Regreening Africa

Reversing Land Degredation in Africa
by Scaling-up Evergreen Agriculture

Why Regreening Africa?

83% of sub-Saharan Africans are dependent on land for their livelihoods.

Africa has the greatest land restoration potential with approximately 700 million hectares in urgent need of restoration.

Globally, over 40% (approximately 2 billion hectares) of agricultural land is degraded. The annual cost of land degradation is estimated to be US$ 10.6 trillion annually, or 17% of global GDP, due to lost productivity and collapsed ecosystems.

Women comprise, on average, 43% of farm labor in developing countries. Despite being key players in both agricultural and pastoral production processes, women farmers face significant barriers to realizing the benefits of their labor.

Land degradation, along with land-use change, deforestation and forest degradation, represents 24% of all greenhouse gas emissions, making them the primary source of emissions in many African countries.

An estimated 60 million people in sub-Saharan Africa are at risk of being displaced by desertification and land degradation by 2050.

Regreening Africa:

Restoring degraded landscapes through agroforestry

Regreening Africa is an ambitious five-year project funded by the European Union (EU), through the European Commission. The project seeks to restore one million hectares and benefit 500,000 households in eight sub-Saharan Africa countries. By incorporating trees into croplands, communal lands and pastoral areas, regreening efforts make it possible to reclaim Africa's degraded landscapes.

Context

Land is the foundation for human development and an engine for economic growth in most African countries. An estimated 83% of sub-Saharan Africans are dependent on it for their livelihoods, food nutrition and security. But two thirds of this finite resource is subject to degradation affecting over 40% of the available arable land. In many African countries, land degradation is therefore rendering the poorest, most vulnerable farmers and pastoralists almost helpless. As a result, with risks of famine, migration is accelerating with an estimated 60 million people in sub-Saharan Africa at risk of being displaced by desertification by 2050.

The lack of investment in land restoration is linked to high poverty levels, unsustainable agricultural practices, deforestation, charcoal making, illegal mining, invasive species problems and bushfires. These damaged ecosystems exhibit a host of ailments including impoverished soils, low yields, loss of productivity and markets, biodiversity loss, loss of water catchment areas and increased greenhouse gas emissions. It also has negative impacts on household income, food and nutrition security. This worsens the vicious cycle of poverty, hunger, unemployment, poor crop yields, loss of pasture, migration and related conflicts.

Overall Goal

To improve livelihoods, food security and resilience to climate change by smallholder farmers in Africa and restore ecosystem services, particularly through agroforestry and other proven techniques.

Project Objectives

- Enhance national ability of selected countries to assess economic costs of land degradation and enhanced awareness on the economic benefits of investment in SLM.

- Equip 8 countries with surveillance and analytic tools on land degradation dynamics, including the social and economic dimensions, to support strategic decision making and monitoring for the scaling-up of evergreen agriculture.

- Support up to 8 countries in the accelerated scaling-up of evergreen agriculture using locally appropriate techniques including Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR), tree planting and other forms of agroforestry, along with the development of agroforestry value chains.

"'Business as usual' has not produced desired outcomes of reversing land degradation, increasing food security, rural incomes and resilience. By embedding research in development, we can influence the way development actors engage with farmers to accelerate impact on the ground."

Dr. Susan Chomba, Regreening Africa
Programme Manager

Our 'Research in Development' Approach

By embedding research in development and applying evidence-based decisions, this project demonstrates how using locally relevant simple techniques, such as regenerating indigenous trees and diversifying farming options with trees can contribute to restoring degraded rangelands, farmlands and communal areas.

Application of 'options by context' approach provides a comprehensive frame to implement relevant restoration actions and influence governments, communities and development agencies to action.

