

BUILDING A RESTORATION MOVEMENT —INSIGHTS FROM KENYA

As a large scale, multi-country, multi-stakeholder restoration initiative, Regreening Africa offers a unique opportunity to generate actionable lessons on the cost-effectiveness and impact of local, national and global restoration efforts. As part of the Regreening Africa Insights Series, this brief shares key learnings and insights of building a restoration movement in Kenya, and highlights the success of the Kenya National Landscape Restoration Scaling Conference in kickstarting a national movement focused on land restoration.

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KEY INSIGHTS

Effective movement building requires the following:



Identify and align with political opportunities. In the Kenya context, such opportunities arose through the government's restoration-related commitments at international, regional, and national levels, including its commitment within AFR100 to restore 5.1 m ha of degraded lands by 2030. In addition, several policies, strategies, and plans, such as the National Strategy for Achieving and Maintaining over 10% Tree Cover by 2022 and the Forest and Landscape Restoration Implementation Action Plan (FOLAREP) also demonstrated strong political commitment to restoration.



Develop structures for mobilisation and organisation. Mobilisation structures include social media and existing social structures like churches, grassroots organisations, civil society organisations, business groups, friends, acquaintances, and family. The Kenyan restoration movement leveraged existing environmental networks to recruit new members, particularly youth, while also mobilising the personal and professional networks of existing members and organisations. In terms of organisation, the movement used action groups as structures to organise and engage its members.



Involve youth, women, and faith communities as a key aspect of supporting the sustainability of the movement.



Engage in continuous mobilisation of people into the movement using clear messages to articulate the objectives of the movement.

Storytelling is an effective tool for delivering key messages to communicate a compelling narrative of why people should participate, what's at stake and why people should care.



Identify passionate leaders dedicated to the cause who can motivate others to participate in the movement.

Such leaders are willing to step up to the challenge and accept responsibility even before others join the movement; they focus on the people in the movement and are solutions-oriented. The Kenyan restoration movement leveraged such leaders and brought them into the core teams established to oversee the operation of the action groups.



Mobilise financial resources to implement physical activities.

Efforts to involve youth and women in restoration action groups have shown that virtual interactions are not enough to sustain the interest of the youth. A survey done to understand the needs and priorities of the youth revealed their preference for physical activities such as clean-ups, tree planting activities, debates, and campaigns. These physical events require a higher level of funding.

Why movements are necessary

A social movement can be defined as an organised effort by a large number of people aimed at causing or impeding change that can be social, political, economic, or cultural. Movement building refers to the process of organising and influencing people to work towards an important collective vision or cause.

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLE: FRIDAYS FOR THE FUTURE AS A SOCIAL MOVEMENT

Fridays for the Future (FFF) is a youth-led global climate movement. It was started in August 2018 by Greta Thunberg who staged school climate strikes every Friday outside the Swedish parliament demanding urgent climate action. It became a global school strike for climate movement as she was joined by other school strikers in Sweden and across the world. The strikers created the hashtag #FridaysforFuture and encouraged other young people to join.

The objective of FFF is to put moral pressure on policymakers to ensure that policy is informed by scientific advice and to support action to limit global warming by keeping the global temperature rise below 1.5°C compared to preindustrial levels. The movement also calls for efforts to support climate justice and equity, and campaigns for the full implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement.

FFF has been very successful, with climate strikes held in 7 500 cities across the world by an estimated 14 million participants. A total of 26 813 climate strikes have been reported from November 2018 to the beginning of April 2022. In addition, FFF has organised a series of ten global climate strikes that have mobilised millions of people to participate.¹

The movement has received significant media attention. It has contributed to pushing for more ambitious climate policies and decarbonisation targets.² This has been achieved by its members consistently being present at global environmental conferences and summits in recent years, whether they are invited or not. Despite the lack of concrete evidence linking their activism to specific policy shifts, their presence and strikes have added greater pressure on policymakers to be more ambitious in their climate responses.

The success of the movement can be attributed to the following:

- **Strategic communication** has successfully pressured policymakers to act particularly by adding the statement “We are doing this although we know nothing will change” to FFF’s list of demands to policymakers. The movement also has a clear call to action with simple key messages.
- **FFF has various avenues of mobilising, organising and engaging people within the movement.** Social media has been used to mobilise and organise people for in-person and online climate strikes³. FFF further organised participants into national FFF chapters, which presents any

interested person with various options for participating in the movement: 200 FFF social media channels, a newsletter subscription to receive updates on the movement’s activities, explore the map of climate strikes, register and report a climate strike that has occurred, and lastly donate to the movement.

