### AFR100 Partners Manual: Principles, Governance, and Core Processes

The AFR100 Partners Manual is a resource for all currently recognized AFR100 political, technical, and financial partners. It contains comprehensive information on the guiding principles of the AFR100 initiative, its structure and governance, and core business processes. The manual centralizes information previously captured in a series of AFR100 guiding documents.<sup>1</sup> The contents of each of these three pillars—principles, governance, and core processes—are detailed below.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> These documents include the AFR100 Voluntary Guidelines, Governance Note, Management Team Rules, Branding and Visual Guidelines, Partner Checklist, minutes of Management Team meetings, and others.

### Principles

### **Guiding Principles**

African ownership, country-level drive, and grassroots mobilization are key elements to the success, leadership, identity and sustained impacts of AFR100. FLR outcomes will have to materialize at national level under the leadership of national partners.

As such, stakeholder engagement is a key principle of AFR100. Engaging all relevant stakeholders in the assessment of restoration opportunities and identification, testing and active upscaling of promising FLR solutions is considered key for successful restoration. Multi-stakeholder partnerships are a key element of AFR100 and related partnerships supporting the 2030 Agenda. Engagement on country level is key to achieve tangible outcomes in terms of action on the ground. Regional and pan-African bodies (e.g. the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission, the African Ministerial Conference on Environment) have a central role to play. Strong ownership from regional, national, and sub-national administrations will be fostered through involvement of relevant actors.

As a multi-stakeholder partnership, AFR100 brings partners from different sectors such as the public sector, civil society, private sector and academia together. Each partner brings knowledge and experience that can help the others. By sharing knowledge, resources, technologies, networks, etc. the multi-stakeholder-partnership works towards a common goal, exceeding the ability of any individual actor on its own. Partners can thereby achieve common goals while also individually benefiting from the collaboration. As an important element all partners are involved in the multi-stakeholder partnership's work. This covers a broad spectrum of types of participation, from consultation to joint decision-making, thereby allowing each group to contribute its positions and viewpoints to the partnership's goals and results.

AFR100 seeks to complement and strengthen nationally-led efforts by providing a platform for communication, exchange, and access to technical and financial support. AFR100 is also a contribution to international, pan-African, and regional programs including the Bonn Challenge, the U.N. Decade on Family Farming, the U.N. Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030), the Pan-African Agenda on Ecosystem Restoration for Increased Resilience, the Sustainable Development Goals, and the African Union Agenda 2063, and the African Resilient Landscapes Initiative (ARLI).

### Forest Landscape Restoration

Forest landscape restoration (FLR) is the long-term process of regaining ecological functionality and enhancing human well-being across deforested and degraded landscapes. FLR is implemented using a landscape approach, combining natural resource management, restoration opportunities and livelihood considerations across jurisdictional boundaries with an aim to restore a mosaic of land uses, including forests and woodlands, pastures, croplands, wetlands and more. For this reason, FLR is best implemented through a cross-sector approach that engages multiple ministries, levels of government, and stakeholders including communities and the private sector.

### AFR100 Voluntary Guidelines

All partners of the AFR100 initiative are expected to adhere to the "AFR100 Voluntary Guidelines." The Guidelines, adopted by the AFR100 partnership in 2017, build on those developed by the Global

Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration (GPFLR 2016). They take into consideration the needs of decision-makers working in the African context and with AFR100 pledges.

In accordance with these Guidelines, partners' contributions to AFR100 are expected to:

