

# Cross-regional dialogue on the northern landscape restoration initiative

Report from the workshop held in Tamale in July 2022













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**ANNEX 1. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS** 

# CROSS-REGIONAL DIALOGUE ON THE NORTHERN LANDSCAPE RESTORATION INITIATIVE

### List of acronyms

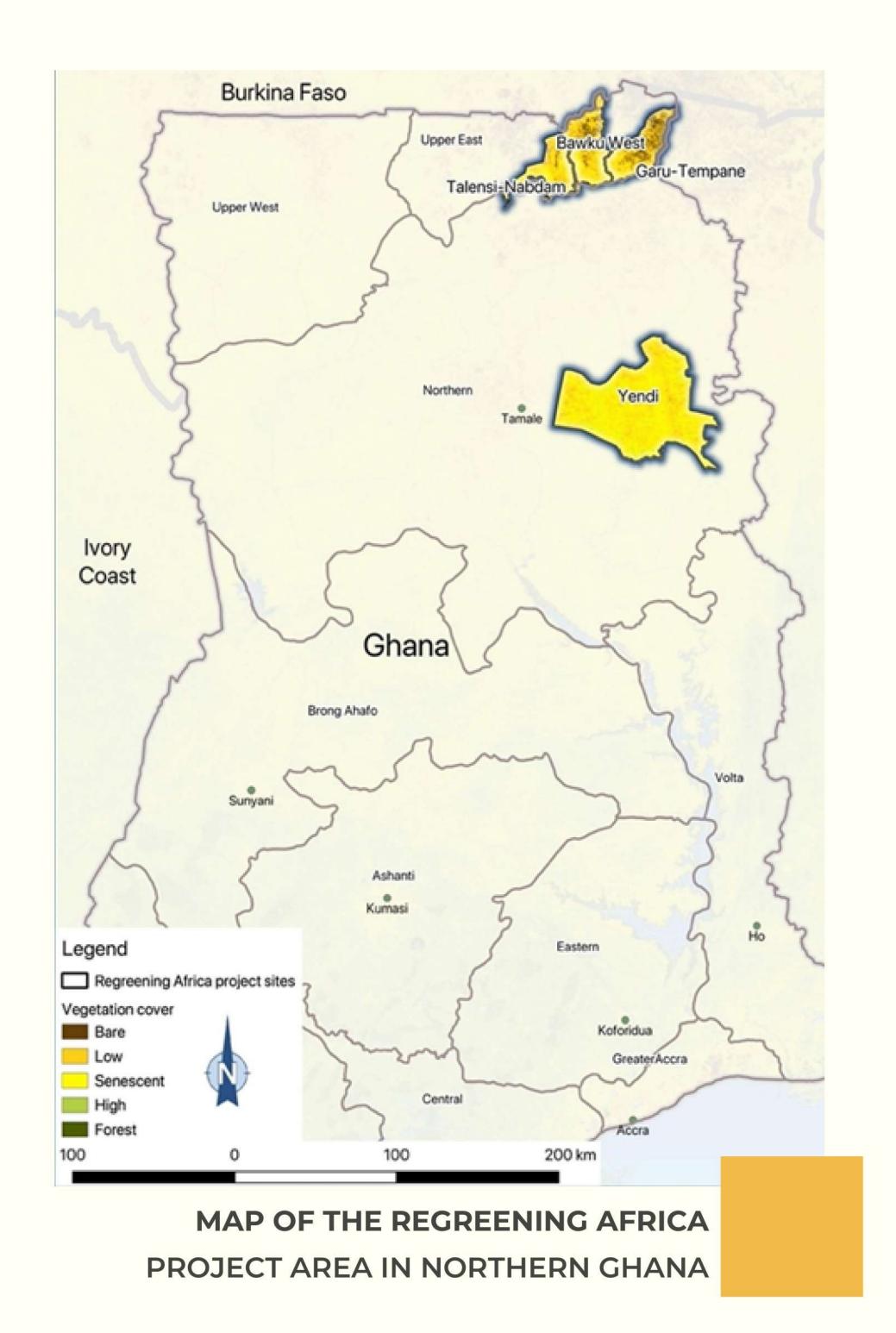
CA	Conservation Agriculture	IPM	Integrated Pest Management
CBOs	Community Based Organisations	MMDAs	Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies
CREMA	Community Resource Management Area	MoFA	Ministry of Food and Agriculture
CRS	Catholic Relief Services	NADMO	National Disaster Management Organisation
DA	District Assembly	NBSSI	The National Board for Small-Scale Industries
DoA	Department of Agriculture	NCCE	National Commission for Civic Education
EHSD	Directorate of Environmental Health	NGOs	Non-Government Organizations
	and Sanitation	NRI	Northern Ghana Restoration Initiative
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency	NORPRA	Northern Patriots in Research and Advocacy
EU	European Union	ORGIIS	Organisation for Indigenous Initiatives and Sustainability
FC	Forestry Commission	PFJ/RFJ	Planting for Food and Jobs / Reading for
FMNR	Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration		Food and Jobs
FORIG	Forest Research Institute of Ghana	SARI	Savanna Agricultural Research Institute
FSD	Forest Service Division	SDGs	Sustainable development Goals (UN)
GES	Ghana Education Service	SILC	Saving and Loans systems
GGW	Great Green Wall	SLWM	Sustainable Land and Water Management
GNFS	Ghana National Fire Service	UDS	University of Development studies (Ghana)
GPSNP	Ghana Productive Safety Net Project	VSLA	Village Savings and Loan Association
GSA	Global Shea Alliance	WRC	Water Resources Commission of Ghana
GSOP	Ghana Social Opportunities Project	WVG	World Vision (Ghana)

#### SUMMARY

The Regreening Africa project organised a two-day cross-regional dialogue on the Northern Ghana Restoration Initiative in Tamale on the 20th and 21st of July 2022.The dialogue brought together 65 stakeholders from the research institutions, private sector, non-governmental organisations, and community leaders to share ideas and lessons around the opportunities and constraints to scaling sustainable land restoration practices and policies in northern Chana. The event offered participants the opportunity to learn from a wide range of experiences in terms of scaling practices, policies, and science through a mix of oral presentations and through an interactive "evidence and experience wall" session which allowed close interactions and stimulated in depth discussions. The first section of this report synthesises the variety of rich case studies were presented with their achievements and key lessons for scaling land restoration in northern Ghana. These included the Regreening Ghana project outcome and key lessons learnt including using FMNR/ARN as a promising option for community-based forest management but also extended to the experience of other important actors working in Northern Ghana such as TreeAid experience in FMNR and village enterprises for land restoration, ORGIIS, baobab value chain development and Eco-Restore's, community restorative agroforestry. Policy discussions were held around the Mion district environmental management committee's experience in improving local governance for landscape restoration and the work of the Bushfire Management Alliance. The gender transformative action research in Bawku West, the use of the Regreening app for citizen science tracking mechanisms and genetic research on improving production and sustainability of shea parklands using elite genotype trees were also important elements of science and innovations. The second section of the report documents the result of collective thinking through group work and plenary discussions that lead to build a common vision for accelerating landscape restoration in northern Chana, looking at incentives and disincentives to scaling land restoration for different groups of stakeholders such as farmers, NGOs, Private sector and Government institutions. the opportunities to collaborate and accelerate land restoration in terms of scaling practices such as FMNR/ANR, policy alignment. The event ended with the celebration of individual and institutional commitments to land restoration.