- **FFF is led by youth.** The youth’s curiosity to learn, desire to actively improve the world and frustration have been able to inspire the older generation.
- **FFF has a key figure heading the movement,** Greta Thunberg. Her lack of elite status or academic authority has made her a symbol of hope, especially inspiring youth that anyone can help change the status quo. Studies have shown that people familiar with her are more likely to engage in climate action. This is what has come to be known as “The Greta Thunberg Effect”.⁴
- **The movement has evolved and adapted,** such as organising digital climate strikes during the COVID-19 lockdowns. Some FFF climate strikes have also integrated other emerging global issues such as the Russian invasion of Ukraine, LBGTQ issues, and gender equality.⁵



THE NEED FOR MOVEMENT BUILDING IN SUPPORT OF LANDSCAPE RESTORATION IN KENYA

Kenya, like the rest of the world, is grappling with land degradation and its impacts. Approximately 30% of Kenya's land mass is severely degraded, a situation expected to worsen with rising population growth.⁶ Land degradation threatens livelihoods by negatively affecting the provision of vital ecosystem services including water, food, medicine, fuel wood, fodder, timber, watershed protection, and carbon sequestration.⁷ This disproportionately affects the rural poor, whose livelihoods depend on natural resources (especially land) and their related ecosystem services.

Land degradation also entails significant economic costs, estimated at US\$1.3 billion annually between 2001 to 2009. Land degradation has a significant impact on the Kenya's agriculture sector, which accounts for more than a quarter of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).⁸ The sector

also employs an estimated 54% of Kenya's population and is central to the nation's food security.⁹

In addition, the majority (68%) of Kenya's national energy requirements are derived from biomass from its forests and woodlands and a significant share of the country's electricity is generated from hydropower, which relies on healthy river catchment ecosystems. Finally, tourism is a major contributor to the national economy and employment, with Kenya's wildlife and natural ecosystems a key drawcard for tourists. Landscape restoration is therefore key to maintaining Kenya's economy and supporting growth and development.

In recognition of the need for landscape restoration, the Kenyan government made major commitments through various international, regional, and national

agreements on land restoration, climate change, and biodiversity. Amongst others, these include:

- A pledge to restore 5.1 million hectares of degraded land in Kenya by 2030 under the African Forest and Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100) and Bonn Challenge.
- The National Strategy for Achieving and Maintaining over 10% Tree Cover by 2022.
- Kenya's Vision 2030 Medium-term Plan III (2017-2022), the National Climate Change Action plan (NCCAP 2018-2022), and the updated Nationally Determined Contributions targets and County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs) Forest and Landscape Restoration targets.

Numerous cross-sectoral restoration efforts have emerged in the domains of environment, forestry, grazing management, conservation, and agriculture. However, many of these efforts remain fragmented and could greatly benefit from taking advantage of synergies.

The Forest and Landscape Restoration Implementation Action Plan 2022 – 2027 (FOLAREP) was therefore developed to contribute to the achievement of Kenya's national aspirations and international commitments. FOLAREP will accelerate actions to restore deforested and degraded landscapes for resilient socio-economic development and improved ecological functioning. Its overarching objective is to bring 2.55 million hectares of degraded landscapes under restoration by 2027 in alignment with the 5.1million ha target under AFR 100.

There were several factors that contributed to a perceived need to develop a broad social movement in support of restoration in Kenya, including:

- the scale and impact of the country's landscape degradation in Kenya;
- the fragmentation of restoration efforts;
- political goodwill for restoration as demonstrated by policy commitments; and
- the need to scale existing restoration efforts for the achievement of restoration commitments, particularly the AFR 100 target.

Movement building was subsequently initiated through the **Kenya National Landscape Restoration Scaling Conference** that was held between 9th to 16th July 2021. The conference was convened by a working group supported by the Center for International Forestry Research & World Agroforestry's Regreening Africa programme, in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF), the Council of Governors (COG), Kenya Forest Service (KFS), Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI), World Resources Institute (WRI), Global Evergreening Alliance (GEA), Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), World Vision and GLFx Nairobi. The conference set out to catalyse a national restoration movement towards the achievement of Kenya's restoration ambitions that can shape mindsets and support implementation. This movement also aimed to accelerate the momentum of landscape restoration by joining up the multiple dimensions of existing restoration efforts.

