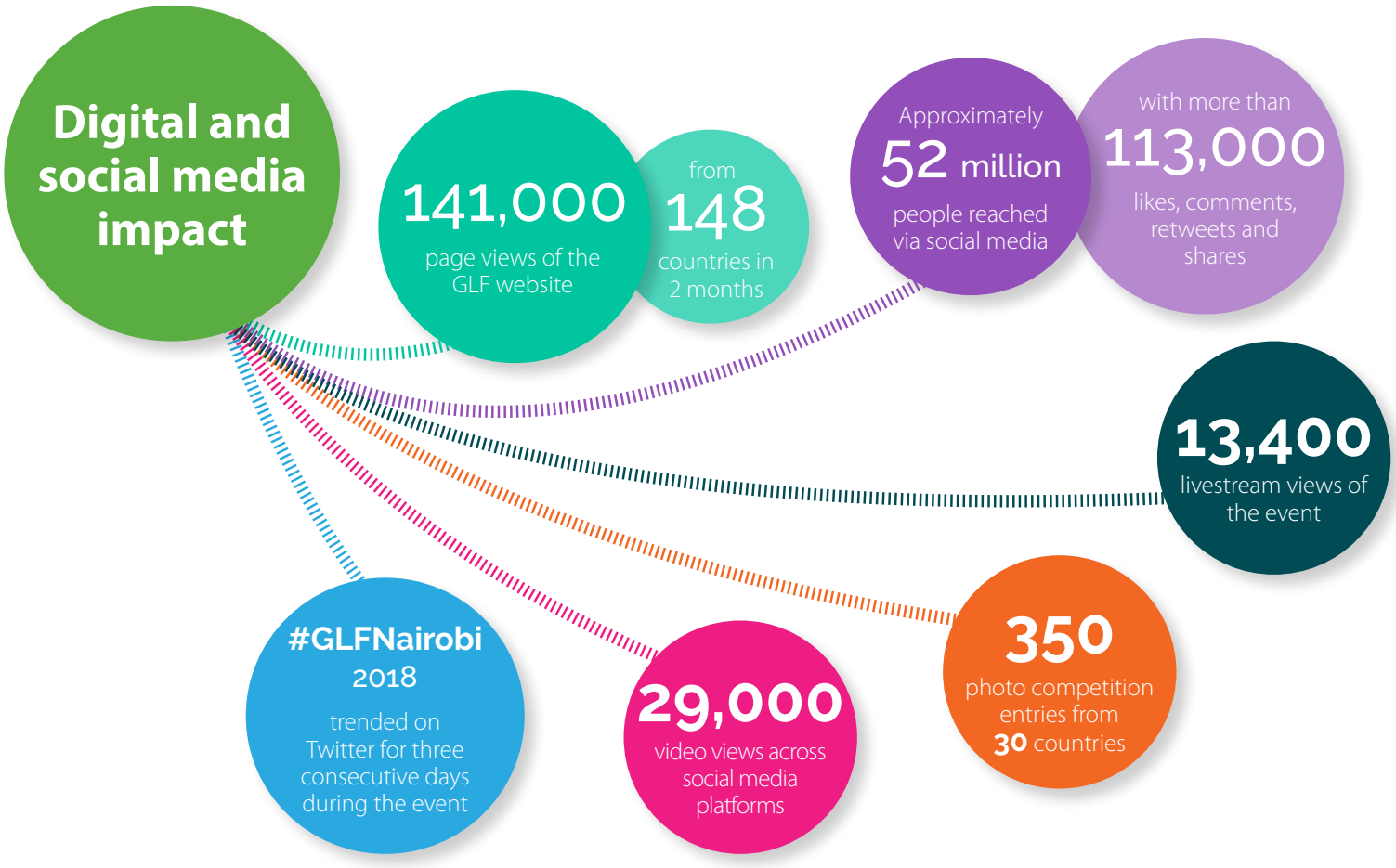
To harness this enthusiasm and help pave the way for forest and landscape restoration action on the ground, the Global Landscapes Forum (GLF) Nairobi 2018 sought to elevate political, community and private sector support for the implementation of AFR100, and to foster cooperation around forest and landscape restoration activities at national and international levels.

GLF Nairobi drew 800 delegates to the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) headquarters in Nairobi from 29 to 30 August 2018, and 13,380 people joined the discussions online. Participants came from a variety of backgrounds and sectors, including communities, youth, government, non-governmental and international organizations, civil society organizations (CSOs), community-based organizations, finance, and private sector institutions. Delegates participated in 9 plenary sessions, 19 discussion forums, 7 side events and various media sessions. The wide-ranging discussions centered on the following topics: community-based restoration, restoration financing, private sector engagement, land and tree tenure, invasive species management, land-use planning, rangelands restoration, restoration of mangroves, and social inclusion and gender. A youth program and a media training program were conducted ahead of the GLF.