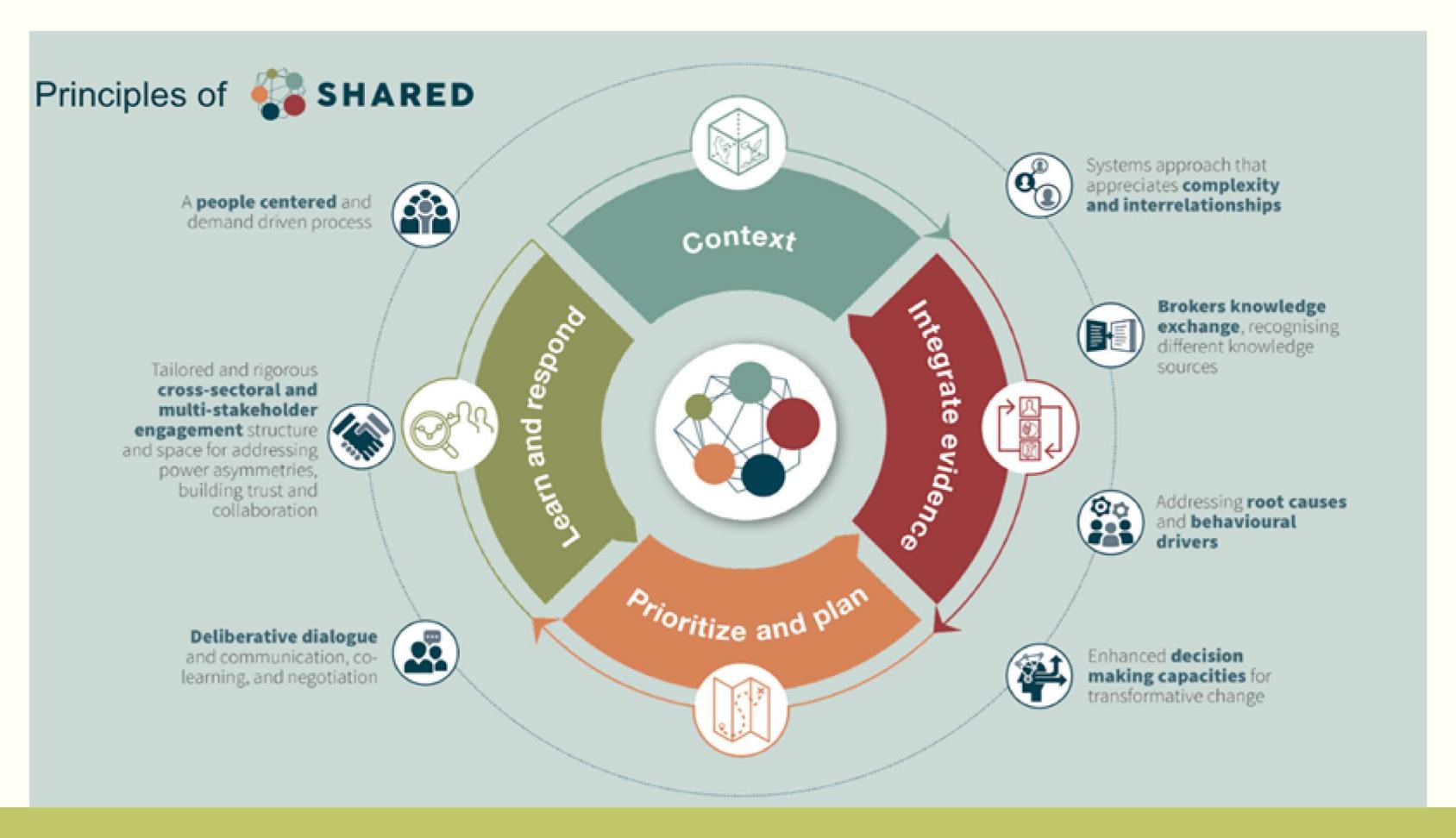
#### INTRODUCTION

Reversing Land Degradation in Africa by Scaling-up Evergreen Agriculture (Regreening Africa) is a 6-year £1.3 million European Union (EU) funded project led by World Agroforestry (ICRAF) across eight sub-Saharan African countries. In Ghana, the Project being implemented through a consortium of partners made up of World Vision Ghana (WVG) Catholic Relief Services (CRS) with technical support from ICRAF. Regreening Africa's goal in Ghana is to sustained approach to create a reversing land degradation and integrating food production through agroforestry. Regreening Africa pressing challenges addresses Ghana's savannas: extreme and prolonged dry seasons, overgrazing, uncontrolled bushfire, declining tree cover, loss of indigenous biodiversity and decreased soil fertility. The Project targets 40,000 households covering 90,000 hectares by 2023 in the Bawku West, Garu-Tempane (Upper Region) and Mion (Northern Region) Districts.



### Multi-stakeholder engagement for accelerating Land restoration in Northern Ghana using the SHARED Process

One of the key approaches of the Regreening Africa project for scaling land restoration in Ghana is the engagement with policy makers through multistakeholder campaigns and advocacy strategies. For this purpose, World Vision Ghana, in partnership with Catholic Relief Services (CRS), ICRAF, and national and local governments has facilitated a series of multi-stakeholder dialogues and workshops at various scale (district, regional and national) using the SHARED process to influence policies and practices in favour of land restoration through evidence and experience sharing. The project facilitated an initial multi-stakeholder national workshop in November 2018 to bring together national and regional government officials, donors, IGOs, NGOs, grassroots organisations, and farmer representatives. This helped review the evidence and benefits associated with integrating trees into landscapes, identify opportunities for taking re-greening practices to scale and developing policies to enable this process and collectively develop a road map for scaling up. This initial workshop paved the way for the Northern Ghana Restoration Initiative and the subsequent activities led by the consortium in terms of integrating and sharing evidence and experiences on practices, policies and partnerships that promote sustainable land and natural resource management and enhance communities' livelihoods and well-being.



# Why a Northern Ghana Landscape Restoration Initiative (NRI)?

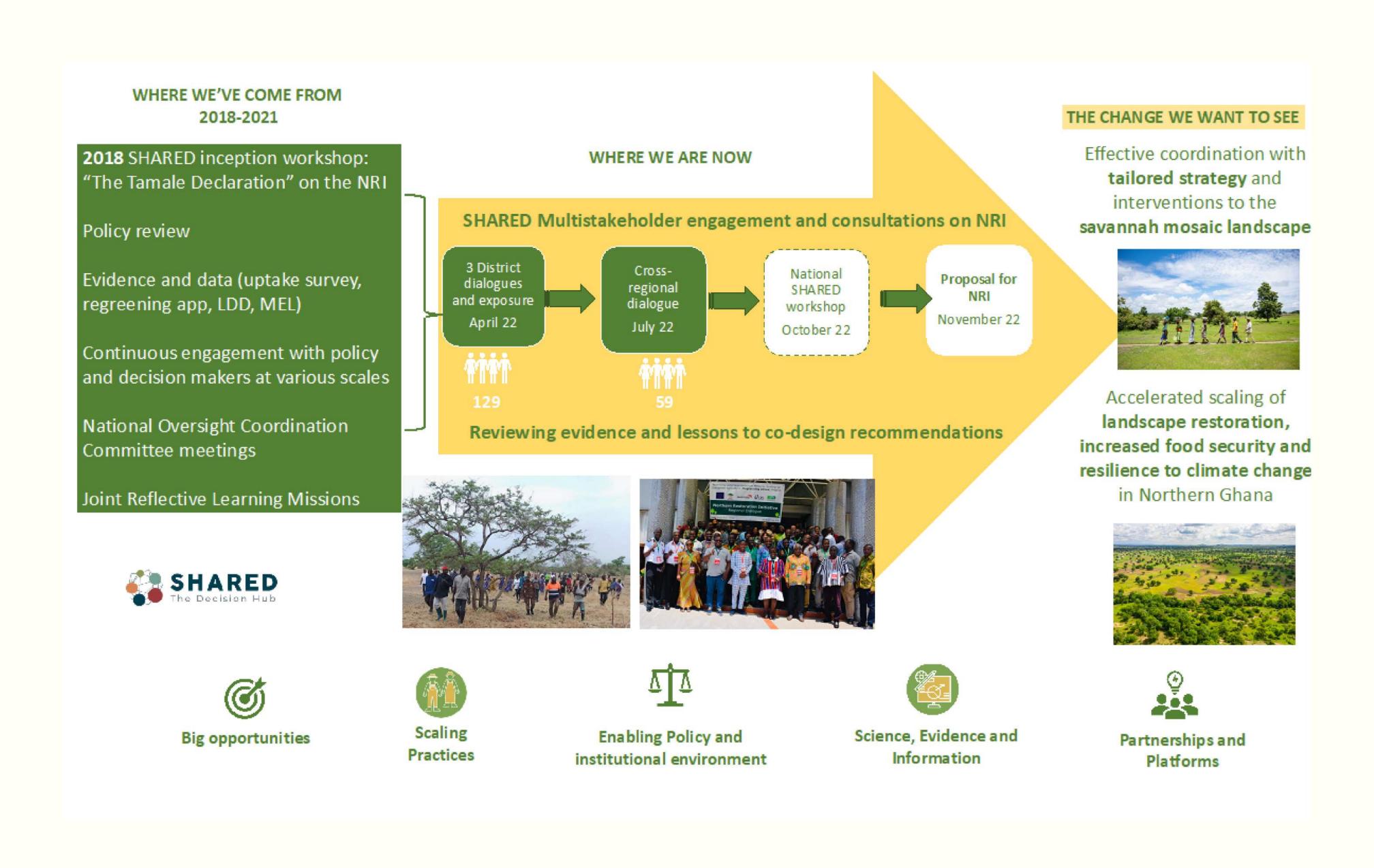
The National Regreening SHARED workshop held in Tamale in 2018 highlighted the urgent need for improving the coordination of the numerous public-led, donor-funded and private programs operating in northern Ghana in the area of landscape restoration, food security and community resilience. Adequate coordination and engagement of all relevant stakeholders are critical to improve the planning, design, implementation of interventions and to generate evidence and share learning. This is particularly important as to achieve the desired impact and the long-term sustainability of landscape restoration interventions to support the Government of Ghana achieve its commitment under the Bonn Challenge and the African Forest Landscape Initiative to restore 2 million hectares of degraded lands by 2030. The Northern Ghana Restoration Initiative (NRI) specifically aims to support the design and implementation of strategies and policies that are aligned and coherent with the savannah mosaic landscape contexts.



