



AFRICAN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE FOREST COMMISSION

TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION

**Sustainable management of Africa's Forests and Wildlife resources:
boosting Food Security and Resilience to Climate Change for improved
livelihoods**

Arusha - United Republic of Tanzania, 30 October - 03 November 2023

Progress on African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100)

Executive Summary

This paper provides an overview of Progress on African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100) as prepared with support from the AFR100 Secretariat, hosted by the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD)

Suggested Actions by the Commission

The Commission is invited to encourage members, AFR100 Secretariat and FAO to:

- Continue strengthening capacity at country level to up-scale the coordination of tracking and monitoring of Forest Landscape Restoration activities in Africa.
- Build synergy and collaboration between FAO and AFR100 Secretariat, both institutions work to support joint project implementation and financing mechanism of the AFR100.

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I. Introduction

1. The African Forest and Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100) launched in 2015 is a country-led effort to bring 100 million hectares of land in Africa into restoration by 2030. It connects political partners and participating African nations with technical and financial support to scale-up restoration on the ground and capture associated benefits for food security, climate change resilience, and poverty alleviation.

2. The AFR100 Initiative contributes to the Bonn Challenge, the Paris Agreement on Climate, the New York Declaration on Forests, Land Degradation Neutrality, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN), the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and Family Farming, African Union (AU) Agenda 2063, and the Great Green Wall Initiative.

II. AFR100 Strategic Programme Focus 2022-2024

3. The AFR100 programme implementation workstreams are characterised into six components as follows:

- a. The Land Accelerator Programme: Building restoration business entrepreneurships to women and youth restoration entrepreneurs, create access to funding, and job opportunities.
- b. The AFR100 Monitoring of landscape change and establishment of forest landscape registries at countries level.
- c. Communicating AFR100: Driving effective communication support to AFR100 countries, including technical and financial partners awareness to increasing the visibility of AFR100 restoration investments support in Africa.
- d. Integrated approach to development through Renewable Energy: Accelerating energy access in countries of low energy with an objective to reversing rural communities' dependency to traditional biomass for energy source.
- e. AFR100 - the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) - Agroforestry Parks: This project focuses to the need to reversing the impacts of food importation in African Member States through agroforestry investments leveraging the AfCFTA.
- f. Knowledge sharing to best practices, partnerships building, gender mainstreaming to AFR100 and resource mobilisation.

III. Programme activities implementation

4. During the reporting period (August 2022 up to the time of writing this note), the AFR100 secretariat conduct training of thirty-four AFR100 countries on Monitoring landscape, catalysing agroforestry implementation, fostering capacity building on gender mainstreaming into FLR, establishment of National Restoration Registries, Annual Partnership of AFR100 Meetings, development of Renewable Energy projects at country levels, Partnerships mobilisation gearing towards developing resource strategy for programme implementation on the ground, coordinating side event within the margins of Africa Climate Week and United Nation General Assembly (UNGA).

IV. Progress achieved

5. The AFR100 initiative progress implementation produced the following results as at October 2023:

- a. Cultivating political will, as 34 African Member States have joined the AFR100 initiative with commitments to restoring over 129M hectares of degraded landscape.
- b. Creating enabling environment for participating countries to accounting various areas of successes such as:

- i) Fifteen AFR100 countries mapping and designated priority areas to restore,
 - ii) Ten AFR100 countries have national restoration strategies and budgets,
 - iii) Six AFR100 countries have set baselines and monitoring for priority landscapes.
- c. Catalysing implementation as countries levels as Countries reported more than five million hectares of landscape under restoration. Moreover, it has vetted 3 200 applicants to select top 100 locally led restoration enterprises & community projects.
 - d. The deployment of climate smart infrastructure which include, 150KW of solar energy system, access to clean water, irrigation facilities in one ha of crop land and greenhouse to accelerate agricultural productivity and building resilient communities in Sierra Leone while the feasibility studies with procurement processes for the scaling in Nasarawa state Nigeria is completed and project ready for ground kick-off.
 - e. Development of the concept note for the deployment of compressed natural gas energy clean cooking in Nigeria and Rwanda with the scaling opportunities to driving regional clean energy cooking access in Africa.
 - f. Farmers training in twenty-two states of Nigeria through innovative strengthening of smallholders' farmers and deployment of sustainable landscape management at Machubeni Eastern Cape South Africa
 - g. Launch of the new-AFR100 website within the margin of the 7th Annual Partnership Meeting (APM7) in Lagos Nigeria. The website (AFR100.org) highlights progress achieved through forest landscape restoration in Africa.
 - h. Conducted the state of AFR100 report in Africa. The report shed light to progress achieved as against set target to UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and AFR100 objective.
 - i. Made a tremendous progress on identification and collection of best practices in four International Climate Initiative (IKI) countries which include Cameroon, Malawi, Rwanda, and Kenya. The outcomes highlighted fosters regional strategies to deployment of best implementable practical approaches to scaling restoration on the ground.
 - j. Consequent to fostering coordination to accelerate project implementation at country level, established National Stakeholders Platform (NSP) across the thirty-four AFR100 participating Member States.
 - k. Achieved tremendous progress to partnerships coordination to strengthening resource mobilisation which accounts to USD 6 million mobilised from The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), EUR 300 000 from Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and USD 74 000 from the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) respectively.
 - l. Through AUDA-AFR100 partnerships coordination, the Office of Her Excellency Ms Rachel Ruto, the First Lady of Kenya has set an ambitious goal to grow 500 million trees, with a greater ambition to grow one billion trees.
 - m. The CEO Bezos Earth Fund (Andrew Steer) communicated USD23 million funding and Hans Brattskar: Special Envoy, Ministry of Climate and Environment, Norway announced Nkr 250 million funding for AFR100 programme activity support for African Member States within the margins of African Climate Week and United Nations General Assembly.