A paradigm shift through embedding "Research in Development"
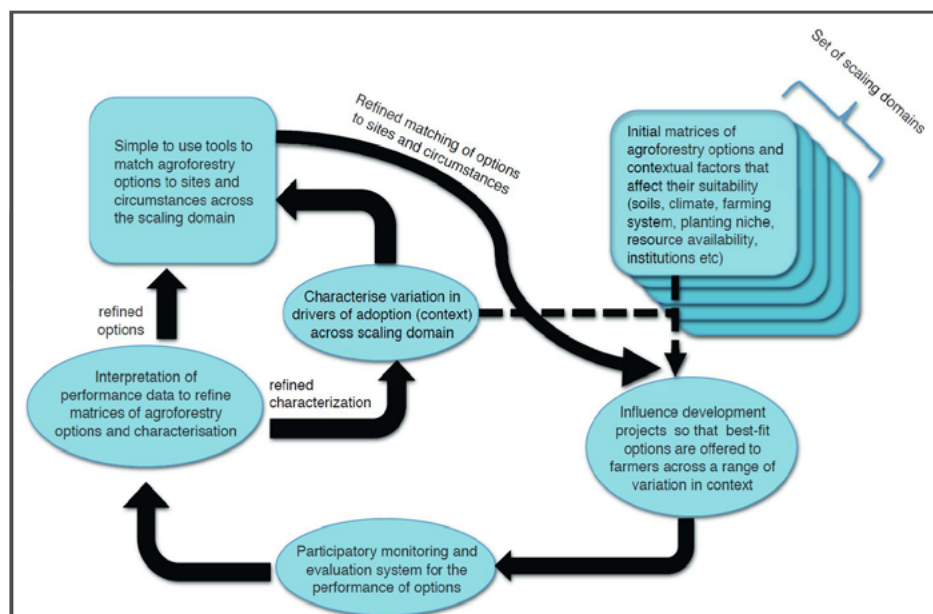
Coe, Sinclair and Barrios. 2014. Scaling up agroforestry requires research in rather than for development. Current opinion in Environmental Sustainability. 6:73-77

Some of our Land Restoration Techniques

1. Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) and grazing land management in Ethiopia, Niger and Somalia, including 'social fencing' and other local governance frameworks.

2. Soil and water conservation in drylands of Niger and Mali.

3. Integration of high value trees on farmlands in Rwanda, Kenya and Ethiopia; Shea, Baobab and Ziziphus in the Sahel for nutritional and economic benefits in addition to land restoration.

4. Policy interventions e.g. establishment of national agroforestry platforms and strategies in Kenya, Ethiopia and Rwanda; supporting land and tree tenure reforms; supporting local level bylaws on grazing land management, charcoal production, etc. across the eight countries.

Strengthening Tree-Based Value Chains as an Incentive for Scaling

By deliberately linking products from regreening interventions to markets, communities are expected to re-invest on the land and sustain regreening investments from new income streams. Income generated from sustainable restoration activities also act as a key incentives for wider adoption of technologies and scaling up, i.e. covering more farms and farmers.


Structured Stakeholder Engagement through the SHARED Approach

The project applies a structured multi-stakeholder process that builds interactions between implementing partners and scientists for improved decision-making, scaling-up and ensuring sustainable development impacts.

Structured stakeholder engagements are facilitated through the innovative Stakeholder Approach to Risk-informed and Evidence-based Decision-Making (SHARED) process. Based on the gaps identified during the stakeholder mapping exercise, capacity building is initiated to strengthen stakeholder capacity on scaling-up agroforestry. It also involves influencing policies and institutions at national, sub-national and local levels to support land restoration efforts.

