![Regreening Africa logo]

Reversing land degradation in Africa by scaling-up evergreen agriculture

Regreening Africa with Trees is an ambitious five-year program that seeks to **reverse land degradation among 500,000 households, and across one million hectares in eight countries** in sub-Saharan Africa. This program supports the Government of Rwanda's commitment to **restore 2 million hectares of land** as part of the Bonn Challenge and the Africa Forest Landscape Initiative (AFR100), and **supports operationalization of the Rwanda Agroforestry Strategy and Action Plan**.
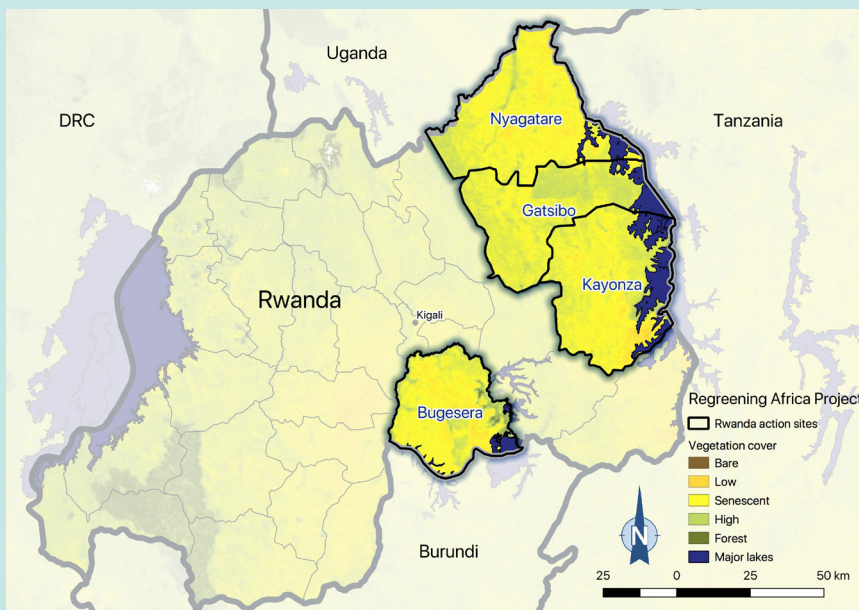
Regreening Rwanda with Trees

Funded by the European Union
with co-funding from World Vision

By 2022, Regreening Africa with Trees in Rwanda aims to:

reverse land degradation through trees on 100,000 hectares of land, and
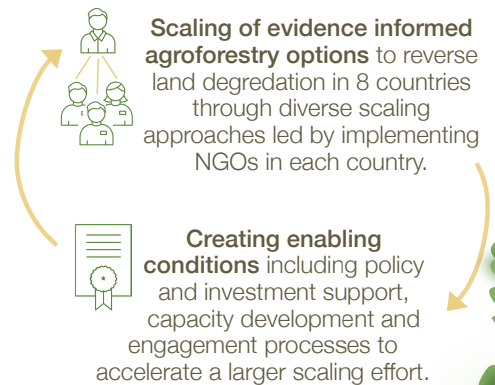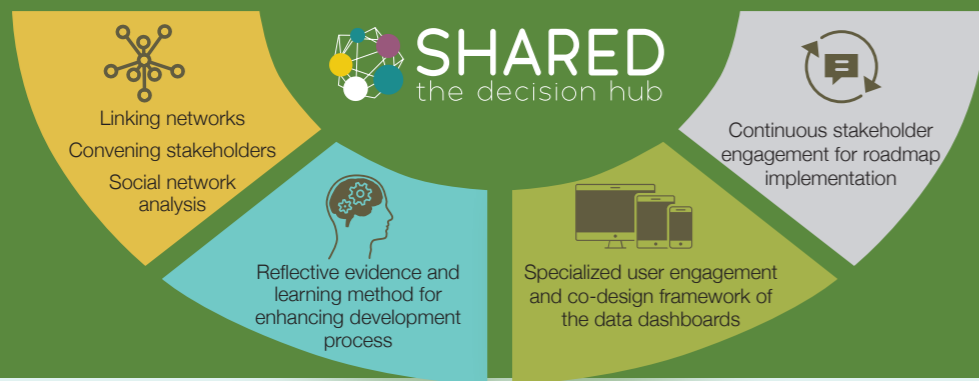
contribute to food security for some 70,000 households.

