



Regreening Africa



KENYA NATIONAL LANDSCAPE SCALING CONFERENCE

Catalysing action for landscape restoration



WORLD
RESOURCES
INSTITUTE

World Vision



GLFX
Nairobi
act locally, impact globally



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Kenya National Landscape Restoration Scaling Conference

Catalyzing action for landscape restoration

6 DAYS

30+ SPEAKERS

5 THEMES

9-16 JULY 2021

1 Key messages

Restoration goes beyond tree planting and encompasses other approaches such as rangeland management, soil and water conservation and the protection/conservation of remaining forests. We must embrace innovative technologies for restoration practice and measurement.

2

The benefits of restoration outweigh the costs of investing in restoration, as outlined by Mr. Keriako Tobiko, Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Environment and Forestry Kenya.

“For every dollar we invest in ecosystem restoration, we reap about 30 dollars in ecological and economic benefits among a wider range of benefits for our civilisation.”

3

Innovative financing mechanisms such as Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) Schemes, conservation easements, carbon credit schemes and green enterprises are needed to achieve extensive restoration.

4

Monitoring and reporting restoration progress is key because what gets measured gets done.

“What gets measured, gets done and if it's not measured then it will not be done”

Mrs. Wanjira Mathai, Vice President and Regional Director for Africa World Resources Institute (WRI).

5

Community involvement in restoration including groups such as children, women and youth is key for the sustainability and scaling up of restoration. For this to happen, incentives such as the provision of alternative sources of income are needed.

“A successful restoration movement has to be rooted in local communities”

said Ms. Wanjira Mathai, Vice President and Regional Director for Africa World Resources Institute (WRI).

“I want to make an appeal for a deliberate effort to start talking about children. This is because of the issue of sustainability and also being able to bring them on board when it's early.”

Ms. Anne Nyaga, Chief Administrative Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock Fisheries and Cooperatives.

6

Capacity building and learning from past efforts is key for scaling restoration. We must document success stories in restoration to promote learning through knowledge and experience sharing as well as learn from past failures.

7

Faith communities are key mobilisers of communities and have many avenues for communicating restoration messages. Hence, they should be viewed as partners in restoration.

As highlighted by Rev. Dr. Sam Kobia

“Mitigating climate change is a deep ethical issue and alliances are called for between faith and science, faith and the economy, faith and social movements, on ecology and sustainable development.”

As well as Father Charles Odira

“We need to use religion as a means to deliver the message of landscape restoration.”

8

Actors implementing restoration should integrate both scientific and local knowledge for evidence-based decision making.

Mr. Keriako Tobiko, Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Environment and Forestry Kenya said:

“There is need to ensure policy decisions are based on proper verifiable data, to catalyse action for landscape restoration.”

Background and Introduction

Landscape degradation is a serious problem globally. Over **30% of Kenya's land mass is facing severe land degradation, costing the Kenyan economy approximately US\$1.3 billion per year between 2001-2009¹.**

Kenyans recognise and appreciate that unless we act now, the longer-term impacts of continued landscape degradation on the lands productivity and society wellbeing, will only worsen. Committed to restoring 5.1 million hectares of deforested and degraded landscapes by 2030 and 10% tree cover, several efforts spearheaded by multiple stakeholders are already underway in Kenya. Many of these efforts, however, remain fragmented and in need of greater synergies.

To support Kenya in achieving its landscape restoration ambitions, the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and World Agroforestry (ICRAF), through the European Union funded Regreening Africa Programme, together with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives, Council of Governors (COG), Kenya Forest Service (KFS), Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI), Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), World Resources Institute (WRI), World Vision, Global Evergreening Alliance (GEA) and GLFx Nairobi, supported the Kenya National Landscape Restoration Scaling Virtual Conference, held between 9th and 16th July 2021.



