

AFR100 PULSE

HARNESSING AFRICA'S FLR SPIRIT

SUMMARY OF FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION

**SUCCESSES, CHALLENGES AND SUGGESTIONS FOR
HIGHER MOBILIZATION OF INVESTMENTS TO
ACCELERATE AFR100 IMPLEMENTATION IN AFRICA**

SEVENTH ANNUAL PARTNERSHIP MEETING (APM7) COUNTRY DAY LAGOS, NIGERIA

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We support the



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I. INTRODUCTION

The African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100) was launched in December 2015 to address the environmental, economic and social challenges that affect the management of natural resources in Africa. Its main objective is to restore 100 million hectares of degraded forests and lands by 2030. It is implemented at the national level by 34 African governments in collaboration with 39 technical and 14 financial partners. Currently, the 34 governments have committed to restore 129.5 million hectares of degraded forests and lands, implying that the original commitment has been exceeded by 29.5 million hectares.

AFR100 contributes to the African Initiative for Resilient Landscapes (ARLI), the African Union Agenda for 2063, the Great Green Wall Initiative (GGWI), the Bonn Challenge, the Paris Declaration on Climate, the New York Declaration on Forests, the UN Decade for Ecosystem Restoration and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

AFR100 Governments alone will not be able to restore all the areas committed to the AFR100 initiative. The private sector and financial institutions have a very important role to play to help African countries meet their commitments by 2030.

The second phase of the AFR100 initiative 2022–2026 put a major emphasis on scaling up Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) on the ground to meet country pledges to the AFR100 initiative. For that reason, it is important to mobilize all governments and relevant private sector and financial institutions involved in FLR in Africa to identify financial challenges and gaps for scaling up FLR and to get their different perspectives and future engagements in mobilizing financial resources. Moreover, policy related issues hindering private sector and financial institutions investment in FLR in Africa need to be discussed to engage policy makers in finding solutions for the bottlenecks. In addition, there is a need to assess current and expected future private sector and financial institutions commitments in investing in FLR in Africa.



The theme for the 7th AFR100 Annual Partnership Meeting (APM) is: *Attracting Private Sector Investments in Africa and Internationally to Scaling Smallholder Farmers Access to Financing*. The choice of this theme is very strategic because in Africa, smallholder farmers are responsible for a significant percentage of agricultural production. Furthermore, they are very active in FLR. They restore small areas of degraded forests and lands which when aggregated become extremely important.

The country day being very important in APM7, AFR100 Focal Points were asked to provide information on the following issues:

- a) Successful FLR cases that could be scaled up to accelerate AFR100 implementation.
- b) Challenges in attracting governments, private sector, and financial institutions' investments to accelerate AFR100 implementation.
- c) Suggestions on how to reverse the situation.