PARKLAND LANDSCAPE IN NORTHERN GHANA
PHOTO BY WORLD VISION GHANA

#### Road Map to the Northern Ghana Landscape Restoration Initiative

(2018-2022)



# Cross-Regional Dialogue on Accelerating Land restoration in Northern Ghana

#### The specific objectives of the cross-regional dialogue were to:

- Showcase the Regreening Africa Program and its successes in Ghana:
  Review and discuss the implications of the evidence and experience from 4+ years of implementation
- Take stock of the current practice, science, policy, and institutional actions that contribute to land restoration and multiscale commitments
- Strategize how ongoing efforts in Northern Ghana can be linked to accelerate large scale land restoration
- Action plan **future programs**, **strategies**, **policy entry points**, **and resources** to take forward the Northern Ghana Restoration Initiative.

Stephen Yir-eru Engmen deputy CEO of the NDA "The event is considered "timely and coincides with our ongoing plans as indicated in the mandate of NDA. The NDA is at an advanced level of developing a Medium-Term Development Plan with broader stakeholder consultations." The deputy CEO highlighted the need "to foster greater collaboration and joint actions in the restorations of savannah landscapes also because of the urgency and rate at which the environment is degrading."

#### SECTION ONE

# EVIDENCE AND EXPERIENCES FOR SCALING LAND RESTORATION IN NORTHERN GHANA



EVIDENCE AND EXPERIENCE WALL SESSION DURING THE CROSS-REGIONAL DIALOGUE
PHOTO BY EMILIE SMITH DUMONT

#### REGRENING AFRICA:

#### Outcome and Achievements in Ghana



FARMERS ENGAGING IN THE TREE PLANTING ACTIVITIES IN NORTHERN GHANA
PHOTO BY WORLD VISION

- 11,920 lead farmers and fire stewards trained in FMNR and bushfire management
- 15,700 framers trained in tree planting and management (8,800 Males and 6,900 females) in Bawku West and Garu Tempane
- 12,000 framers trained in regreening practices (FMNR, Conservation Agriculture, tree planting and management)
- 2,300 households benefited from training on the construction and use of improved cook stoves in Mion
- **540 farmers benefited from grafting training** in Bawku West and Garu Tempane
- 6,500 beneficiaries introduced to S4T interventions to (87% female)
- Over 200,000 seedlings planted cumulatively over the last 5 years
- Developed business plans for three strategic actors to promote the shea value chain
- Pioneer and support the Northern Restoration Initiative
- Real time monitoring mechanism (RegreeningApp) introduced and being used with partners to track restoration progress.

## ACHIEVEMENTS IN LAND AREA

(preliminary results)

INDICATORS	Ghana overall	Garu-Tempane	Mion	Bawku West
Project target (land to be restored in ha)	90 000	31 500	27 000	31 500
Land under restoration (ha)	123 086	49 737	49 263	24 086
Difference target and under tree	33 086	18 237	22 263	-7 414

## ACHIEVEMENTS IN HOUSEHOLDS REACHED (preliminary results)

INDICATORS	Ghana overall	Bawku West	Garu-Tempane	Mion
Household targets	40 000	14 000	14 000	12 000
Number of households reached by programme activities	39 291	12 734	16 111	10 446
Number of households reached and taking up restoration initiatives	38 521	12 505	15 946	10 070



### PRACTICE CASE STUDY 1.

### Regreening Ghana project: key lessons on scaling land restoration

#### **Presented by Edward Akunyagra**

Based on the four years of project experience and deep stakeholder engagements at district level, priority actions to promote practices and policies were shared. These are important to ensure sustainable landscape restoration and improve the resilience of communities across

Northern Ghana.



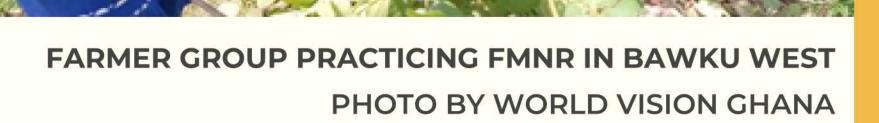
- Mainstream FMNR as a low cost easy to use land restoration practice that can be used by extension services within the Department of Agriculture and Forestry commission to enhance tree cover.
- Increase community ownership through active sensitisation, targeted codesigning and implementation, monitoring and evaluation of interventions. à Bushfire reduction and prevention campaign through capacity building and provision of basic equipment to fire volunteer groups and through sensitisation (radio programs)
- Fire volunteer groups, nursery groups, women village saving and loans association, technology champions/lead farmers as well as school environmental clubs (youth are fast adopters and disseminators of regreening practices) are key social mechanisms to foster cohesion and successful ownership of regreening activities.
- Alternative livelihood means for local communities are key to restoration (improving value chain or diversifying (e.g., beekeeping) as well as building capacity of private nursery operators as an income generating activity

## Policy and institutions

- Work closely with District Assembly and communities to formulate, gazette and enforce community bylaws on environmental restoration and protection (bushfire, charcoal burning, tree felling)
- Create sustainable environmental management subcommittee of the district assembly
- Develop and share evidence though stronger coordination mechanism and the promotion of evidence based scalable practices
- Community Forest management planning and benefit sharing mechanisms are great motivators.



- Promote citizen science and critical data collection
- Facilitate the adoption of the Regreening App by local partners (Forestry/ Department of Agric and other NGOs)
- Monitoring and evaluation processes for tree planting or protection are critical to tree survival and encourage communities to protect tree seedlings.





# TreeAid's experience in FMNR and village enterprises

#### **Presented by Jonathan Naaba**

TreeAid works across the drylands with work focusing on Forest governance; Natural resources management and agroforestry; Enterprise development and trade and Tree based food and nutrition security.

#### Achievements

- Grown 2,911,222 assorted trees; FMNR of 1,817,010 assorted trees amounting to 2,554 Ha under direct restoration
- Facilitating the implementation of the natural resources governance system and facilitating enterprise development (5025 farmers) with 212 Village Tree Entrerprises
- 11,761 farmers participating

- Communities that get support from traditional chiefs and ready to reverse degraded lands and create sustainable livelihoods
- FMNR / ANR is sustainable, fast and cost effective
- Institutional collaboration needs improving and especially sharing of knowledge and skills
- Shea sector needs intensification to increase the management, value chains and research



#### Baobab value chain development with ORGIIS

#### **Presented by Clifford Amoah Adagenera**

#### Achievements

- Facilitating partnerships with private sector actors for sustainable employment (Aduna, Noe, Eco-cert, Tree Aid)
- Women economic empowerment and coordination of Smallholder Farmers and NTFP collection (VSLA & cooperative Union approach) Working across 55 communities involving 2,734 women
- Sustainable Financing and Improving value addition
- Traceability and Quality Control using Organic and Fair for life certification

Scale: Northern, Upper East, Upper West, North-East, Savannah - Working in 3 CREMAS: Builkawe, Builsa yenning and SKGK

- Ensuring traceability & record keeping is important to tree value chains
- Local communities have become more aware of the importance of both the fruit and the seeds
- Financial inclusion and impact on agriculture in the local communities



### PRACTICE CASE STUDY 4.

#### Community Restorative agroforestry with Eco-Restore – "Modernising The Ancient" –

#### **Presented by Peter Lovett**

The aim of EcoRestore is to increase tree cover & regenerative soils across parkland landscapes of North-East Region with full community participation, and indigenous knowledge integrated with decades of scientific experience in three districts.

#### Achievements

- 20 communities, 1,000+ tree farmers managing their indigenous resources
- Current clients: Bunge Loders Croklaan, Ecosia, Fuji Oil, Noé & Upfield.
- Established over a quarter of million tree seedlings in 2021, aiming at three-quarters of million in 2022. Multiple long- & short-term tree nurseries.

  Monitoring & beating-up guarantee results after 3 years

- Guaranteeing Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), key to growing & maintaining client base
- Monitoring & beating-up with innovative tree growing, key to delivering KPIs
- Transparency, timely reporting, accountability, good business practices, with effective staff using SOPs, ensures success & trusted landscape partnerships



# FMNR a promising option for community-based forest management – Regreening Ghana



FMNR IN A COMMUNITY FOREST IN BAWKU WEST
PHOTO BY WORLD VISION GHANA

Regreening Africa, through the work of World Vision (WV), has experienced notable success in the establishment of FMNR on communal lands to protect and enhance tree cover and diversity. These community forest areas range from 10 to 200 ha and provide a multitude of environmental and economic benefits for the landscape and wider community and support the sustainability of the program's interventions.

They inspire farmers to practice FMNR in their own fields, support collective action through social capital building and also underpin the formulation and implementation of community by-laws for bush fire and illegal wood extraction.

