

AFRICAN LEADERSHIP COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION



BONN CHALLENGE



Kigali Declaration

Kigali Declaration on Forest Landscape Restoration in Africa

We, Ministers of African countries and representatives gathered in Kigali on July 26th and 27th, 2016 for the Africa High Level Bonn Challenge Roundtable, hosted by the Government of Rwanda, in collaboration with the East Africa Community and the International Union for Conservation of Nature

Acknowledging that African countries are among the most affected regions in the world by effects of climate change even though the continent bears a minimal responsibility with regards to the causes of this global phenomenon;

Recognising that forest landscape restoration has an important role in the pursuit of sustainable development in African countries, by maintaining and rebuilding countries' natural capital in order to deliver essential societal and economic benefits to rural and urban communities alike;

Recognising that forest landscape restoration is an effective mechanism to operationalize key elements of global processes, notably the Sustainable Development Goals, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Aichi Targets, and the United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification;

Aware that forest landscape restoration offers multiple benefits that align directly with African Nations economic growth and poverty reduction plans. These include the aspiration of the African's Union Agenda 2063 and its first ten-year implementation plan, bolstering economic growth and diversifying livelihoods, creating green jobs, improving agriculture practices, enhancing food security, improving the availability and quality of water resources, increasing the capacity for climate change resilience and adaptation, contributing to climate change mitigation, combating desertification, protecting biodiversity, and reducing the impact of natural disasters;

Aware that forest landscape restoration can reach millions of African citizens involving local communities, which includes women and other key stakeholders in decision-making processes on inclusive and sustainable land use, as well as identification and implementation of specific objectives for restoration;

Recognizing that African Nations face similar challenges and common problems related to land degradation and subsequent planning and implementation of forest landscape restoration, and that countries have an opportunity to engage and deepen regional collaboration, as well as to strengthen partnerships in order to identify the best solutions to materialize successful action in favor of forests, ecosystems, and people;

Convinced that in order to tackle these challenges it is necessary that African Countries build a strong movement within their jurisdictions to take bolder steps across sectors towards sustainable use of forests, protection of their forest reserves, promoting agroforestry among other climate-responsible practices, and restoration of degraded and deforested lands;

Highlighting that coordination initiatives and exchange of experiences on restoration between African Countries and through south-south exchanges is critical to optimize African restoration efforts;

Recognizing the need for sustained mobilisation of public and private sector financial resources in forest landscape restoration in Africa, to incentivize all stakeholders including and especially strengthen the communities and households that live in landscapes to continue as major investors in their own landscapes;

Re-affirming the Bonn Challenge's role as a global platform for action and mobilization of policy, financial and technical support in favor of the implementation for nationally defined targets that address resilience and adaptation to climate change, land degradation, food and water security, biodiversity conservation;

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Recognizing that achieving the Bonn Challenge's 350 million-hectare restoration goal could generate US \$170 billion per year in net benefits from watershed protection, improved crop yields and forest products, and could sequester up to 1.7 gigatonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent annually;

WE ARE COMMITTED TO:

1. Reaffirm our commitments to the Bonn Challenge target to bring 150 million hectares of deforested and degraded landscapes into restoration by 2020 and 350 million hectares by 2030;
2. Encourage fellow African Governments to mainstream restoration into their national development policies;
3. Develop and strengthen continental capacity for restoration by developing technical expertise and developing environmental and social standards for the implementation of forest landscape restoration to help tackle climate change effects, improve human well-being, ecosystem health and biodiversity conservation across Africa;
4. Maintain this commitment in support of collective climate change action that will mitigate the emissions of greenhouse gases and support our communities to adapt and build resilience to climate impacts, as well as use ecosystem-based approaches to reduce risk to extreme weather and disasters;
5. Reinforce the collaboration on forest landscape restoration across the region and south-south collaboration, through the "forest landscape restoration regional policy and technical hubs" located in Kigali and Yaoundé, as well as the promotion of restoration through regional intergovernmental bodies, mechanisms, and economic commissions, as well as regional platforms such as AFR100 and other associated initiatives
6. Undertake national action to champion innovative financial schemes that enable domestic investments in forest landscape restoration, for example through the strengthening and development of national climate and land management fund mechanisms, tax incentives and other fiscal policies to encourage all stakeholders to participate and invest in the implementation of restoration at scale;
7. Improve coordination of efforts on forest landscape restoration by local communities, civil society organizations, private sector, research institutions, investors and development partners;
8. Call on development partners, international finance institutions and the private sector to support domestic investment and facilitate access to external investment opportunities in forest landscape restoration, including among others international funds such as the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility that are currently supporting regional programmatic initiatives on FLR.
9. The Kigali Declaration on forest landscape restoration in Africa remains open for further signatures