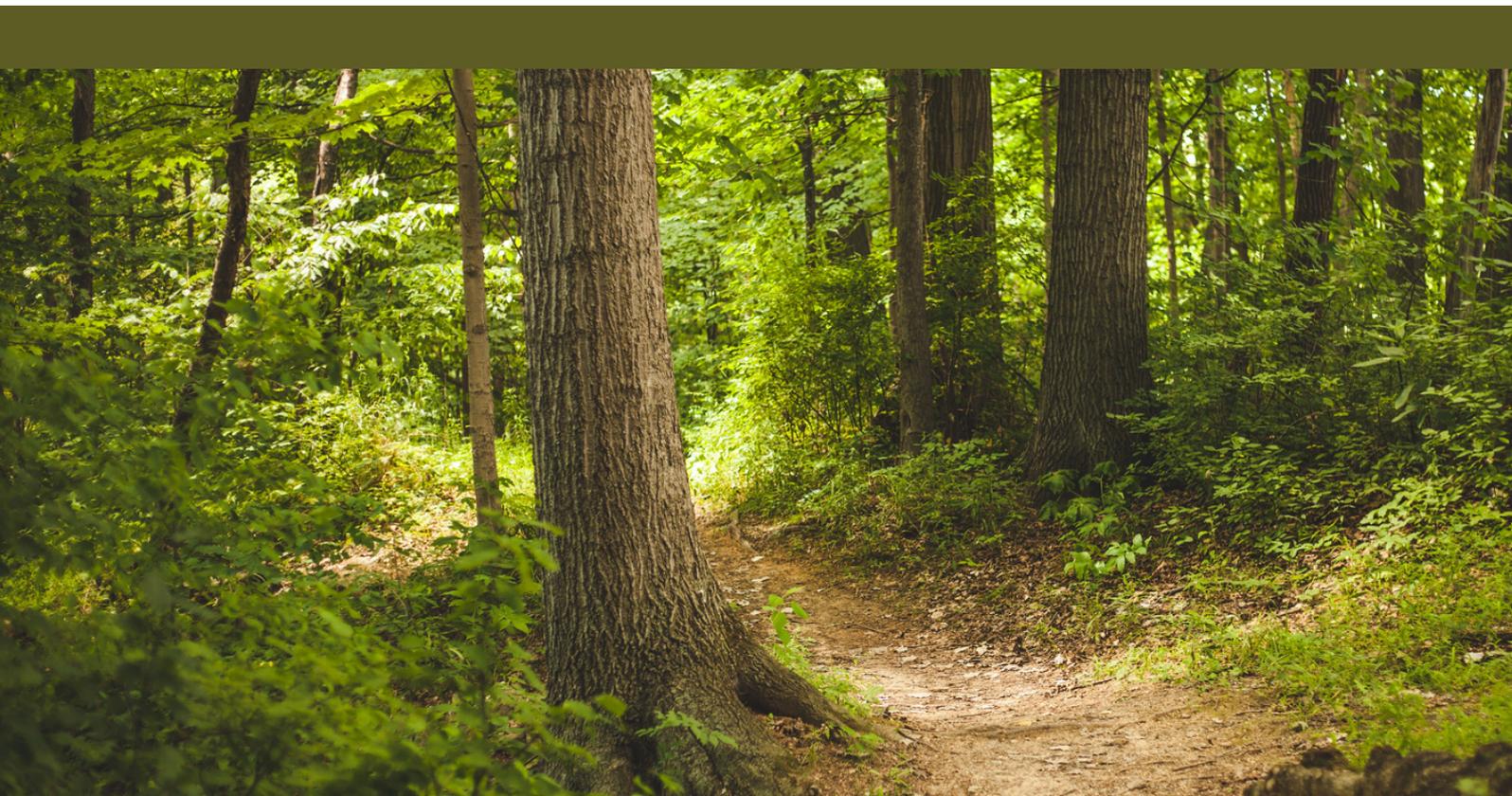
20 countries filled out the the powerpoint templates and share them with the AFR100 Secretariat before the APM7 meeting : They are the following :

West Africa : Benin, Ghana, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, and Togo.

Central Africa : Cameroon, Chad, and Democratic Republic of Congo.

East Africa : Burundi, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Rwanda, and Tanzania.

Southern Africa: Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, and South Africa.



II. FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION (FLR) SUCCESSES THAT COULD BE REPLICATED AT LOCAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL LEVELS

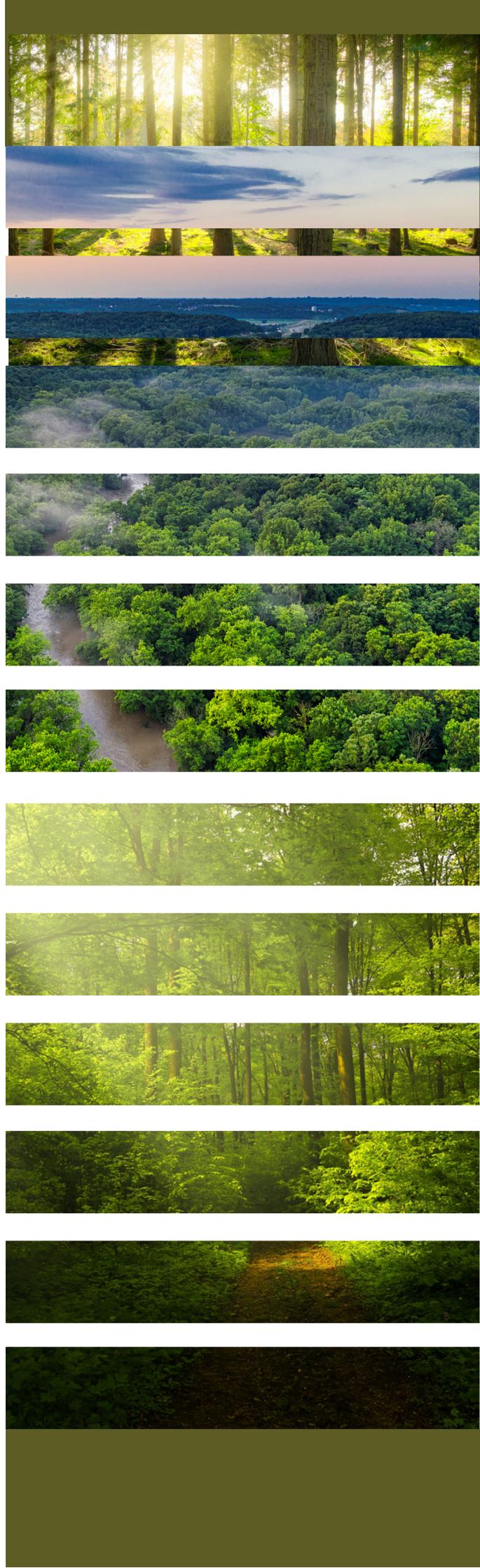
A. Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) : Niger, Mali, Ethiopia, Senegal, Tanzania.