Showcased were restoration success stories and challenges involving local communities, governments and the private sector from across the continent. Government representatives shared reports detailing activities to support efforts to meet their national restoration targets. And the forum featured local- and national-level successes, it also gave ample space for participants to voice concerns over the monumental task of implementing forest and landscape restoration – and to propose creative solutions. The conference also sparked a conversation among African government representatives about endorsing the 'UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration 2020–2030', which was originally proposed by the government of El Salvador during the Bonn Challenge high-level meeting in Brazil in March 2018 and subsequently endorsed by eight governments of Central America.

This outcome statement aims to capture the buzz of GLF Nairobi, summarizing the discussions, challenges, ideas and potential solutions that arose out of the sessions.



Implementing forest and landscape restoration

There is political will for restoration among African countries, as shown by the growing number of countries that have committed to restore large tracts of degraded lands through AFR100 and other schemes like Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+). In addition, under the 2015 Paris Agreement most countries have developed Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) that emphasize restoration and sustainable management of forests. Some African countries have already committed funds to restoration.

Participants at the GLF suggested that the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration 2020–2030 proposed by El Salvador would provide a coherent framework to promote landscape restoration across the African continent. The decade of ecosystem restoration would enable the global community to step up its ambition toward restoring all ecosystems, re-energizing commitments to achieve transformational change. Further, it would accelerate action across multiple dimensions as follows: (i) setting of a common vision; (ii) mainstreaming of ecosystem restoration in policies and plans; (iii) facilitating synergies and a holistic view; (iv) cooperation and resource mobilization to increase financial flows, technologies, knowledge and capacities; (v) addressing barriers that impede scaling up of degraded ecosystems; (vi) increasing partnerships with, and support of, smallholders and communities; and (vii) awareness raising.

Another opportunity lies in the replication of successful restoration initiative models. Forest and landscape restoration initiatives have been implemented across Africa either by communities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and governments, or through public-private partnerships. A lot can be learned from their experiences and successful models can be replicated, depending on the context. Examples of such initiatives include the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative, the Cocoa & Forests Initiative in West Africa, the Malawi Tea 2020 Revitalization Programme, and the Initiative for Sustainable Landscapes (ISLA) in South West Mau Forest, Kenya.

> *"Restoration can only succeed by involving communities and giving them the chance to use their traditional knowledge"*

Daniel Kobei,
Founder of the Ogiek Peoples' Development Program

Emerging methodologies and tools are also available to countries to help them identify potential areas for restoration and develop restoration plans. For instance, the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM) developed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and World Resources Institute (WRI) is a standard methodology to identify where, when, what and how to do forest and landscape restoration. It is being implemented in several African countries, including Kenya, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Mozambique and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). ROAM aims to understand the local drivers of degradation in a given context and to create a theory of change for all actors to achieve impact on the ground. It equips decisions-makers (at national and subnational levels) with the information, tools and knowledge they need to conduct restoration activities.

GLF Nairobi delegates identified five critical actions for successful and sustainable forest and landscape restoration in Africa:

1. Acknowledge and strengthen ongoing community efforts

Over the past decade, communities across different cultural, ecological and political contexts have invested in different types of restoration efforts. These communities are crucial to initiating, sustaining and scaling up landscape restoration in Africa, and to achieving AFR100 regional commitments. Experiences from successful landscape restoration activities across the continent reveal that initiatives led by or involving local communities are often characterized by visionary and inspirational leadership, collective organization, secure tenure rights, and external support for local activities, including the strengthening of local capacity. For communities, landscape restoration is often motivated by a need to secure their livelihoods and/or natural assets.

- Opportunities for further development include:
- strengthening local community leadership;
- enabling and supporting youth;
- strengthening women's land and tree rights;
- integrating traditional and indigenous knowledge (while also addressing traditional beliefs and customary norms that may impede restoration);
- building capacity among community leaders in restoration techniques, firefighting and tree planting, as well as creating awareness about the benefits of landscape restoration.

2. Make space for all stakeholders at the table

Only when multiple stakeholders are involved in discussions around land use can a holistic view of the issues emerge; this 'big picture' thinking is needed to address the drivers of land degradation and other challenges experienced in forest and landscape restoration. Local communities, government authorities (both subnational and national), government agencies and ministries, private sector actors, NGOs, CSOs and donors contribute with different perspectives that, when taken into account and honored, can create forest and landscape restoration strategies that are more coherent and sustainable.

But this inclusive approach takes careful coordination. While it can help bring to the surface – and thus help address in advance – tradeoffs regarding the impacts of landscape restoration, broad inclusion of diverse interests and needs can also make reaching common ground more difficult.

Multistakeholder engagement platforms or forums have the potential to deliver the required coordination. However, ensuring the inclusion of all stakeholders in such platforms needs asking the questions, what does participation mean, and who oversees multistakeholder decision-making at the end of the day?