The program will use a range of approaches to share messages on evergreen agriculture, including Umuganda (community works) and the media, particular local radios. Rural Resource Centers will be established in each of the project districts. Lead farmers will be trained on evergreen agriculture through Farmer Field Schools/ Twigire muhinzi and the lead farmers will then train farmers at village level and establish demonstration plots. Additional approaches such as exchange visits between farmers, support to savings groups, engagement of schools and Faith Based Organisations and stakeholder forums will be used for training and to share messages on evergreen agriculture. Tree related value chains, such as the establishment of on-farm timber industry will also be supported to promote livelihood enhancement from trees on farms.

Map of Rwanda showing Regreening Africa Project action sites: Nyagatare, Gatsibo, Kayonza, Bugesera. Neighboring regions: Uganda, DRC, Tanzania, Burundi. Kigali marked. Vegetation cover legend: Bare, Low, Senescent, High, Forest, Major lakes. Scale 25 0 25 50 km.

Regreening Africa project approach

Scaling of evidence informed agroforestry options to reverse land degradation in 8 countries through diverse scaling approaches led by implementing NGOs in each country.

Creating enabling conditions including policy and investment support, capacity development and engagement processes to accelerate a larger scaling effort.

A process for successful regreening

OPTIONS FOR LOCAL CONTEXTS

- **Baseline:** measure initial conditions of livelihoods, environment and capture successful regreening practices

- **Options:** compile set of suitable tree species, management, value chain and policy interventions for the target area

- **Involve local actors** in defining their preferences amongst options and needs to locally adapt them

- **Promote options** and gather feedback from stakeholders on their performance

LESSONS LEARNT

- **Reflect** on successes and failures and the reasons for them

- **Leverage:** communicate successes and co-ordinate with other initiatives to spread regreening more widely

- **Evaluate impact:** measure the extent regreening has changed lives and landscapes

care | CRS CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES | ELD THE ECONOMICS OF LAND DEGRADATION | EverGreening GLOBAL ALLIANCE | Oxfam International | SAHEL ECO | World Agroforestry | World Vision

SHARED — the decision hub
Regreening project stakeholder engagement process

Structured stakeholder engagement processes in the regreening project are designed and implemented by the ICRAF SHARED Decision Hub. The four key project roles of the SHARED Decision Hub include:

SHARED the decision hub

- Linking networks
- Convening stakeholders
- Social network analysis
- Reflective evidence and learning method for enhancing development process
- Specialized user engagement and co-design framework of the data dashboards
- Continuous stakeholder engagement for roadmap implementation

Phase 1. Context

A multi-stakeholder workshop using the SHARED methodology for evidence based decision making was held in November 2018 to bring together stakeholders working on regreening Rwanda.

This workshop brought together national and district government officials, donors, IGOs, NGOs, grassroots organizations and the private sector to:

a. review the evidence and benefits associated with integrating trees into agricultural and pastoral landscapes;
b. identify opportunities for operationalizing the Rwanda Agroforestry Strategy and Plan; and
c. collectively develop an operationalization plan for scaling up.

> *The national agroforestry strategy is a document that has been produced and validated and is now ready for action … in addition to what we have now we need more quantitative targets and more attention to monitoring and evaluation, tracking progress and making things happen.*
>
> - DR. DENNIS GARRITY, CHAIR EVERGREENING GLOBAL ALLIANCE

Phase 2. Integrating Evidence

Stakeholders reviewed posters of agroforestry scaling techniques and efforts, including successes and challenges, land health and how households have benefitted.

