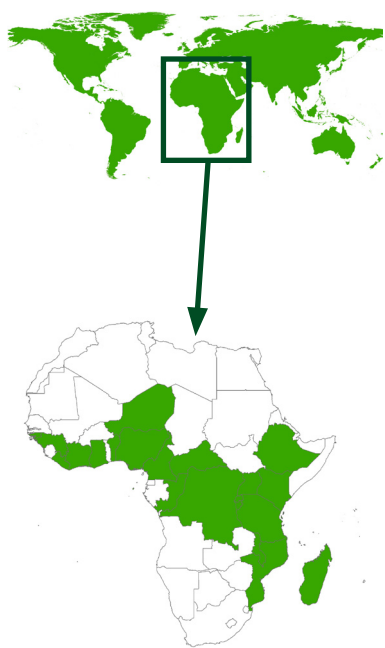




Africa



Africa & the Bonn Challenge: A demonstration of leadership

To date, more than 100 million hectares have been pledged to the Bonn Challenge; a global effort to bring 150 million hectares of degraded and deforested land into restoration by 2020 and 350 million by 2030. Seventeen African nations have contributed 63.3 million hectares.

Supporting decentralised governance and local representation

The Bonn Challenge (bonnchallenge.org) is an implementation vehicle for national priorities such as water and food security and rural development, while simultaneously helping countries contribute to the achievement of international climate change, biodiversity and land degradation neutrality commitments.

Since July 2016, 14 African countries have endorsed the visionary Kigali Declaration – a Pan-African commitment to accelerate forest landscape restoration interventions in support of the Bonn Challenge. Recognising the close connection between restoring forests and ensuring food and water security for vulnerable communities, signing ministers declared, “Forest landscape restoration offers multiple benefits that align directly with African nations’ economic growth and poverty reduction plans.”

The Kigali Declaration was launched at a regional Bonn Challenge ministerial meeting, hosted by the Government of Rwanda, and supported by the East African Community (EAC) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). High level representatives from East, Central and West Africa met to recognise leadership, build regional cooperation and accelerate implementation of forest landscape restoration in support of the Bonn Challenge.

What is forest landscape restoration?

Forest landscape restoration is the process of regaining ecological functionality and enhancing human well-being across whole deforested or degraded landscapes. It means restoring “forward” to offer multiple benefits and land uses over time. Restoring forests is more than just planting trees – a restored landscape could include naturally regenerated areas, agro-forestry, on-farm trees, mangroves, protected areas, plantings of trees and other woody plants like bamboos, and more. Restoration takes place through an active process that brings local communities and other stakeholders together to identify and implement appropriate restoration activities.



Photo: IUCN

Implementing restoration in Africa

Initiatives throughout Africa are demonstrating how to bring areas into restoration and the diversity of benefits this will bring.

In **Ghana**, applying agroforestry systems to cocoa plantations is helping bring landscapes back to health while increasing revenue for local communities.

In **Rwanda**, a pilot project in two districts is implementing on the ground the findings from the application of the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM), complemented by the development of a national forest landscape restoration financing strategy to bridge the gap between small scale farmers and financial institutions.

In **Uganda**, the government, local NGOs and IUCN collaborated to help build climate resilience in drought-affected Sanzara. They found that gender equality is key to achieving forest landscape restoration outcomes, including increased yields and secure income flows for communities.

In **Burkina Faso**, where natural resources are the bedrock of livelihoods, the assisted natural regeneration of trees has greatly benefitted small landowners. Farmers reported improvements in soil fertility and the diversification of crops helped them withstand seasonal food deficits.

In **Malawi**, IUCN and the World Resources Institute (WRI) are assisting the government in identifying areas where interventions to restore degraded landscapes can contribute to food security, disaster risk reduction, access to water and gender inequity, through the application of ROAM. Similar assessments are under way in Ethiopia and several other African countries.



Supporting the achievement of Bonn Challenge commitments

Members of the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration (GPFLR) (forestlandscaperestoration.org) are not only building global political support for restoration, but also providing policy and technical support to the definition and implementation of Bonn Challenge commitments around the world. This includes IUCN through its Regional Restoration Hubs in Kigali, Yaoundé, Bangkok, San Jose, Quito, Suva and Washington DC. As a union of State and non-State members, with 242 members in Africa including 40 State and State Agency members, IUCN is able to support the restoration process from the identification of restoration opportunities and commitments, to carrying out real and measurable restoration action in landscapes.