The conference process included a series of pre-conference thematic webinars, the conference itself, and follow-up action groups that supported the implementation of the conference recommendations and the agreed action plans. The process has contributed meaningfully towards a broader social movement for landscape restoration in Kenya.

The Kenyan Restoration Movement is essentially a reformative social movement that seeks specific, limited yet significant changes in the country's political, social, and economic systems in support of restoration.¹⁰



KEY ACTIONS OF THE KENYAN RESTORATION MOVEMENT

The Kenyan Restoration Movement intends to build and sustain momentum for long-term landscape restoration implementation in Kenya by:

- 1 **Creating social change by raising widespread awareness of the need for landscape restoration** and contributing to shifting mindsets to support restoration.
- 2 **Influencing Kenyan society's values, beliefs, and practices** to embrace/inculcate landscape restoration/implementation through working with local actors such as faith communities, youth, and women.
- 3 **Generating policy change** in support of landscape restoration.
- 4 **Creating a platform for networking, experience sharing, learning and ideas exchange** among actors involved in landscape restoration.
- 5 **Mobilising the diverse and numerous stakeholders in landscape restoration to agree on key actions** and create a common roadmap for restoration in the country, build synergies, refine landscape restoration implementation processes and practices, and mobilise funds to support its implementation, etc.
- 6 **Scaling the participation of actors**, particularly grassroots actors like youth, women, and faith communities through capacity building/strengthening.
- 7 **Showcasing and documenting the work and the successes achieved** by different actors in the restoration space.
- 8 **Sharing best restoration practice** among all actors to increase the effectiveness of restoration actions on the ground.
- 9 **Scaling restoration in Kenya** across all ecosystem types.
- 10 **Strengthening training and capacity-building** among all actors engaged in restoration.
- 11 **Encouraging more research and analysis** to underpin the restoration efforts.
- 12 **Stimulating more coordinated and evidence-based monitoring** of restoration impacts.

The process of movement building in Kenya



DEC 2020–JULY 2021

THEMATIC WEBINARS

The Kenya National Landscape Restoration Scaling Conference 2021 was central in the movement-building process for restoration in Kenya.¹² It successfully built momentum for the movement through a series of **six pre-conference thematic webinars** held to discuss specific restoration-related themes:

- National Land Restoration Scaling Conference in Kenya (3 December 2020)
- Youth Power in Restoration Virtual Learning Experience (27 January 2021)
- Roots of Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) Movement in Kenya (25 March 2021)
- Forest Landscape Restoration Monitoring (23 April 2021)
- Kenya's Private Sector Engagement in Landscape Restoration webinar (27 May 2021)
- Training Resources and Capacity-building Needs for Landscape Restoration in Kenya (1 July 2021)



9–11 JULY 2021

KENYA NATIONAL LANDSCAPE RESTORATION SCALING CONFERENCE

The webinars led up to the main conference, which then provided a **virtual platform** for stakeholders in the restoration space to come together, showcase various practices and approaches, share experiences, discuss challenges and opportunities, and develop a common roadmap with agreed key actions.

One of the actions agreed upon was the **formation of action groups** structured around the various conference themes to carry on the momentum. The action groups bring together an estimated 100 organisations form the core of the restoration movement in Kenya. (More information on the action groups is provided in Annex 1)



SEP–OCT 2021

LAUNCH OF THE ACTION GROUPS

The action groups were formed through the following four steps:



Initiation



Planning



Implementation



Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL)

Regreening Africa has supported the action groups with logistical and administrative support, and will hand over in full to group leads in early 2023. Financial support has also been provided to support action group activities like the convening of workshops.

ACTION GROUP FORMATION



Initiation stage

The initiation stage was characterised by consultations with the potential action group leads. These leads were identified through past interactions, particularly the leadership roles they had displayed during the planning for the pre-conference thematic webinars and the conference. Meetings were set up with them and the idea of forming the action groups was discussed. Once they agreed to lead, further brainstorming meetings were organised. This stage began in August 2021 and ended between September and October 2021.



Planning stage

An average of two brainstorming meetings were held to identify stakeholders to be included, potential activities/objectives of the group, and to decide on the process for inviting members and the date of the first meeting of the action groups. The identified stakeholders were invited via email to join the action groups and the first group meeting was held to define its objectives/purposes, identify other stakeholders that should be included, and decide on the frequency of meetings, the activities to be completed during the meetings, and leadership issues. Most groups agreed to meet once every month over the 6-month implementation framework of the action plans, after which meetings would be convened quarterly. However, after the first 6 months, all the action groups agreed to continue meeting monthly.



