

KENYA LANDSCAPE RESTORATION COMMITMENTS AND AMBITIONS

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Kenya landscape restoration commitments - Background

- In 2018, His Excellency the President made National and Global commitment that Kenya will achieve and surpass the constitutional requirement of minimum 10% national tree cover by 2022.
- The need to accelerate the attainment of 10% tree cover from 2030 as was prescribed in Vision to 2022, was informed by the urgency to address some of the unprecedented extreme climate change phenomena recently experienced in Kenya. (cyclic droughts, floods, landslides and rising temperature)
- Against this background, “The National Strategy for achieving and maintaining over 10% Tree Cover by 2022” was developed and approved by the Cabinet in August, 2019 to operationalize the Presidential Directive

Kenya landscape restoration commitments – Background (Cont')

- The strategy outlines a number of interventions, namely: rehabilitation of degraded natural forests and mangrove ecosystems; restocking of industrial forest plantations; establishment of commercial private forests; establishment of bamboo; establishment of trees on farm; tree planting in schools; rehabilitation of **degraded dryland forest landscapes**; and, green spaces in the urban areas.
- To attain the 10% tree cover, the strategy provides for production and planting of 2 Billion tree seedlings, while enhancing the protection and conservation of the existing 4.18 million Ha.
- The Strategy also mapped key stakeholders (State and Non-State actors)

Kenya landscape restoration commitments

1. Kenya is a signatory to important global frameworks including the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC), New York Declaration on Forests, Bonn Challenge, the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and the SDGs;
2. Kenya has committed to restore 5.1 million Ha of deforested and degraded landscapes under the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100) and the Bonn Challenge.



Kenya landscape restoration commitments (2)

3. Commitment to increase and maintain 10% tree cover by 2022, reduce 50% of GHGs emission from the forest sector by 2030 as part of its updated Nationally Determined Contribution to mitigating climate change;
4. To achieve these commitments, Kenya has put in place several supporting national policies, legislations, strategies and programmes;



National efforts for the achievement of the commitments

1. Kenya Forest Service is leading a multi-stakeholder process for developing a Forest and Landscape Restoration Implementation Action Plan 2021-2025 (FOLAREP) with support from FAO and GEF.
2. The 5 year plan aims to restore deforested and degraded landscapes for resilient socio-economic development, improved ecological functioning and contribute to the realization of the national aspirations and international obligations.



National efforts for the achieving the commitments (2)

3. The action plan aims to put **2.55 million ha** of deforested and degraded landscapes under restoration through integrated forest and landscape restoration approaches for improved multiple ecological functions, increased resilience and socio-economic benefits by 2025;
4. The plan proposes policy review and integration; Strengthening governance, institutional coordination, inclusive partnerships and collaboration; Scaling up of restoration best practices, multi-sectoral stakeholder approaches; Promote green value chains to generate economic opportunities for communities and vulnerable groups and strengthen research, technology and innovations and capacity development for FLR.



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National efforts for the achievement of the commitments (3)

5. It also proposes the establishment of integrated monitoring and reporting framework and a Multi-stakeholder FLR Technical Working Group to coordinate, monitor and report all the restoration efforts.
6. Finally, the plan aims to catalyse mobilization of resources from public and private sector; and development partners for FLR planning, implementation and monitoring of FLR programmes .



Some innovative approaches to forest landscape restoration

1. **Physical Fencing** as a management tool for critical and threatened forest ecosystems (approx. 700km fence line);
2. **Social Fencing**- Improved CFA governance, enhanced partnerships between KFS and CFA (PFMP 165, FMA 112, 12 Ecosystem Management Plans) and thus enabling environment for livelihood support programmes
3. **Adopt a forest initiative** for stakeholder engagement for restoration of degraded public forests (60 partner; **25,000Ha**);
4. **Reclamation, restoration** and rehabilitation of key forests (**55,884.5 Ha**);
5. **Gazettement** of new forests (**128,000 Ha**)

Some innovative approaches to forest landscape restoration

6. Rehabilitation, restoration and development of **urban forests** and green spaces;
7. Application of cutting-edge technologies in forest resource monitoring and reporting – **Forest Alert Tool, drones;**
8. **Web-based monitoring** of seedlings production and tree planting;
9. Online **registration** of private tree nurseries;
10. Harnessing of partnerships to support forest protection and conservation.

Conclusion

- While the Ministry of Environment and Forestry and Kenya Forest Service strive to protect and restore the degraded public forests, the biggest task lies within the degraded landscapes outside the gazetted public forests.
- Implementing the FLR initiatives on the ground means to maintain and restore areas that provide key ecosystem services, such as protecting catchments and enhancing biodiversity for sustainable agroforestry systems.
- Landscape Restoration Governance is therefore crucial to leverage and sustain lasting FLR initiatives.
- Sustained negotiations, trade-offs and power-balance between stakeholders is necessary for an enabling environment for partnerships, cooperation, collaboration and novel solutions.
- Such negotiations are critical in identifying and mapping where, how, for whom and by whom to restore the landscape and what outcomes are desired.
- FLR need to be designed in a way that attract private sector investment such out-growers scheme.
- In addition, it is fundamental to, ensure effective participation and empowerment of communities through the FLR initiative.