# Process for establishing community forest

- 1. WV identifies and trains lead farmers from various communities on FMNR and other restorative techniques, such as composting, appropriate land preparation, and tree grafting. This program uses a cascading train-the-trainer approach in which lead farmers sensitize and train farmers within their respective communities on these techniques. Among lead farmers, there is equal gender participation to ensure that a diversity of interests and needs are represented.
- 2 WV engages with communities to identify and select areas of degraded land to be restored through FMNR practices. These areas of land have commonly been degraded by prior mining, bushfires or excessive logging or grazing etc.
- 3 Lead farmers and other community members begin practicing FMNR to restore identified communal lands. As they practice FMNR, they track and monitor growth. The positive changes in these communal lands in turn inspires other community members to adopt these techniques in their fields.
- 4. Lead farmers work with fire volunteer groups to protect the community forestland and cropland from bushfires by establishing fire-belts during the dry season.
- 5. As tree coverage on this communal land matures, community members can benefit from a wide range of products such as fruits, firewood, medicine and fodder, in addition to increased soil health and fertilite and micro-climate amelioration.
- 6. WV supports communities in the establishment of regulations and by-laws regarding the use of their community forestland to ensure their sustainability. Regulations may include monetary fines or community service work in response to degrading actions, such as over extraction. These regulations are overseen and enforced by community chiefs, elders and opinion leaders.



### Establishment of the District Environmental Management Committee in Mion

# The Roles of the Environmental Management Committee:

- (I) Advises the District Assembly on environmental regulation and policies and makes recommendations for addressing pressing environmental issues in the district;
- (II) Coordinates the activities and serves as a channel of communication between the Mion district Assembly and different environmental management bodies including government agencies and nongovernmental organisations (NGOs);
- (III) Serves as a regulatory body for the implementation and enforcement of district bylaws on the environment in the district.

#### The committee is composed of diverse stakeholders:

- Traditional leaders
- Assembly members
- Technical members and Police
- Government institutions

- Religious leaders
- Community members
- Women and youth groups
- NGOS

#### Timeline:

- **2012: The Mion District Assembly was established** with a vision to maintain a clean and environmentally friendly district where women and men have access to quality and sustainable health services, education, economic resources and have a right to participate in decision making processes.
- **2019: 28 environmental bylaws were officially published** by the Mion District Assembly. **Three specific bylaws** are focused on natural resource management regarding **tree cutting, manufacture of charcoal, and the control of bush burning.**
- **2021:** To strengthen governance on natural resources, **the Mion District Environmental Management Committee was formed** by the Mion District

  Assembly and CRS through the Regreening Africa project **to oversee the implementation and enforcement of the environmental bylaws.** This sub
  committee was officially launched in June, 2021.

- Formulation the district environmental bylaws is critical, however, the challenge lies in their effective implementation
- Competence and capacity in landscape restoration/natural resources management need to be increased.
- There is a need for an **information and communication strategy** at community and district level
- Political parties and traditional leaders should play an active role in advocating adherence to the bylaws
- Activities of commercial farming also can be controlled by the bylaws, especially land clearing
- Monitoring and evaluation are important components that can help brand the districts as "Green" and attract future investments for sustainable development and landscape restoration.



# The experience of the Bushfire Management Alliance

Presented by Dr. Edmund Kyei Akoto-Danso

## Strategic directions of the Alliance

- (improve Multi- Stakeholder Galvanization: To re-energize the main stakeholders and generate commitments to curb and control bush fires
- **Sensitization Radio program, Community Sensitization, Billboards**
- **Bushfire Regulations and enforcement:** The support of communities to enact and enforce laws to control bushfires within the communities is key in any strategy against bushfires
- **© Capacity building (training) of stakeholders** Training of community stakeholders (school children, traditional leaders, bushfire mgt committee ) in fire management
- **Incentive Schemes** Encouraging communities through incentive systems to reward the best performing farming group/community for the non-occurrence of bush fires
- Monitoring and Information Management Real-time monitoring of fires with technology, Identification of burnt scars/areas and Lessons learnt and documentation

## Key Lessons for scaling land restoration

- Limited collaboration and commitment among stakeholders at the district level, leading to a fragmented approach to solving the problem
- Limited awareness on the causes of bushfires
- Lack of effective laws and enforcement of laws against individuals who cause bushfires
- Lack of know-how on bush fire management among community members
- Difficulty in checking activities of miscreants as far as bush fire management is concerned

#### The Alliance is composed of five projects/programs:

- The Ghana Agricultural Sector Investment Programme (GASIP)
- Market Oriented Agricultural Program (MOAP)
- Resilience Against Climate Change (REACH)
- Training and Extension for Conservation Agriculture in the Savannah (TECAS)
- Centre for Indigenous Knowledge and Organizational Development (CIKOD)



#### Gender Transformative Action Research in Northern Ghana

#### **Presented by Gloria Adeyiga**

To build resilience through restoration intervention, men and women must be actively engaged in decisions about household's wellbeing. This begins with an appreciation of each's contribution to the household's wellbeing; share of workloads, control and access to land/ assets, household incomes and decisions. This also includes understanding how resources and tasks can be distributed more equitably amongst household members to minimise shocks from shock and disasters.

The research led by ICRAF/Bangor University is embedded within the Regreening Africa land restoration project in the Bawku-West District of Ghana where it sought to facilitate gender transformative approaches using a series of participatory gender engagement dialogues in 15 research communities. 150 couples were engaged in activities aimed at exploring priority gender issues. These included exercises used to develop common goals and identifying participatory indicators that participants used to assess progress towards positive change. Six trained community trainers working in pairs facilitated community dialogues with groups of ten couples in each community. Trained community champions, cultivated through the process supported the continued engagement and action of participating couples (or households).



FARMING COUPLE IN BAWKU WEST
PHOTO BY KELVIN TRAUTMAN

#### Achievements

At the end of 22 months of continuous engagement, support and action of households; the following results were reported

- Access to fertile family land: 80% of women in 15 communities' access about ≤ 0.5acres to plant groundnuts/Bambara beans/bean/vegetables.
- Share of Work burdens: more than half of male participants participating in household chores e.g. fetching water from longer distances using bicycles/motorbikes, washing clothes, childcare.
- **Livestock care: 95**% of male participants report to women taking care of livestock, a situation that has drastically reduced livestock death or theft.
- Input into Household Decisions: More than 70% of women participants reported 'feeling' included in household decisions; however a reflection in decision needs more engagement and action.
- High Interest in GTA: **Potential Scaling** from the high interest from non-participating households who have seen the benefits from participating households.

- Importance of understanding the context of gender dynamics in terms of socio-cultural norms, environmental, education, access to markets and migration patterns is crucial in tailoring the gender transformative process and participatory tools.
- Changing gendered norms takes time and requires several iterations, adaptations, and the continuous support within the community by the gender champions, hence its necessary mainstream GTA into all communal activities/interventions.
- Clear participatory indicators allow people to mark progress, celebrate milestones and encourage further changes.