Authority is, in fact, often concentrated in the hands of a few actors such as governments or donors, and a false impression of equity, fairness and effective decision-making may result. More importantly, a rights-based approach is needed. Indigenous Peoples and local communities must be recognized as rights holders and not just stakeholders in such platforms. This means that anyone who wants to engage in restoration activities should first consult communities, understand their systems of land tenure, and involve them in projects from the outset.

Apart from promoting the engagement of stakeholders, multistakeholder platforms or forums can serve as avenues to build capacity in implementing landscape restoration and landscape approaches. In this respect, they can be used to:

- create and enhance awareness about the need for landscape restoration;
- improve understanding of landscape approaches
- share experiences, skills and knowledge on restoration in different contexts, including emerging challenges such as invasive species management.

This kind of capacity building will enhance the ability of local stakeholders to engage in multistakeholder approaches in a more meaningful manner. The private sector will be in a better position to understand the vernacular of landscape restoration, and policy- and decision-makers will be better equipped with the knowledge and tools required to develop plans and legislation that support restoration.

> *"We cannot restore land in the place of populations. We must build their capacities, so they can act against land degradation."*

Serge Zoubga,
Program officer, Tiipaalga Association,
Burkina Faso

Youth: Champions for Landscape Restoration

Youth are often excluded from multistakeholder engagement processes on landscape restoration, community restoration efforts and accessing financing for restoration. To address these challenges, the GLF and Youth in Landscapes Initiative gathered 100 young restoration champions in a project accelerator program, consisting of a four-week online course and two-day leadership workshop hosted at the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF). After deep discussions with leading scientists and practitioners, ideation sessions on creating movements, and building a framework for holistic restoration projects, the youth group committed to designing a Nairobi Action Plan detailing their commitments to 2022. This action plan, supported by the GLF and UN Environment, will focus on four key priority areas: policy advocacy for youth inclusion and integration; social entrepreneurship in restoration; education and capacity building in communities; and leveraging partnerships to support successful and emerging youth-led projects.

Young leaders across the continent have demonstrated their commitment to combat the narrative that landscape restoration activities are not attractive to youth. Stories shared include:

- Members of the Nyinahin Catholic Senior High School's Climate Stewards Club in central Ghana, who plant trees on degraded school grounds with support from NGOs. This has inspired, taught and empowered the students to participate in restoration, consequently helping them build career paths in environmental science and natural resource management.
- Lawrence Afere Alaba who chose to apply his business management degree to sustainable farming. After becoming an organic farmer, he founded Springboard Nigeria, a social enterprise that combines organic farming with entrepreneurial training to create meaningful and responsible work for rural and semi-urban youth in Ondo State, Nigeria. Springboard's flagship 'Farm to School Project' has trained more than 2,000 farmers and resulted in the establishment of over 1,500 farms and 300 village enterprises in more than 20 communities in Nigeria.
- Kenyan Anthony Ochieng, a wildlife ecologist, nature photographer and founder of the story-sharing platform Tony Wild, who uses landscapes photography to link science with local communities and the broader public to prompt behavioral change. His photography showcases the present state of various landscapes, the activities being carried out in them and what their futures hold.

3. Bring rangelands back into view

'Rangelands' refers to landscapes characterized by erratic and low rainfall, low soil fertility, rough topography and poor drainage (Child et al. 1987). In the African context, rangelands are mostly made up of grasslands and shrublands/woodlands, covering an estimated 43% of the continent (approximately 13 million km^2) (Hoffman and Vogel 2008). Rangelands have been largely neglected in international and national policy-making and in the sustainable landscape agenda, yet they account for some 30% of the world's soil-sequestered carbon.

There are three challenges to including rangelands in restoration planning. First, there is a lack of understanding of the value of rangelands; they are often seen as unused lands that can be allocated to extractive industries, and hence decision-makers have made limited commitment to rangelands restoration. In addition, landscape approaches are critical for rangeland management, yet are poorly understood.

Second, this historical neglect has led to gaps in policy frameworks for rangelands and the lack of inclusion of pastoral communities in policy-making. Third, in pastoralist contexts, it is difficult to identify stakeholders because pastoralist spatial and land use patterns are often very complex and extend across many jurisdictional boundaries.

Despite these challenges, rangelands are coming to the forefront of the global sustainable landscape agenda through a resolution proposed by some African member countries of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) during its second session in May 2016. The resolution – Combating desertification, land degradation and drought and promoting sustainable pastoralism and rangelands – acknowledges the importance of rangelands and recognizes the historical neglect of rangelands and pastoralist communities in policy-making. It also proposes that UN Environment and partners carry out an assessment of critical information gaps with respect to sustainable rangeland management.

