

COURSE REPORT

Forest Landscape Restoration and the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology - Kenya

January 15 - February 2, 2018

A blended course organized by:
Environmental Leadership & Training Initiative (ELTI)
International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and TerrAfrica



Group photo of course participants, facilitators, and organizers. Photo credit: NEPAD.

Background:

Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) provides an opportunity to transform large areas of degraded and deforested land into landscapes that produce numerous ecological, economic, and social benefits. Many countries 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. Achieving these commitments, however, requires that decision-makers address the diverse ecological, socio-political, and economic factors that impact restoration efforts at different scales.

The Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM) provides a framework to analyze, identify, and prioritize restoration opportunities in order to develop a suite of landscape restoration strategies for particular contexts. By situating ROAM within a broader framework of information on tropical forest and landscape ecology, socio-political and economic processes related to restoration, and landscape restoration strategies, individuals involved with FLR policy, planning, and implementation can develop the foundation needed to achieve a range of objectives, such as economic growth, food security, biodiversity conservation, and carbon sequestration.

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.



Participants visiting area of native tree species reforestation at Brackenhurst Botanic Garden, during the field visit component of the training.

This training aimed to develop the capacity of staff members from government and other key agencies to implement ROAM. This objective is particularly important for countries striving to meet Bonn Challenge targets by 2030, as implementing ROAM can help governments generate appropriate information for improved decision-making on FLR implementation. In 2016, Kenya committed to restore 5.1 million hectares of land under the Bonn Challenge and the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100).

Course Objectives:

The specific objectives of this training were to:

1. Present key principles of tropical forest ecology, disturbance, social and governance factors, and landscape restoration actions;
2. Support participants to develop a Theory of Change that will generate sustained multiple benefits of FLR in the context of Kenya by implementing a situation analysis of landscape degradation and the drivers of degradation and deforestation;
3. Provide participants with the knowledge to evaluate and compare an array of forest landscape restoration methodologies and understand how biophysical and socio-economic conditions of a landscape influence decision-making about which strategies to utilize;
4. Develop a shared understanding of landscape restoration opportunities and the value of multifunctional landscapes amongst participants, to help increase resource allocation to landscape restoration programs and increase engagement of key policy-makers from different sectors;
5. Present ROAM as a robust and adaptable framework to analyze and develop FLR strategies, plans, and supporting policies;
6. Provide opportunities for participants to engage in critical discussion, share expertise, and connect with other practitioners engaged in landscape restoration and ROAM-related activities in their country; and
7. Discuss and help build capacity to contribute to the realization of Kenya's commitment to the Bonn Challenge and AFR100.



Mosaic multi-use landscape in Murang'a County, Kenya.

Format:

The training comprised two primary components:

1. A **Two-week online primer** presented key information on social and ecological fundamentals and landscape restoration strategies. The primer included pre-recorded lectures, interactive text-based presentations, case studies, an introductory live discussion session, and assignments in which participants were asked to relate themes to their own local context.

2. A **Four-day in-person training** was held at the Africa Institute for Capacity Development (AICAD) in Juja, Kenya and included a comprehensive and interactive program on FLR and ROAM. The training incorporated a range of teaching approaches, including key presentations on theory and application of FLR and ROAM, interactive exercises, field visits, and peer-to-peer exchange.

The in-person training included the following presentations and activities:

Day 1:

The first day began with an opening session to welcome participants and introduce the training event. Presentations on the Bonn Challenge, AFR100, and the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM) followed the opening session.

Participants then discussed and identified local degradation indicators, drivers of degradation, and FLR objectives in an interactive group exercise. Participants learned about social and cultural considerations for FLR and completed an activity identifying and prioritizing important stakeholders to engage with in FLR and ROAM.

Day 2:

On the second day, participants completed an interactive group exercise identifying priority restoration areas in a landscape. They learned about ecosystem services and landscape restoration, including restoration strategies to achieve specific ecosystem service objectives and planning tools for measuring and assessing benefits. Participants then completed an interactive group activity to identify restoration zones and site specific FLR interventions, using a landscape approach.



Course participants discussing important stakeholders for FLR and ROAM.



Participants presenting their results of an interactive exercise on identifying restoration opportunity areas.



Participants sharing their own work and experience related to FLR and ROAM, during the "FLR Roundtable" session.

During the afternoon, Ahmed Mohammed presented on IUCN's work on dryland restoration in the Northern Kenya. Following the presentation, participants shared their own experience and knowledge on FLR and activities contributing to the Bonn Challenge in Kenya, in an "FLR Roundtable" session.

Day 3:

On the third day, course attendees visited two field sites to demonstrate course themes and help visualize FLR opportunities.

Participants first visited two landslide restoration areas in the Gatanga sub-county of Murang'a County. This visit was guided by the Sustainable Agriculture Community Development Programme (SACDEP), which has worked with local communities to provide capacity building and seedlings for rehabilitating landslide areas. Participants interacted with local community members who discussed their involvement in the project and the results they have seen from the activities.



Participants visiting a landslide rehabilitation site in Murang'a County, during the field visit.

Participants then visited Brackenhurst Botanic Garden in Nairobi County. This site is a privately-owned 40-hectare area of native species reforestation. Starting in 2000, the site was converted from an exotic plantation of eucalyptus and wattle (*Acacia mearnsii*) to a native species reforestation site, generating native forest cover and cultivating endangered tree species. Today, the forest comprises over 500 native African tree species. Participants also interacted with two guests at the site who discussed their work on shade-grown coffee and sustainable charcoal production.

Day 4:

On the final day, participants shared their reflections about the field visit, then completed an interactive exercise on cost-benefit analysis for landscape restoration interventions. The activity was followed by presentations on data and multi-criteria analysis for ROAM, financing for FLR, and considerations for scaling up FLR. Participants completed a final wrap-up activity, developing a "road map" to plan and implement ROAM. The training ended with course evaluations and closing remarks.



Demonstration of sustainable charcoal production system at Brackenhurst Botanic Garden.



Local community members participating in SACDEP landslide rehabilitation projects discussing their experience with course participants during field visit in Murang'a County.

Participants:

Twenty-five participants, representing Kenyan governmental departments (e.g., agriculture, energy, environment, irrigation, livestock, meteorology, and natural resources) and other Kenyan institutions, attended the training.

Facilitators:

The course was facilitated by Craig Beatty (Programme Officer, IUCN Global Forest and Climate Change Programme), Karin Bucht (Online Training Program Associate, ELTI), Ahmed Mohammed (Programme Officer, IUCN ESARO), John Owino (Programme Officer, IUCN ESARO), and Robert Wild (Technical Coordinator, People & Landscapes Programme, IUCN ESARO), with assistance from country focal point Francis Wekesa (Kenya Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources) and NEPAD representatives Rudo Makunike, Cheikh Tidjane N'dongo, Edith Maboumba, and Teko Nhlapo.

Follow-up:

All participants were actively engaged during the four-day in-person training and indicated that their experience was a positive one. In the course exit survey, 100% of participants rated their experience in the course as "good" or "very good." Many participants accessed the online primer before, during, and after the in-person course. In coming months, ELTI aims to follow up with participants to see how the course has influenced their professional development, and how they are managing and planning FLR in their work.

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