- Be nationally owned and driven: FLR implementation should be based on a coherent national restoration strategy, equipped to guide and prioritize public and private sector investment in FLR. Strategic guidance for FLR investments will need to be integrated into related programs to capitalize on opportunities for synergies. This can reinforce logical linkages between FLR and other concerns. FLR ideally supports national policies and restoration commitments across a variety of land uses and with respect to multiple types of sustainable development commitments and program funding streams.
- **Be rooted in participatory decision-making:** FLR includes active negotiation and collaboration among stakeholders through inclusive processes and in promoting effective governance institutions. In a landscape, multiple stakeholders and a diversity of partners is typical, including the private sector, governmental bodies and communities, women and youth. Stakeholders will have diverse values, interests, and views on which specific ecosystems or their associated services are important to maintain or restore.
- Take an integrated landscape management approach. FLR must work across the whole landscape and its associated land uses, not just individual sites. The solutions that FLR provides to issues such as food and water security and biodiversity require addressing restoration at a scale that encompasses multiple land uses and ecological functions. Integrated management of restored landscapes encompasses small and large settlements and can be organized within and across administrative units, biomes, and other jurisdictions.
- Strengthen policy coherence. FLR outcomes are shaped by, and therefore need to address, the interactions among multiple land-use and other sectoral policies and national and international commitments. Land-use policies may conflict with restoration commitments, creating a barrier to achieving a country's pledge to the AFR100. Countries may need to resolve conflicting policies that block the effective implementation of FLR. This may include changing policies and introducing meaningful cross-ministerial collaboration.
- Support multiple interventions. FLR can be implemented using a range of restoration strategies and improved natural resource management practices, from natural regeneration to soil and water conservation as well as tree planting. Restoration across a landscape requires the simultaneous deployment of several restoration interventions, including those related to the improved management of trees, soil, water and other natural resources for agricultural, forestry, watershed and water management, conservation of biodiversity and other land uses.
- **Protect natural ecosystems to enhance resilience**. FLR avoids further degradation or conversion of natural forest cover and other ecosystems. FLR should consider how to avoid a loss of biodiversity and reduction in the diversity of land types by addressing drivers of deforestation and forest and land degradation. Intact ecosystems should be conserved where possible. FLR should incorporate measures to restore the resilience of ecosystems and associated rural communities to facilitate their adaptation to climate change.
- **Restore multiple ecosystem functions.** FLR is achieved by accounting for and restoring multiple landscape functions (e.g. reducing erosion, increasing agricultural productivity), and managing the trade-offs to improve the wellbeing of people and the planet. The FLR approach does not

focus on restoring a landscape back to a pre-existing state. Rather, it restores "forward" to meet the capacity of managed landscapes to provide a range of ecosystem goods and services. These services also provide a range of consumable and marketable products that can support local livelihoods and global markets.

• Entail continuous monitoring, learning, and adapting. FLR is a process of continuous improvement based on learning and adapting to local conditions. FLR interventions need to include provisions for robust monitoring systems to assess and report on progress and to facilitate learning and adaptive management. FLR is a long-term restoration process. Adapting restoration goals and continuing engagement with stakeholders are part of that process, especially as stakeholders, policies, and techniques may change over the course of the restoration process.

### Governance

### AFR100 structure, decision-making bodies, and partners

AFR100 is based on a lean and agile governance structure, aiming at catalyzing national efforts and providing support where needed. The AFR100 partnership is comprised of the following decision-making bodies and partners.

### **Decision-making bodies**

### The AFR100 Secretariat, housed at AUDA-NEPAD Agency

Housed at the AUDA-NEPAD Agency, the AFR100 Secretariat's tasks include mobilizing and sustaining political support, coalition building, knowledge management, partner coordination to facilitate technical assistance and financial investment, and progress reporting.

The Secretariat also liaises with Regional Economic Communities (RECs). The mandate given to the AUDA-NEPAD by the African Union Heads of State and Government provides a strong legitimacy to AFR100 and its ownership by African countries. The Secretariat leverages existing platforms and structures to increase communication and outreach. With support from AFR100 partners, the Secretariat coordinates with regional and international initiatives including the Bonn Challenge, ARLI, U.N. Decade on Family Farming, U.N. Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, African Forestry and Wildlife Commission, and African Union-led initiatives such as the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel and the Pan-African Agenda on Ecosystem Restoration for Increased Resilience.

