



Forest and Landscape Restoration in Africa: Prospects and Opportunities

A Global Landscapes Forum event

29-30 August 2018

United Nations Office, Nairobi, Kenya

globallandscapesforum.org

Main objectives:

- Foster political and community support to implement the AFR100 Initiative to restore **100 million hectares of degraded landscapes** across Africa by 2030
- Coordinate and increase **international, national, and private sector support** for forest and landscape restoration
- Pave the **way forward** for forest and landscape restoration implementation
 1. Showcase and discuss **local to regional success stories, and challenges**
 2. Strengthen **human, technical and financial capacities** for forest and landscape restoration implementation

Deforestation and land degradation continue to be the most pressing global issues of our time, and Africa is no exception. According to FAO (2016) and UNEP (2013), the continent loses ca. 2.8 million hectares of forests each year and about 50 million hectares of land is affected by degradation. As Africa's climate changes, land use related sectors are disproportionately affected by rising temperatures, rising sea levels or erratic rainfall. This situation increasingly forces farmers into a race to adapt crop production and livestock management vis-à-vis the newly arising pressure on water or reduced crop productivity.

Through restoration of degraded and unproductive land, great opportunities arise to develop short and long-term adaptation strategies and foster resilience in the countryside. FLR can help

achieve food, water and energy security, climate change mitigation, harnessing sustainable development and green economy opportunities in Africa by creating millions of jobs in rural areas and boosting exports and trade. More than one in three jobs in Africa is agriculture related, and initiatives such as the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) or the African Development Bank (AfDB) ENABLE Youth Program, show the high political will and interest in identifying solutions for the African context. Amid the many initiatives, which seek to meet the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals, the LDN and Aichi Targets, objectives under the Paris Agreement and the New York Declaration on Forests, more than 20 African countries are committed to restoring 100 million hectares of forest landscapes by 2030 through the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100) - as a part of the Bonn Challenge.



Photo by Ollivier Girard/CIFOR

To capitalize on the immense land restoration potential, synergies between human, technical and financial capacities and good governance will be essential in ensuring coherent implementation and monitoring, as well as long-term private sector engagement. Numerous country-level restoration success stories exist across the continent, including in Madagascar, Rwanda, Senegal, Uganda, Malawi, Ethiopia and Niger, where more than 5 million hectares of degraded landscapes were restored by local communities. As seen from Africa's current development gains, the potential for local, innovative solutions to create large impacts across the finance, technology, agriculture, health and education sectors is great. Long-lasting experiences and the availability of successful and unsuccessful business case models in land restoration and rehabilitation projects in Africa allow for an exchange of lessons learned with an opportunity for an unprecedented scaling-up across the continent.

Against this backdrop, the Global Landscapes Forum (GLF) regional conference **"Landscape Restoration in Africa: Prospects and Opportunities"** will present a platform for a collaborative dialogue and assessment about the landscape approach in Africa through the lens of five GLF themes (see discussion topics below). With the aim of facilitating efforts from the public and private sectors, toward **"pledges to action,"** partners will jointly address and develop specific restoration implementation strategies, maintaining the political momentum.

Course of the event and areas of discussion

The event will consist of **two complementary parts** that integrate the need for high political and financial support and coordination with capacity building and implementation oriented learning. Experts from policy and practice will share lessons from Africa and discuss practical local to regional approaches and strategies to foster region-wide action. The event will reflect on potential challenges for forest and landscape restoration and systematically elaborate on and share insights from successful and less successful stories, around the five interrelated themes¹:

1. Implementing landscape restoration

Objective

Exchange of the latest knowledge, approaches, tools and practical experiences on landscape restoration planning and implementation, with a focus on capacity development and coordination in support of existing efforts in and between African countries (like AU, COMESA, ECOWAS, OFAC) and relevant partners.

Possible discussion topics:

1. Land-use planning for restoration at landscape-level (readiness, barriers), incl. the benefits, seed and plant supply in light of climate change
2. Local to national institution and capacity-building for implementing restoration, to strengthen region-wide initiatives, collaboration and cost-effective technical innovations and approaches that improve production

2. Food security and livelihoods

Objective

Forest and landscape restoration targets balance between short-term socio-economic and long-term ecological benefits from land use, moving beyond notions that food security and reduced environmental degradation are mutually exclusive.

Possible discussion topics:

1. Agricultural products and ecosystem services produced from rehabilitated landscapes
2. Role of agroforestry, climate smart agriculture, and traditional land-use practices for food security and livelihoods
3. Inter-regional coordination on livelihood impacts of broad-scale "landscape" projects

3. Rights

Objective

Taking a rights-based approach, recognizing community and individual rights -- particularly women, indigenous peoples and vulnerable groups, to land and resources -- is key for long-term success of landscape restoration.