Stakeholder Approach to Evidence-Based and Risk Informed Decision Making (SHARED)
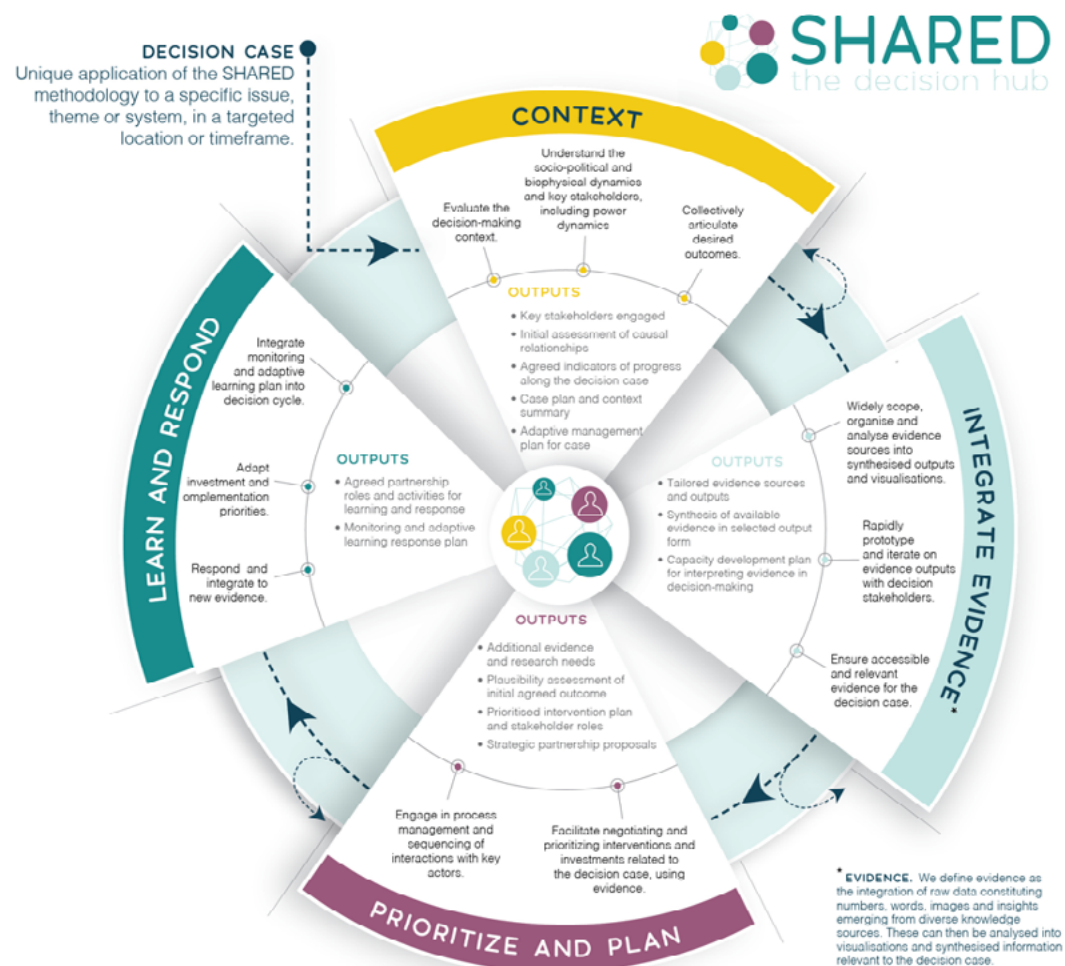
## Monitoring Project Progress and Impacts