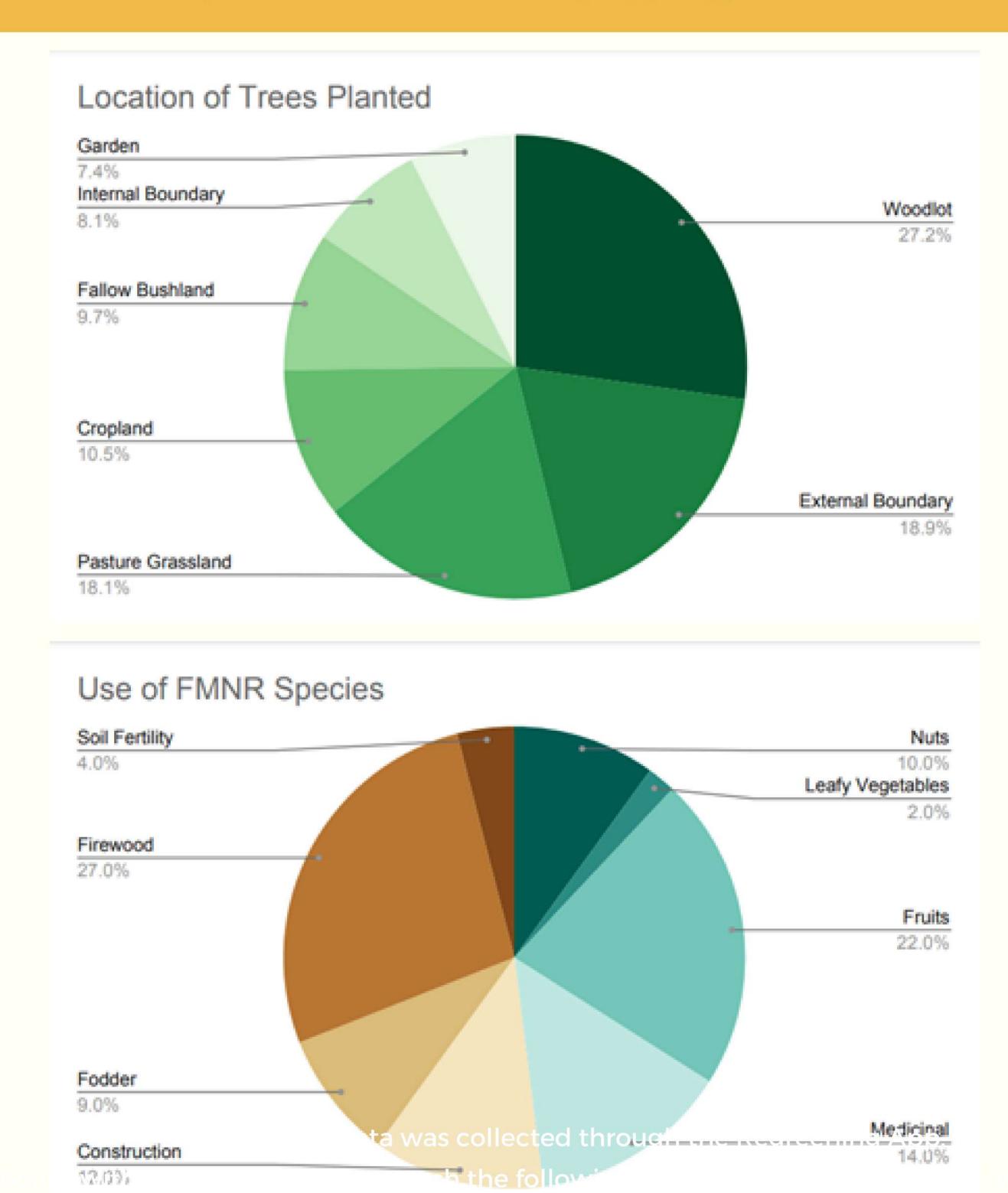
#### Regreening App

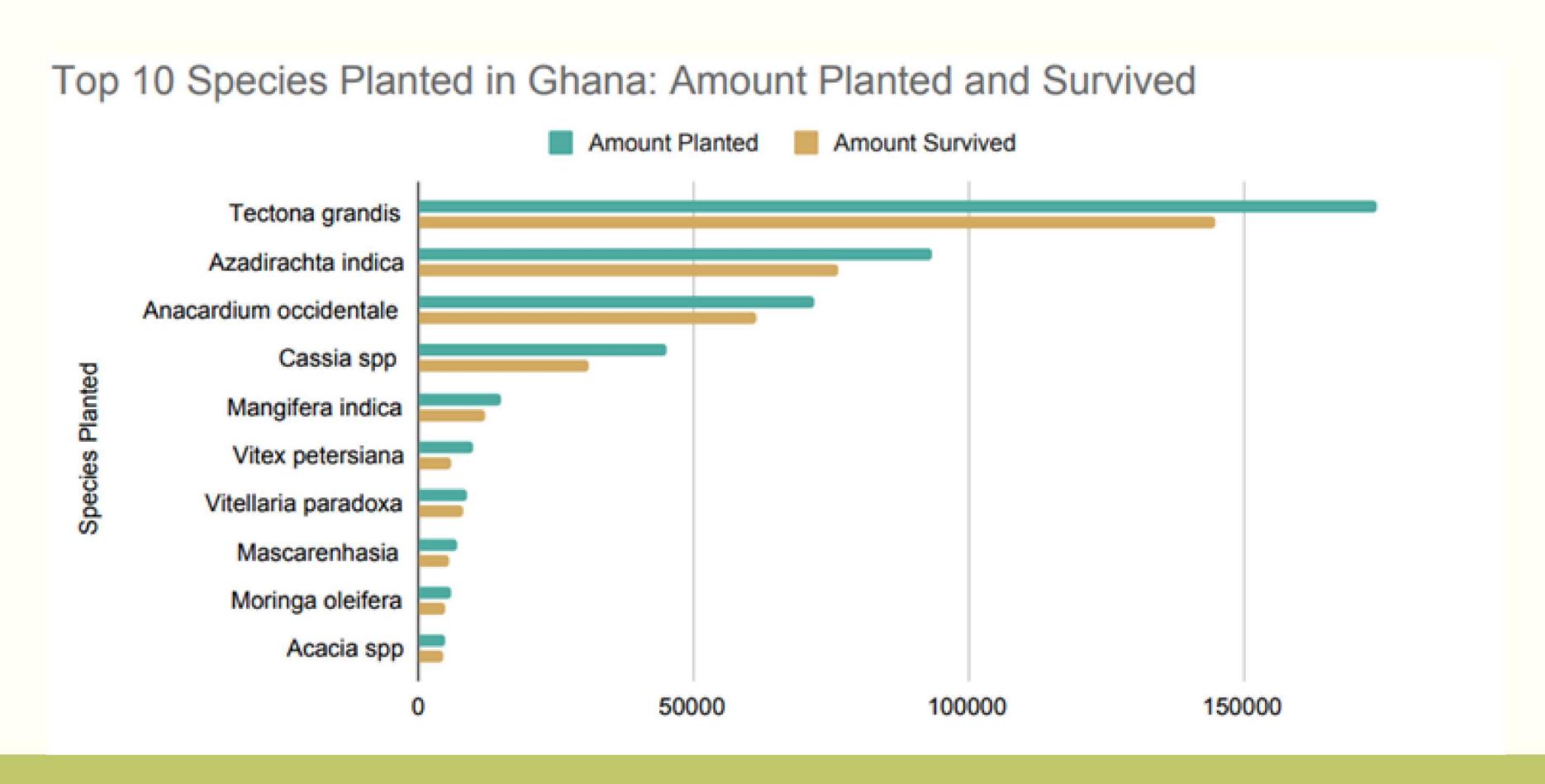


The following data was collected through the Regreening App.

To access a dashboard with more information, search the following url:

https://dashboards.icraf.org/app/ra\_dashboard







# Improving production and sustainability of shea parklands using elite trees

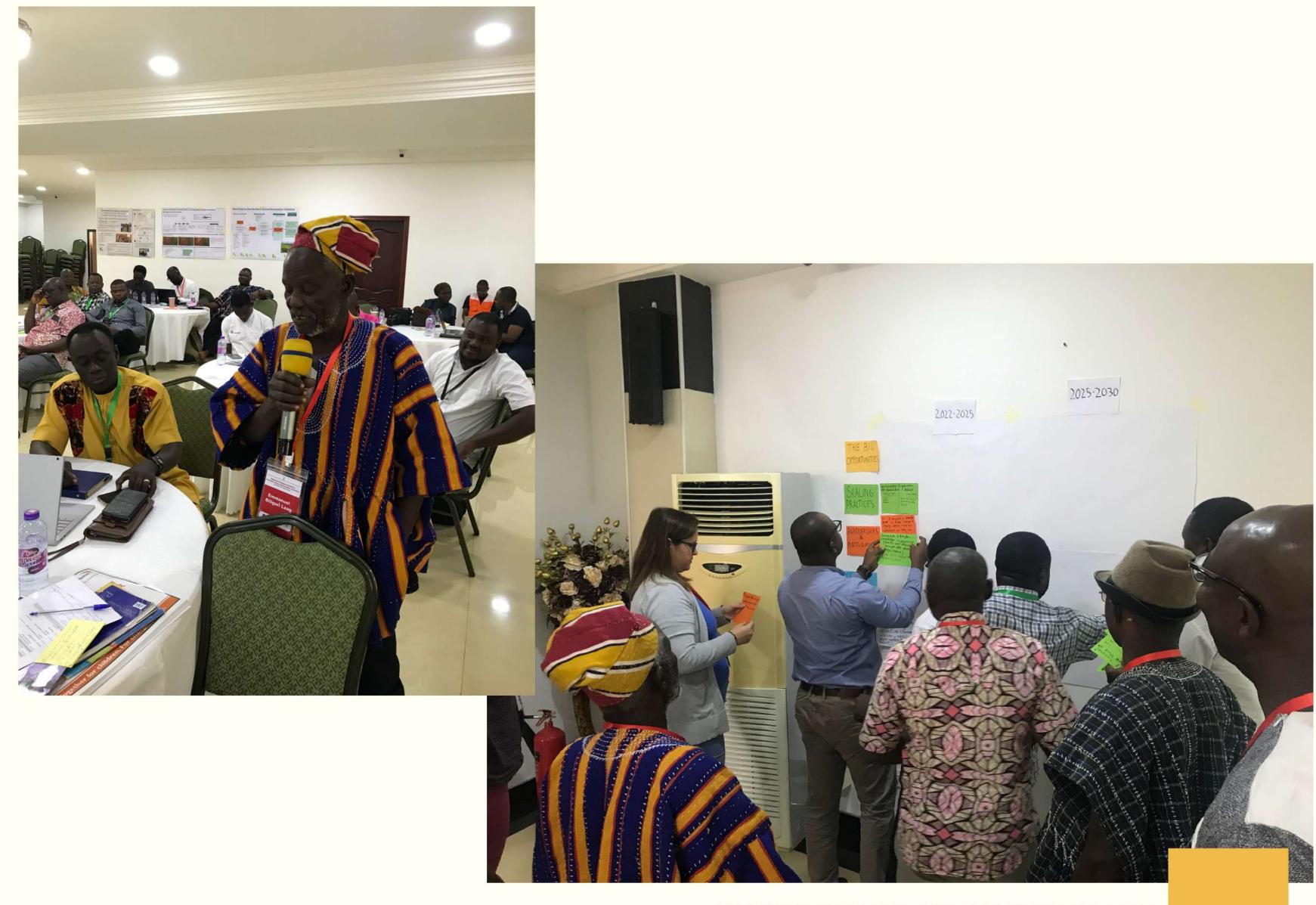
#### **Presented by Dr Michael Teye Barnor**

The work of the cocoa research institute of Ghana highlights the importance and potential of selecting elite shea trees for the sustainability of parklands in Northern Ghana. Their finding shows the presence of elite shea genotypes and shea populations. These are trees or population of trees that yield high quantities of nuts containing high percent ( $\geq 55\%$ ) fatty acid and are amenable to vegetative propagation.