Implementation stage

During the implementation stage the action groups met monthly, discussed the prioritised issues and activities, and developed action plans for the groups. This also included organising the groups where additional leadership structures were identified and institutionalised.



Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning stage

The MEL stage has been implemented as a continuous process, focusing on indicators such as the number of members, the institutions represented, level of engagement, and leadership attributes as demonstrated by the willingness to volunteer for positions and contribute to the action groups' activities. An initial review was completed after the first three months of the action groups' operation (in the final quarter of 2021) during which implementation challenges and lessons were identified. The next review was completed over July and August 2022.



KEY LESSONS LEARNT

One of the key lessons emerging from the first review of the action groups was the need to **create an improved organisational structure** for the groups by:

- establishing smaller core teams in charge of duties such as the operation of the action groups;
- developing Terms of Reference for each group;
- having a rotational roster in place for facilitation and note taking during meetings to keep the members actively engaged and to encourage their contributions to the groups' operation
- institutionalising/domiciling the action groups within the relevant government ministries and agencies to support sustainability. This has already been achieved in the case of the Agricultural Landscapes Restoration Action group.

Another key challenge identified during the initial review was the **poor attendance and engagement** of action group members. This challenge was dealt with by sending frequent reminders for the meetings, creating a clear work plan for identified actions, organising events to maintain the interest of members, and engaging in stakeholder mapping to identify additional actors to join the group.

This highlighted the need to **create incentives to maintain engagement** in the meetings and other activities of the groups. Such incentives include creating opportunities to influence policies such as FOLAREP and creating visibility for the work of the action group and its members through showcasing work on Regreening Africa's website, social media and other platforms like the GLFx platform.

The second review of the action groups reinforced the need to **create more core teams**, improve organisational structures, and support continued mobilisation of stakeholders into the movement through the deployment of effective messaging tailored for different audiences.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS



IDENTIFY AND ALIGN WITH POLITICAL OPPORTUNITIES

Political opportunities are changes in the political environment that could make governments more open to new ideas or claims.¹¹ Such opportunities include new legislation, electoral instability, cleavages within the ruling regime or elite, the presence of allies within or close to government who can petition for the cause of the movement, and the presence of threats or challenges that could be addressed in part through the movement's aims.¹⁰ In the Kenya context, such opportunities were present as reflected by the government's restoration-related commitments at international, regional, and national levels. In addition, several policies, strategies, and plans (such as FOLAREP) also demonstrated political goodwill and commitment to restoration. Such opportunities made it easy to incorporate government agencies and ministries into the movement and to gain their support.

Likewise, Ghana's Northern Restoration Initiative (NRI) has received support from both traditional authorities like chiefs as well as local governments specifically district authorities which has helped propel it forward. NRI also took advantage of the presence of several actors already implementing programs and projects focusing on landscape restoration, community resilience and food security urgently requiring improved coordination for greater impact.¹²

The importance of aligning with political opportunities is further demonstrated by the Landcare grassroots movement has been more successful in countries like Australia, South Africa, Germany, and Iceland where its supported by the government thus mainstreamed as a whole of government program. The movement began in Australia in 1986 to address land degradation on farm lands, public land and water catchments. It has since spread to an estimated 30 countries across six continents including Germany, Iceland, New Zealand, Phillipines, South Africa, USA, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Fiji, Sri Lanka and Indonesia.¹³



DEVELOP STRUCTURES FOR MOBILISATION AND ORGANISATION

Continuous mobilisation of people into any movement is key for its sustainability as it brings in resources particularly human resources and possibly financial resources. Mobilisation structures (including existing social structures such as churches, grassroots organisations, friends, acquaintances, and family¹⁰) play an important role as research has shown that people are not inclined to join social movements, even when they believe in the cause, unless asked to join a movement.

The Kenyan Restoration Movement has also leveraged existing environmental networks to recruit new members, particularly youth, while also mobilising the personal and professional networks of existing members.

It is also important that newly recruited members are effectively organised. Successful movements develop governing structures that can help to integrate new members. This helps movements to build the capacity to support sustained change and effectively link local and national level actions.¹²

The Landcare movement, for example, has created landcare platforms in countries which are essentially multistakeholder forums for stakeholder mobilisation and engagement. A wide variety of stakeholders are engaged through these fora such as farmers, community groups, research organisations, policy makers from all levels, extension agents, private sector actors, academia and development partners. In many cases, the models have brokered multi stakeholder partnerships.