The key objectives of the conference were to:

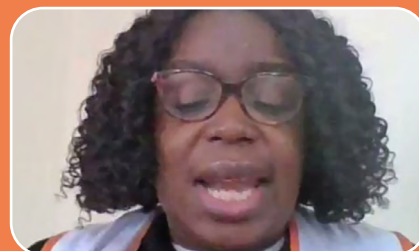
- Catalyse a national restoration movement towards the achievement of Kenya's restoration ambitions.
- Showcase different restoration practices and investigate their suitability for the different places and people.
- Provide a platform for engaging with policy makers that will contribute to necessary policy adjustments needed to support landscape restoration.
- Highlight the role of women and youth in restoration and outline potential for their greater inclusion.
- Identify bottlenecks and opportunities for greater restoration entrepreneurship and business.
- Agree on a process for a common monitoring, reporting and learning framework for landscape restoration.
- Bring together stakeholders working in the restoration space to develop a common roadmap and agree on key actions.
- Catalyse funding for landscape restoration in the country towards realising the vision of the UN Decade for Ecosystem Restoration.



HE Mr. Keriako Tobiko, Cabinet Secretary, Environment and Forestry



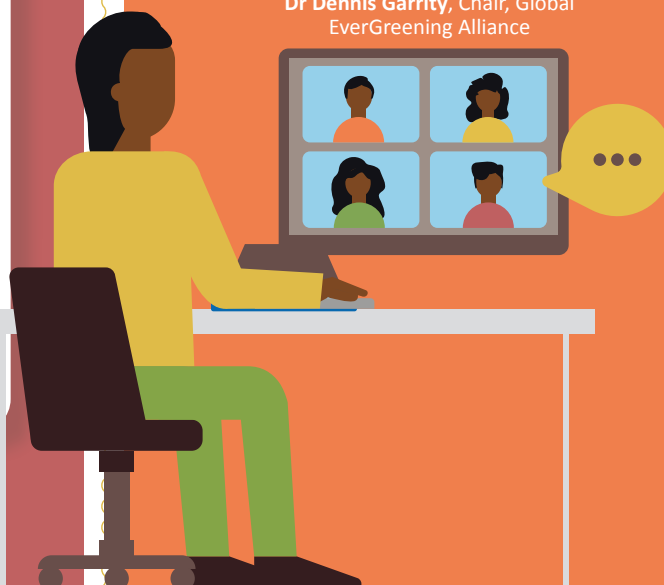
Robert Kirui, Director, Habex Agro Limited



Lilian Dodzo, National Director, World Vision Kenya



Dr Dennis Garrity, Chair, Global EverGreening Alliance



¹Mulinge W. et al. (2016) Economics of Land Degradation and Improvement in Kenya. In: Nkonya E., Mirzabaev A., von Braun J. (eds) Economics of Land Degradation and Improvement – A Global Assessment for Sustainable Development. Springer, Cham.



The conference saw over

1300 people registered



to participate, and reached over

8,800 people via social media.



Academics



Youth



Policy makers



Women



Government representatives



Practitioners



Students



Local community members

All came together to accelerate the momentum of landscape restoration in Kenya.

SOCIAL MEDIA IMPACT

3,091
Total engagement

103,772
Total impressions

8,827
Total reach

1,314
Total registered

638
Participated

3,605
Stream views

98%
Overall event quality

One of the major outcomes for the thematic sessions was agreement on action plans to move the restoration movement forward, including some agreed next steps:

Approaches and Practices for Restoration

- Form networks or action groups around rangeland restoration, agricultural landscape restoration and forest landscape restoration.

Youth and Women Inclusion in Restoration

- Create a youth and women network for restoration.
- Capture and highlight success and learning stories on restoration initiatives by women and youth to provide greater exposure.
- Organise a training on fundraising strategies, grant management and proposal writing.

Movement Building and Leveraging

- Organise a networking session for faith communities to explore synergies and opportunities for collaboration.
- The Council of Governors (COG) and its partners to raise awareness of landscape restoration and promote cross-learning between counties.
- Document and support grassroots mobilisation approaches, provide capacity building, and connect these groups and approaches to projects.

Landscape Restoration Monitoring

- Establish and strengthen a national landscape restoration monitoring working group.
- Seek additional feedback on the composition, mandate, terms of reference and timeline for the working group as well as the proposed indicators and outputs from any interested party.