More specifically, the AFR100 Secretariat is responsible for the following:

- Liaising and networking with AFR100 countries:
  - Provide regular updates on partnership activities and relevant information about AFR100 via the AFR100 website and newsletter
  - Maintain political momentum of AFR100 by liaising between different types of partners (countries, donors, technical partners)
- Coordinating and managing day-to-day activities of the AFR100 Initiative, including:
  - Preparation and oversight of the implementation of the AFR100 workplan
  - Preparation, realization of meetings (including Annual Partnership Meetings (APM), technical ad-hoc task force meetings, Management Team meetings, others)



- Organize and coordinate ad hoc task forces for specific topics based on demand from AFR100 countries
- Keep document repository for AFR100 including documentation of focal points, pledge and affiliation documents, progress information from countries, etc.
- Treatment of demands from countries and identification of potential technical partners to assist together with the support of the MT
- Progress monitoring and evaluation
  - Quarterly reporting to the AFR100 Management Team of the advancement of the implementation of the AFR100 workplan, including budget updates, informing the MT on issues and risks for the AFR100 implementation
  - Preparation of a yearly progress report and presentation at the Annual Partners Meeting to all stakeholders
  - Report aggregated FLR monitoring data provided by countries and technical and financial partners. Data is reported to the AU (through AMCEN and engagement with Specialized Technical Committees of the AU), RECs, the AFWC, and all relevant AFR100 stakeholders

The Secretariat may draw on support from AFR100 Management Team members for all tasks described above if internal resources are short. The Secretariat receives financial contributions from financial (and technical) partners. It prepares annual work plans and budget proposals for consideration by the Management Team.

#### **AFR100 Political Focal Points and National Platforms**

AFR100 is an Africa-owned and led initiative. Political focal points from partner countries play a central, essential role in defining national restoration goals, setting the direction of AFR100, and outlining technical and financial support priorities.

Political focal points have an essential role to play in mobilizing the broad range of in-country partners in all sectors, levels of government, civil society, the private sector, and academia needed to realize countries' ambitious restoration targets. They share updates with AUDA-NEPAD on AFR100 implementation and cross-sector mobilization.

Political focal points represent their countries in AFR100 meetings, including but not limited to the Annual Partner Meeting. They also take a leading role to convene national platforms for FLR. These national platforms provide a vehicle for multi-stakeholder groups to establish the national restoration agenda; jointly define needs and priorities; work together to plan, coordinate, and implement FLR; and measure and communicate progress. In most cases national platforms already exist. Rather than building new platforms, AFR100 works predominantly within the frame of these existing platforms to incorporate a stronger focus on FLR.

National platforms for FLR should convene at least once to twice a year to take stock of existing efforts, identify goals and support needs, set the direction for the year ahead, and develop consolidated annual work plans and progress reports. AFR100 political focal points lead the effort to prepare, facilitate, and communicate results from these meetings with the AUDA-NEPAD Secretariat and other AFR100 partners. At least two to four Ministries should be represented at these meetings, alongside a representative group of stakeholders in civil society, women, youth, farmer groups, the private sector,

and academia. Meaningful engagement of local communities and local groups who directly implement FLR activities on the ground is essential.

National platforms for FLR, and associated annual meetings, are co-funded by the host country government and AFR100 technical and financial partners where requested. These partners contribute at the discretion of the AFR100 political focal point. The AUDA-NEPAD Secretariat is not responsible to provide funding for costs associated with national FLR platforms.

#### AFR100 Management Team

The AFR100 Management Team is an intermediate governance body, designed to kick-start the AFR100 initiative and provide guidance through its initial start-up phase. It is anticipated that the AFR100 Management Team will eventually transition to become a lighter-touch AFR100 Support Unit; this transition will be explored in the 2020 external review of AFR100.<sup>2</sup>

The Management Team cooperates with, advises and supports the AFR100 Secretariat. It also serves as a decision-making body in selected instances. The Management Team serves as an instrument to share information and updates about FLR activities. It aims to build strong partnerships among technical partners and AFR100 governments to achieve implementation and scaling-up of AFR100 targets. It meets twice a year at alternating venues (Management Team member organizations offices). Virtual information-sharing calls occur on a monthly basis, stewarded by AUDA-NEPAD. Quarterly strategic Management Team meetings (two in person; two virtually) address big-picture issues.

Management Team members cover their own costs of participation and provide financial or in-kind contributions to the AFR100 Secretariat, housed at AUDA-NEPAD. The Management Team is currently comprised of AUDA-NEPAD, BMZ, GIZ, IUCN, the World Bank, FAO, and the World Resources Institute. Beginning in 2020, a representative group of AFR100 political focal points is expected to also sit in the Management Team.<sup>3</sup>

The AFR100 Secretariat is responsible for maintaining the AFR100 Management Team composition. The Secretariat keeps a record of the Management Team composition, decisions made, and associated procedures. The Secretariat also keeps a summary of contributions to AFR100 and informs the Management Team at least once a year of developments.