- Elite shea genotypes could be multiplied in large quantities through hardwood grafting for regreening the north.
- This can be achieved by training many individuals, mainly women in shea grafting like it was done for cashew.
- Capacity of tree nursery operators could be enhanced to take up shea grafting to multiply elite genotypes

#### SECTION TWO

# VISION AND ACTION PLAN FOR THE NRI



WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS IN TAMALE
PHOTO BY EMILIE SMITH DUMONT

# 1.BUILDING A COMMON VISION FOR ACCELERATING LANDSCAPE RESTORATION IN NORTHERN GHANA

#### Our desired outcome:

- By 2030, we, the people of the Northern Region of Ghana, will be living and working in regenerative landscapes that have restored ecological integrity and provide ecosystem benefits and services.
- Resilient livelihoods and well-being will be sought from sustainable agriculture, livestock, forestry, and agroforestry that contribute to diverse and connected value chains and our capacity for supportive local savings and loans.
- Our cultural belief system will be associated with our commitment to land restoration and promote the importance of collaboration among indigenous peoples, men, women, youth and elders and their collective restoration practices.
- Our governance system draws upon traditional and formal structures, will be well coordinated, supports the inclusion of all stakeholders through multi-stakeholder platforms and promotes and implements policies that result in sustainable landscape restoration for Northern Ghana.



WORKING GROUP DRAWING A VISION FOR THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR
PHOTO BY FRANCS (WVG)

# What must be in place to achieve his outcome?

## TO ACHIEVE THESE OUTCOMES, WE WILL CREATE OPPORTUNITIES AND MECHANISMS TO:

- I facilitate, advocate for and build the capacity for community led scaling up of sustainable land management practices (e.g., indigenous systems farming, FMNR, reforestation/afforestation, agroforestry, bushfire management, integrated crop-livestock management, soil, fertility and water conservation) supported by technical advisory services.
- 2. develop integrated and diverse value chains within an effective market linkage system in collaboration with private sector, continue to enhance other income generating opportunities (e.g., ecotourism, a conservation fund) and enhance village savings and loans to support entrepreneurship.
- 3. use existing and new technologies to use available technology to understand the condition of our landscapes, to track and share market information and to monitor our change over time for feedback and learning.
- 4 , clarify institutional mandates, continually assess laws and regulation, promote incentives for implementation.
- 5. link and mainstream land restoration programs, promote land-restoration and agri-food system research and knowledge sharing across stakeholders.

# What must be in place to sustain all the above?

- To ensure that our collaboration efforts are sustained long into the future, we will deepen the education of our young people and strengthen the capacity of all stakeholders and collaborate with faith/religious leaders to underpin belief systems around restoring landscapes.
- We will have a trusted, transparent, and community-inclusive governance system that strengthens inter-institutional collaboration, builds upon formal and traditional decision making and promotes policies, bi-laws and plans that incentivize the scaling of land restoration.
- We will ensure the effective sourcing of financial resources and logistical support. Our communities will continuously learn from each other and will be thriving and healthy with sustainable livelihoods derived from the natural resource base whose integrity and ecosystem function has been restored.

# Detailed vision and thematic desired outcomes with what need to be in place to achieve and sustain them

THEMES	DESIRED OUTCOME	WHAT MUST BE IN PLACE TO ACHIEVE THESE OUTCOMES?	WHAT MUST BE IN PLACE TO SUSTAIN THESE OUTCOMES?
ECONOMIC	Developed value chains with a focus on sustainability of the environment and livelihoods	<ul> <li>Market linkage</li> <li>Private sector participation</li> <li>Adaptive technology for market information, land restoration monitoring, value addition, processing</li> <li>Identify commodities for local markets</li> <li>Create ecotourism opportunities</li> <li>Cooperative development building on</li> <li>Vllage savings and loan</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Policies that promote local production and consumption</li> <li>Establishment of a conservation fund</li> <li>Clear beneficiary scheme</li> <li>Collaborate with existing governme structures/programs</li> </ul>
AGRICULTURE	Improved crops and livestock productivity for sustained FS and income generation	<ul> <li>Integrated soil fertility management practices</li> <li>Improved crop varieties</li> <li>Crop livelihood integration</li> <li>Agroforestry systems</li> <li>Improved agronomic practices and animal husbandry practices</li> <li>Effective crop/veterinary extension system</li> <li>Reliable agricultural market system</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Reliable RELC System</li> <li>Developed crop/livestock value chains</li> <li>Favourable policy environment</li> <li>Practice sustainable agriculture technologies, management of crop/livestock residues, soil and water conservation</li> </ul>
ENVIRONMENT	Restore the environment to achieve ecological integrity  Restore degraded landscapes and ecosystem benefits	<ul> <li>Facilitate brushfire management</li> <li>Community governance</li> <li>Create opportunities for massive forestation/afforestation</li> <li>Facilitate FMNR in Parklands</li> <li>Research into reducing the gestation period of indigenous species</li> <li>Funding to implement activities</li> <li>Training and sensitization</li> <li>Facilitate upscaling of agroforestry practices</li> <li>Improved watershed management</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Research</li> <li>Funding</li> <li>Enforcement of forest management plans and by-laws</li> <li>Community consultation and involvement</li> <li>Improved institutional collaboration</li> <li>Proper project exit plans</li> </ul>

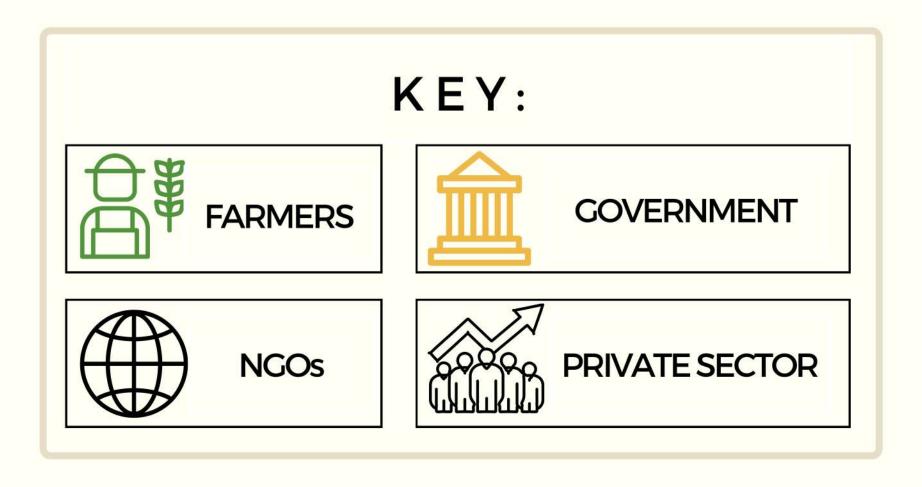
THEMES	DESIRED OUTCOME	WHAT MUST BE IN PLACE TO ACHIEVE THESE OUTCOMES?	WHAT MUST BE IN PLACE TO SUSTAIN THESE OUTCOMES?
	Improved existing socio-cultural belief system that promotes land restoration	<ul> <li>Documenting the knowledge of indigenous people's practices (tree planting, protection and use)</li> <li>Introducing innovative belief systems</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Advocacy</li> <li>Education of young people</li> <li>Capacity strengthening of stakeholders</li> <li>Strengthen the traditional governance system</li> <li>Collaboration of religious leaders</li> </ul>
POLICY AND INSTITUTIONS	Well-coordinated, all-inclusive stakeholder participation supported by policies for sustainable landscape restoration for Northern Ghana	<ul> <li>Review laws, gaps and synergies</li> <li>Regulations</li> <li>Enforcement</li> <li>Multi-stakeholder platforms</li> <li>Clear cut institutional mandate</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Long term financial mechanisms</li> <li>Capacity building</li> <li>Mainstreaming land restoration programs in MTDPs of MMDAs with clear cut budget allocation</li> <li>Policies that attract economic benefits for the people (e.g alternative livelihoods)</li> <li>Establishment of CREMAs</li> <li>Establishment of feedback mechanisms</li> </ul>
TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION	Restored degraded lands in Northern Ghana Improved landscape	<ul> <li>Soil and moisture conservation measures</li> <li>Use of GIS and Remote Sensing for wildfire detection and control</li> <li>Identification of degraded lands</li> <li>Hotspot areas</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Established local level structures</li> <li>Capacity Building</li> <li>Materials and logistical support</li> </ul>