FMNR is used in several AFR100 countries but Niger is its champion in Africa. It is not based on tree planting but it consists of protecting and managing the natural shoots produced by trees and shrub stumps in the field . This technic allows smallholder farmers to intensify their agricultural production systems. FMNR increases smallholder farmers' incomes, and food security and enable them to better adapt to climate change and build resilience. Jonathan Muriuki et al., 2022 elaborated an interesting and pragmatic trainer's guide on FMNR for farmers, pastoralists and other land users based on solid experiences in Kenya.

FMNR is a very important technic used in Kenya and Malawi but unfortunately, the AFR100 Focal Points from these countries did not have a chance to share their powerpoint presentations with the AFR100 Secretariat prior to attending the seventh Annual Partnership Meeting in Lagos, Nigeria.

B. Planting of trees of environmental (carbon sequestration, biodiversity and soil fertility enhancement, fruit trees, NTFPs), **social** (green jobs), **economic** (income for communities and governments) and **livelihood** (food security and nutrition, quality of housing, availability of potable water, etc...) **values** : several AFR100 countries are concerned such as South Africa, Mali, Niger, Ghana, DRC, Burundi, Cameroon, Lesotho, Senegal, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Liberia, Tanzania, Nigeria, Chad, Togo, Benin, Rwanda.

C. Mano River Union (MRU) Ecosystems and International Water Resources Management (IWRM) project in Liberia : conservation and sustainable use of the transboundary water basins and their biodiversity resources within the Mano River Union member states : Liberia.



D. Restoration of mangrove ecosystems : Madagascar, Tanzania, South Africa, Benin.

Madagascar has Africa's fourth largest mangrove ecosystems. Due to rapid degradation of these ecosystems, the **Global Project Forests 4Future (F4F)** launched by GIZ, uses a low-cost FMNR technic to restore the degraded mangrove ecosystems. The impacts obtained are tremendous as follows :

- Increased biodiversity ;
- Costal protection from erosion ;
- Improved livelihoods and development of value chains ;
- Strengthened community cohesion and collaboration

E. Integrated soil management : Ghana, Liberia.

F. Protected area management : Ghana, Nigeria.

Protected areas are sites with recognized natural, ecological and cultural values. Because of the win-win approach of the AFR100 initiative, in addition to the environmental benefits they generate, the livelihood of local communities is also taken into account. In several AFR100 countries, a co-management approach in the form of public-community-partnership (PCP) is established in order to address the trade-offs between conservation and development.

G. Integration of ecotourism and FLR : restoration, introduction of different types of animals, fencing etc..., Bandia faunal reserve, Senegal.

H. Integrated Community Agricultural Farms (FACIs) or Multipurpose Gardens (Jardins Polyvalents) : Chad has created 15 FACIs so far. The involvement of women in these FACIs is very important with a strong positive impact at the household level since women invest most of their revenues to improve the livelihood of family members.

