POLICY WORKING GROUP FOR AFR100 IMPLEMENTATION WITH HIGH IMPACT[1]

Preliminary thinking on the Terms of Reference

By

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I. BACKGROUND

The African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative aims to restore 100 million hectares of degraded and deforested landscapes in Sub-Saharan Africa by 2030. To accelerate and scale the implementation of Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR), a number of working groups, including Monitoring, Finance, Gender, and Communications, have been established. Additionally, a request to form a Policy Working Group was granted to focus on addressing and identifying opportunities to connect on technical matters related to FLR/AFR100 Policies.

II. GENERAL OBJECTIVE OF THE POLICY WORKING GROUP

The general objective of the policy working group is to advise the AFR100 Secretariat and AFR100 Management Team on the policy direction to facilitate and accelerate the implementation of Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) across AFR100 Partner countries.

III. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY WORKING GROUP

1. Recommend Policy Direction

- Build a collective vision and FLR policy priorities for AFR100
- Review the AFR100 organizational policies such as the "AFR100 Voluntary Guidelines" and/or broader regional and national FLR policies to provide guidance for FLR efforts, addressing issues such as defining a restored hectare and reviewing and republishing relevant policy documents.
- Gather and analyze insights from FLR projects to inform policy recommendations for accelerating and scaling FLR commitments.
- Establish an agenda based on trends for publishing policy documents to ensure accessibility and dissemination of information to all participating countries

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[1] The policy working group is very important and the major challenge is how to get tangible impacts. For that reason, there is a need for a high-level engagement of the AFR100 Management Team, AUDA-NEPAD/AFR100 Secretariat and the AFR100 governments.

- Facilitate periodic review of the different policies stakeholders are using in implementing various FLR interventions and identification of policy issues and gaps and make relevant recommendations for addressing them.

2. Facilitate continuous dialogue and exchange of knowledge, best practices and experience related to FLR policy research, design and implementation

- Foster open dialogue and engagement with stakeholders (AFR100 Partner Countries, Technical and Financial partners) from all participating countries to gather insights and perspectives for shaping FLR policies
- Share FLR policy-related best practices and tool kits (such as WRI's Landscape Policy Accelerator, African NCS Roadmap to identify policy gaps, and C-Plus tool) so that they can be replicated across countries and lead to national and regional impacts. Foster convergence of opinions on landscape-level and transboundary policy issues, ensuring alignment with broader regional restoration goals
- Facilitate knowledge exchange and mainstreaming of outcomes and recommendations for policy adoption
- Provide evidence-based advocacy and guidance on FLR promising (best practice) approaches, technologies and innovations.

3. Uphold the ambition and visibility of FLR in regional and national development agenda

- Monitor and share regional and national policy developments in the FLR space and develop strategies to rally governments to sustain the FLR vision in their policies and development agenda.
- Innovate, refine and advise on strategies for integrating FLR principles and practices into regional and national policies, strategies, and plans.
- Gather and share stories of change that demonstrate the impacts that policy has on countries or regions' momentum and progress towards achieving the goals of AFR100

IV. EXPECTED RESULTS

1. Clear policy guidance for FLR efforts by AFR100 partner states
2. Improved stakeholder engagement on FLR policy research, design and implementation
3. Sustained visibility of FLR ambition and efforts by AFR100 member partners
4. Policy-related research, good practices and toolkits with implementation strategies are shared with AFR100 partners and countries.

V. COMPOSITION OF THE AFR100 POLICY WORKING GROUP

a) To ensure we maintain a manageable size for the working group, core members will include AFR100 Secretariat (coordinators), AUDA-NEPAD, CI, IUCN, WRI and GEA representatives.
b) Developed policies are to be reviewed by the AFR100 Management Team and AFR100 Partners

VI. ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

a) Provide coherence in AFR100 policies and improve the linkages and synergies by identifying gaps, incentives and barriers hindering restoration between AFR100 Stakeholders by offering recommendations and strategies to address policy challenges.

b) Facilitate, collaboration, networking and partnership on policy-related issues to improve AFR100 implementation.

c) Take advantage of African Union meetings to hold side meetings with AFR100 Partners.

d) Initiate a half-day session with AFR100 Partners during each APM meeting.

e) Identify policy-related priorities that need to be expanded on; develop policy-related materials (prioritize topics based on their relevance and urgency) timelines for delivering outcomes are to be determined.

f) facilitate the exchange of policy-related research, experiences, lessons learned, success stories and innovative solutions for advancing FLR goals.

g) Identify and advise on capacity building and training opportunities for policymakers to enhance their knowledge and skills in FLR planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation.

h) Set the research agenda to identify opportunities, challenges, and gaps in FLR policies at national, regional, and continental levels.

i) Innovate, refine and advise on strategies for integrating FLR principles and practices into regional and national policies, strategies, and plans.

j) Design and execute communication and outreach activities to raise awareness about the AFR100 policy goals and principles and policy innovations and progress at the regional and national level.

VII. MODE OF OPERATION

a) The policy working group is chaired by the AFR100 Secretariat or AFR100 Policy Group Working Member depending on topic/deliverable.

b) The policy working group communicates at face-to-face meetings, online meetings and by email (meetings to be determined based on agenda of priorities/deliverables).

VIII. FINANCIAL MOBILIZATION

a) The AFR100 Policy Working Group will lead the identification of funding opportunities for the activities of the policy working group.

b) The AFR100 Policy Working Group will also make suggestions on alternative innovative financial mobilization for the benefit of the policy working group.

IX. REPORTING AND EVALUATION

- All reports of the working group will be prepared by the AFR100 Policy Working Group and evaluated by the AFR100 Secretariat and AFR100 Management Team.
- Facilitate knowledge exchange and mainstreaming of outcomes and recommendations for policy adoption
- Advocate and provide guidance on FLR promising approaches, technologies and innovations for addressing key cross-cutting issues through the sectors and their thematic working groups for their adoption and uptake at high policy level (ministerial adoption)
- Facilitate periodic review of the different policies stakeholders are using in implementing various FLR interventions and identification of policy issues and gaps and make relevant recommendations for addressing them.
- Facilitate knowledge exchange and engage policy makers for adoption and change.
- Provide evidence-based advocacy and guidance on FLR promising (best practice) approaches, technologies and innovations.