4. Improve land governance

Although many African countries over the past one and a half decades have reformed their land and natural resources laws in order to secure local community rights, recognize local and customary authority, and to provide incentives to investors, some problems persist. These problems have resulted in weak land governance and land use planning processes that are hardly implemented, which undermine or even threaten the land rights of many communities, creating conditions that are inimical to landscape restoration. The development of legislation can be improved to be more inclusive, while conflicting sectoral policies can be harmonized.

Land governance must therefore be improved to help local communities and marginalized groups secure their tenure rights while taking into account different land uses. Secure rights are the foundation for effective local governance; they enable communities to set restoration priorities, including negotiating the terms of contracts and arrangements for schemes such as REDD+ and payments for ecosystem services. This empowers communities to reject deals that are not fair or beneficial to their well-being and livelihoods. Moreover, existing policies – in particular sectoral policies – need to be reviewed to identify gaps and conflicts therein.

Women's rights to land and resources in particular face severe challenges, which create major disincentives for their participation in restoration. Traditional patriarchal culture, which is widespread, dictates that women cannot own land but can access it through their husbands; they often cannot inherit land if their husband dies. Furthermore, planting trees is considered a claim on land, and women are often restricted from doing so. Therefore, addressing gender equality with respect to tree, forest and land tenure rights is a precondition for effective, sustainable and equitable restoration. Inequalities regarding access to finance, decision-making and extension services can also limit women's ability to effectively participate and benefit from restoration efforts.

> *"Traditional authorities have a lot to contribute to the vision we all have for Africa. We are all in this world together, trying to achieve the same goals for future generations."*

His Royal Highness Drani Izakari, Forum for Traditional Authorities, Uganda

> *"Indigenous women's rights cannot be separated from the rights of their communities. Realizing the land rights of women is realizing the land rights of the community."*

Milka Chepkorir, member of the Sengwer indigenous group in Kenya and representative of the Forest Peoples Programme

Customary rights must also be recognized. Local communities, including Indigenous Peoples, have customary rights to almost 80% of the land in Africa, but their rights are only recognized in 16% of those territories. Hence, statutory recognition of customary tenure is required and should have equal standing in the law as other systems of rights such as private property and state property. The lack of customary rights recognition has led to the weakening of traditional authorities in official contexts. But local leaders are still influential at grassroots level and therefore play a critical role in supporting restoration, conservation and land use planning processes.

Further, land use governance should be mainstreamed into other sectors of governance. And political leadership should be strengthened and held up to increased accountability, because politicians tend to resist implementing restoration in cases when it might affect their political career.

Several African countries have already reformed or are reforming governance of the land sector to ensure the recognition of customary rights to land and trees and to secure the rights of women and other marginalized groups. For example, in Ghana, where legislation has given the rights of tree ownership to farmers, tree registration is being used to prevent further degradation of natural forests. Land use certification and registration has also been ongoing for both individual and communal lands in Ethiopia, and this has had a positive impact on land-use planning and management. As a result, people are becoming more confident to invest in land, and women's empowerment is on the rise due to joint certification. In addition, voluntary land consolidation in Ethiopia aims to address the problem of land fragmentation by asking smallholders with

several scattered landholdings to swap certain plots with their neighbors in order to create larger, more efficient farm plots. While still very new, it has high potential to incentivize farmers to put more efforts into farm conservation. The tenure rights of rural populations are also being secured through the country's Rural Land Administration and Proclamation.

Some regional authorities have already recognized the importance of mainstreaming land governance in other sectors. For example, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), an eight-country trade bloc in Africa, is promoting a new strategy for mainstreaming land governance into other sectors. Its objective is to make all development policy-makers see land as an enabler for their own processes and build inclusive communities of practice.

5. Get a handle on invasive plant species

Invasive species management and removal is key to the restoration of degraded landscapes. Invasive species cause biodiversity loss by inhibiting the growth of other plants and displacing existing crops. They compete with other species for resources, propagate rapidly and can often tolerate a variety of soil and weather conditions, making them highly resilient and thus difficult to eradicate. Many are either toxic or unpalatable, and thus animals cannot feed on them. Some invasive plants are known to clog water resources, resulting in flooding, while others can consume enormous amounts of water, depleting aquifers – which are needless to say very valuable in dry landscapes.

There is a widespread misconception that if a landscape is green, then it must be productive. Hence, many actors such as development agencies and government authorities involved in restoration activities promote the use of invasive plant species without considering the implications. Using invasive species for landscape restoration can come at a very high cost, with long-term implications for land productivity that will eventually negate any short-term benefits. Invasive species management requires increased awareness among communities, government authorities and development agencies.