The SHARED approach created a platform for rigorous multi stakeholder engagement in the process of creating Ghana's Northern Restoration Initiative (NRI). This was mainly done through a series of dialogues involving a variety of stakeholders. These dialogues gave stakeholders the chance to share experiences, develop a common vision and create action plans based on priority actions for scaling landscape restoration interventions.

Several structures have been put in place to organise the Kenyan movement specifically establishing the various action groups with smaller core teams to run them and Terms of Reference (TORs) highlighting the objectives/ purpose of the groups as wells roles the members. Efforts are also being made to institutionalise them into government ministries and agencies to ensure their sustainability.

Another important aspect of mobilisation and organising for a movement is relationship building. This serves to promote collaborative action that in turn amplifies the impact of the movement. Such collaborations have been promoted in the Kenyan movement. The Faith-based Restoration Action Group recognises the important role of the youth in restoration and invited some representatives from the Youth and Women Inclusion in Restoration Action Group to one of their training workshops. The Agricultural Landscapes Restoration Action Group is also seeking to take advantage of synergies with the Kenya Rangelands Restoration and Conservation Action Group.



USE CLEAR MESSAGES TO ARTICULATE MOVEMENT OBJECTIVES

These key messages must be framed in a way that explains the problem(s), offers solutions, and motivates participation. Storytelling is an effective tool for delivering key messages to communicate a compelling narrative of why people should participate, what's at stake and why people should care. Storytelling can be more accessible than virtual meetings, email communication, WhatsApp messaging and social media, which constrain the engagement of people with limited internet connectivity and knowledge and do not result in what is referred to as "strong ties".¹⁴ This was clear in the Kenyan movement, as the methods of mobilisation resulted in part in challenging engagement in some action groups. Continuous mobilisation is important because it draws new capacities and new people, including leaders, into the movement.



IDENTIFY PASSIONATE, DEDICATED LEADERS WHO CAN MOTIVATE PARTICIPATION IN THE MOVEMENT

Greta Thunberg, as the founder and face of Fridays for the Future, has successfully inspired hope among her peers and consequently their participation in climate strikes. Such leaders are willing to step up to the challenge and accept responsibility even before others join the movement; they focus on the people in the movement and are solutions-oriented. The Kenyan Restoration Movement leveraged such leaders and brought them into the core teams established to oversee the operation of the action groups.



INVOLVE YOUTH, WOMEN, AND FAITH COMMUNITIES FOR THE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE MOVEMENT

Engaging the youth is particularly important in Africa because an estimated 40% of its population is below 24 years¹⁵ and 70% under 30 years¹⁶. In the Youth and Women Inclusion in Restoration Action Group, it was observed that the youth (both male and female) were more active than older women, which can be partly attributed to the fact that women have more responsibilities than the youth. Despite this, women play a key role in the use and management of resources such as forests and land, and depend on such resources for income, and therefore be involved in the planning and implementation of landscape restoration.



MOBILISE FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO IMPLEMENT PHYSICAL EVENTS

Engagement in the Youth and Women's Inclusion in Restoration Action Group has shown that virtual interactions are not enough to sustain the interest of the youth. A survey undertaken to understand the needs and priorities of the youth revealed their preference for physical activities such as clean-ups, tree planting activities, debates, campaigns, sensitisation programs on various aspects of landscape restoration for primary schools, youth forums, etc. Such physical events require a higher level of funding. Other action groups have also highlighted the need for resource mobilisation in support of joint local action.

Faith communities and institutions, particularly in the African context, have significant influence over their members. Faith communities have various opportunities and avenues for supporting restoration.¹⁷ They have structures, systems, and programmes that can be used to communicate the message of landscape restoration, such as programmes for women, youth, and children, educational institutions, hospitals, as well as radio television programmes. In many cases, these faith communities are already engaging in various forms of landscape restoration, but need to be supported with knowledge and capacity to strengthen their existing efforts. The Kenyan restoration movement has recognised the importance of including faith communities and prioritised it through the creation of the Faith-based Restoration Action Group, which brings together faith-based organisations and various faith communities including Christians, Muslims, and Hindus. This group aims to strengthen the capacity of faith communities to engage in restoration.

