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 Ghana’s commitment to restore 2 million hectares of land as part of the Bonn Challenge and the Africa Forest Landscape Initiative (AFR100).

Regreening Ghana with Trees

Regreening Africa with Trees in Ghana is implemented by World Vision in collaboration with CRS and, by 2022, aims to:

- reverse land degradation through increased tree cover and better management of trees on 90,000 hectares of land, and
- contribute to food security for some 40,000 households.

The Project is implemented at two main levels:

1. **Direct implementation in three districts** (Bawku West, Garu-Tempa and Mion). At community level, scaling-up is premised on effective and low-cost agroforestry approaches, mainly Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) of trees and shrubs.

2. **Campaign and advocacy**: work with multiple stakeholders to influence policy and change mind sets. The project embraces multi-layered interventions, working across scales to achieve regreening outcomes.

The Regreening program is building on lessons from the IFAD-funded West Africa Forest Farm Interface (WAFFI) project, which aims to identify practices and policy actions that will improve the income and food security of rural smallholder farmers through integrated forest/tree management systems that are environmentally sound and socially equitable.

**We and our partners are striving to meet national targets for restoring degraded land, increasing trees on farms, increasing our country-wide forest cover and thus enhance the lives and livelihoods of the people of Ghana.**

- HAJIA LARIBA ZUWEIRA ABUDU
  DEPUTY CEO, NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

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**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**

- 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
- 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

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**LESSONS LEARNED**

**OPTIONS FOR LOCAL CONTEXTS**
Phase 3. Prioritize Implementation

Road map for regreening northern Ghana, actions to overcome the underlying causes restricting regreening

2019

- Form a coordination body in charge of environmental issues for the 3 northern regions.
- Develop laws backing the coordination body.
- Research bodies to provide baseline data and community needs identified
  Led by the EPA with MOFA, RCCs/DAs, FC, GNFS, NADMO, NGOs/CBOs, WRC, traditional rulers

Prepare a development restoration plan for northern Ghana, with comprehensive budget, effective M&E system, implementation plan for all agencies, and knowledge-sharing to assess performance. Led by a technical committee coordinated by NRA, with members from FC, EPA, MOFA, FORIG, SARI, UDA, WRC, NGOs, MMDAs, private sector, NDA

2020

- Conduct a massive sensitization. Led by committees from traditional authorities, chiefs and Tindana (2019 – 2021)
- Community level engagement including women and youth. Engage groups to deal directly with duty bearers and actually get the process embedded. Led by community leaders with NGOs, CSOs, UDA Committee members, landowners, youth and women groups

A basket of options to suit different parts of the northern regions
- Formation of savings groups (VSLAS) – Led by WV, CRIS, DAs (2019 – 2022)
- Use an integrated research approach with multiple approaches to data collection and dissemination
  - Complete a baseline survey – Led by scientists with community members
  - Disseminate survey results – Led by scientists with community members

2021

- Empower chiefs and traditional leaders to enforce environmental management policies – Led by EPA, FC, DAs (2019 – 2022)
- Organize workshops for law enforcement agencies and the judiciary on environmental management – Led by Fire service, FC, and EPA, (year-round 2019 – 2022)

- First review of the coordination body
  - Award communities for best compliance – Led by Fire Service, FC and AA district assemblies (June-July 2019-2022)

Evidence on importance of regreening
- Evaluation – Led by community members and scientists (2021)
- Dry season vegetable farming – Led by MOFA, IDA, youth, women, 2019 - 2022

2022

- Implementation of the coordination body – Led by EPA
  - Organize educational contest in schools on fire prevention and environmental management – Led by Fire service, FC and EPA (all year-round 2019 – 2022)
  - Scale up fire clubs in various junior and senior high schools – Led by Fire Service (all year round 2019 – 2022)

- Bee-keeping – Led by MOFA, NGOs consultants (2019 – 2022)
- Rearing of small ruminants – Led by NGOs, MOFA, Politicians (2019 – 2022)