Rural communities that depend on natural resources are particularly vulnerable to ecosystem disruption by new species. Crop productivity is reduced, because these species harbor crop pests and diseases and make harvesting difficult. In some cases, farmers have had to abandon their fields. Invasive species also threaten pastoral areas and drylands, adversely affecting livestock production. For example, pastoralists in Laikipia County in Kenya have been forced to move from areas invaded by species such as the prickly pear *Opuntia ficus-indica*, which impedes the growth and regeneration of other vegetation. Furthermore, its thorns can damage the mouths of livestock. Studies estimate that 71% of the productivity or carrying capacity of natural grazing lands in South Africa could be lost if invasive plant species are not managed (Van wilgen et al. 2008).

In Baringo Kenya, the shrub *Prosopis juliflora* was introduced by the government to combat desertification but has since invaded the landscape, reducing grazing lands by inhibiting the growth of grass. Some livestock lose their teeth after consuming the plant's sugary seeds, and the plant's prickly poisonous thorns have injured some community members. Communities have

> *"Invasive plants are green curses, threatening livelihoods of pastoralist communities."*

Francis Merinyi,
Laikipia County, Kenya

taken to physically uprooting the trees, which requires the work of many members, including schoolchildren and youth. The lands where it has been uprooted is used for cultivation.

Although many actors have the perception that the spread of invasive plant species can be controlled through using them for various purposes, such as fodder for livestock and charcoal production, this has not proved to be effective anywhere in the world. Therefore, options available for invasive species management include:

- prevention;
- physical removal;
- cultural control methods such as flooding, grazing or burning;
- chemical control;
- biological control.

Of these, prevention is the most cost-effective strategy. Authorities should perform risk assessments before using any exotic plant species in restoration. These assessments should consider biology of the species, the characteristics of the environment where it is being introduced and whether the target species has previously been recorded as invasive. Native species should be given preference over exotic species in restoration.

6. Back up commitments with finance

Opportunities are emerging for financing landscape restoration in Africa. Private and public sector funds are increasingly available to fund landscape restoration. But it is crucial that organizations with forest and landscape restoration projects can demonstrate they are financially sustainable, well-structured and viable. Good examples include the Rabobank fund of USD 1 billion for sustainable agriculture in partnership with UN Environment and World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), as well as the Global Environment Facility (GEF), which recently announced a USD 4.1 billion fund focused on key global landscapes with high potential for restoration.

However, there remains a huge gap between the amount of funding needed to restore landscapes and the amount of funding available. Implementers of landscape restoration must seek innovative ways of attracting funding, including:

- connecting restoration communities with each other for co-investment in multiple initiatives;
- committing public resources to restoration as a signal of public commitment and priority;
- selling carbon credits;
- using celebrities such as musicians and actors to raise awareness and funding for restoration;
- crowdfunding.

Co-investment among several restoration communities is being promoted by donor organizations through innovative cross-sectoral funding regimes. For example, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) uses a landscape approach in its funding stream. It brings agriculture and forests together in a program within rural development, ensuring that initiatives for the two sectors work toward a common set of landscape-level objectives that encompass social, economic and ecological dimensions.

Private sector financing is particularly crucial but, to access it, entrepreneurs need to prove financial sustainability and address investor expectations of immediate returns. This is often challenging, as restoration efforts can take time to materialize. Active private sector involvement (both multinational corporations and national small- and medium-sized enterprises) in restoration and conservation initiatives is critical to mainstreaming the restoration agenda into commercial value chains. Private sector support includes not only finance but also capacity building and skills needed to sustain the productivity of agricultural commodities.

> *"Financing is going to be a major determinant as to whether we achieve targets."*

Alfred Gichu,
Head of the Climate Change Response Program and REDD+ focal point at the Kenya Forest Service (KFS)

Scaling up forest and landscape restoration

> *"Scale-up can only happen if national and subnational governments make restoration a priority and involve communities and women in the process."*

Concepta Mukasa,
Program Manager of Forestry and the Environment at the Association of Uganda Professional Women in Agriculture and Environment (AUPWAE)

Essential to successful scaling up of restoration efforts in Africa are: community ownership of restoration efforts, the support and involvement of district and subregional governments and policy-makers at the initial stages, sharing of experience and knowledge on ongoing restoration initiatives, monitoring of restoration results, and funding.

Community ownership of restoration efforts will promote the sustainability of efforts by allowing communities to have a direct hand in guiding restoration to benefit their livelihoods and needs. Experience and knowledge sharing through multistakeholder engagement platforms or forums among implementers of restoration efforts is important, so that they learn from one another's experiences of restoration in various contexts. Decision-makers will benefit from sharing experiences in policy development for successful landscape restoration. Sharing information will also help stakeholders – and local communities in particular – overcome gaps in their knowledge and capacities regarding landscape restoration techniques, tree planting and tree nursery establishment, business planning and financial management, and invasive species management.

There must be regular reviews of landscape restoration efforts to track progress and promote accountability. Thus, monitoring the implementation of landscape restoration is important to track progress on achievements, challenges, needs and opportunities. This can provide valuable lessons for scaling up restoration efforts. The results monitored should not only focus on biophysical indicators, such as the number of hectares restored and trends in forest cover, but also on socioeconomic indicators, such as the number of jobs created through restoration and the number of people displaced (if any) due to restoration activities.