Signed:

Hon. Vincent Biruta
Minister of Natural Resources
Rwanda

Hon. Nii Osah Mills
Minister of Lands and Natural Resources
Ghana

Hon Abdalla Deng Nhial
Ministry of Environment and Forestry
South Sudan

Hon. Arlette Sombo-Dibele
Minister of Environment, Sustainable Development,
Water, Forests, Hunting and Fishing
Republic of Central Africa

Hon. Sam Cheptoris
Minister of Water and Environment
Uganda

Hon. Celso Correia
Minister of Land, Environment and Rural
Development
Mozambique

Hon. Rosalie Matondo
Minister of Forest Economy, Sustainable
Development and Environment
Republic of Congo

Hon Christine Sagno
Minister of Environment, Water and Forests
Guinea

Sir. Harrison Karnwea
Managing Director, Forestry Development Authority
Liberia

Hon Jesca Eriyo
Deputy Secretary General East African Community
Arusha, Tanzania

Hon. Robert Bopolo Mbongeza
Minister of Environment, Conservation of Nature
and Sustainable Development
Democratic Republic of Congo

Hon. Bright Msaka
Minister of Natural Resources, Energy and Mining
Malawi

Hon. Rémi Allah Kouadio
Minister of Environment and Sustainable
Development
Ivory Coast

Lilongwe call for Action

The Lilongwe Call for Action on Forest Landscape Restoration in Africa

We, Ministers of African countries and representatives gathered in Lilongwe on July 12th and 13th, 2017 for the SADC+ Ministerial Bonn Challenge Summit, hosted by the Government of Malawi issue this 'Call for Action for Forest Landscape Restoration in Africa'.

Recognising and valuing the African restoration initiative - AFR100 as the continental platform to contribute to and implement the Bonn Challenge, the global mechanism for the restoration of degraded land that aim to harness political, technical and financial backing for national restoration targets.

Endorsing the Kigali Declaration on the promotion of forest landscape restoration in Africa and the need for its effective implementation;

Highlighting that the economic cost of land degradation regularly exceeds 5% of GDP within the region, making forest landscape restoration a national development priority;

Emphasizing that the costs of inaction on land degradation exceed the costs of action by an estimated factor of four to one;

Confirming that forest landscape restoration is a broad approach that integrates restoration across different land types and uses, including forests, drylands, woodlands, wetlands and farmlands;

Also confirming that these efforts are in direct support of sustainable development goals and land degradation neutrality as reflected in SDG target 15.3, Agenda 2063 Aspiration 7.

Acknowledging the regional specific focus in the SADC region, as defined through the existing SADC Protocol on Environment (2014) and supporting programmes and plans such as the SADC Biodiversity Action Plan (2013), SADC Sub-Regional Action Plan to Combat Desertification (2015), SADC Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (2015) and SADC Regional Green Economy Strategy and Action Plan (2015);

Highlighting the recent decision by the UNCCD regional forum, held in South Africa in April 2017, which encouraged Member States to participate in the Bonn Challenge through AFR100 as a contribution to Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN);

WE:

1. Reaffirm our existing commitments to the Bonn Challenge to restore 150 million hectares of deforested and degraded lands by 2020 and 350 million hectares by 2030;
2. Encourage other African Countries make ambitious commitments to the Bonn Challenge' as a global initiative, the AFR100 regional platform, as well as other sister initiatives such as the Great Green Wall, Land Degradation Neutrality and the Sustainable Development Goals.
3. Encourage further signatures to the Kigali Declaration by those countries that have not already signed and promoting its up take at the national level;
4. Request research and analysis to better understand the emerging links between degradation, poverty, migration and conflict;

Lilongwe Call for Action

5. Encourage Governments to mainstream restoration into their national development policies and laws including developing and implementing national forest landscape strategies with an emphasis on the need to ensure coherence and consistency between land-use, fiscal and other relevant policies;
6. Promote the incorporation of natural capital valuation within land-use policies and programmes, with a view to strengthening national accountability over their implementation and how these measures enhance or diminish the sustainable management of land, soil and natural resources;
7. Commit to the inclusion of youth and women in forest landscape restoration action, specifically encouraging the Bonn Challenge and AFR100 to make this a central theme of the next regional FLR meeting;
8. Undertake to explore increases in domestic investment of resources towards action on the ground including the alignment of domestic investment policies, social safety next developing incentives for farmers and their communities, including revolving funds, tree fertilizer subsidies and similar approaches;
9. Call on development partners, international finance institutions and the private sector to support domestic investment and facilitate access to external investment opportunities in forest landscape restoration, mechanisms, including among others international funds such as the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility;
10. Promote increased collaboration and coordination on forest landscape restoration within the SADC region and with other African regional economic communities with a view to promote cross-learning and effective approaches of land restoration at scale;
11. Promote cross-learning and effective approaches of land restoration at scale through south-south collaboration, within Africa and across continents;
12. Promote 'business unusual' approaches including regenerative development to reverse climate change and promote interlinkages of different networks such as trans frontier conservation areas, the Miombo network and others
13. Develop a culture of restoration and strengthen continental capacity to achieve this by developing technical expertise, mainstream restoration in education curriculums and developing environmental and social standards for the implementation of forest landscape restoration to help tackle climate change effects, improve human well-being, ecosystem health and biodiversity conservation across Africa;
14. Promote cost effective approaches that increase tree survival, including farmer-managed natural regeneration for restoration.
15. Undertake to explore options for FLR monitoring and evaluation activities, including enabling framework for policy and financial resources.
16. Encourage promotion of efficient fuel energy alternatives to reduce deforestation
17. Develop strategies and implementation plans to reverse degradation on coastal zones as a result of sea level rise and effects of climate change; including degradation of soil in agricultural lands, salt intrusion.

Signed in Lilongwe, July 13th 2017

Appel A L'Action Niamey.

APPEL À L'ACTION DE NIAMEY POUR L'INITIATIVE DE RESTAURATION DU PAYSAGE FORESTIER AFRICAIN (AFR100)

Nous, participants, réunis à Niamey le 26 et 27 septembre 2017 pour la deuxième Réunion annuelle de Partenariat AFR100 organisée par le Gouvernement nigérien, l'Agence et les partenaires du NEPAD, émettent ce " appel à l'Action de Niamey pour l'initiative de restauration du paysage forestier africain "

Reconnaisant et valorisant l'initiative de restauration du paysage africain (AFR100) en tant qu'effort consenti par le pays de restaurer 100 millions d'hectares de paysages déboisés et dégradés en Afrique d'ici 2030 et en tant que plateforme continentale pour contribuer à la Déclaration de New York sur les Forêts et au Bonn Challenge, une initiative mondiale pour restaurer 150 millions d'hectares de paysages et terres dégradées d'ici 2030.

APPROBATION DE LA DECLARATION de KIGALI SUR LA PROMOTION DE LA RESTAURATION DU PAYSAGE FORESTIER AFRICAIN et DE L'APPEL DE LILONGWESUR SUR LA RESTAURATION DES PAYSAGES FORESTIERS EN AFRIQUE.

Confirmant que la Restauration du paysage forestier (FLR) nécessitera l'action d'un certains nombres d'intervenants pertinents comprenant les ministères chargés de l'environnement, de l'agriculture et d'autres secteurs, les partenaires techniques et financiers, investisseurs et secteur privé, la société civile, les organisations non gouvernementales, universités/instituts de recherches, etc.

