

**Release: Landscape restoration champions in the Democratic Republic of Congo receive USD \$1.9 million in financing from TerraFund for AFR100.**

**January 10, 2024** –Ten organizations and enterprises in the Democratic Republic of the Congo are set to receive USD \$1.9 million in grants, loans and equity finance from [TerraFund for AFR100](#), a fund for locally led landscape restoration projects operating in Africa.

They are part of a second cohort of investments, named *TerraFund for AFR100 Landscapes* that are restoring land in three of the continent's vital landscapes: the Lake Kivu and Rusizi River Basin in Rwanda, Burundi, and the Democratic Republic of Congo; Ghana Cocoa Belt, and the Greater Rift Valley of Kenya.

These landscapes were chosen because they provide food and water for millions of people and protect crucial biodiversity; yet they are suffering from decades of degradation.

"In the final analysis, climate action is local. I am delighted TerraFund for AFR100 and partners are mobilizing finance and capacity for restoration champions. We need both scale and speed for the restoration movement in Africa to improve the lives and livelihoods of smallholder farmers, their families and communities," said **Wanjira Mathai**, Managing Director for Africa and Global Partnerships at World Resources Institute.

TerraFund will disburse USD \$17.8 million to a total of 92 organizations. Aside from DRC, in Kenya, 36 champions will receive USD \$7.5 million; 20 champions will receive USD \$3.6 million in Rwanda, in Burundi, 11 organizations will receive USD \$2.1 million; and in Ghana, USD \$2.7 million will go towards 15 projects.

These "restoration champions" were selected after TerraFund screened 601 applications gathered through an open call for proposals.

Through 2030, this new investment in DRC is projected to grow 1.2 million trees, restore 3,000 hectares of land, create 2,900 temporary and full-time jobs, and benefit 70,000 people living in these regions.

“Local groups are at the heart of Africa’s restoration movement but historically have been viewed as too small or risky for investment. The TerraFund champions are shattering this myth. Not only are these groups doing remarkable work on the ground, but they’re also utilizing new monitoring technologies, allowing us to track progress like never before,” said **Andrew Steer**, President and CEO of the Bezos Earth Fund.

TerraFund was established in September 2021 when it announced applications for its first cohort, the *Top 100*, which financed one hundred community organizations and businesses across 27 countries in Africa. Since May 2022, the *Top 100* cohort has begun to grow 12.5 million trees, provided paid work to 36,000 people, and improved the livelihoods of 202,000 people.

One of the organizations, Climate Change Africa Opportunities (CCAO), used their first TerraFund to restore 120 hectares of community forest in Mwenga through growing wild host trees for edible caterpillars. They also created 806 jobs in eight targeted villages: Kasika, Kalambi, Mwenga centre, Kitamba, Irangi, Kabukimba, Kitale and Ilibo in South Kivu.

“We are expanding by continuing to engage the indigenous communities in Mwenga to grow both native and fruit trees in areas affected by deforestation in the Rusizi landscape,” said **Trésor Badisungu, coordinator of CCAO**.

To date, TerraFund for AFR100 has received 3,800 applications and has deployed \$33 million in grants, loans, and equity investment to 192 landscape restoration projects in 27 African countries.

The impact of this investment is tracked through the TerraMatch platform, which uses cutting-edge monitoring, reporting, and verification techniques from [Land & Carbon Lab](#) that combine field-collected data with insights from satellite imagery.

By directly measuring the impact of their work, TerraFund is giving credit to these champions on the ground who are reversing the trend of degradation and building lasting resilience across Africa.

### **About TerraFund for AFR100**

TerraFund for AFR100 deploys grants, loans, and equity investments to support non-profit community organizations and for-profit businesses in Africa that restore land by growing trees. It incubates hundreds of the continent's locally led restoration champions by mobilizing and deploying finance and capacity to a pipeline of investable enterprises and non-profits. After implementation kicks off, it monitors and communicates the impacts of the investments to inspire action.

TerraFund is a partnership between World Resources Institute, One Tree Planted, Realize Impact and Barka Fund and was launched with an anchor investment from the Bezos Earth Fund. Part of the Restore Local project, it is delivering finance to support AFR100, a regional partnership with the ambitious goal of restoring 100 million hectares of land across the continent. Bezos Earth Fund and The Audacious Project are core financial partners of the TerraFund for AFR100 Landscapes cohort. To learn more about TerraFund for AFR100, visit [www.africa.terramatch.org](http://www.africa.terramatch.org).

### **About World Resources Institute**

World Resources Institute (WRI) is a global research organization with offices in Brazil, China, Colombia, India, Indonesia, Mexico and the United States, and regional offices for Africa and Europe. Our 1,700 staff work with partners to develop practical solutions that improve people's lives and ensure nature can thrive.

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### **Resources:**

- Consult the TerraFund website for more information: <https://www.africa.terramatch.org/>
- For the complete list of funded organizations, [consult this list](#).
- For a video message from Wanjira Mathai and Andrew Steer, [consult this link](#).