Effective coordination of different stakeholders across various sectors and ministries involved in land and natural resource management is also essential. But this is often difficult, due to overlapping claims and conflicting regulations. Therefore, significant investment in cross-sectoral coordination is a key component of any restoration project or effort.

> *"In framing the discussion around landscape restoration and land-use planning, sharing experiences across the continent is highly important. The AU agenda calls for Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to set up platforms for member states to build cooperation and strengthen partnerships."*

Dr. Tefera Mengistu,
Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Climate Change of Ethiopia

"Restoring forest landscapes is even a matter of survival to prevent an escalation of conflicts related to use of land and resources"

Serge Zoubga,
Program officer, Tiipaalga Association, Burkina Faso

Funding is required for capacity building, acquisition of equipment and tree seedlings, and costs of day-to-day project operations, such as worker compensation.

Yet landscape restoration continues to be challenged by the absence of an accepted definition of forest and landscape restoration activities. This hinders efforts to monitor progress or estimate the costs and benefits of different restoration approaches. And despite the implementation of landscape restoration efforts, some areas continue to show a decline in forest and tree cover due to livestock grazing, invasive species, and illegal, irregular and ill-planned settlements in forests. Therefore, restoration efforts must consider the livelihoods of communities and recognize their roles as rights holders, involving locals in determining priorities for restoration activities to ensure that their needs are included, and to avoid imposing initiatives upon them that they might not want or benefit from.

There needs to be a shift from focusing only on major international funders to looking at local investors as well. The Landscapes Investment and Finance Tool (LIFT) helps actors analyze the local financial infrastructure to identify local and international finance opportunities, design business models and plans that meet investor needs, and help landscape stakeholders learn the language of the financial sector, to more effectively mobilize investment for landscape enterprises.

More private sector players – both big and small – should therefore be encouraged to join in the efforts. This is critical for upscaling restoration. However, private sector players also do not always see direct benefits of landscape restoration, so an enabling environment needs to be created to promote their involvement.

The following criteria are essential to creating an enabling environment for the private sector involvement in landscape restoration:

- A 'basket of commodities' approach (rather than a single commodity) involves working with multiple cooperatives that produce multiple crops and multiple value chains on the landscape.
- Solid government support and community engagement can ensure the viability of the projects. There are several pathways to achieve this, including supportive local government through a jurisdictional approach, national government's lead in multi-sectoral coordination via a coordination committee, support for inclusive finance through a well-operated environmental fund such the Environment and Climate Change Fund (FONERWA) in Rwanda, and through development actors. A jurisdictional approach offers a way to engage with all stakeholders in the landscape and implement multi-sectoral solutions with government and private-sector buy-in. FONERWA serves as a good example of this; with well-structured programs and demand-led funding, it promotes inclusive finance that speeds up green financing in key sectors linked to restoration.
- Policies and local infrastructure must be in place to attract investors, given the often and ample disconnect in investment policies. Experiences from forerunners in this sector are crucial to learning how to create a healthier policy environment. For example, through its Forest Development, Conservation and Utilization Proclamation, Ethiopia has encouraged public-private investments by offering incentives to attract the private sector to invest in forests and land. These incentives include access to credit and tax exemptions until the forest matures and starts generating returns on the investment, as well as access to land without a lease. The private sector must stay cognizant of national development agendas as well.
- NGOs and donors can help build the capacity of SMEs in business planning and financial management to make them investment ready. This will help them access funds from financial institutions such as banks, which often perceive them as a risky investment. They can also provide technical support for their restoration activities.

"When talking about the private sector, we cannot forget about the small actors; farmers' co-operatives are key partners at the field level in influencing communities"

Hiwot Workagegnehu Tafere,
Senior Advisor, German Development Cooperation (GIZ), Ethiopia

Landscape restoration also needs to be placed more squarely on the agenda of financial institutions, most of which tend to focus on climate change, water and biodiversity. Moreover, financial institutions are still new to the language of landscape restoration and often evaluate investments through the lens of the sector or industry. Engaging the private sector in multistakeholder landscape platforms can help spread the landscape language, de-risk projects and attract investment. The Community of Practice for Financial Institutions investing in Integrated Water Management in Africa is an example of such a platform, bringing together more than 10 African financial institutions to share experiences and overcome common barriers to increased investment in integrated watershed projects across the continent.

Integrating forest landscape restoration into agricultural supply chains is an important aspect of scaling up that has several positive outcomes. Agriculture is the major source of livelihoods for most rural Africans, as well as a major contributor to countries' economies. Yet, agricultural supply chains are responsible for more than 70% of tropical deforestation. Agricultural initiatives in West and Eastern Africa demonstrate that agricultural supply chains can promote forest and landscape restoration and community livelihood enhancement.