Outreach beyond Kenya

The national restoration movement-building experience of Kenya has been actively shared with the other seven countries that are participating in the Regreening Africa Programme. Collaborators in a number of these countries have now been influenced by this experience to begin developing stronger national movements. This has been facilitated by the close cross-country working relationships among the organisations involved in Regreening Africa. An example of this is in Ghana where the Northern Region Initiative is gaining momentum.

The Kenya experience has also begun to influence restoration movement-building even farther afield. When active restoration professionals in the Philippines were briefed about the progress achieved in Kenya, they were inspired to adapt a very similar model of restoration movement-building to the Philippine context. Their efforts are now well under way. As the Kenyan experience is shared more widely, it appears likely that additional countries will be stimulated to follow suit, and begin explicitly putting in place the elements for creating other national restoration movements around the world.



GHANA'S NORTHERN RESTORATION INITIATIVE (NRI)

The Northern Restoration Initiative (NRI) is a coordinated effort by a consortium of actors working in northern Ghana on three thematic areas (landscape restoration, community resilience, and food security) to support the design and implementation of policies and strategies that promote sustainability of the restoration interventions in the savannah mosaic landscapes of the region. The NRI covers Ghana's Upper East (Bawku West, Garu & Tempane districts) and Northern region (Mion district). It broadly aims to create a platform for scaling up successful restoration practices in the northern savannah mosaic landscapes in support of Ghana's government's commitment to restore 2 million hectares of degraded lands by 2030 under the African Forest Landscapes Restoration Initiative (AFR 100). NRI also aims to serve as a sustainability legacy for the Regreening Africa Programme in Ghana.

The two desired outcomes of NRI are:

- Effective coordination with tailored strategy and interventions to the savannah mosaic landscape
- Accelerated scaling of landscape restoration, increased food security, and resilience to climate change in Northern Ghana

NRI will achieve these objectives by improving the coordination of the numerous public-led, donor-funded, and private programs aligned with the identified thematic areas implemented by the consortium members along with other stakeholders in northern Ghana to achieve its desired outcomes.

The key partners in the consortium are World Vision Ghana, in partnership with Catholic Relief Services (CRS), ICRAF, and national and local governments, donors, IGOs, NGOs, grassroots organisations, and farmer representatives.

The process of creating the NRI

It was formed through a rigorous consultative stakeholder engagement

process based on the SHARED Approach that included the following key steps that consisted of stakeholder fora at district, regional and national levels starting with the 2018 SHARED inception workshop where the “The Tamale Declaration” on the NRI was made, this was followed with policy reviews, evidence, and data collection through an uptake survey, training and data collection on the Regreening Africa App and LDD as well

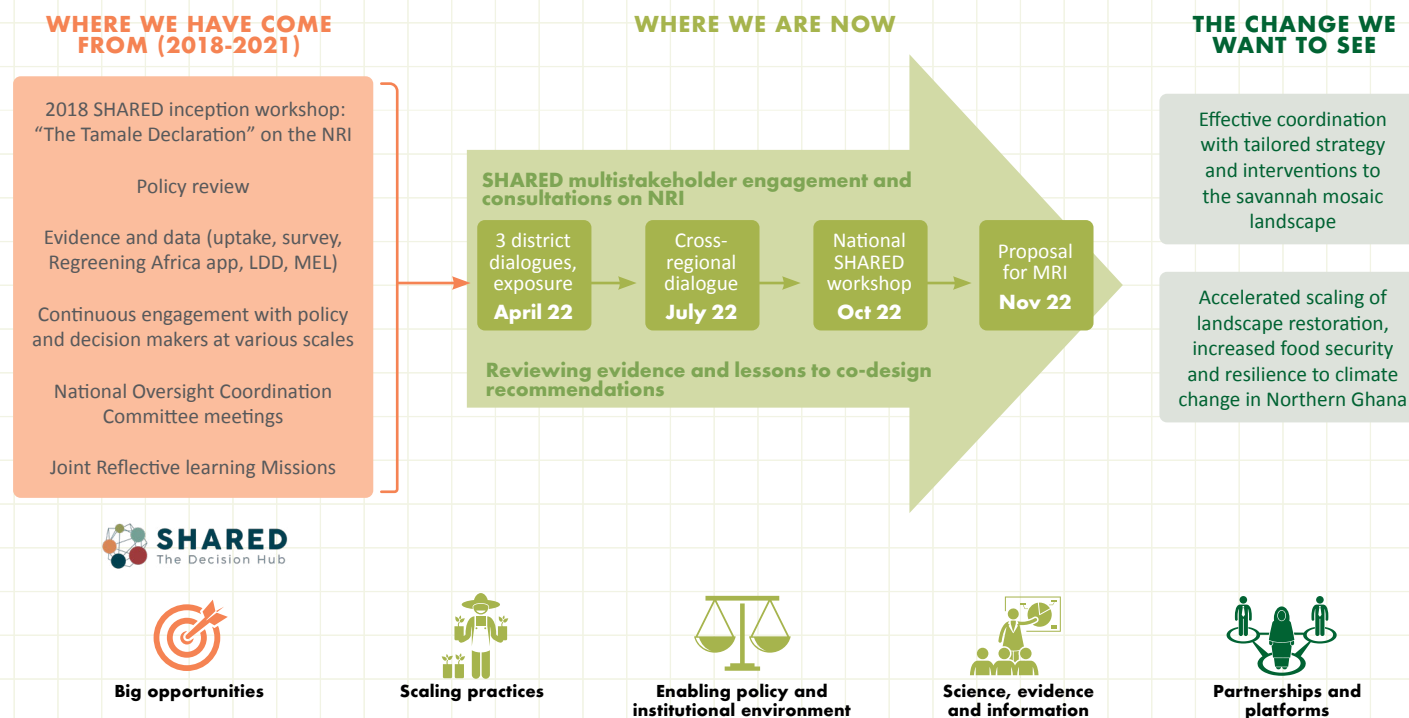
as MEL), continuous engagement with policy and decision-makers, National Oversight Coordination Committee meetings and Joint Reflective Learning Missions held between 2018 and 2021.

