



# FLR in Africa

## Large-scale and participatory FLR program in Africa

### Starting situation

65% of Africa's land is affected by degradation due to forest loss, unsustainable land use practices, and the impacts of climate change. Ongoing land degradation and loss of tree-rich land pose significant threats to agricultural productivity, ecological functions, and food and water security in Africa. Climatic changes and inadequate resource management further exacerbate the situation. Members of rural households (smallholder farmers and pastoralists) suffer particularly from these conditions, as they depend on stable weather conditions, fertile soils, shady trees, and the secure availability of water.

Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) is about restoring the ecological and productive functions of degraded ecosystems in tree-rich landscapes, thereby increasing the resilience of the landscapes and the people who live in them.

In 2011, BMU, together with IUCN, launched a new global initiative called the Bonn Challenge, which now acts as a global platform for FLR. Under this initiative, some 74 countries have committed to restoring about 210 million ha of degraded landscapes by 2030. In 2015, the African Union and its member states agreed on the "African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative"/ AFR100 to restore 100 million ha of degraded land by 2030.

### Target goal

Increase the economical, ecological, and climate benefits of appropriately planned large-scale FLR for stakeholders at the national, regional, and local level.

### Approach

The political will combined with the technical and institutional framework is promising in the four partner countries (Cameroon, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda) and is expressed in their pledge to restore 23.6 million hectares

under the Bonn Challenge. These ambitions are challenged by, among other things, the increasing participation of land users in decision-making processes, such as land administration. Nevertheless, poor management of (land) resources, low access to innovations and resources, and inappropriate policy frameworks continue to prevent large-scale spread of the FLR approach. To improve the resilience of subsistence smallholder farmers and pastoralists to the negative impacts of climate change, reduce pressure on and loss of biodiversity-rich habitats, and achieve reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and the overall SDG-related development goals of partner countries, the program seeks to increase the economic, environmental, and climate benefits of large-scale forest landscape restoration for key stakeholders in partner countries.

In order to achieve significant country-level results from the outset, as well as generate experience and knowledge relevant to the regional level (AFR100 initiative), the program focuses on developing and implementing FLR interventions at the level of selected land areas of each partner country on the ground at different levels (Output I), preparing a significant portion of each country's committed area for large-scale forest landscape restoration (Output II), promoting additional FLR funding (Output III), and increasing the level of ambition for FLR in partner countries through better knowledge management and sharing, including impact monitoring and learning.

In each of the partner countries, many different land use options have been tested for landscape restoration for decades. Under Output I, these feasible use options are analyzed together with smallholder households and the most viable ones are implemented. Appropriate governance and organizational structures, as well as promotion and dissemination mechanisms (e.g., extension), will need to be developed to achieve scale.

In order to establish FLR on a widespread scale, incentives must also be provided at the local and national levels in parallel with implementation on the ground (Output II). National sector policies that take gender inequalities into account must be in place, as must coordination and dialogue platforms, and incentive and planning mechanisms at the local level.

Beyond funding local activities, scaling up the FLR approach requires additional sources of funding. These are secured through additional IDA, national budget allocations, and private investors. Because the level of ambition of FLR is new in the context of AFR100, there is a strong need to manage the knowledge generated by the program. Monitoring and analyzing what works, what does not work, and why, and feeding successful approaches to FLR at scale into the AFR100 initiative is critical to learning how to make FLR truly scalable (Output IV).

The innovative aspect of the project lies in this broad approach and in its participatory aspect. Thus, the project aims to generate sustainable and long-term change.



*FLR promotes diversified income opportunities for the local population from forestry and agriculture by restoring ecosystem functions.*

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Political Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development (MINEPDD) - Cameroon</li> <li>• Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife - Cameroon</li> <li>• Ministry of Environment - Rwanda</li> <li>• Ministry of Environment and Forestry - Kenya</li> <li>• Ministry of Natural Resources, Energy and Environment - Malawi</li> </ul>
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