The Secretariat also registers requests from institutions for joining the Management Team. If changes to the composition of the AFR100 Management Team are required, the Secretariat will draft a proposal to the Management Team in order to gain approval for the proposed changes.

Future composition of the Management Team should be guided by the principles of a) substantial contributions to AFR100, b) complementarity of competencies already available at Management Team, and c) overall agility. The Secretariat can change its own composition but cannot change the composition of the Management Team without a vote. New partners may be voted on as

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> As the AFR100 Secretariat increases its capacity, and as the AFR100 Technical Partner pillar becomes more active, it is anticipated that the AFR100 Management Team will transition to become a lighter-touch "AFR100 Support Unit." The role of the AFR100 Management Team, and potential for this transition to a Support Unit, will be assessed in an external review of AFR100 expected to be completed in 2020.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> See "ToR for the Integration of Partner Countries into the AFR100 Management Team" document for selection criteria and more detailed roles and responsibilities. This is expected to go into effect in 2020.

suggestions from current Management Team members who see value of having a certain institution, institutions can make suggestions or proposals to join through AFR100 Secretariat, and no reputational risks stand in the way.

Upon request by the Secretariat, observers can be invited to Management Team meetings for specific topics and purposes, with prior approval by the Management Team.

#### Process, timeline, and decision-making protocols of the AFR100 Secretariat and Management Team

The following section outlines protocols for decision-making processes by the AFR100 Secretariat and AFR100 Management Team:

- Decisions in strategic areas (e.g. new partner admission) will be taken by the AFR100 Secretariat and Management Team during "strategic decision-making" meetings or calls. These meetings take place quarterly (twice in person and twice virtually).
- The AFR100 Secretariat will share associated documentation at least two weeks prior to the meeting. Documentation will be filed as appropriate by AUDA-NEPAD in the <u>AFR100 Google</u> <u>Drive</u>, which is open and accessible to all currently recognized AFR100 partners.
- Management Team members will have 10 business days following the meeting to cast a vote to approve, reject, or abstain from voting for each decision at hand. After 10 business days, lack of response from Management Team members will be taken as an "abstain" and votes will be tallied accordingly.
- Decisions will be made by majority vote. The quorum for a decision is half the membership plus one.
- When a decision involves matters in which one or more Management Team members have a
  personal involvement, or when their presence may inhibit full discussion, those members should
  withdraw from the evaluation and decision-making process. It lies within the discretion of the
  AFR100 Secretariat to judge when such a situation exists, and he/she may then ask a member or
  members to withdraw.
- Any AFR100 partner who objects to a decision taken by the AFR100 Secretariat and Management Team should write to the Secretariat explaining the basis of their concern or objection. The AFR100 Secretariat and Management Team will review (in consultation with other AFR100 partners, as appropriate) and respond to these concerns within 10 business days of receipt.

#### Partners

#### **Technical partners**

Technical partners are invited to join AFR100 based on their respective technical, organizational and geographical experiences and contributions to forest landscape restoration (FLR) in Africa. Technical partners play an essential role in catalyzing AFR100 implementation on the ground and increasing momentum for FLR in Africa.

Technical partners are expected to participate in the annual AFR100 partner meeting, and will participate in thematically-oriented task forces, as requested by political partners, that respond to country requests for assistance. Technical partners share knowledge (lessons learned, successful approaches, forthcoming work plans) to collectively unblock barriers to implementation. Technical partners are also expected to share information about country and African regional programmatic

investments, and coordinate/build on other partners' related work where possible. This includes harmonization of contributions to the Bonn Challenge, ARLI, U.N. Decade on Family Farming, and U.N. Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, among other initiatives.

Benefits of joining the AFR100 partnership include access to key figures in national and sub-national governments, a mechanism to scale up promising approaches and disseminate relevant tools and research, opportunities to improve coordination and harmonize human and financial investments in-country, and connections with private sector partners, among others. Technical partners contribute on a pro-bono basis in principle. For specific activities, they can request adequate compensation from the Secretariat. The Secretariat decides on these requests on a case-by-case basis and considering availability of resources.

