Environmental Leadership & Training Initiative

COURSE REPORT

Forest Landscape Restoration - Ethiopia

March 20, 2019 - February 16, 2020

A blended course organized by:
Environmental Leadership & Training Initiative (ELTI)
International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

Landscape in the upper Sile-Elgo catchment that participants visited during the course field visit.

Background

Countries worldwide have made commitments to restore millions of hectares of degraded and deforested land under the Bonn Challenge, which is an international effort to restore 150 million hectares around the globe by 2020 and 350 million by 2030. The Bonn Challenge includes the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100), a country-led effort to bring 100 million hectares of land in Africa into restoration by 2030. Achieving these commitments, however, requires that decision-makers address the diverse ecological, socio-political, and economic factors that impact restoration efforts at different scales.

Forest landscape restoration (FLR) is an approach that can transform large areas of degraded and deforested land into landscapes that produce ecological, economic, and social benefits and can fulfill Bonn Challenge and AFR100 commitments. The Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM) provides a framework to analyze, identify, and prioritize restoration opportunities in order to develop a suite of FLR strategies for particular contexts.

ELTI is an initiative of the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental studies supported by Arcadia, a charitable fund of Peter Baldwin and Lisbet Rausing (www.arcadiafund.org.uk). IUCN is a membership Union composed of both government and civil society organisations. It harnesses the experience, resources and reach of its 1,300 Member organisations and the input of some 15,000 experts. IUCN is the global authority on the status of the natural world and the measures needed to safeguard it.

Area with severe gully formation in mid-Sile-Elgo catchment that participants saw during the course field visit.

This blended course aimed to develop the capacity of key restoration actors involved with ROAM and FLR in Ethiopia. FLR is important to Ethiopia's Climate Resilient Green Economy goals, the second Growth and Transformation Plan, and meeting the country's international environmental commitments.

Course objectives

- Provide the opportunity for participants to engage in critical discussion and connect with a global network of practitioners;
- Familiarize participants with the tools and frameworks of ROAM, FLR, and the Bonn Challenge Barometer;
- Present basic principles of forest ecology, restoration ecology, natural and anthropogenic disturbances, and regeneration potential;
- Provide guidance on engaging and effective collaboration with diverse stakeholder groups;
- Build participants' abilities to evaluate different FLR methodologies and understand how site conditions influence which strategies to apply; and
- Develop a theory of change at the subnational level with FLR interventions that are socially, economically, and ecologically appropriate.

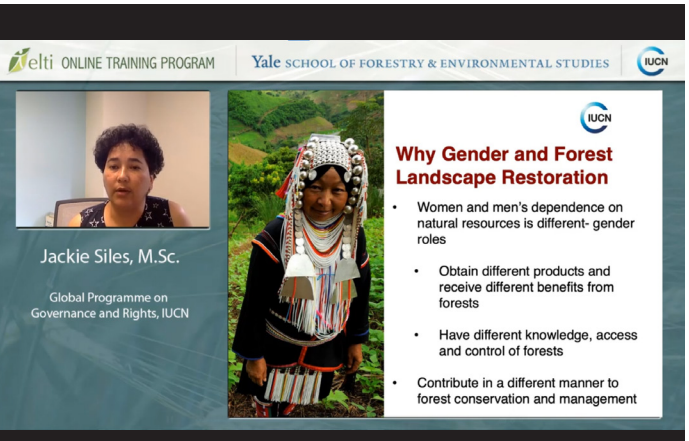
Format

This course included an in-person workshop in Arba Minch, Ethiopia from March 20-22, 2019, followed by an online course held November 18, 2019 - February 16, 2020. The blended format aimed to build foundational knowledge and collaboration among participants in order to set the stage for on-the-ground ROAM and FLR activities in the targeted landscape.

During the **in-person workshop,** participants completed three days of classroom-based lectures and interactive group work, followed by a two-day a field visit within the Elgo-Sile catchment and Nech-Sar National Park.

Course participants discussing the results of the interactive group exercises during the in-person workshop.

Course participants presenting on the outcomes of the interactive group exercises during the in-person workshop.



Lecture by Jackie Siles (IUCN) on gender and FLR, which was of many online presentations accessed by participants during the online course.

The in-person workshop included the following nine sessions:

1. Opening and introduction
2. Fundamentals of FLR
3. Stakeholder participation in FLR
4. Landscape restoration opportunities
5. Multi-criteria analysis and data collection for ROAM
6. Developing appropriate FLR interventions
7. Tracking progress and action on FLR
8. Uptake of FLR
9. Closing session

During the field visit, participants went to several sites in the Elgo-Sile catchment and Nech-Sar National Park. Site visits included remnant forest in the upper Elgo-Sile catchment, sites that have experienced gully formation and erosion due to deforestation in the mid-catchment, Lake Chamo, and study areas in the national park.

Participants then completed an **online course,** where they learned and practiced skills through pre-recorded video lectures, interactive text-based presentations, readings, case studies, weekly live discussion sessions, and guided assignments.

The online course included the following weeklong thematic modules:

Module 1: Fundamental ecological concepts

Module 2: Introduction to FLR, ROAM, and the Barometer

Module 3: Thinking about opportunities for FLR

Module 4: Restoration strategies

Module 5: FLR interventions

Module 6: The Barometer, tracking and monitoring FLR

As an output of the online course, participants produced planning documents for FLR and ROAM for the target landscape of Elgo-Sile catchment, Ethiopia.

Participants visiting a site with intact native forest in the upper Sile-Elgo catchment during the field visit component of the course.

Participants

Twelve individuals participated in the full blended course experience. In addition, 18 people attended the in-person course only and 13 attended the online course only. Participants represented a range of institutions including universities, Ethiopian governmental departments, international development agencies, and nongovernmental organizations.

Instruction team

Craig Beatty (IUCN), Karin Bucht (ELTI), and Mirjam Kuzee (IUCN) facilitated the in-person workshop, with support from Radhika Dave (IUCN), Ephrem Imanirareba (IUCN), and Ashebir Wondimu (EFCCC).

Dr. Tendro Tondrasoa Ramaharitra (State College of Florida-Manatee-Sarasota) served as lead instructor for the online course, with facilitation support from Eli Terris (ELTI), and teaching assistance from Sara del Fierro (MEM candidate 2020, Yale F&ES). The online course also featured a number of guest experts during the weekly live sessions and recorded lectures.

Follow-up

Participants gave positive feedback and stated that they will continue to develop and implement activities for ROAM, FLR, and the Barometer in Ethiopia following their participation in the course.

For more information, please contact karin.bucht@yale.edu.