The Cocoa & Forests Initiative in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire brings together government, the cocoa industry and farmers to halt deforestation and restore forest areas. This initiative has increased awareness and knowledge about the importance and benefits of trees and has helped improve tree tenure rights for more than 100 cocoa farmers in both countries. These farmers have noted an increase in agricultural productivity due to restoration, with research showing that landscape restoration boosts agricultural productivity, and thus farmers' incomes (Mbow et al. 2014; Raj, Jhariya and Pithoura 2014).

Similar initiatives have developed in Eastern and Southern Africa around tea production, a major driver of deforestation due to its dependence on fuel wood for processing. The Malawi Tea 2020 Revitalization Programme and the Initiative for Sustainable Landscapes (ISLA) have developed programs that involve farmers in sustainable land management and landscape restoration, including soil conservation, erosion control and tree planting. Alternative sources of energy have been introduced to reduce the pressure on forests for fuelwood.

These initiatives have hailed the use of participatory approaches that work with farmers to define problems and solutions, link farmers to extension services, and work with communities to enhance their voice through capacity building, advocacy and lobbying.

Certification offers opportunities for communities to get more income from agricultural production. In West Africa, certification has helped promote forest and landscape restoration because markets place a premium on cocoa from certified sources. In the Kenyan context, Kenya Tea Development Agency Holdings Ltd (KTDA) factories that engage in environmental conservation are Fairtrade-certified – and the premiums go to the farmers.

Secure land tenure and tree rights must also be established to pave the way for successful and safe entrepreneurial activities. The security of this rights also determines whether communities, individuals and other actors will benefit from restoration activities, and thus be incentivized to participate in such efforts. Moreover, the underlying rule systems and incentive structures must be transformed in a way that makes restoration more gender-responsive, participatory, inclusive and supportive of the equitable distribution of benefits accrued from landscape restoration.

Measuring progress toward climate and development goals

There are numerous global commitments made by countries all over the world in response to climate change and landscape degradation. These include the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, REDD+, National Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Agreement, the UN Land Degradation Neutrality Goal, the United Nations Forum on Forests Global Objectives on Forests, the Bonn Challenge and the Sustainable Development Goals. Specific to the African context, there is AFR100 (which contributes to the achievement of the Bonn Challenge), the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the African Resilient Landscapes Initiative (ARLI). Most of these efforts have called for land and forest restoration to address landscape sustainability and aid the livelihoods of people around the world.

Given these numerous commitments, there is great demand for a flexible and standardized reporting process to effectively monitor the progress of forest and landscape restoration implementation in Africa. Two such instruments were presented during the GLF:

- The Bonn Challenge Barometer of Progress is a standardized and flexible online tool that captures and makes available evidence of countries' progress toward meeting their forest and landscape restoration targets for the Challenge. This includes efforts, results (achievements and bottlenecks), needs and opportunities for partnership. The process is flexible in that it considers the fact that countries have widely differing capacities to implement restoration. its uses existing tools and methodological approaches such ground based surveys, satellite mapping and data collection.
- The Eastern Africa Forest Observatory (OFESA) is another tool developed to monitor forest cover trends and drivers of forest cover change, to support REDD+ reporting in Eastern Africa. It responds to the divergence of forest monitoring systems and initiatives in the region, which tend to make regional forest monitoring a challenge. It also provides member countries (Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Mozambique) with a platform for sharing, exchanging and accessing data and information related to forests and REDD+, to support decision- and policy-making processes at national and regional levels. The data and information contained in the observatory can also be used to track progress toward achieving country targets for AFR100.
- A major challenge to measuring such progress on the continent is data sharing. Incentives and new methods of data sharing across institutions and borders are essential to improving monitoring of commitments. Further, the absence of an accepted definition of forest and landscape restoration activities hinders efforts to monitor progress or estimate the costs and benefits of different approaches to restoration.

KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS

Communities restoring landscapes: Stories of resilience and success • ***Foreword.*** Communities restoring landscapes: Stories of resilience and succes • ***Story 1.*** Holding back the desert: One farmer's story of restoring degraded land in the Sahel region in Burkina Faso • ***Story 2.*** Women gaining ground through reforestation on the Cameroonian coast • ***Story 3.*** Building resilience to climate change through community forest restoration in Ghana • ***Story 4.*** Thinking in tomorrow: Women leading forest restoration in Mt Kenya and beyond • ***Story 5.*** Mikoko Pamoja: Carbon credits and community-based reforestation in Kenya's mangroves • ***Story 6.*** Rights, responsibilities and collaboration: The Ogiek and tree growing in the Mau • ***Story 7.*** Restoring Madagascar's mangroves: Community-led conservation makes for multiple benefits • ***Story 8.*** Flood recovery, livelihood protection and mangrove reforestation in the Limpopo River Estuary, Mozambique • ***Story 9.*** Regaining their lost paradise: Communities rehabilitating mangrove forests in the drought-affected Saloum Delta, Senegal • ***Story 10.*** From the grass roots to the corridors of power: Scaling up efforts for conservation and reforestation in Senegal • ***Story 11.*** Taming the rising tide: Keeping the ocean at bay through community reforestation on Kisiwa Panza island, Tanzania • ***Story 12.*** Shaking the tree: Challenging gender, tenure and leadership norms through collaborative reforestation in Central Uganda	This collection of 12 stories showcases the efforts and experiences of women and men in different contexts across the continent who are restoring various degraded ecosystems, including forests, farmlands and coastlines. Through unique perspectives, the stories present important common lessons on successful landscape restoration efforts involving communities.
Reshaping the terrain: Forest and landscape restoration • Reshaping the terrain: Forest and landscape restoration in Burkina Faso • Reshaping the terrain: Landscape restoration in Ethiopia • Reshaping the terrain: Forest landscape restoration efforts in Ghana • Reshaping the terrain: Landscape restoration in Tanzania • Reshaping the terrain: Forest and landscape restoration in Kenya • Reshaping the terrain: Forest landscape restoration in Uganda • Reshaping the terrain: Forest and landscape restoration in Cameroon	Several African countries have made pledges to restore forests and landscapes. This series of briefs present forest and landscape restoration efforts and approaches in seven African countries across different land use types, key forest and landscape restoration enablers and constraints, and methodologies for overcoming these constraints.
lessons for gender responsive landscape restoration • ***Brief 1***: Enhancing effectiveness of forest landscape programs through gender-responsive actions • ***Brief 2***: Role of capital in enhancing participation of women in commercial forestry: A case study of the Sawlog Production Grant Scheme (SPGS) project in Uganda • ***Brief 3***: The impacts of gender-conscious payment models on the status of women engaged in micro-forestry on the Kenyan coast • ***Brief 4***: Mobilizing indigenous and local knowledge for successful restoration • ***Brief 5***: Gender-responsive Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM): Engendering national forest landscape restoration assessments • ***Brief 6***: Enhancing Women's Participation in Forestry Management Using Adaptive Collaborative Management: The Case of Mbazzi Farmers Association, Mpigi District Uganda • ***Brief 7***: What women and men want: Considering gender for successful, sustainable land management programs: Lessons learned from the Nairobi Water Fund • ***Brief 8***: Understanding landscape restoration options in Kenya: Risks and opportunities for advancing gender equality • ***Brief 9***: Building farmer organisations' capacity to collectively adopt agroforestry and sustainable agriculture land management practices in Lake Victoria Basin	This briefs series builds on a Global Landscapes Forum workshop on FLR and gender equality in Nairobi, Kenya in November 2017 on experiences, opportunities and challenges to advancing gender responsive FLR in East African countries, as well as to join together various stakeholders working at the interface of gender and FLR as a community of practice.
Global Partnership on Forest and Landscape estoration (GPFLR) launches new report – Restoring forests and landscapes: The key to a sustainable future • ***See full version***	This new report presents key messages, facts and figures aimed at promoting increased investment in forest and landscape restoration. It also outlines how actors can best leverage regional and global platforms to collaboratively reach the 2020 and 2030 restoration targets.

LAUNCHPAD

Documentary launch – New generation plantations in Africa: Creating shared value at landscape scale	This documentary showcases the journey of the New Forests Company in its aim to create shared value for forests in Uganda against a backdrop of exponential population growth and declining forest cover. World-Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) was the session's host.
Eastern Africa Forest Observatory	A prototype of the Eastern Africa Forest Observatory (OFESA) was shared at the Forum, including the observatory's website and capabilities, recommendations for the long-term sustainability of the observatory, and a state-of-the-forest report for the region. The Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), Regional Centre For Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD) and CIRAD hosted the session.
Trees for Seeds – a foundation for resilient restoration	Bioversity International presented its Trees for Seeds Initiative, which provides capacity building and tools that can support resilient forest and landscape restoration in Africa in support of AFR100 through activities such as promoting the selection of suitable species, production of seeds and other planting material for restoration and enhancing seed supply systems. Bioversity International hosted the launchpad.

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The Global Landscapes Forum (GLF) is the world's largest knowledge-led multi-sectoral platform for integrated land use, bringing together world leaders, scientists, private sector representatives, farmers and community leaders and civil society to accelerate action toward the creation of more resilient, equitable, profitable and climate-friendly landscapes. The Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), UN Environment and The World Bank launched the Forum in Warsaw in 2013, alongside the UNFCCC Conference of Parties (COP). With core funding provided by the Government of Germany, GLF is entering its next five-year phase with the launch of a movement of 1 billion people toward the creation of sustainable landscapes.

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