A total of four SHARED Multistakeholder engagements on NRI were held in 2022 to review evidence and lessons to co-design recommendations:

- Three District Dialogues and exposure were held in April 2022 in Bakwu West, Garu & Tempene, and Mion districts to review landscape restoration achievements and lessons learned for joint reflection and exchanges; designing strategic plans to increase and sustain the outputs of landscape restoration based on the reflections and explore the role of the NRI in promoting the expansion of savannah landscape restoration interventions and their sustainability.
- One cross-regional dialogue held on the 20th and 21st of July 2022 was held to share ideas and lessons on the opportunities and constraints of scaling sustainable land restoration practices and policies in northern Ghana along with creating an action plan to progress the Northern Ghana Restoration Initiative.

A National SHARED workshop will be held in late October 2022 and Proposal for NRI is expected in November 2022.

ROAD MAP TO THE NORTHERN GHANA RESTORATION INITIATIVE (2018-2022)



Two key insights from the NRI on movement building:



Align and take advantage of opportunities.

NRI capitalised on several opportunities. Several partners of NRI were already working to improve the northern landscapes and recognised the urgent need to effectively coordinate these existing efforts for greater impact and sustainability. These landscapes also share common characteristics such as having similar ecosystem types, that is, the savannah mosaic landscapes make it easier to apply similar restoration designs or approaches. Lastly, the NRI has been supported by local authorities such as traditional leaders and district authorities officials.



Rigorous stakeholder consultations and engagement is critical through multi-stakeholder platforms/forums.

The NRI process is characterised by the rigorous stakeholder consultations that fostered collaboration, goodwill, and support for the initiative based on the SHARED (Stakeholder Approach to Risk Informed and Evidence-based Decision-making) approach. The process also created a space for experience sharing by a variety of stakeholders that fostered learning and helped them come up with a common vision and action plan for scaling restoration interventions based on identified priority actions derived from lessons learned.

Through the national SHARED Inception Workshop in 2018 and four dialogues in 2022, more than 200 stakeholders from a variety of different sectors were engaged. These stakeholders can be categorised into:

- District assembly members and staff
- Government institutions/departments: Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA), Forestry Commission (FC), Ghana National Fire Service (GNFS), National Disaster Management Organisation (NADMO), Ghana Education Service (GES)
- NGOs: Catholic Relief Services (CRS), World Vision, Tree Aid, Urbanet, NORPRA, etc.
- Religious leaders e.g., the Local Council of Churches
- Traditional authorities
- The private sector
- Media
- Forestry research scientists: World Agroforestry (ICRAF), Forest Research Institute of Ghana (FORIG)
- CBOs: community-based associations, forest associations, youth groups, etc.
- Community members

The inclusion of a variety of stakeholders further strengthened the consultations/engagements by ensuring that a variety of experiences, opinions, and priorities were taken into consideration in the action plan for NRI implementation.





