AFR100 PULSE

HARNESSING AFRICA'S FLR SPIRIT

MONITORING AFR100:
IMPLEMENTATION

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We support the

UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON
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RESTORATION
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1. INTRODUCTION

African forests and landscapes are under significant pressure and are severely compromised. The continent loses approximately 3.94 million hectares of forests yearly, and about 50 million hectares of land are affected by degradation. Deforestation and landscape degradation threaten ecological functions vital to African economies. The consequences are enormous: lower food production, reduced quality of life and increased poverty particularly amongst rural households and small holder farmers whose livelihoods largely depend on stable weather patterns, healthy soils and tree cover, and access to clean water. Compounding this reality are climate change pressures which add to the already devastating social and economic effects of forest loss and landscape degradation.

The African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100**) – an African owned and country led initiative of restoring 100 million hectares of deforested and degraded landscapes across Africa by 2030-** aims to reverse these negative trends. To date, 32 African countries have committed to restore 128 million hectares of deforested and degraded forests and lands. The AFR100 Initiative connects participating African countries with technical and financial partners to scale up restoration on the ground and capture associated environmental, social, economic and livelihood benefits.

With collaboration and support from key partners and member states, AUDA-NEPAD established an AFR100 monitoring program. This consists of a monitoring framework with indicators and performance metrics to track restoration progress across three thematic areas – Nature, Economy and Governance. The nature pillar of this framework provided guidance for the development of a web-based GIS platform that uses earth observation data to track and verify change in forest and tree cover including trees outside of forests, biodiversity and other nature related metrics. Its survey functionality allows users to capture information from the ground on impact of income, jobs, food security and land tenure to name a few. The overarching goal of the AFR100 monitoring platform is to ensure that information on forest landscape restoration (FLR) activities across all partner countries is collected, analyzed, shared and reported through the annual State of AFR100 Report. This holistic monitoring platform is being launched in the latter part of 2022.

II. METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH

In its leadup to introducing the AFR100 monitoring platform, the AFR100 Secretariat and World Resources Institute (WRI) queried AFR100 Focal Points in June 2022 about the number of hectares they believe have been come under restoration since their countries committed to the AFR100 initiative. Specifically, they were asked : ''Could you provide an estimate of how many hectares of degraded forests and lands have been restored since your country joined the AFR100 initiative''? The response to this question and the country's commitment to the AFR100 initiative enabled us to compute the percentage of the restored area against commitment (see table 1). It is important to mention that monitoring capacity varies widely across countries : a few have robust monitoring systems, many do not.

Nineteen out of the 32 countries with commitments to the AFR100 initiative (59%) responded to the questionnaire[6]; seven countries out of the nineteen that responded to the questionnaire did not provide an estimate of the number of hectares restored. This implies that twelve countries out of the nineteen (63%) that responded to the survey questionnaire provided an estimate (see table 1).

[ii]

III. RESULTS OF THE SURVEY: MONITORING FLR PROGRESS IN AFR100 COUNTRIES

Table 1. Percentage of area restored against country commitment

Countries	Regions	Country commitment to AFR100 (hectares)	% of restored area against commitment
Chad	Central Africa	1400000	2.84
Cameroon	Central Africa	12000000	14.55
Côte d'Ivoire	West Africa	5000000	0.50
Eswatini	Southern Africa	500000	4.0
Ghana	West Africa	2000000	31.0
Kenya	Eastern Africa	5100000	7.0
Madagascar	Southern Africa	4000000	37.8
Niger	West Africa	3200000	24.4
Nigeria	West Africa	4000000	15.0
South Africa	Southern Africa	3600000	55.6
Sudan	Eastern Africa	14600000	6.84
Tanzania	Eastern Africa	5200000	2.99
Total		**60600000**	

Source: Survey questionnaire of AFR100 Focal Points

- The restored area against country commitment varies between 0.5 and 55 percent.
- South Africa has the highest percentage of the restored area against commitment.
- In general, the Southern Africa region has the highest percentage of the restored area on average, followed by West Africa, Central Africa and Eastern Africa in respective order.
- The countries that provided an estimate of the area restored represent 60.6 percent of the original commitment of 100 million hectares and 47.3 percent of the actual commitment of 128 million hectares made by the 32 countries members of the AFR100 initiative.

IV. CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SECOND PHASE OF THE AFR100 INITIATIVE

IV.1 CONCLUSIONS

- AFR100 member countries are making remarkable progress in monitoring FLR implementation, thanks to the dynamic and dedicated technical partners which use complementary monitoring approaches.
- The AFR100 monitoring platform, which capitalizes on the existing monitoring approaches used by AFR100 technical partners under AUDA–NEPAD coordination should work on an agreed protocol to continue using data produced by technical partners, which will facilitate the regular elaboration of the State of AFR100 Report.
- Trainings of the relevant stakeholders in the AFR100 monitoring platform are needed to understand its functionality, usage, and to develop a manual on how to measure key indicators. Establishing the Restoration Help Desks is a reasonable step in harmonizing methodologies and data.

IV.2 IMPLICATIONS

- The AFR100 monitoring platform is a unified approach that builds on the strength of AFR100 technical partners.
- It ensures ownership and appropriation by the African Union and its member countries.
- Monitoring FLR implementation under the AFR100 initiative will provide evidence of who benefits and how from restoration intervention. This will directly connect with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Agenda 2063 of the African Union.
- Monitoring FLR implementation will also allow assessing the profitability of various FLR interventions by carrying out benefit–cost analysis and advising governments, AFR100 [ix] technical and financial partners.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS

- Given the importance of monitoring FLR implementation, it would be good to make a verification in each country for all areas restored in table 1.
- The AFR100 monitoring platform should be used to fill the gap in verifying restoration activities.