Entrepreneurship and Business Approaches in Restoration

- Create an engagement platform for private sector actors that will, among other things, allow for technical support to their restoration related initiatives from actors such as the government, non-governmental organisations and international organisations.

Committed to action, the conference focused on five thematic areas:

- 1 Restoration Approaches and Practices
- 2 Youth and Women Inclusion in Restoration
- 3 Movement Building and Leveraging
- 4 Landscape Restoration Monitoring
- 5 Entrepreneurship and Business Approaches in Restoration



Approaches and Practices for Restoration

This theme explored four restoration domains: Pastoral systems restoration, Forest Landscape Restoration, Agricultural landscape restoration and Conservation. Best practices, implementation approaches and scaling were addressed under each topic.



Theme objectives

- Identify key approaches, what is working well and why under each restoration domain.
- Identify opportunities to integrate restoration in ecosystem plans.
- Review capacity development approaches for all actors.
- Draw out lessons, opportunities, and challenges to chart the way forward.



Key recommendations:

- **Government to champion and strengthen coordination of agencies** for scaling restoration, including for the rangelands.
- **County governments to engage in land-use planning and develop County Spatial Plans** that incorporate landscape restoration.
- **Non-state actors, planners, decision makers and project implementers should design specific capacity building approaches** for the various restoration domains.
Restoration implementing agencies should integrate traditional, and practice based with scientific knowledge and use it for evidence-based decision making.
- **Restoration implementing agencies to engage in communication and documentation of landscape restoration efforts**, what is working and how it is spreading. Materials to be packaged in accessible formats adapted to stakeholder needs.
- **All practitioners and implementing agencies should harmonise monitoring processes** for restoration projects.
- **All stakeholders participating in restoration efforts should mainstream gender issues** into restoration work, especially strengthening women's land tenure rights.
- **County governments and all stakeholders should cascade restoration targets to county level** and engage in joint planning as well as resource mobilisation for their implementation.
- **Equal benefit sharing of restoration benefits with communities** should be ensured through the benefit sharing regulation currently under development.
- **Restoration technologies** such as aerial seedling and monitoring apps should be promoted and awareness among stakeholders created on their use.
- **The Council of Governors (COG)** should support strengthening of local governance for landscape restoration.
- **Communication networks** among stakeholders in restoration should be created.
- **All stakeholders participating in restoration efforts** should engage in stakeholder mapping and enhance joint planning and resource mobilisation.



Youth and Women Inclusion in Restoration

This theme explored how youth and women can be meaningfully engaged in restoration.



Theme objectives

- Discuss ways in which women and youth can be meaningfully engaged in decision making processes for restoration.
- Highlight some of the challenges or bottlenecks to youth and women participation in restoration and come up with ideas on how to solve them.
- Showcase opportunities for youth and women in restoration, including linkages to sources of finances, capacity building and networking opportunities for knowledge sharing.



Key recommendations:

- **County governments should promote the participation of women and youth** in decision making and policy development by putting in place the policies to support their participation, empowering them to understand planning processes and policy documents.
- **Engage in continuous sensitisation of men, youth, and women** to promote a shift in mindsets at the community level to embrace women leadership, and the role of women and youth in restoration.
- **Provide incentives to promote women and youth participation in restoration** which includes the introduction of alternative livelihood opportunities such as nature-based solutions and enterprises; agribusinesses, ecotourism, fish farming, beekeeping, improving their land and tree tenure security, ensuring equal benefit sharing mechanisms, increasing their access to grants and loans.
- **Support women and youth access to finance for landscape restoration** through developing groups, documenting success stories, showcasing their work through social media, engaging in sustainable alternative livelihood options and networking.
- **Form a vibrant youth and women network for experience and knowledge exchange**, sharing opportunities and advocacy to influence decision making.
- **Capacity building should be provided for youth and women** on aspects such as resource mobilisation, bookkeeping, leadership, management, personal branding, organisational branding, and digital marketing.
- **Support capacity building and access to online resources and learning platforms** for women and youth in restoration.
- **Include children in restoration initiatives** in addition to youth and women to ensure sustainability.