In Africa, IUCN is currently active on forest landscape restoration in 22 countries: Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Republic of the Congo, Republic of Guinea, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Tanzania, and Uganda, with restoration opportunities assessments completed or underway in 11 countries.

Multi-country programs such as The Restoration Initiative (TRI), supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and led by IUCN in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), are also strengthening implementation and providing models for collaboration. TRI includes seven African countries: Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Sao Tome and Principe, and Tanzania.

Current Africa pledges

(in millions of hectares)

Benin: 0.5
Burundi: 2
Central African Republic: 3.5
Côte d'Ivoire: 5
Democratic Republic of the Congo: 8
Ethiopia: 15
Ghana: 2
Kenya: 5.1
Liberia: 1
Madagascar: 4
Malawi: 4.5
Mozambique: 1
Niger: 3.2
Republic of Guinea: 2
Republic of the Congo: 2
Rwanda: 2
Uganda: 2.5



Photo: IUCN

Building regional support for the Bonn Challenge

A suite of “home grown” high-level processes is emerging in support of the Bonn Challenge, driven by the political will of countries and regional institutions. In Africa, the Ministerial Meeting in Kigali described above will be followed by similar gatherings in West and southern Africa in 2016 and 2017. In other regions, this includes Latin American meetings in El Salvador in August 2015, Panama in August 2016, Honduras in June 2017, Guatemala in 2018, and Cuba in 2019; and the first Asia Regional Ministerial Meeting in South Sumatra in February 2017.

The African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100) has been launched in Africa to foster leadership and collaboration in support of forest landscape restoration and the Bonn Challenge as well as other targets and programmes. IUCN works closely with governments, New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), WRI, the World Bank and other partners to support this process. The First Regional Conference of AFR100 in October 2016 will advance the operationalisation of this initiative by taking stock, developing strategies, identifying country support needs, and developing options for coordination and implementation.

How you can make a commitment to the Bonn Challenge?

Start a conversation on forest landscape restoration in Africa by reaching out to one of our regional focal points:

- **Kenneth Angu**, Regional Forest Programme Coordinator, IUCN West and Central Africa Region: kenneth.angu@iucn.org
- **Peter Mbile**, FLR Project Coordinator, IUCN West and Central Africa Region: peter.mbile@iucn.org
- **Elie Hakizumwami**, Regional Forest Programme Officer for Central Africa, IUCN West and Central Africa Region: elie.hakizumwami@iucn.org
- **Rob Wild**, Technical Coordinator, People & Landscapes Programme, IUCN Eastern and Southern Africa Region: robert.wild@iucn.org
- **Charles Karangwa**, Regional Forest Landscape Restoration Coordinator, IUCN Eastern and Southern Africa Region: charles.karangwa@iucn.org

For further queries on forest landscape restoration and the Bonn Challenge, contact:

- **Carole Saint-Laurent**, Deputy Director, IUCN Global Forest and Climate Change Programme, and Coordinator, GPFLR: carole.saint-laurent@iucn.org

Express interest
to the GPFLR
Secretariat

Prepare &
confirm a
contribution

Publicise your
contribution

Initiate
restoration
efforts & scale
up

Track progress
and showcase
results

References

Kigali Declaration: bit.ly/KigaliDeclaration

IUCN's FLR work: bit.ly/IUCNFLR

IUCN project in Ghana: bit.ly/IUCNFLRGhana

IUCN project in Uganda: bit.ly/IUCNFLRUganda

IUCN project in Malawi: bit.ly/IUCNFLRMalawi

IUCN project in Burkina Faso: bit.ly/IUCNFLRBurkinaFaso

IUCN project in Rwanda: bit.ly/IUCNFLRRwanda



WORLD HEADQUARTERS
Rue Mauverney 28
1196 Gland, Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 999 0000
Fax: +41 22 999 0002
www.iucn.org

Global Forest and Climate Change Programme



IUCN Forest



iucn.org/forest



@IUCN_forests



forests@iucn.org