Tracking the projects' progress (uptake of regreening practices and impact assessment); as well as generating scientific evidence for adapting planning and implementation involve the analysis of data from a number of different sources using a range of appropriate quantitative and qualitative approaches led by ICRAF, with significant capacity building of local partners.
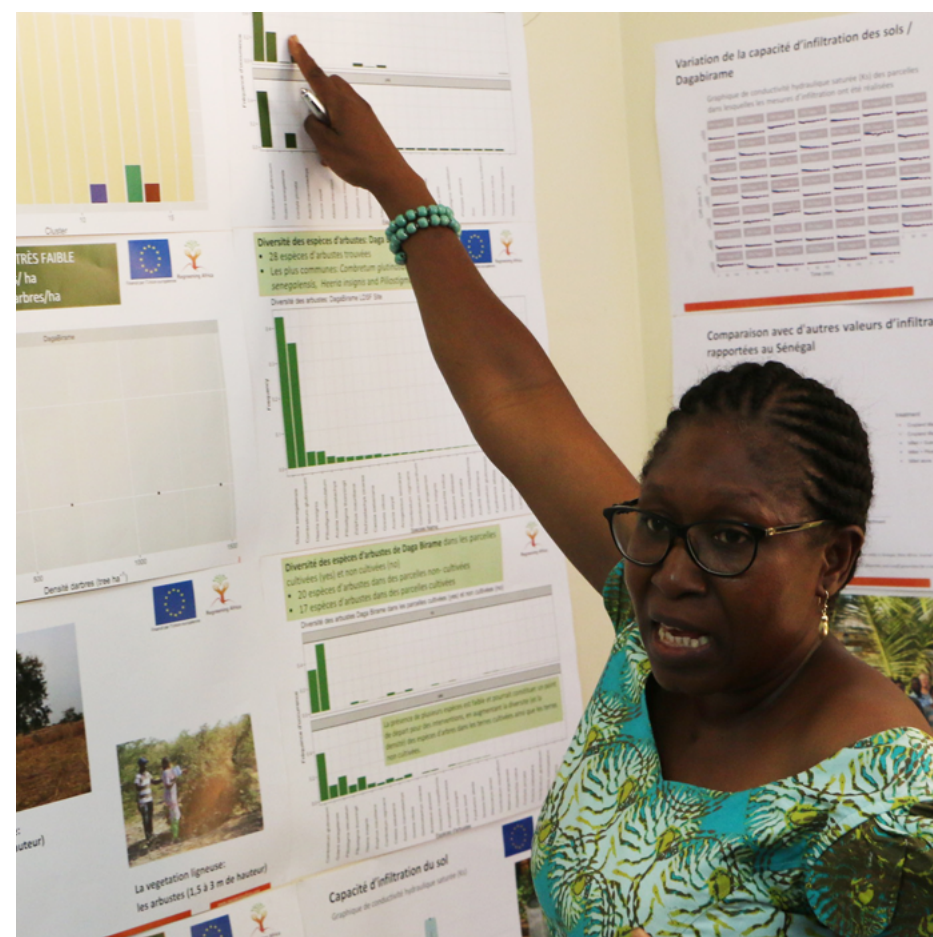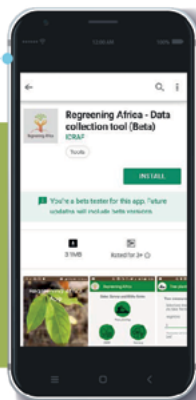
Regreening App

One of the key innovations by the project in monitoring land restoration is the Regreening Africa App. The App was developed by the ICRAF GeoScience lab to provide a user-friendly and efficient tool for field data collection to track the implementation and performance of regreening practices and can also be applied for general crowd sourcing. Data collected using the App is being used for real-time project progress monitoring and to support evidence-based decision-making through interactive decision dashboards that are co-designed with stakeholders in the eight project countries.
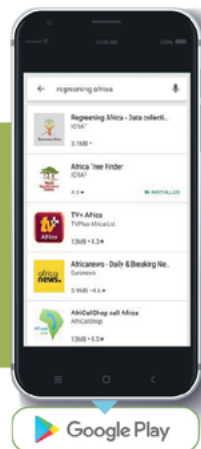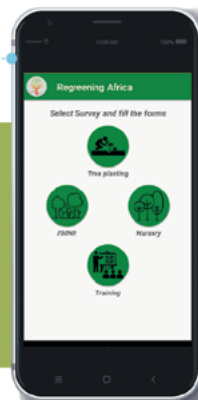
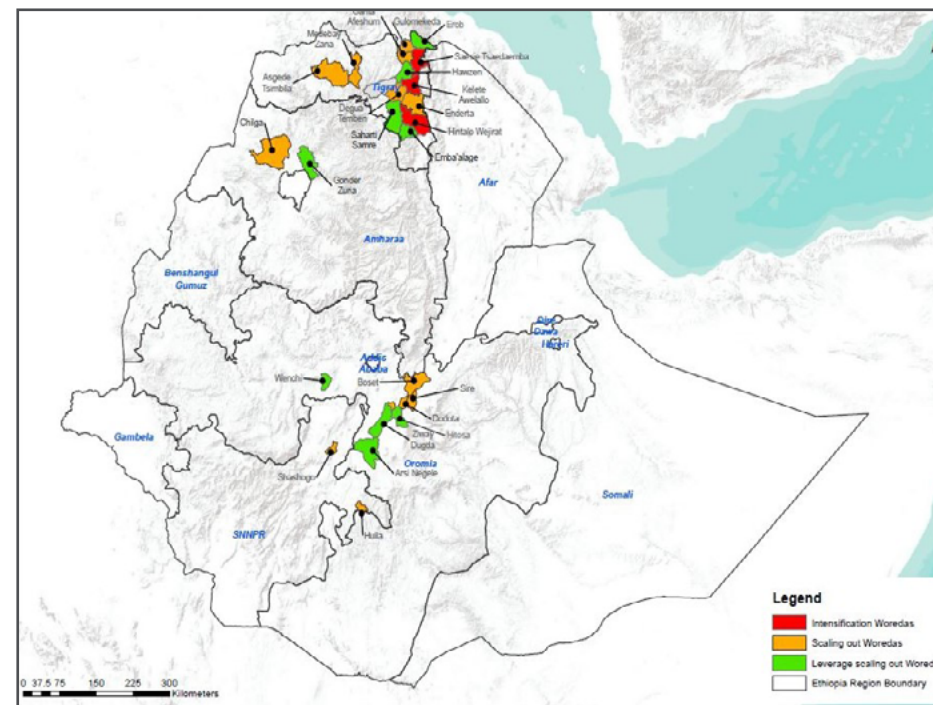A. Locate App   B. Install App   C. Start up app   D. Opens survey forms
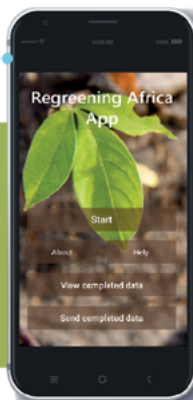
Where We Work