# 2.INCENTIVES AND DISINCENTIVES TO SCALING LAND RESTORATION

## Incentives for Restoration (by category)



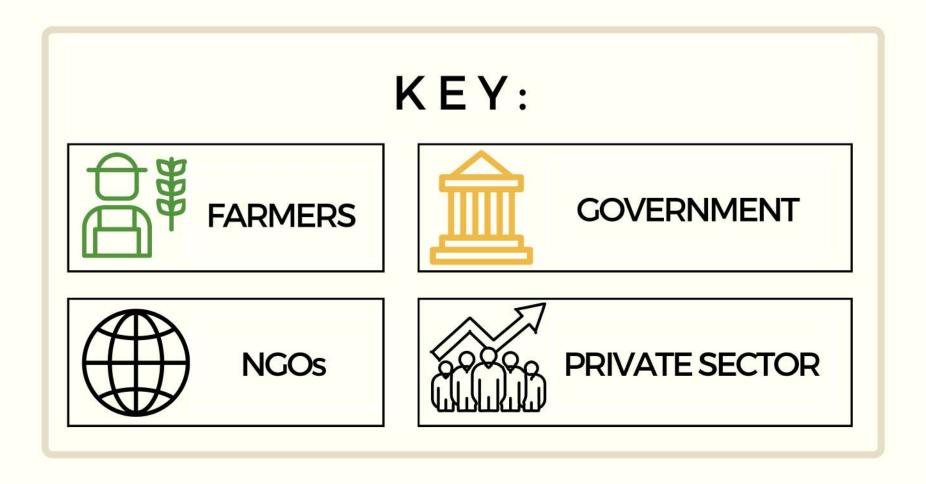
ENVIRONMENTAL				
Healthier animals resistant to diseases	X		X	
Preserving and enhancing environmental services	X	х	X	x
Improved crop yields and animal production - Increased food security	X	x	X	
SOCIO-ECONOMIC				
Sustainable livelihoods and economic gains from land and natural resources	X		X	
Access to technologies, information, and resources	X	x		
Medicinal value of plants	X			X
Women, youth, and community participation	X	x		
Reinforces good relations with community-based suppliers and local authorities			X	X
Supports private company's own values and goals				x
POLICY AND INSTITUTIONS				
Access/availability of funding/financing	X	x	X	X
Effective monitoring systems		x	X	X
Environmental commitments from national and state governments		х	X	
Recognition - visibility increases for districts undertaking restoration			X	
Payment for environment service, e.g. awards	Х			x



## Disincentives for Restoration (by category)



ENVIRONMENTAL				
Unclear tenure/ownership of land and trees	x			x
Free range livestock feeding - Pastoralist activities	x			
Bushfires, floods, and other disasters	X			
SOCIO-ECONOMIC				
Land restoration is a long-term intervention - not a quick fix intervention	X			
Lack of cooperation in communities		х		
Commercial farming result in quicker profits	X			X
Labour intensive	x			
Competing interests for natural resources	X	x	X	
Lack of information and resources to farmers	x			
Non-availability of funds		x	X	X
Volatile market situations raising risk margin				X
Company face high costs without results in the short term				X
Company is not set up for charity/support operations				X
POLICY AND INSTITUTIONS				
Lack of mainstreaming regenerative practices	x		X	
Non-enforcement of by-laws and policies	x	х	X	
Lack of support from policy makers and local leaders to scale practices		х	X	
Competing interest from stakeholders and policies	x	х	X	
Lack of coherent vision/regulations/objectives between national level and local realities			X	X
Difficulty in sustainable project exit		х		



# 3.OPPORTUNITIES TO COLLABORATE AND ACCELERATE LAND RESTORATION IN NORTHERN GHANA



WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS IN TAMALE
PHOTO BY EMILIE SMITH DUMONT

One of the last workshop activities was to explore in breakout groups some of the actions people would recommend for enhancing land restoration outcomes. Considering the vision and outcomes addressed and the incentives and disincentives that were discussed, participants worked across five thematic areas to design a set of recommended actions to enhance land restoration outcomes along with the actors that should be involved and map those until 2030.







**Scaling Practices** 



#### **Partnerships and Platforms**



**Enabling Policy & Alignment** 



Science, Evidence and Information

#### Big opportunities for scaling land restoration

- Green Ghana initiative
- Green Climate Fund (GCF)
- Donor community focusing on environment
- Carbon credits markets green investment opportunities
- the SDGs and GGWSSI; Afr100
- Institutional collaboration
- CREMAs for landscape monitoring activities
- Conservation Agreements and Benefit sharing
- Establishment and enforcement of bylaws to protect landscape resources (shea, Baobab, Parkia and Tamarind)
- High communities' cooperation

- Profitable and investable regenerative production that offers space for business entrepreneurs
- Private sector interest and support: Investment into tree growing & landscape restoration, with provision of appropriate services & equipment for nursery or agroforestry operations.
- Capacity building of cooperatives for improved quality and increased quantity
- Trade exhibition, networking, and exchanges to enhance value chains (Baobab, Shea and other products)
- Traditional Chiefs are ready to support

#### Mapping the changes that we want to see

OUTCOME	2022 - 2025	2025 - 2030
CATEGORY		Promote the development of undervalued
	northern Chana	indigenous tree species (Research
THE BIG		institutions, SARI, ICRAF, FORIG, private sector)
	Design programs to source funds from national and global sources (GEF, AFR 100, GGW)	Widespread adoption of FMNR with a high potential to restore degraded land
	<b>Who?</b> ICRAF, WVG, CRS and their partners	Who? NGOs,DA, MoFa, FC,
	Establish and strengthen stakeholder	Link restoration initiatives to programs on
	engagement (promote best practices	livelihood enhancement (Bee-keeping,
	amongst other districts and organisations	CREMA, PES, VSLA)
	Who? CRS, WVG, DA, FORIG, NGOS	Increase access to restoration technologies
SCALING	Advocacy and engagement of traditional leadership (chiefs, assembly members,	
PRACTICES	clergy)	Who? NGOs, DA
	Link restoration initiatives to programs on livelihood enhancement (Beekeeping, CREMA, PES, VSLA)	Sensitization and education of communities and partners on restoration technologies
	Who? WVG, CRS, DA, Media Documentation and dissemination of best practices and results	Who? WVG, CRS, Department of Agric,
		Forestry commission, CBOs, NGOs
	ii iidadives as diley corrie	Develop regional and then district level
	Who? Regreening team in the first	working groups to support evidence sharing
PARTNERSHIPS	instance until another entity takes over	between partners
AND PLATFORMS	Obtain relevant develonment project	Develop a map of actors and their activities
	fundina	and profiling actions and stakeholders
	Who? Regional Forestry	involved in landscape restoration
	Commission/RADU, Regional EPA, CD/SP and the District level equivalent (including social welfare)	Who? members of the working groups

#### Mapping the changes that we want to see

OUTCOME	2022 - 2025	2025 - 2030
		Application and implementations
	Identification of degraded land, hotspots areas	Create innovation hubs
SCIENCE, EVIDENCE, AND INFORMATION	Remote sensing information to assess carbon levels, soil organics matter, incidence of wildfires, monitor land health  Subscription to satellite companies  Who? Research Institutions and universities, policy makers, pastoralists, farmers	Data integration and management across the savannah zone, Data sharing platform  Promote tailored soil and water conservation practices  Who? CBOs, Private sector, Mofa, EPA, Forestry, FORIG, NGOS, research institutions and universities
ENABLING POLICY AND ALIGNMENT	Develop and gazette by-laws for effective enforcement  Who? MMDAs, FSC, NGO/CSOs, Opinion leaders, traditional leaders  Strong advocacy and sensitization on the benefits and rights of the people or communities on the environment  Who? MMDAs, FSC, NGOs	Provision of alternative livelihoods  Who? MMDAs, FSC, NGOs  Rewards for environmental services  Who? MMDAs, FSC, NGOs