Technical Partners commit themselves to adhere to the AFR100 principles, voluntary guidelines, and protocols associated with core business processes of the initiative.

#### **Financial partners**

A combination of public and private finance will be necessary to achieve restoration across 100m ha. Financial partners are invited to join AFR100 based on their respective financial contributions to forest landscape restoration in Africa.

Benefits of joining the AFR100 partnership include access to information on investment-ready restoration enterprises, access to information about the financial, social, and environmental returns of selected investments, and connections with key figures in the private sector and national governments, among others.

Financial Partners commit themselves to adhere to the AFR100 principles, voluntary guidelines, and protocols associated with core business processes of the initiative. Financial partners share information with AUDA-NEPAD on contributions to AFR100. Where appropriate, financial partners are expected to participate in major AFR100 meetings (notably investor roundtables) and provide input to relevant thematic task forces.

### Core Processes

### Agenda-setting by partner countries

AFR100 is an Africa-owned and led initiative. The African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) is the AFR100 Secretariat. Political focal points from 30 African countries<sup>4</sup> set the agenda for the initiative. African stakeholders — from community leaders and smallholder farmers, entrepreneurs, governments at all levels, and financiers — drive the restoration movement.

Under the leadership of the AFR100 Secretariat, multiple approaches are used to empower country representatives to set the direction for AFR100 and to connect technical and financial partners with these requests.

There are two important processes associated agenda-setting by partner countries. These processes are:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> As of April 2020, 30 African countries have made pledges through the AFR100 and the Bonn Challenge.

- An annual "Country Day," adjacent to the AFR100 Partners Meeting and facilitated by AUDA-NEPAD. Country Day is prepared and facilitated by AFR100 political focal points, with leadership from the AFR100 Secretariat and support from AFR100 partners where requested. Country Day provides a forum for political focal points to communicate efforts and progress achieved to date, nurture cross-country learning, define support priorities, and set the agenda for AFR100 for the year ahead. Surveys and other tools may be used to take stock of countries' efforts, progress, and priorities.
- National "direction-setting" meetings, facilitated annually through national platforms for FLR. These meetings occur at least once to twice a year, convened by AFR100 political focal points in partnership with broad, multi-stakeholder groups. (See "national platforms" in the "AFR100 structure, decision-making bodies, and partners" section for more information.) If so desired, national platforms may request that technical task forces of AFR100 partners are formed to address technical issues. Task forces have a time-bound remit and are formed at the direction of AFR100 partner countries.

### Connecting technical partners with countries' requests for assistance

AFR100 technical and financial partners are committed to providing targeted support that is directly responsive to partner countries' needs and priorities. Under the leadership of the AFR100 Secretariat, an annual Technical Partners Meeting will facilitate the process to connect technical partners with countries' stated goals, needs, and priorities related to FLR implementation and enable technical partners to respond to those requests.

Technical Partner Meetings are held once a year in an AFR100 country that has formally expressed interest and willingness to host the meeting. They are open to participation by all AFR100 technical partners and serve as a forum to share partner countries' requests for assistance and take stock of technical partners' strategic direction, new tools and innovations, and core offers vis-à-vis countries' requests. Technical partners are expected to cover their travel and accommodation expenses to participate in the meeting. Selected country representatives will be invited if funding is available. Ultimately the meetings serve as a vehicle to connect technical partners with countries seeking related support and improve coordination among technical partners in responding to countries' needs.

### AFR100 logo use and branding

Meeting countries' ambitious restoration targets will require myriad contributions from partners in government, civil society, the private sector, and academia. The AFR100 initiative seeks to catalyze contributions from this broad group, in service of needs and priorities defined by partner countries.

AFR100 partners contribute to AFR100 in the form of events, research products, campaigns, multistakeholder initiatives, resource mobilization efforts, and websites and social media accounts. Partners are free to use the AFR100 logo and brand in association with these efforts. Institutions and individuals who are not currently recognized AFR100 partners may not use the AFR100 logo.