Ethiopia

Regreening targets:	200,000 hectares; 120,000 households

Sites:
Northern Region- Tigray and Amhara
Central Region- Oromia;
Southern Region- Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region(SNNPR)

Partners:
Catholic Relief Services and partners (Ethiopian Catholic Church Social and Development Commission Adigrat; Ethiopian Catholic Church Social and Development Commission Mekele branch, Ethiopian Catholic Church Social and Development Commission Dera Branch); World Vision Ethiopia: ICRAF Ethiopia.
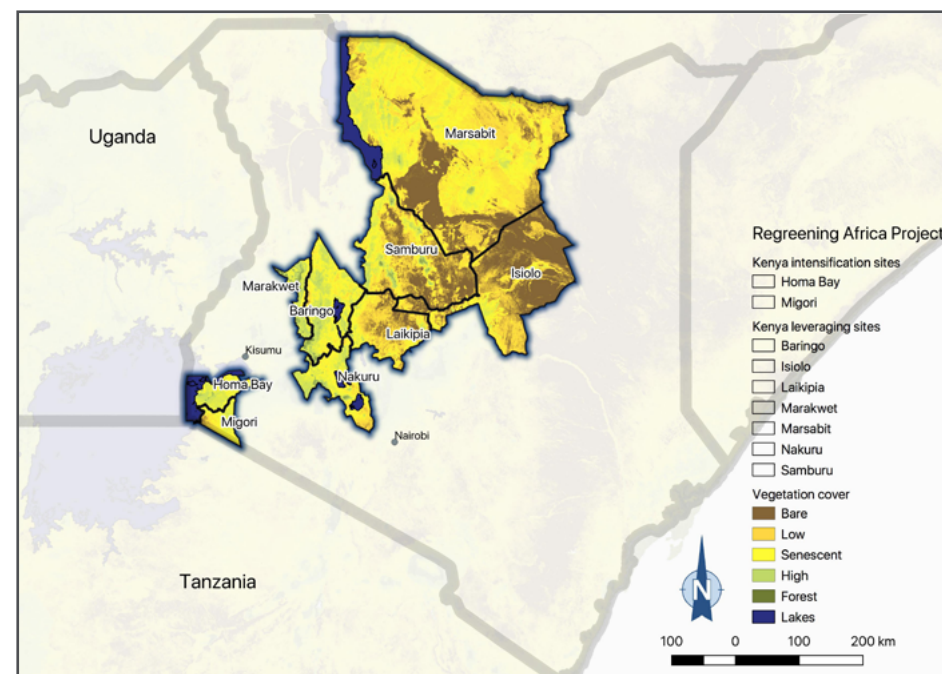
Ghana