1. Topics were collaboratively elaborated by the GLF Knowledge Team with support of the Knowledge Committee, World Bank, UN Environment, IUCN, BMZ and BMUB. It builds on discussions at the *Bonn Challenge Latin America*, in Roatán, Honduras, June 12-13, 2017 and *CIFOR – GIZ Workshop: Accelerating restoration of degraded forest landscapes*, in Bonn, Nov 3, 2017, as well as empirical work in Ethiopia and a GLF Workshop in Nairobi on gender and restoration.



Possible discussion topics:

1. Land tenure and legal reform across levels and sectors to enhance rights of indigenous peoples, and women
2. Barriers to securing land and resource rights, including challenges arising from restoration
3. Top-down and bottom-up dialogue structures

4. Financing sustainable landscapes

Objective

Developing innovative finance opportunities and financial instruments for restoration targeting smallholders and sustainable value chains is key to the achievement of forest and landscape restoration aims in African countries. Thematically it draws on "*Building the investment case for sustainable landscapes and restoration*" planned for May 30, 2018 in Washington, D.C.

Possible discussion topics:

1. Coordinated public-private investment and financing for restoration
2. Private sector engagement through restoration-sensitive value chains
3. Viable and responsible restoration business and finance models that ensure fairness and connect local producers to (inter)national markets and finance in design phases

5. Measuring progress toward climate and development goals

Objective

Application of latest knowledge and tools for measuring progress at landscape level, enhancing human and technical capacities in Africa and sharing benefits to measure progress at landscape level to enhance human and technical capacities in Africa and for benefit sharing.

Proposed discussion topics:

1. Technology and innovation in measuring and monitoring public and private performance at landscape level, including on - and off-site economic and ecological benefits
2. Building capacities in Africa to measure progress at the landscape level, incl. indicators for restoration targets and safeguards
3. Contribution of "Big Data" to restoration

How to participate

Complementary to innovative speakers sharing their experiences an expert discussion and exchange formats, a range of 'hands-on' activities and training sessions will take place to showcase showcase and facilitate action on restoration in Africa at scale:

- **Knowledge Fair/Share Fair:** Showcasing new technical and social developments on restoration in Africa from technologies, to new processes and innovations

- **Launch pads:** Presenting/announcing new initiatives, publications, or other announcements
- **TEDx-style talks/Landscape Talks:** "Inspirational exchange" highlighting restoration successes in Africa
- **Journalist, communication partner training, and knowledge sharing** with field trips to foster 'on the ground' outreach
- **Youth ambassador capacity building** on business and administrative capacities for Africa restoration activities
- **Technical training for NGOs and investors** on tenure, land use and beneficiary rights in restoration
- **Community-based monitoring:** Technical workshop on maps, freeware apps and other innovative, low-cost tools
- **Structured Networking:** A space for project developers, investors, technology providers and more

Expected results

Africa has perhaps the greatest potential for landscape restoration among all continents (Minnemeyer et al. 2011). Considering country commitments and country-specific variability, the GLF event seeks to accelerate action through:

- **Increased political momentum:** Declaration of finance and environment ministers, feeding results into African Union, African Conference of Environment Ministers; celebrate project reach of 100 million hectare AFR100 goal.
- **Better regional coordination of relevant actors:** Charter between key African and international actors to collaborate on forest and landscape restoration.
- **Exchange of latest science and lessons-learned:** Demonstrate what works (or not), provide evidence-based, context specific insights on political, technical and financial solutions to enable discussions to upscale role models.
- **Increased private (domestic and foreign) investment in African FLR:** Launch new responsible and inclusive finance mechanisms to attract private engagement and broker at least 50 large-scale projects between project developers and investors within one year from the event.
- **Spark a grassroots movement across Africa to foster implementation:** Facilitate dialogue between national governments and all relevant stakeholders, incl. indigenous peoples and women groups and community representatives, to assure desirable, context-tailored solutions that engage all actors.

An estimated 500 participants, along with a global online audience, will meet for an intense and exciting day of discussion, learning and innovation at the GLF Landscape Restoration in Africa Conference. There are many ways that you can participate by hosting and/or attending various activities, including Discussion Forums, Plenaries, Landscapes Talks, Digital Summits and much more.

Please find out more at:

<http://events.globallandscapesforum.org/nairobi-2018/>



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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 towards 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 German government, the GLF is entering its next five-year phase with a launch a movement of 1 billion people towards the creation of sustainable landscapes.

For more information on how to participate, please contact **John Colmey, GLF Executive Producer** (j.colmey@cgiar.org) and **Nevena Bakalar, GLF coordination specialist** (n.bakalar@cgiar.org)

Find out more about past GLF restoration events at: <http://www.globallandscapesforum.org/knowledge/restoration/>

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UNEP, 2013, Global Environment Outlook, Africa: http://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/7595/GEO_Africa_201611.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

Coordinating partners



Funding partners



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