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Annex

ACTION GROUPS	Faith-based Restoration Action Group	Agricultural Landscapes Restoration Action Group	Kenya Rangelands Restoration and Conservation Action Group	Youth and Women Inclusion in Restoration Action Group	Kenya Working Group on Training and Capacity Building for Landscape Restoration	Forest Landscape Restoration Action Group
LEAD(S)	Oiko Diplomatieque	State Department of Crops Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, and Cooperatives	WOCAT	Regreening Africa and GLFx Nairobi	Global Evergreening Alliance (GEA)	Kenya Forest Service (KFS)
PRIORITISED ACTIVITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exploring how the faith-based action group can contribute to the overall goal of scaling up landscape restoration in Kenya and developing a strategy for their engagement. A call to action for other faith communities and leaders has been developed. Capacity building for faith communities engaged in restoration through organising workshops/webinars. So far, the action group has held two workshops – the first on forging partnerships for regreening Kenya to develop a strategy for faith-based regreening in Kenya and the second an Empowered World View Workshop in collaboration with World Vision. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination of various stakeholders engaging in agricultural landscape restoration. Developing protocols for the restoration of agricultural lands. Documenting the work of stakeholders in restoring agricultural lands. Conducting a needs assessment for different agricultural lands i.e., the required restoration techniques and requirements for implementation, drivers of degradation, etc. Capacity building of farmers and extension staff in agricultural landscape restoration approaches and techniques. Documenting restoration initiatives in agricultural landscapes through quarterly newsletters, forums to showcase such works, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussing and developing action plans (with a list of actions/solutions) to solve identified key issues to support restoration action in Kenyan rangelands. Create a forum for stakeholders/actors involved in rangeland restoration to share experiences. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement action plans agreed upon at the Kenya National Landscape Restoration Scaling Conference. Scale the participation of youth and women in restoration for their economic empowerment through holding networking and capacity-building events, promoting a variety of restoration approaches in addition to tree planting by developing best practices. Share opportunities through the network. Mobilise resources to ensure strategic restoration through joint action. Act as a platform and network for women and youth involved in restoration to enhance co-creation with other players. Monitor and develop indicators for youth- and women-driven projects to ensure that their voices and concerns are heard in national processes. Organise training on fundraising and resource mobilisation A social media campaign: “My Waste, My Responsibility” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build a sustained effort across organisations to develop the capacity to implement restoration effectively. This will be achieved through mobilising a critical mass of expertise across organisations that would lead an effort for capacity building. Help fill critical gaps in training and capacity building for restoration. Assess training and capacity building needs to explore the type of training/capacity building that can be built into restoration projects. Organise a capacity-building event based on the training needs emerging from the survey and recommendations from the conference. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote a sustained effort across different organisations, including state and non-state actors, to develop and improve their participation in restoration, thereby scaling up the successful restoration of forest landscapes in the country. Tailor the activities of the action group to follow up and implement all the recommendations of the Kenya National Landscape Restoration Scaling Conference as it relates to forest landscape restoration. Facilitate networking and information sharing among organisations engaged in forest landscape restoration

ABOUT REGREENING AFRICA

Regreening Africa is an ambitious five-year project that seeks to reverse land degradation among 500,000 households, and across 1 million hectares in eight countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. By incorporating trees into croplands, communal lands and pastoral areas, regreening efforts make it possible to reclaim Africa's degraded landscapes.

As part of a larger global and regional effort to halt and reverse land degradation, the European Union-funded project, Regreening Africa, aims to improve smallholder livelihoods, food security and resilience to climate change in eight African countries. More specifically, it seeks to reverse land degradation over at least one million hectares and benefit 500,000 households, while also catalyzing an even larger scaling effort to restore tens of millions of hectares of degraded land across Africa.

With an initial phase over 2017-2022, this unique research in development is led by World Agroforestry (ICRAF) and implemented by consortium of international non-governmental. The consortium includes World Vision, Catholic Relief Services, Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere and Oxfam, as well as national NGO Sahel Eco. The eight countries that it is active in are Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, Ghana, Mali, Niger and Senegal, with a light touch in Burkina Faso.

Regreening Africa focuses on the incorporation of trees into many land-use types, including croplands, communal lands and pastoral areas, with complementary soil and water conservation and soil improvement practices. It leverages science and research to track the impact of implementation and enhance concurrent social inclusion and livelihood-enhancing efforts as well as creating a sustainable enabling policy environment for land restoration at national and sub-national levels.

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