NOUS:

1. Reconnaissons et approuvons la diversité de toutes les parties prenantes et veillons à ce que toutes les opinions soient intégrées dans le processus de mise en œuvre du FLP;
2. Réaffirmons nos engagements actuels à l'initiative AFR100 et à l'importance de la restauration pour atteindre nos objectifs nationaux en matière d'environnement et de développement durable;
3. Encourageons les autres pays africains à prendre des engagements ambitieux envers l'Initiative AFR100, ainsi que d'autres initiatives telles que Bonn Challenge, l'Initiative africaine pour la Résilience des paysage (ARLI), le Plan d'action pour les paysages africains (ALAP), TerrAfrica, l'Initiative pour le grand mur vert et d'autres initiatives stratégiques en Afrique ;

Continuons à promouvoir la coopération Sud-Sud pour le succès des programmes de restauration;

4. Passons de promesses à l'engagement et à la mise en œuvre sur le terrain, complété par des systèmes de surveillance robustes;
5. Approuvons entre autres les Lignes directrices volontaires AFR100 et le Cadre de surveillance en tant

qu'outils destinés aux gouvernements, aux partenaires techniques et financiers et aux organisations liées aux divers groupes d'actions visant à améliorer la restauration du paysage forestier sur le continent;

6. Nous engageons à inclure les jeunes et les femmes dans l'action de restauration du paysage forestier;
7. Reconnaissons la nécessité de relever les défis posés par le changement climatique, la perte de biodiversité, la sécheresse et la désertification. Il existe une preuve scientifique irréfutable pour soutenir l'exigence de changements climatiques et ses conséquences négatives sur notre planète.

Niamey Call for Action on the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative

We, the participants gathered in Niamey on September 26th and 27th 2017 for the second AFR100 Annual Partnership Meeting, hosted by the Government of Niger, the NEPAD Agency and partners issue this “Niamey call for action on the african forest landscape restoration Initiative”.

Recognizing and Valuing the African Landscape Restoration (AFR100) Initiative as a country-led effort to restore 100 million hectares of deforested and degraded landscapes across Africa by 2030 and as the continental Platform to contribute to and implement the New York Declaration of Forests and the Bonn Challenge, a global initiative to restore 150 million hectares of degraded landscapes and lands by 2030.

Endorsing the

KIGALI DECLARATION ON THE PROMOTION OF FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION IN AFRICA
and

THE LILONGWE CALL FOR ACTION ON FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION IN AFRICA.

Confirming that Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) will require action by a number of different relevant stakeholders; inclusive of ministries, technical and financial partners, investors and private sector, civil society, non-governmental organizations, academics/ research institutions, etc.

WE:

1. Recognize and acknowledge the diversity of all stakeholders and ensure that all views are incorporated in the implementation process of FLR;
2. Reaffirm our existing commitments to the AFR100 Initiative and the importance of restoration to achieve our national goals for the environment and sustainable development;
3. Encourage other African Countries to make ambitious commitments to the AFR100 Initiative, as well other initiatives such as the Bonn Challenge, the African Resilient Landscapes Initiative (ARLI), African Landscapes Action Plan (ALAP), TerrAfrica, the Great Green Wall Initiative and other strategic initiatives in Africa;
4. Continue to promote south-south cooperation for successful restoration programmes;
5. Move from pledges to commitment and implementation on the ground complemented by robust monitoring systems;
6. Endorse, among other things, the AFR100 Voluntary Guidelines and Monitoring Framework as tools for governments, technical and financial partners and organizations related to the diverse set of actions to enhance Forest Landscape Restoration in the continent;
7. Commit to the inclusion of youth and women in Forest Landscape Restoration action;
8. Recognize the need to address challenges posed by climate change, loss of biodiversity, drought and desertification. There is overwhelming scientific evidence to support the existence of anthropogenic climate change and its negative consequences on our planet.

Completed in Niamey on 27th September 2017