### Celebration of commitments to land restoration

	GOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTIONS
District technical dept	Make an effort to capture the survival of trees planted in the green Ghana Project in my district
MERCC	Effective collaboration and coordination with institutions mandated and working in land restoration programs and projects  Strengthen monitoring, supervision and evaluation of projects/programs
Bawku West DA	Prioritise land restoration in the DMTDP and the annual action plan Enforcing the recently gazetted by-laws on environmental management
Agric Dpt Mion	Promote best practices through effective extension delivery for improved land restoration in the district
Water Ressources Commission	Improve community sensitisation Facilitate support for community level interventions Strengthen monitoring and compliance with regards to the exploitation of water and its related resources
DA	Influence the allocation and enhance funds in the workplan and budget of the assembly for land restoration activities  Deepen collaboration with others in land restoration
NRCC	Identify and collaborate with MMDAs, NGOs and CSOs in the regions on land restoration initiatives
GNFS	Enactment and enforcement of bush fire by-laws Liaise with Director (IWRD?) to amend incident data categories to make them better understandable for bush fire management Intensify fire education Formation, training and inauguration of Fire volunteer squads Formation of bush fore subcommittees in town areas and MMDAs
Agric Dpt	Mainstream Land restoration in medium and long term development plans and in the Dpt of Agric
Regional dept of Agric	Integrate lessons and actions into the Ghana Landscape restoration and small-scale mining Facilitate farmers' groups on community land restoration activities Promote restoration technology to farmers/communities
FCTIDD	To help include the Shea tree in the FC lesser known and lesser use species list
FC Mole National Park	Continue to effectively monitor vegetation survival, committed to MEL
FC RMSC	Provide technical service in tree management, support dissemination on tree planting, tree valuation and assessment

I	RADITIONAL CHIEFS AND COMMUNITY
Traditional chief	Advocacy for land restoration Perseverance and commitment Proposal on tree protection Form school and youth groups on land restoration Increase land under restoration Use traditional methods to protect trees
Traditional chiefs Mion	Train more women on FMNR Secure wire for fencing nursery
Farmer	Adopt strategies to control wildfires
	NGOS AND CBOS
NOPRA	Intensify advocacy for: policy prioritization of land restoration in Medium Term development plan of NDA and district assemblies Significant public investment in land restoration
WVG	Continue to build the resilience of farmers and communities towards land restoration Provide technical support to partners, stakeholders, for the uptake of restoration change Advocate for policy change to bring about the adoption of more favourable conditions for restoration
CRS	I commit to mobilizing young people in communities to serve as agents of environmental conservation  Design follow up project on land restoration to scale the lessons from Regreening Africa and deepen the impacts
TADO	We will promote landscape restoration through: Opening up more collaboration with other organisations towards environmental conservation Develop and submit proposals to restore degraded land in the archdiocese of Tamale
	Watershed restoration in degraded ecosystem using neds?
ORGIIS	Promoting and sustaining Community Resource management area, intensify organic and fair trade for livelihood activities and support communities to undertake tree planting with indigenous species. I will continue providing my team with technical support for improved land restoration activity monitoring to ensure greater results
AAK	Supply over 20000 shea tree seedlings, train 3000 women on tree planting and management, facilitate the construction of 5000 stoves
Tree Aid	We will increase and intensify our land restoration commitments with communities by engaging and developing new projects in new districts and expand in exisiting ones
Eco-restore	Sensitize about not using chemical but use organic soil amendment and crop rotation, plant trees
URBANET	Develop community management plans by engaging with community leaders, landowners, DA to protect plantations through by-laws that provide sanctions

SCIENTIFIC AND ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS				
CSIR-SARI	Develop and disseminate technologies and innovations to improve crop production while maintaining or improving soil fertility  Develop crop varieties that combine high grain and biomass yield to improve soil fertility, develop shade tolerant varieties			
Scientist	I will optimize the protocol for shea grafting and train nursery operators and farmers on shea grafting I will characterize more populations of shea and share the location of elite shea trees with the value chain actors especially nursery operators in Regreening so they can use them for grafting			
CIFOR-ICRAF	I Commit to work for building strong and accurate knowledge evidence to inform policy and decision makers I commit to support data collection and analysis for promoting effective approaches for land restoration Contribute to advocating for clear and strong benefit sharing schemes for communities and farmers			
FORIG	I will devote my time and efforts to build the capacity of farmers in tree growing and also research into restoration issues  Design cropping systems to sustain land productivity, ISFM and resilient varieties			
Bolgatanga Technical University Dpt of Economic Agriculture	Curriculum development to include land restoration Community service Research			

#### REGREENING AFRICA PROJECT

#### REGIONAL DIALOGUE ON NORTHERN RESTORATION INITIATIVE (NRI)

#### 20TH AND 21ST JULY, 2022

S/N	NAME	NAME OF ORG/PROJECT	DISTRICT
1	Yvonne Wepala Wonchua	Regional Coordinating council	Bolga
2	Mr. Francis Ennor	Department of Agriculture	Bolga
3	Dr. Stephen Edem Akpalu	Forestry Research Institute of Ghana	Bolga
4	Mr. Zimi Alhassan	Department of Agriculture	Bolga
5	Dr. Mercy Marilyn Akaplu	Bolgatanga Technical University	Bolga
6	Jesse Kazapoe	Water Resources Commission- White Volta	Bolga
7	Naaba Akpaam Abugri	Farmer/Traditional Ruler	Zebilla
8	Alhassan Ahmed	Bawku West District Assembly	Zebilla
9	Bismark Ayorogo	NORPRA	Bolga
10	Henry Opoku Boateng	Forestry Services Division	Bolga
11	George A. Dordah	WASCAL	Bolga
12	ACF01 Anthony Gyasi Boateng	GNFS	Bolga
13	Ernest Boro	Forestry Commission	Bolga
14	Clifford Amoah Adagenera	ORGIIS Ghana	Paga
15	Joachim Ayiiwe Agbungba	Water Resources Commission- Black Volta	Wa
16	Edmund Akoto- Danso	GASP/BMA	Accra
17	Paul Addah	Wildlife Division	Mole
18	Julius Agolsi	CODI	Zebilla
19	Albert Futukpor	GNA	Tamale
20	Senyo Kpelly	Eco Restore	Tamale
21	Gyimah Sherifan	NRCC	Tamale
22	Ali J. Asana	GBC	Tamale
23	Rahajatu Buwah	Northern Development Authority	Tamale
24	Jonathan Naaba	Tree Aid	Tamale
25	Emmanuel Biliguri Laag	Farmer/Kukpalgu Group Leader	Kukpalugu- Mion
26	Akibu Hardi	Department of Agric	Mion
27	David Adade	Forestry-Yendi	Yendi
28	Stephen Yir-eru Engmen	Northern Development Authority	Tamale

S/N	NAME	NAME OF ORG/PROJECT	DISTRICT
29	Bethany Davidson	AAK/KI Ghana Ltd	Tamale
30	Justus Bomboson	TADO	Tamale
31	Christopher Amoako	TV3	Tamale
32	Nadra Mohammed	TV3	Tamale
33	ACF01 James Ankrah	GNFS	Tamale
34	Dr. Francis Kusi	CSIR-SARI	Tamale
35	Michael Teye Bannor	Cocoa Research Institute	Bole
36	Godwin Dzekoto	AROCHA Ghana	Damango
37	Musah Issaka	Mion District Assembly	Mion
38	Iddrisu Adam	Urbanet	Tamale
39	Mallam Seidu	Kukobila Nasia farms	Tamale
40	Mr. Emmanuel Adu Sarpong	Resource Management Support Center	Kumasi
41	Dr. Reginald Tang-Guuroh	Forestry Research Institute of Ghana	Kumasi
42	Mary Adu-Sarpong	Timber Industries Development Division	Kumasi
43	Adu Aaron	Global Shea Alliance	Accra
44	Seth Frimpong	World Vision Ghana	Bawku West
45	Joseph Edwin Yelkabong	World Vision Ghana	Damongo
46	Evans Dagban	World Vision Ghana	Savelugu
47	Robert Pwazaga	World Vision Ghana	Savelugu
48	Mawa Karambiri	CIFOR-ICRAF	Burkina Faso
49	Maxwell Amedi	World Vision Ghana	Accra
50	Andrew David	CIFOR-ICRAF	Kenya
51	Samuel Abasiba	World Vision Ghana	Bolga-Kasena
52	Philip Atiim	CRS	Tamale
53	Adombire Joshua	WVG	Bawku West
54	Gloria Adejiga	FORIG	Bolgatanga
55	Edward Akunyagra	WVG	Bawku West
56	Tontie Binado	CRS	Tamale
57	Francis Npong	WVG	Damongo
<b>5</b> 8	Gariba Baba Kankani	CRS	Tamale
59	Dr. Saaibu Baanni Azumah	Global Shea Alliance	Tamale
60	Edward Juwah	WVG	Damongo

## REGREENING AFRICA PROJECT REGIONAL DIALOGUE ON NORTHERN RESTORATION INITIATIVE (NRI)

#### 20TH AND 21ST JULY, 2022.

S/N	NAME	NAME OF ORG/PROJECT	DISTRICT
61	Francis Adjei	GNFS	Tamale
62	Kaba Abaka	Black Volta Basin	Wa
63	Mutala Fuseini	MoFA	Mion
64	Joseph Baba Abongo	WRC	Bolga
65	Yakubu Ahmed	Farmer	Yendi