Regreening targets: 80,000 hectares; 40,000 households

Sites: **Upper East Region-** Bwaku West and Garu Tempane Districts;
Northern Region- Mion District

Partners: World Vision Ghana; Catholic Relief Services; World Agroforestry (ICRAF Sahel); National and local governments

Kenya

Regreening targets: 150,000 hectares; 50,000 households (10,000 smallholders directly and another 40,000 through leveraging with partner projects)

Sites: **Western Region-** Migori and Homa Bay Counties;
Central Rift Region- Nakuru, Elgeyo Marakwet and Baringo Counties;
Northern Region- Isiolo, Laikipia, Marsabit and Samburu Counties

Partners: World Vision Kenya; ICRAF; National and county governments; Many other non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations and faith-based organizations
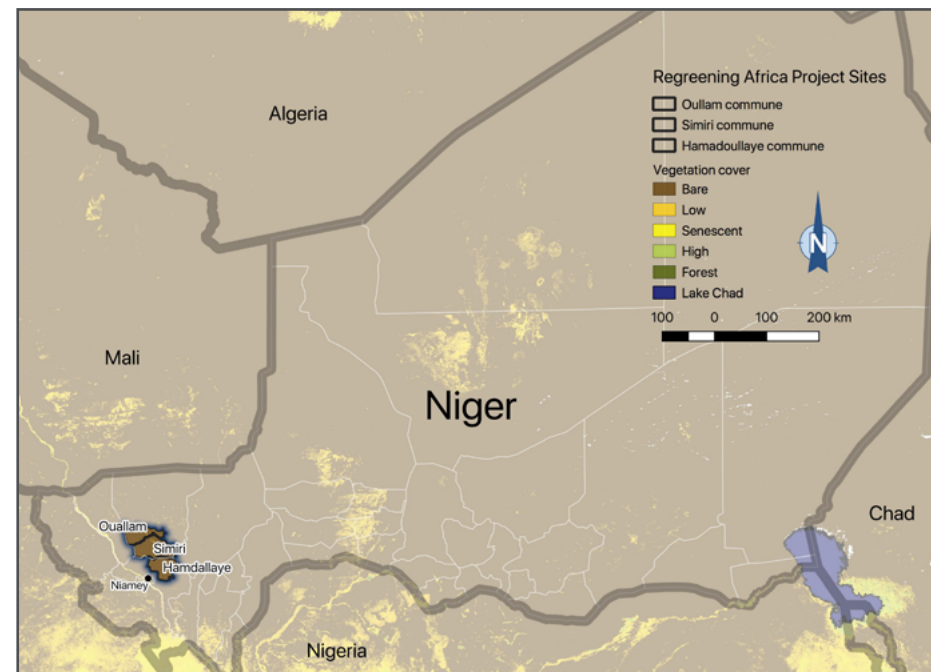
Mali
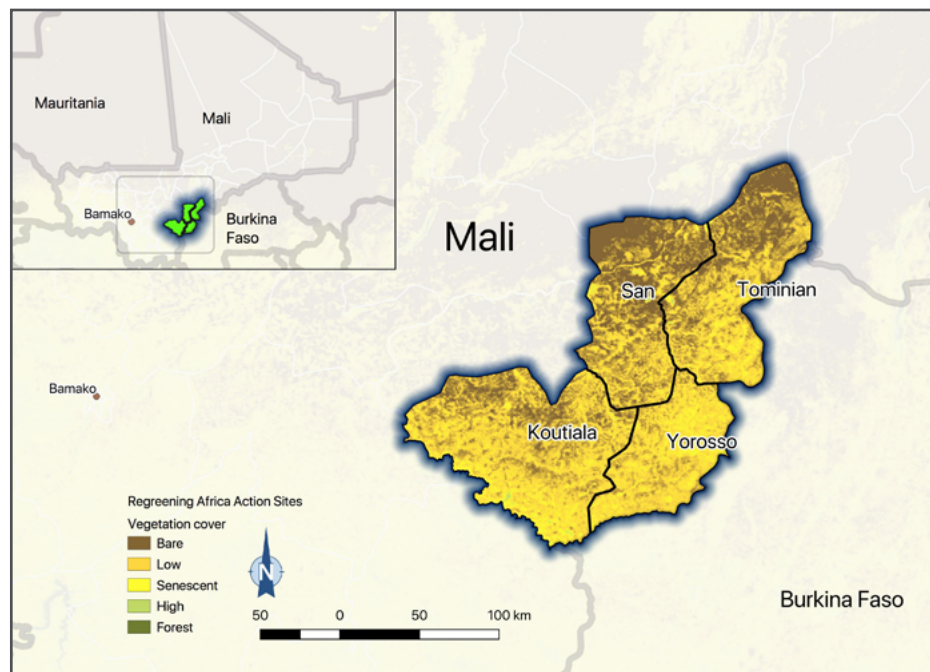
Regreening targets: 170,000 hectares; 80,000 households

