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AFR100 - Access to funding and technical assistance for forest and smallholder farm producers and enterprises to accelerate restoration-based value added innovation, with focus on Africa

The African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100) is a partnership between 34 African countries committed to restoring at least 100 million hectares of degraded land by 2030. To date, the participating countries have committed a total of 129.5 million hectares for restoration.

The four-year programme described here will support the ambition of AFR100. The programme, which is funded by the Government of Germany and has a budget of EUR 40 million, will help accelerate restoration and value-added innovation by providing smallholder forest and farm producer organizations with direct financial and technical assistance. It will help create restoration-based businesses and mobilize investment to further encourage restoration. The programme is a multipartner effort in collaboration with AFR100, led by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

Background

In Africa, land degradation and forest loss, exacerbated by climate change and unsustainable land use, threaten land productivity, food and water security, and the resilience of communities. Sixty-five percent of land on the continent is affected by degradation, with annual losses estimated at 3–7 percent of gross domestic product for croplands alone. At the 27th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Germany and other countries committed to substantively increasing support for forest and landscape restoration (FLR) and direct support for local communities, including Indigenous Peoples. The Government of Germany also pledged support for countries in achieving the commitments and targets of AFR100.

This programme puts those commitments into practice and will boost efforts in six countries in Africa towards AFR100 and contribute to momentum for FLR.

Programme details

Short title

FAO-BMZ-AFR100 Programme

Code

GCP/GLO/1208/GER (BMZ)

Donor

Bundesministerium für Wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development)

Participating countries

Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Madagascar, Togo, United Republic of Tanzania, Malawi

Implementers

Multiple partners

Restoration goals

7 000 hectares under restoration and 20 000 hectares under improved management by local communities in each country

Duration

January 2024–December 2027

Total budget

EUR 40 million

Keywords

Forest and landscape restoration; value added creation; smallholder forest and farm producers; micro, small and medium sized enterprises; business innovation and incubation; innovative financing; adaptive learning and knowledge sharing; AFR100

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What the programme will do and how it will work

The programme will:

- Scale up locally driven restoration action by providing direct financial and technical support to local communities, including Indigenous Peoples, forest and farm producer organizations and micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.
- Stimulate forest and landscape restoration on 42 000 ha of degraded land in an area of influence of about 120 000 ha across six countries in Africa.
- Create restoration-related new and improved value-added businesses and income opportunities, particularly at the local community level, with a strong focus on women and youth.
- Contribute to the African Union's Agenda 2063, the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, the Paris Agreement on climate change, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 15 (life on land).
- Build on the inclusion of nature-based solutions in UN climate negotiations, increased political will and new financial pledges, for example as part of the Forest and Climate Leaders' Partnership and private-sector commitments.

The programme has four main components:

1. **Strengthening the enabling environment** for community-level FLR and related value-added creation by strengthening the governance capacities of local communities and their engagement in policy and legal frameworks, and improving the availability and accessibility of finance and investment, including blended finance solutions that mobilize private-sector capital.
2. **Restoring degraded lands controlled by local communities** by providing support to improve technical know-how, including on the use of high-quality biodiverse planting material.
3. **Enhancing value-added innovation and business incubation**, especially restoration-related value chains, as a means for creating green jobs and livelihoods.
4. **Increasing the capacity of local communities** to monitor and communicate results and to share experiences and lessons learnt among themselves and with other communities.

Figure 1 shows these components framed as outcomes, as well as the key intended outputs and targets for each outcome.

Outcomes	Outputs	Targets
1. Strengthened enabling environment for local communities, including Indigenous Peoples, forest and farm producer organizations and decentralized entities, to engage in FLR and related value-added creation	Improved governance, policy and financial enabling environment and management of restoration and restoration-based value-added innovation-related aspects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 policies or legal frameworks modified per country • 2 national institutions per country strengthened in their capacity
	Improved policies and legal frameworks for local communities in restoration and value-added and business innovation action	
	Improved enabling environment for financing and investment in restoration-based value chains	
2. Accelerated restoration action by local communities and other decentralized entities	Capacities at decentralized/ local level enhanced to support restoration planning, implementation and monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 000 ha per landscape under improved management plans • 1 000 people per landscape engaged in FLR planning, implementation and monitoring • 7 000 ha per country restored • 100 micro-projects implemented per landscape
	Improved landscape services and benefits through implementation of restoration interventions by local communities and actors	
3. Enhanced restoration-based value-added and business innovation and incubation by local communities and micro, small and medium-sized enterprises	Local communities value-added innovation and sustainable businesses capacities developed and market access enabled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 business plans developed per country • 6 local communities per country with improved capacities • 6 companies per country supported by incubation services
	Value-added innovation and business incubation support systems servicing local communities strengthened	
	Funding mechanisms expanded and finance increased for AFR100 restoration and value-added and business innovation by local communities and micro, small and medium-sized enterprises	
4. Improved monitoring, adaptive learning and knowledge sharing	Strengthened monitoring systems at national and decentralized level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective monitoring and evaluation system in place • 2–3 good practices collected per landscape • 50 participants per country per year (50% women/ young people)
	Best practices and results collected and shared with stakeholders at the local, national and global levels	





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In each participating country, programme landscapes will be selected according to the following criteria:

- Synergies with existing programmes implemented in the landscape by consortium members and national partners.
- The availability of data on restoration needs and assessments of restoration options at the landscape level.
- The existence of value chains with high potential for business incubation and sustainable restoration investment through producer organizations and micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.
- The level of priority among national partners, the interest of landscape stakeholders in collaborating, and the strength of existing decentralized governance structures and producer organizations.
- The accessibility and security of the landscape.

Country-specific agreements will be established. The development of workplans will be co-led by FAO and counterpart governments through AFR100 focal points using existing platforms and involving key stakeholders. The programme will use FAO tools and approaches such as farmer-to-farmer exchanges and farmer field schools, RuralInvest and Communities of Practice and take a free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) approach. It will incubate innovations in tree-based value chains based on sustainable business models that include the participation of grassroot and subnational producer organizations, supported with grants and technical assistance.

Estimated budget per country

The total estimated budget for each participating country is USD 5.5 million.



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