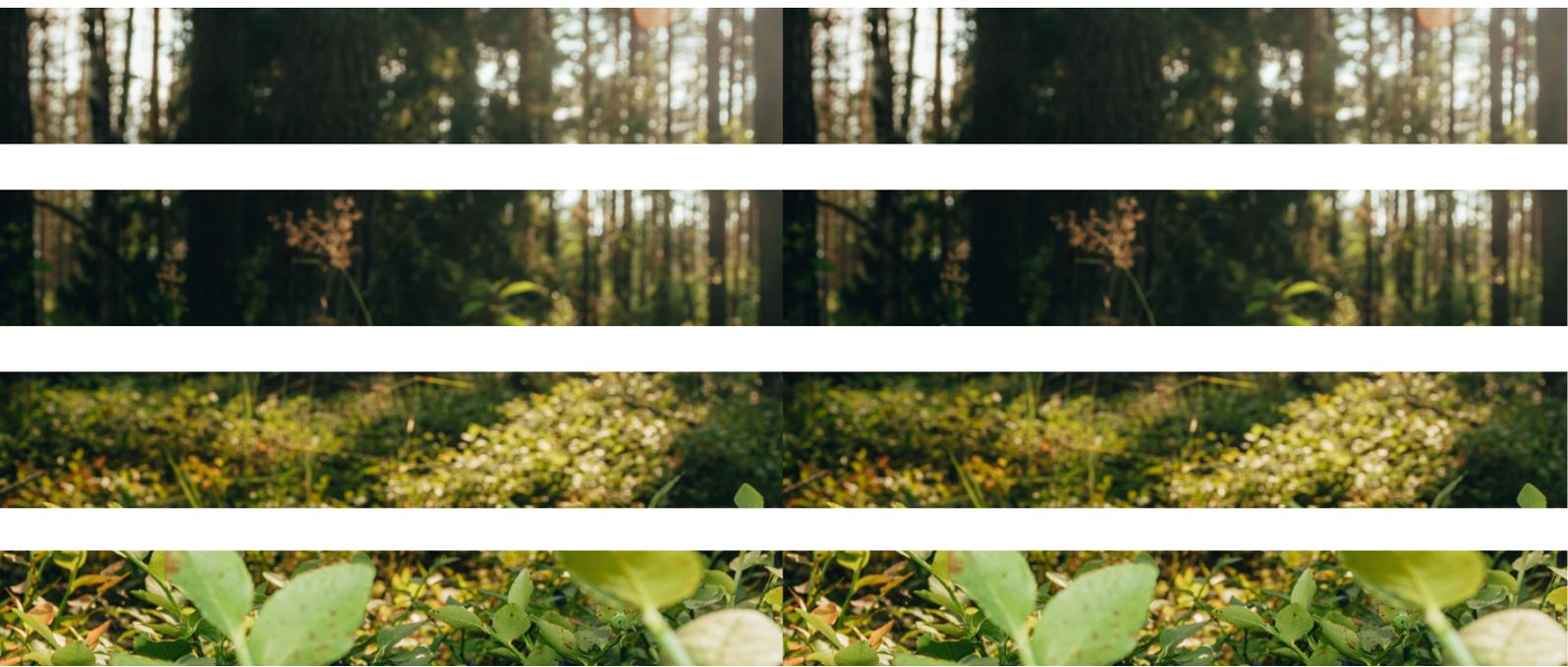
I. Restoration and rehabilitation of degraded forest landscape through mechanical and biological methods of fixation of sand dune : Chad, Nigeria.

J. Integration of agroforestry (leguminous trees)-livestock for animal feed production to sedentarize livestock (Silvopasture) : Benin.



III. CHALLENGES IN MOBILIZING FLR INVESTMENTS

- A. Lack of a communication strategy in AFR100 implementation to inform governments, the private sector and financial institutions on FLR successes and impacts.
- B. Competing demands at government level due to availability of limited national budget and political pressure from other sectors.
- C. Bureaucratic processes within government ministries.
- D. Governance issues : land and tree tenure.
- E. Perceived risks and uncertainties : Private sector and financial institutions are very hesitant to invest in FLR due to perceived risks and uncertainties (**short versus medium to long-term**).
- F. In many AFR100 countries, the national private sector is not fully attracted and integrated in AFR100 implementation.
- G. FLR is not promoted as a business opportunity with adequate returns on investments.
- H. Collateral fixed by financial institutions is often high, which makes it difficult to obtain a loan.
- I. Conflicts and insecurity in few AFR100 countries.
- J. Lack of financial support to sustain AFR100 national stakeholder platforms already set up .
- K. Lack of information on sources of funding for FLR to increase the opportunity set of local communities including women and youth.