Sites: Koutiala; Yorosso; Tominian; San

**Partners:**   Oxfam Mali; Catholic Relief Services; World Vision; Sahel Eco; ICRAF Sahel

Niger

Regreening targets: 40,000 hectares; 90,000 households

Sites: Simiri; Ouallam; Hamdallaye

Partners: World Vision Niger; CARE Niger; ICRAF Sahel; Government departments (Departmental Directorate for Environment (DDE), Departmental Directorate for Agriculture (DDA), local governments); Faith-based organizations

Rwanda
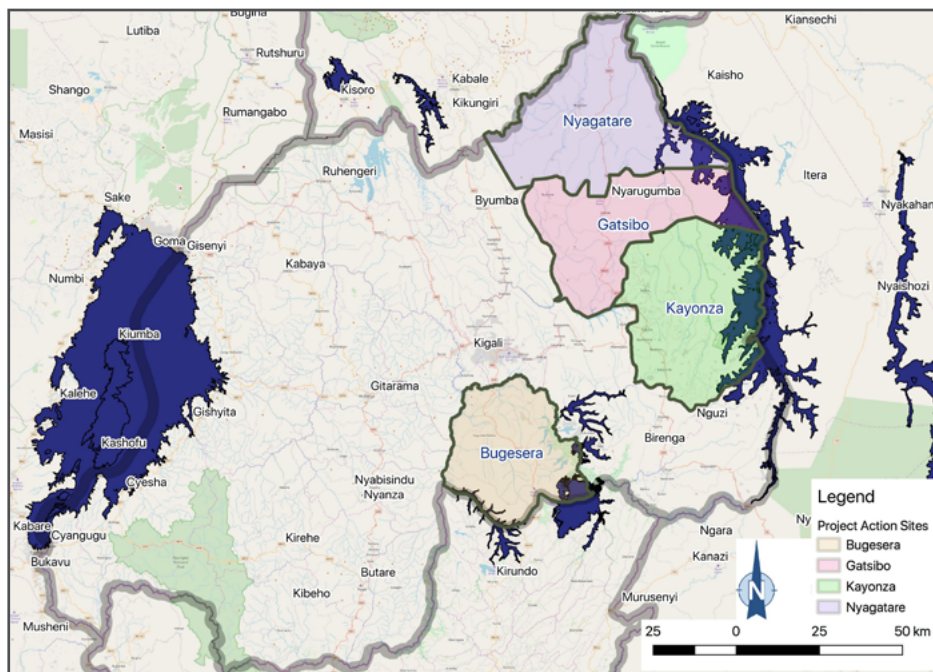
Regreening targets: 70,000 hectares;100,000 households

Sites: Sites: Four districts in the Eastern Savanna Region-
Bugesera; Kayonza; Gatsibo; Nyagatare