Movement Building and Leveraging

This theme investigated how to develop strategies for bringing together grassroots organisations working on movement building to catalyse large-scale restoration at local level.



Key recommendations:

- **Identify ways to support the view among stakeholders** that faith communities are partners in promoting landscape restoration, given their capacity to mobilise communities and communicate restoration messages.
- **Restoration implementing agencies should target faith communities and their leaders to:**
 - Help them see their role in promoting environmental stewardship.
 - Advise them on how to integrate restoration into their structures, programs, and systems.
 - Empower them with the relevant technical capacity to engage in restoration while allowing them to use their own approaches based on their teachings.
- **Ensure greater focus of projects at the local level**, less meetings in hotels and more investment at the grassroots.
- **Introduce alternative sources of income** to incentivise communities to participate in restoration.
- **County governments to promote restoration** at county level through:
 - Mainstreaming restoration issues into county planning and development processes through the County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs).
 - Developing and implementing legal and policy frameworks specifically targeting restoration at community level such as the creation of a restoration fund and formulating a Public Participation Policy and Framework at County level to enhance planning, designing, implementation of restoration to the lowest devolved unit (that is, Ward Planning).
 - Ensure all restoration approaches and practices are promoted, not just tree planting/growing, and the practices should be adapted to the local conditions.



Theme objectives

- Promote an understanding of the need for strong grassroots movements for landscape restoration, including the role of grassroots organisations or organisations with grassroots reach in landscape restoration.
- Discuss how synergies between the various grassroots organisations can be encouraged.
- Explore the potential role of faith-based communities and networks to support landscape restoration.
- Learn about landscape restoration efforts and experiences in the counties.



Landscape Restoration Monitoring

This theme aimed to work towards creating a roadmap for developing a landscape restoration monitoring, reporting, and learning framework linked to the Forest and Landscape Restoration Action Plan (2021-2025).



Theme objectives

- Showcase some of the tools and approaches for monitoring restoration in the country and identify indicators.
- To build upon the Forest and Landscape Restoration Implementation Action Plan 2021- 2025 (FOLAREP) and create a roadmap for a monitoring framework which will incorporate all the various elements such as participants, activities, and timeline.
- Socialise the idea of creating a national technical working group embedded within FOLAREP with leadership at ministry level and inviting all relevant stakeholders to be part of it.



Key recommendations and outcomes

Key recommendations:

- **An integrated national restoration monitoring framework and system** should be established encompassing an online monitoring platform and a core set of high-level outcome and impact indicators.
- **Enabling conditions should be in place to support the monitoring framework** including data sharing and management protocols, good will among institutions, skilled personnel in data science and systems development and institutional capacity in data management and analysis.

Key outcomes of the session:

- **Identified possible members of the National Restoration Monitoring Working Group** including state and non-state actors.
- **Agreed on key tasks and deliverables** for the working group.
- **Timeline agreed** for the establishment and operation of the working group.



Entrepreneurship and Business Approaches in Restoration

This theme explored ways for building private sector engagement and entrepreneurship in restoration.



Theme objectives

- Recruit the private sector to climate action and climate finance by showing what is possible (sharing lessons learnt as well as showcasing opportunities) to support landscape restoration through corporate shared value.
- Identify opportunities, bottlenecks and challenges faced by businesses involved in restoration e.g. (livestock challenges, chemical use, rules, and regulations including those barring establishment of water producing infrastructure and wood fuel value chains).
- Facilitate a platform for private sector actors to network and interact with other actors who can provide advice on how to plug into landscape restoration.
- Enhance visibility for private sector actors engaging in restoration.



Key recommendations:

- **Government to review legislations** that are currently making it hard for the private sector to meaningfully engage in restoration.
- **Government and technical partners** should give technical support to the private sector for the implementation of restoration initiatives.
- **Private sector actors** should conduct a cost benefit analysis of the restoration initiatives they would like to undertake as well as an environmental audit.
- **Private sector actors should involve communities** as they implement their restoration activities to create social impact.
- **Document private sector stories** including the journey of restoration to share and make it saleable.



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