

# AFR100 PULSE

HARNESSING AFRICA'S FLR SPIRIT

RESTORATION  
BUSINESS MODELS  
TO ACCELERATE THE  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFR100 INITIATIVE

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We support the



## By Ousseynou Ndoye<sup>1</sup> and Meseret Shiferaw<sup>2</sup>

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[1] Ousseynou Ndoye, PhD

Agricultural and Forest Economist

AFR100 Regional Coordinator for West and Central Africa

[2] Meseret Shiferaw

AFR100 Regional Coordinator for East and Southern Africa

### DISCLAIMER

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) reduces greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution in Africa, which is very beneficial for human health, ecological balance and the fight against global warming. In addition, FLR is an approach that adds value to the deforested, degraded landscape and increases the fertility and productivity of degraded lands and forest cover. This means that forest landscape restoration must be a priority in Africa and it must be seen as a sustainable development approach that combats the negative effects of climate change (Ndoye, 2020). The private sector (national and international, smallholder producers, cooperatives, producer groups, associations, and women and young entrepreneurs) has a big role to play in scaling up FLR. For that to happen important actions are necessary to undertake to provide the necessary incentives to the private sector. This is very important since the second phase of the AFR100 initiative (2022–2026) focusses mainly on the mobilization of private sector and financial institutions' investments to accelerate AFR100 implementation.

The objectives of this information note are to a) describe few economic activities that could be of interest to the private sector; b) suggest sustainable win-win restoration business models that the private sector could implement to accelerate forest landscape restoration in Africa; and c) discuss few necessary actions (tenure, security of investments, access to finance) needed to encourage the private sector to invest more in Forest Landscape Restoration in Africa.



## 2. TYPES OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES OF INTEREST TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR

**21. Agriculture:** This includes the cultivation of fresh vegetables, cocoa using high quality materials, rice, groundnut, maize, cotton, coffee, melon, watermelon, green beans, tomato, and strawberries. It uses the drip system, solar irrigation system, search for underground water; it builds conservation and storage infrastructures (warehouses); it uses cool storage facilities for fruits and legumes.

**22. Exploitation of non-timber forest products (NTFPs):** NTFPs are defined as products of plant origin other than timber, obtained from forests, woodlands and trees outside forests. These products are leaves, seeds, nuts, fruits, mushrooms, roots, stems, barks, lianas, saps.

Examples of NTFPs in West Africa: Madd (*Saba senegalensis*); Shea butter (*Vitellaria paradoxa*); Nebeday (*Moringa oleifera*); Baobab (*Adansonia digitata*); Néré (*Parkia biglobosa*); Cashew nut (*Anacardium occidentale*).

Examples of NTFPs in Central Africa: Bush mango or Odika or Ogbono (*Irvingia gabonensis*); Njansang (*Ricinodendron heudelotii*); Okok or Eru or Nkumu or Koko or Fumbwa (*Gnetum* spp.); safou or Atanga (*Dacryodes edulis*); Cola (*Cola acuminata* and *Cola nitida*); Bitter cola (*Garcinia cola*).

Examples of NTFPs in East Africa: Tamarind (*Tamrindus indica*) (Mkwadju in Tanzania); Wild Coffee (*Coffea arabica*) in Ethiopia and Kenya; Honey (*Apis mellifera*) in Ethiopia and Malawi, Gum arabic (*Acacia* spp); Gum arabic or Yetefetro or Mucha or Gum resin (frankincense) in Ethiopia and Sudan (*Boswellia papyrifera*); Passion fruit or Maracuja in Rwanda (*Passiflora edulis*); Moringa (*Moringa oleifera*) in Rwanda and Ethiopia.

Examples of NTFPs in Southern Africa: Marula (*Sclerocarya birrea*); Umemezi in South Africa (*Cassipourea flanaganii*).

NTFPs trees can not only sequester carbon but they also provide green jobs, income, medicinal products to rural populations and especially women and young entrepreneurs. NTFPs are rich in vitamins A, B, C, D, E, K and minerals: calcium, magnesium, iron, potassium, sodium, zinc, phosphorus, manganese.

**23. Forestry and wood technology:** It includes reforestation using high quality seedlings, timber production and its commercial exploitation using reduced impact logging technics (RIL), pulp and paper production, production of poles from eucalyptus and other species.

**24. Agroforestry to improve soil fertility:** Soil fertility has a positive effect on carbon sequestration and increasing agricultural productivity. Promoting agroforestry activities by integrating nitrogen fixing legumes into existing farming systems is a good approach to disseminate at larger scales. Leguminous trees such as gum arabic (*Acacia senegal*), caliandra (*Caliandra colothyrsus*), leucaena (*Leucaena leucocephala*), cadd (*Acacia albida*), and neem (*Azadirachta indica*) will increase soil fertility and agricultural production.

**25. Fruit tree plantations:** It includes lemon, orange, avocado, papaya, grapefruit, soursop, mango, tangerine. These fruit trees should be planted on a wider scale to meet the nutritional needs of the populations, provide them with income and jobs and supply national and regional markets.