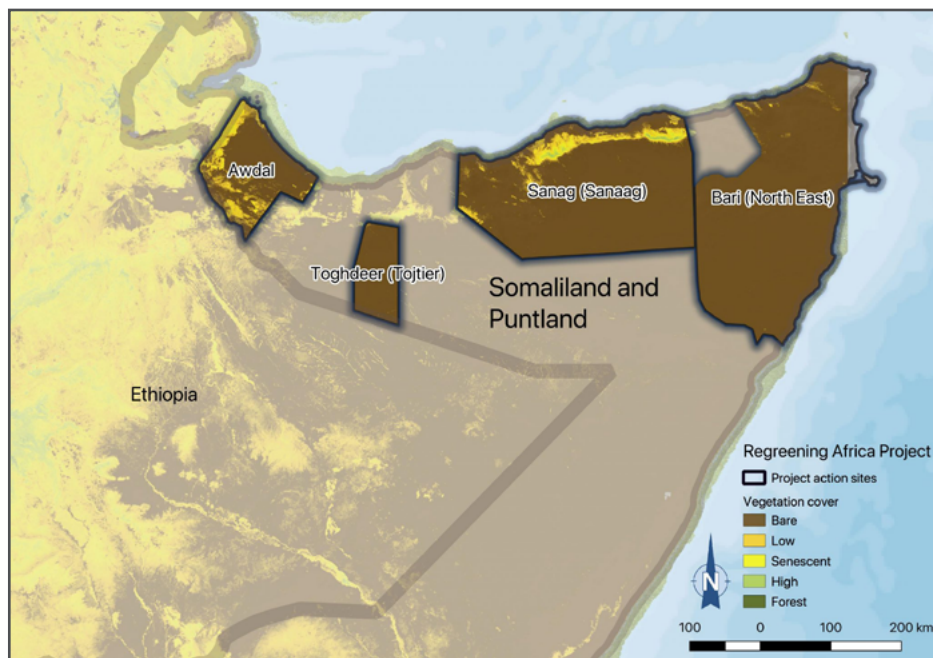**Partners:**

World Vision Rwanda; ICRAF Rwanda

Senegal

Regreening targets: 80,000 hectares;160,000 households

Sites: Kaffrine Region; Kaolack Region; Fatick Region

Partners: World Vision Senegal; ICRAF Sahel

Somalia

Regreening targets: 20,000 hectares; 40,000 households

Sites: **Somaliland-** Dweyne and Awdac districts;
Puntland- Sanaag, Karkar and Bari districts

Partners: Somaliland: World Vision Somalia;
Puntland: CARE Somalia; ICRAF

"Just a few short years ago, the main emphasis would be on convincing people on the value of FMNR and agroforestry but now there is so much knowledge and passion it is palpable! Everyone understands that we are attempting to kick start a movement that continues well beyond the project."

Tony Rinaudo – Policy Advisor Natural Resources, World Vision Australia
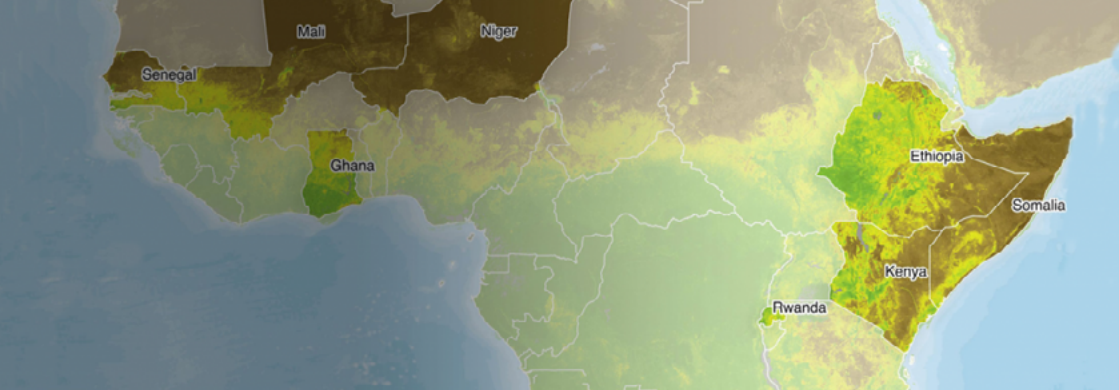
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