IV. WAYS TO OVERCOME INVESTMENT CHALLENGES

- A. Put in place **good communication strategy** to inform governments and other actors on FLR achievements and impacts (environmental, social, economic and livelihood). There are FLR successes reported by AFR100 Focal Points that could be included in the communication strategy.
- B. Elaborate and promote **win-win** restoration business models. That is restoration business models with environmental, social, economic and livelihood benefits with adequate returns on investments.
- C. Include **FLR activities and projects in national and communal budgets**.
- D. Promote Private–Public–Partnership (**PPP**) in AFR100 implementation with adequate **security for private sector investments**.
- E. Develop effective **policies and institutional frameworks** that attract investments in FLR.
- F. Create innovative financial mechanisms to mobilize more financial investments for FLR : example, **innovative endogenous financial mechanisms based on national solidarity**. The AFR100 Secretariat will initiate a reflection on this important issue.
- G. Promote a good **interaction between research and development and transfert of technology**.
- H. Provide **information on sources of funding** for FLR to empower local communities and women and youth entrepreneurs.
- I. Put in place an integrated and adaptive landscape management approach by **increasing the connection between protected areas, forest lands and agricultural lands**.
- J. Prioritize the establishment of a **national restoration registry** which can be used to solicit investments in FLR.
- K. Establish a **national unified system for evidence-based monitoring** of any restoration project undertaken at country level.
- L. **Promote stronger laws to govern land and tree tenure** : Niger has adopted a decree in July 2020 recognizing that planted or regenerated trees belong to the farmers. This should inspire the other countries, members of the AFR100 initiative.
- M. Develop **partnerships with religious and traditional** institutions to mobilize local resources and ensure community ownership.
- N. Work with donors to develop projects that can benefit multiple countries through **transboundary landscapes**.

V. CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

V.1. CONCLUSIONS

a) There are several FLR successes in the AFR100 initiative that need to be scaled up at local, regional and national levels. During the second phase of the AFR100 initiative (2022–2026), **several FLR successes need to be documented and posted in the AFR100 website through a collaboration between the AFR100 Secretariat, the AFR100 Focal Points and the four AFR100 Regional Representatives.**

b) The powerpoint templates filled out by AFR100 Focal Points underline important challenges in mobilizing governments, private sector and financial institutions to accelerate AFR100 implementation. Very important suggestions are formulated to reverse these challenges thereby enabling to increase the mobilization of investments to accelerate AFR100 implementation.

V.2. IMPLICATIONS

There is an urgent need to find **innovative endogenous financial mechanisms based on national solidarity** to accelerate AFR100 implementation. Governments, the private sector and financial institutions are doing a lot but their efforts need to be complemented with **national solidarity for AFR100** implementation by mobilizing the population of each country for FLR. The AFR100 Secretariat will start a reflection on this important subject in order to get feedback from local landscape actors and the technical and financial partners of the AFR100 initiative.





Notes

[i]Abasse T, Massaoudou M, Ribiou H, Idrissa S, Dan Guimbo I (2023). Farmer managed natural regeneration in Niger: the state of knowledge. Tropenbos International, Ede, the Netherlands.

[ii]Abasse T, Massaoudou M, Ribiou H, Idrissa S, Dan Guimbo I (2023). Farmer managed natural regeneration in Niger: the state of knowledge. Tropenbos International, Ede, the Netherlands.

[iii]Muriuki J, Wanjira EO and Ojuok I. 2022. Farmer managed natural regeneration in Kenya: A trainer's guide for farmers, pastoralists and other land users. Nairobi: World Agroforestry (ICRAF), p56.

[iv]file:///C:/Users/ousse/Downloads/PANORAMA%20Solution%20(1).pdf

[v]Abasse T, Massaoudou M, Ribiou H, Idrissa S, Dan Guimbo I (2023). Farmer managed natural regeneration in Niger: the state of knowledge. Tropenbos International, Ede, the Netherlands.