Key terms

Agroforestry Land-use systems and practices in which woody perennials are deliberately integrated with crops and/or animals on the same land management unit

Evergreen agriculture A form of more intensive farming that integrates trees with annual crops or pasture, maintaining a green cover on the land throughout the year

FMNR (Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration) Systematic regeneration and sustainable management of trees and shrubs from living tree stumps, roots and seeds

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Phase 3. Prioritize Implementation
A roadmap for Regreening Rwanda

2019

Develop guideline on agroforestry based on agro-ecological zone – led by RWFA in partnership with RAB, NAEB, UR, ICRAF, other NGOs and CBOs involved in agroforestry

Disseminate of agroforestry guidelines to the farmer level (until 2020) – led by RAB, involving MINALOC, RWFA, CSOs, WVR, ICRAF, NGOs involved in agroforestry

Create a sub-sector working group (until 2020) – led by RAB in partnership with NGOs, MINALOC, CSOs

Note: the group discussed that as long as the Agroforestry Strategy has detailed actions, there is no need for an agroforestry policy

Conduct a baseline assessment covering existing agroforestry research, gaps, needs and practices and stakeholders. Identify farmers' constraints and coping strategies and identify options for different zones and conditions (socio-economic) including the level of investment intensity needed and different sectors inputs. Led by MOE and MINALOC

Develop tools and a timeline for monitoring, including identification of replicate sites (2019-2020)

Capacity building of stakeholders (2019-2021)

Establish M&E committees at district level (2019-2020)

Data collection analysis. Capture of agroforestry success stories for dissemination

Develop a decision dashboard for both socio-economic and biophysical data for use in dialogue and decision making – led by RWFA with MINAGRI, ICRAF

For all, actions partners are: MOE, MINAGRI, ICRAF, MINICOFIN, UR, ViAF, IUCN, ARCOS, RECOR, FAO, WVR, and others

Establish an inter-ministerial committee (IMC) or task force– led by MOE with MINAGRI and MINALOC

Develop policy brief for donors and government, including a cabinet paper - led by NAFSP, IMC, MOE

Mapping of actors in agroforestry by MOE

Hold national agroforestry advisory committee meeting by January 2019 – led by RWFA

Agroforestry action plan with clear indicators prepared by February 2019 – IMC

District agroforestry technical committees established – led by director of Agriculture and Natural Resources with local and international NGOs, RAB, Universities by March 2019

Develop district target and action plans on agroforestry - led by DJAF by April 2019

Assess funding gap and proposed development - in January 2019

Develop partner, district, sector, cell, village and farmer promotion AF performance contract for 2019/2020 fiscal year by July 2019 – led by IMC and MOE

Enhance outreach by increasing communication through community radio, establishing community demonstration plots and recognising best performers through performance evaluation – led by implementing organisations

Decentralise seed/tree centres so that high quality seedlings are available near the farmers

Produce agroforestry extension materials in local language and distribute to farmers – led by ICRAF, RWFA, RAB, NGOs, MINAGRI

Incorporate agroforestry component in existing groups, land, environment committees – led by districts and NGOs

2020

Promote research on agroforestry to support evidence based actions (2019-2024) – led by RAB and RWFA in partnership with ICRAF and UR

Market analysis of potential value chains to orient decision making and solutions

Enabling farmer cooperatives to improve their efficiency (ie management models)

Community based tree and crop improvement

Assess available capacity in the agroforestry sector to identify gaps (2019-2020) – led by RWFA, districts, MINAGRI, RAB and NAEB

Research on agroforestry genetic resources yearly

2021

Develop the National Fruit Strategy (2020-2021) – led by MINAGRI in partnership with RWFA, NAEB, ICRAF

On farm research, at the local level, to enhance adoption

Identify most adaptive tree species for each agro ecological zone for diversification of agroforestry

Capacity building for agroforestry extension staff and lead farmers through formal trainings to available staff and volunteers, exchange visits (2019-2021) led by NGOs

2022

Conduct strong extension to the community on agroforestry/ multi-purpose trees and shrubs and their uses

Avail seedlings to the community – led by local government and civil society

The Regreening Africa project will support coordination of Agroforestry actors, support in the development of extension materials and monitoring approaches, including development of a decision dashboard.