- Implement actions – Led by farmers, community members, policy makers (Jan 2019 – June 2020)
- Monitoring – Led by scientists (2019 – 2022)

Key:
- Policy/legislative gaps
- Coordination
- Social cultural norms
- Funding, political will
- Economic factors

Acronym glossary:
- CBO: Community Based Organization
- CSO: Civil Society Organizations
- CRS: Catholic Relief Services
- DDAs: District Directors of Assemblies
- EPA: Environmental Protection Agency
- FC: Forestry Commission
- GFA: Ghana National Fire Service
- GNFS: Ghanaian Natural Fire Service
- Global Shea Alliance
- IDA: International Development Association
- MOFA: Ministry of Food and Agriculture
- NADMO: National Disaster Management Organisation
- NDA: Northern Development Authority
- NGOs: Non-governmental organizations
- RCCs: Regional Coordinating Council
- SARI: Savanna Agricultural Research Institute
- UDA: University for Development Studies
- WRC: Water Resources Commission of Ghana
- WV: World Vision
Tamale Declaration on Restoring Landscapes and Improving Livelihoods in Northern Ghana

We, the participants of the multi-stakeholder workshop, ‘Restoring landscapes for resilient livelihoods in northern Ghana’, do hereby declare that there is an urgent need for the Northern Development Authority (NDA), MMDAs (Metro, Municipal and District Assemblies), traditional authorities, and the Ministries of Land and Natural Resources (MLR), of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI), and of Food and Agriculture (MOFA), to develop and implement a comprehensive Regreening Plan that integrates management of trees, crops and livestock, and to allocate a budget and incentive systems to support the plan, thereby helping to restore landscapes and improve livelihoods in northern Ghana.

Stakeholder commitments to regreening Ghana

Commitments made by stakeholders at the close of the workshop

Plant and care for trees

“Collaborate with farmers and traditional authorities to plant trees on farms and nurture them to maturity”

“I will devote greater time and energy to support any activity that will gear towards regreening Northern Ghana on official and private basis”

“Encourage farmers I work with to conserve natural trees and plant more useful trees; Plant trees in my community”

“Raise 100,000 seedlings and distribute to institutions and communities: about to carry out fire education in the region”

“Plant a tree every month this year”

“As an assembly woman, as a presiding member for Wall Wall municipal assembly and a deputy CEO of northern development authority, in collaboration with some NGOs I will be able to convince my assemble to plant 100 trees per community”

Collaborate and engage

“Assist civil society organizations to assess funds to help regreen the northern savannah”

“Collaborate with other institutions and NGOs to form a synergy in directing our efforts to greening the northern landscape”

“Continue to engage stakeholders in discussions on how to regreen Northern Ghana”

“Support development implementation in the zone of influence”

Monitoring and learning

“Coach women on how to engage traditional authorities on possible inclusion in decision making and community planning”

“Sensitize youth in my community on regreening for future restoration of land degradation”

“Support in knowledge-based capacity building in integrated water and environment management”

“Work with communities to inculcate in terms of sustainable management of natural resources”

“Enforce the forest and wildlife laws of Ghana strictly”

“Support the regreening of Africa by increasing education of the youth, especially students on importance of regreening”

“To continue reaching out to communities and individuals with FMNR techniques”

“Continue to help farmers and householders generate income from trees and once they get value from trees, they turn to assist trees to grow and plant more on the land”

“Assist to prevent bush fires and train volunteers”

Data and evidence

“Provide data to support women’s involvement in tree management and benefit sharing”

“Conduct ecosystem/agroforestry related research to provide reliable and realistic baseline data; be actively involved in monitoring and evaluation of the project”

“Share lessons and data from WAAFI”

“Conduct research and extension”

“Research fast growing species suitable for agroforestry practices in the northern belt”

Reversing land degradation in Africa by scaling-up evergreen agriculture

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#RegreeningAfrica www.worldagroforestry.org/shared