It is important to note that use of the AFR100 logo and brand signifies adherence to the AFR100 Voluntary Guidelines and Guiding Principles. All partners of the AFR100 initiative are expected to adhere to the AFR100 Voluntary Guidelines (see section above). The Guidelines, adopted by the AFR100 partnership in 2017, build on those developed by the Global Partnership for Forest Landscape Restoration (GPFLR).

If a partner and/or contribution is found not to comply with these guidelines and principles, then permission to use the AFR100 logo and brand will be revoked by the AUDA-NEPAD Secretariat in discussion with the AFR100 Management Team.

AFR100 partners who use the AFR100 logo and brand are asked to comply with "AFR100 Branding Guidelines" (see section below). Partners using the AFR100 logo should forward event and/or campaign information, presentations and research products, and funding proposals to the AFR100 Secretariat at <u>AFR100Sec@nepad.org</u>. Partners should please tag @AFR100\_Official in Twitter posts and use #AFR100 in Twitter and Instagram posts for AFR100-related posts.

### Ensuring consistency with branding and AFR100 logo use

To support a unified movement to restore 100 million hectares of degraded land across Africa, a clear and consistent AFR100 brand image must be maintained. The following guidelines aim to solidify the AFR100 brand and engender buy-in from a growing network of stakeholders. The guidelines can be applied by AFR100 partners' designers, IT support, and other colleagues creating messaging or content related to the AFR100 initiative.

Item	Guidance
TYPOGRAPHY	
Font	Univers. The Univers font family's extended range of weights makes it very versatile. The modern characters are progressive with a sense of stature, while still remaining human. Use a combination of weights to create emphasis.
Font	Arial. For electronic and web purposes, Arial may be used.
COLORS	
Primary color palette	AFR100 red Pantone 7420 C 100 C27 M98 Y66 K18 #9F2241 R159 G34 B65 Bright white Pantone 11-0601 TCX 100 C0 M0 Y0 K0 #FFFF R255 G255 B255
LOGO	
Suggested spacing	To protect the strength and integrity of the AFR100 logo, a clear space area, free of competing visual elements, should be maintained around the logo. For example on the right, '1/2 cm', represents the clear space around the logo. '1/2 cm' is equal to half the height of the AFR100 logo.

#### Logo, typography, and primary colors

Don'ts	"Don'ts" related to logo use include:
	<ul> <li>Do not redesign, recreate, distort, add, or change any elements of the logo.</li> </ul>
	• Do not use outdated versions of the logo.
	• Do not display a truncated or incomplete logo.
	• Do not use the logo, or any of its elements as a tinted background
	or decorative element.

### Photography and video

The following guidance seeks to ensure consistency of the AFR100 brand in photo and video media.

Medium	Guidance
PHOTOGRAPHY	
General	<ul> <li>Photographs should be captioned with subjects' names, locations, and a few words describing the activity being photographed whenever possible. The locality of AFR100 work is vitally important and should be portrayed through the unique character of each country and landscape.</li> <li>Photography should illustrate the scale and complexity of the projects the partnership is working on.</li> <li>Color photographs are recommended for all products and publications associated with AFR100.</li> <li>Please credit the photographer, and gain permission from AFR100 partners if you are using their images.</li> <li>If you are using images taken for AFR100, please credit the photographer and the AFR100 partnership.</li> <li>Never use copyrighted material as copyright punishment can be severe.</li> <li>Wherever possible, use Creative Commons licensed photography (Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International).</li> <li>For more information, go to <a href="https://creativecommons.org/">https://creativecommons.org/</a>.</li> </ul>
Characteristics	Progressive, real, human, indicating stature
Progress	<ul> <li>Capturing progress in motion</li> <li>Show progress (urban spaces, development, infrastructure, conversations etc.)</li> <li>Dynamic, engaging, point-of-view (never straight on)</li> <li>Selective and softer focus</li> </ul>
Tone	<ul> <li>Dynamic tones and warm light</li> <li>Premium overall tone (slightly warm)</li> <li>Always have a minimum of 30% of warm vibrancy, bright colors that accurately depict sky /clothing / environment</li> </ul>
VIDEO	
General	<ul> <li>Focus on the human element to highlight the benefits of restoration.</li> <li>Focus on producing videos for a non-technical, often lay audience.</li> <li>Build videos for well-defined audiences, preferably multiple audiences.</li> <li>Videos should be captioned with subjects' names, locations, and a few words describing the activity being photographed whenever possible. The locality of AFR100 work is vitally important and should be portrayed through the unique character of each country and landscape.</li> </ul>