Key:

- Creating policy and institutional framework for agroforestry
- Coordination mechanisms for operationalizing the agroforestry strategy
- Diverse agroforestry options for different landscapes and people
- Evidence, monitoring, evaluation and learning
- Strengthening communications and extension

Acronym glossary:

ARCOS	Albertine Rift Conservation Society
CBOs	Community Based Organisations
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DJAF	District Joint Action Forum
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
ICRAF	World Agroforestry Centre
IMC	Inter-Ministerial Task Force
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
MINAGRI	Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources
MINALOC	Ministry of Local Government
MINECOFIN	Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning
MOE	Ministry of Environment
NAEB	National Agricultural Export Board
NGOs	non-governmental organisations
RAB	Rwanda Agriculture Board
RECOR	Rwanda Environmental Conservation Organization
RWFA	Rwanda Water and Forestry Association
UR	University of Rwanda
ViAF	Vi Agroforestry
WVR	World Vision Rwanda

Stakeholder commitments to regreening Rwanda

Commitments made by stakeholders at the close of the workshop

> *My organization is determined to mobilize and train farmers for planting trees. Advocate for the establishment of laws, and regulations that will allow the development of agroforestry in Rwanda.*
>
> **- JOSEPH GAFARANGA,** Secretary General of the Imbarago Farmers Organization in Rwanda

> *Integrating trees into landscapes through agroforestry has been a fundamental approach recognized by the Government of Rwanda and our partners to meet national targets for restoring degraded land, increasing trees on farms, increasing our country-wide forest cover and enhancing the lives and livelihoods of the people of Rwanda.*
>
> **- HON. DR. VINCENT BIRUTA**, Minister of the Environment, during the opening of the SHARED workshop
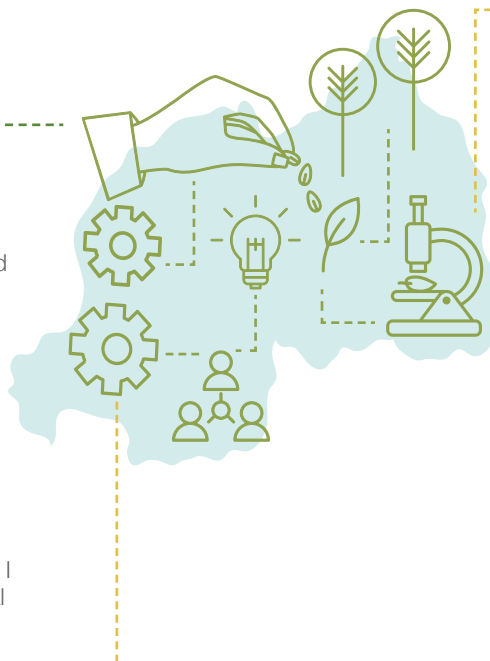
Species selection, nursery development and research

"Select and prioritize species to be improved and promoted for agroforestry"

"Facilitate production of seedlings in nurseries, distribute them and follow up the planting and tree establishment on the Rwandan landscape"

"Conduct agroforestry research trials which will continue in line with the roadmap: participate in fund mobilisation"

"Conduct community mobilization on agroforestry/multipurpose trees and shrubs: I will ensure the availability of planting material to the community"

Evidence creation and sharing

"Contribute to evidence gathering, dashboard content review and review action plans and targets at national and district level"

"Participate in data collection, good monitoring and reporting of the achievement to district level"

"Establish strong monitoring and evaluation system leveraging on existing systems at local and national levels; ensure participatory monitoring and evaluation of agroforestry projects"

"Work with the university on disseminating the agroforestry approach in the ELD Project"

"Raise awareness in the community on agroforestry and benefits and to increase the surface with tree cover"

"Support dialogue and evidence sharing to enhance agroforestry scaling and success"

Collaboration, project development and resource mobilization

"Collaborate within local authorities, plan closely with farmers, partners and lead farmers to make project's objectives succeed"

"Advocate within my organization to position ourselves as a stronger agroforestry partner and contributor"

"Support in developing projects that advance agroforestry in Rwanda and attract donors: disseminate good practices to farmers"

"Practice agroforestry on my own land"

"Advocate for scaling up of agroforestry interventions across all World Vision Rwanda intervention areas"

"Mobilize funds to take agroforestry to scale"

"Work closely with different stakeholders in area of implementation to achieve the targets and possibly go over and make sure that all degraded areas are regreened"

"Support technical coordination between central/ministry and the local players"

Reversing land degradation in Africa by scaling-up evergreen agriculture

Regreening Africa

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SHARED design