**26. Production of essential oils:** the production of essential oils based on mint; lemongrass; eucalyptus; lemon; orange; grapefruit; tea should be encouraged. The production of essential oils could be an important niche to develop in African countries to satisfy national, regional and international markets. It is a business that needs to be promoted within the framework of the African Continental Free Trade Area (ZLECAF).



### 3. SUSTAINABLE WIN-WIN BUSINESS MODELS TO PROMOTE FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR

Several **endogenous and sustainable forest landscape restoration business models using an integrated approach** can be developed for the private sector. These business models should allow to recover the ecological functions of deforested and degraded areas, improve the fertility and productivity of degraded soils and the well-being of populations, combat the negative effects of climate change and ensure a good return on private sector investment. It is this **win-win approach** that the AFR100 initiative would like to suggest to the private sector in the context of forest landscape restoration in Africa. The following **four forest landscape restoration business models** are to be promoted:

a) Model 1: Integration of agriculture–agroforestry–forestry–food processing industries. This model promotes agribusiness development by combining agriculture, forestry and agroforestry to improve soil fertility by planting nitrogen fixing trees; planting non–timber forest products (NTFPs) and timber forest products (TFP); development of several value chains by combining production and agro–industrial processing of agricultural and forest products to create more value addition and green jobs; improving the packaging and storage of products (by specifying the production date; expiry date; nutritional value); construction of storage facilities.

b) Model 2: Agriculture–livestock–agroforestry–forestry–forage production–food processing. This model is somewhat similar to model 1 but it includes a livestock and industrial fodder cultivation and processing as an addition to increase national milk production, collection and processing to satisfy national, regional and international markets. Agriculture–livestock integration using organic manure and mulching technics to increase soil fertility in a significant manner is an important component of this model; it also includes the development of several value chains by combining production and agro–industrial processing of selected products to create more value addition and green jobs.

c) Model 3: Forestry–tree planting–exploitation of lesser known timber species (Central Africa only) to reduce their densities per hectare and promote their markets; use of reduced impact logging(RIL); development of the value chains of several lesser–known timber species by combining production and industrial processing to create more value addition and green jobs; increase in environmental et ecosystem services; increased forest cover; improving air quality; water purification; development of ecotourism.

Since fuelwood and charcoal consumption are very important in Africa, this model can facilitate the use of wood residues to make charcoal like in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) where women entrepreneurs collect wood waste to make charcoal<sup>i</sup>.

d) Model 4: Forestry–agroforestry–fruit tree plantations–processing of Eucalyptus and other trees into essential oils to create more value addition and jobs for women and youth. Essential oils constitute an important niche to be developed for the national markets and for exports, especially in the African Continental Free Trade Area (ZLECAF)



## 4. NECESSARY ACTIONS TO ENCOURAGE PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENTS IN AFR100 IMPLEMENTATION

### 4.1. Sensitization of the private sector: Forest Landscape Restoration pays for itself

Studies have shown that for every US dollar invested in landscape restoration, between US \$7 and US \$30 in economic benefits can be obtained<sup>ii</sup>. This means that investments in Forest Landscape Restoration must be encouraged to:

1. meet regional (African Union) and international commitments (Bonn Challenge; Paris Declaration on Climate and New York declaration on Forests; United Nations Decade for Ecosystem Restoration; United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs));
2. significantly improve the well-being and food security of rural communities, and to ensure an economic return to private sector investments.

**By combining agriculture and other forms of land use** described in the different models suggested (above), the private investor will be able to get revenues as from the first year of operation and start to get a return on investment while waiting for the maturation and fruiting of planted trees and other activities that would be engaged in the chosen business models.

### 4.2. Securing private sector investments

The big private sector needs a security for its investments to engage in Forest Landscape Restoration. In this context, to secure and reassure private investors, the governments of African countries, members of AFR100 must support the process by granting **long term land lease agreements** to private operators who will restore degraded forests and lands, and increase the fertility and productivity of degraded lands. However, the **opinion and interests of the surrounding communities** (who reside in these landscapes) should always be taken into account before any decision to allocate degraded forests and lands to a private operator.

The need for security is also of interest to the small-scale private sector (small producers, cooperatives, producer groups, associations, women and young entrepreneurs). Governments must grant them **property rights over trees they plant** in their fields to speed up the scale of restoration in order to make their workforce more profitable. The example of **Niger** should inspire other AFR100 countries.

### 4.3. Access to Finance

One of the major bottlenecks in investing in Forest Landscape Restoration in Africa, mainly by the national private sector, is shortage of finance. Governments of AFR100 countries should develop a strategy on how to address this challenge by introducing few incentives like long-term tax relief, promoting Public-Private Partnerships (PPP), facilitating access to loan with low interest rate, mobilizing resources from donors and other support providers, etc

## 5. REFERENCE

Ousseynou Ndoye (2020). Covid 19 et restauration des paysages au Sénégal. Sud Quotidien numéro 8146, pages 1 et 10, 14 juillet 2020.

## END NOTES

[i]<https://forestsnews.cifor.org/72742/rdc-des-femmes-entrepreneures-recuperent-les-dechets-de-bois-pour-produire-du-makala-vert?fnl=>

[ii]Proposal for an Africa Forest Landscape Restoration Facility for Enhancing Investment and Developing Forest Landscape Restoration Investment Portfolios, December 2018.