### Annual Partner Meeting

The AFR100 Annual Partner Meeting (APM) is a key event that brings together representatives from all AFR100 countries as well as donors, technical and financial partners, youth, women and members of the media. The meeting takes place once a year in an AFR100 country that has formally expressed interest and willingness to host the meeting. The meeting is demand-driven; it is organized around priorities expressed by AFR100 political partners and other in-country stakeholders. All parties involved in the planning and delivery of the APM take responsibility to ensure inclusion and meaningful participation of women, youth, and local communities.

It serves as a forum to share progress updates, report on national FLR implementation, and get an overview of the FLR process in the AFR100 countries. It also connects technical partners with AFR100 countries to exchange on what in-country activities are in the pipeline and creates a vehicle for exchange between AFR100 focal points, technical experts, as well as donor representatives. The APM also offers an opportunity for endorsement of certain principles and guidelines, and to mandate the AFR100 partners to undertake specific activities that will add value to the initiative as a whole.

The AFR100 Secretariat is responsible for the overall organization of the APM in close cooperation with the AFR100 Management Team members and other selected partners. During the APM, the AFR100 Secretariat will share an annual progress report with participants.

### Reporting progress

Regular reporting on progress against national, regional, and international FLR targets is a vital component of AFR100. Reporting is underpinned by country-led monitoring and evaluation efforts. AFR100 political focal points lead the process to synthesize and communicate monitoring data into progress reports, with support from technical partners where requested. The AFR100 Secretariat mobilizes Ministers to report on FLR and makes connections with AU Specialized Technical Committees (STCs) to strengthen reporting processes.

Reporting occurs through multiple platforms including the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission (AFWC), and Bonn Challenge Ministerial Roundtables. Reporting through all relevant channels including the U.N. Decade on Family Farming, U.N. Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, U.N. conventions on climate change, biodiversity,

desertification, Pan-African Agenda on Ecosystem Restoration for Increased Resilience, etc. is encouraged. Progress reporting is also an essential component of national FLR platforms.

The AFR100 Secretariat reports on an annual basis about activities and progress to the AFR100 Management Team and during the AFR100 Annual Partners Meeting.

### Admission of new partners

Groups interested in becoming a technical or financial partner of the AFR100 should submit a formal written request to the AFR100 Secretariat, at the AUDA-NEPAD Agency. Colleagues at the AFR100 Secretariat can provide a template for this request letter to interested parties.

The AFR100 Secretariat conducts a screening of interested organizations to ensure alignment with AFR100 guiding principles and Voluntary Guidelines. Based on the results of this screening, the Secretariat makes recommendations to the AFR100 Management Team on a quarterly basis of which organizations should be accepted into the AFR100 partnership.

Management Team members have 10 business days following the meeting to cast a vote to approve, reject, or abstain from voting for each request. After 10 business days, lack of response from Management Team members will be taken as an "abstain" and votes will be tallied accordingly. Decisions will be made by majority vote. The quorum for a decision is half the membership plus one.

The AFR100 Secretariat collects baseline institutional information from each new partner including:

- Organization's name and address
- Individual focal point's name and contact details
- Organization's anticipated contribution to the FLR agenda
- Names of AFR100 partner countries where the partner has existing (or planned) cooperation with partner country governments to plan, coordinate, and implement FLR
- Names of in-country partners who are directly responsible for implementing restoration activities
- The AFR100 Secretariat then follows a standard procedure to conduct a due diligence assessment of each prospective partner

### Removal of partners and revoking permission to use the AFR100 logo

Under the leadership of the AFR100 Secretariat, AFR100 partners may be removed from the initiative for failing to comply with AFR100 principles, voluntary guidelines, and/or protocols associated with core business processes of the initiative. Permission to use the AFR100 logo or affiliate an effort with AFR100 may similarly be revoked.