

COURSE REPORT

Forest Landscape Restoration - Madagascar

May 11, 2019 - November 24, 2019

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



Forest and agricultural mosaic landscape in Northwest Madagascar.

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.



This blended course aimed to develop the capacity of key restoration actors involved with ROAM and FLR in Madagascar. FLR is important to Madagascar's national forest policy goals, national REDD+ strategy, new energy policy, and meeting international commitments on the Sustainable Development Goals, Paris Agreement, Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and Land Degradation Neutrality

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 Mahajanga, Madagascar from May 11-15, 2019, followed by an online course held September 30 - November 24, 2019. 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.

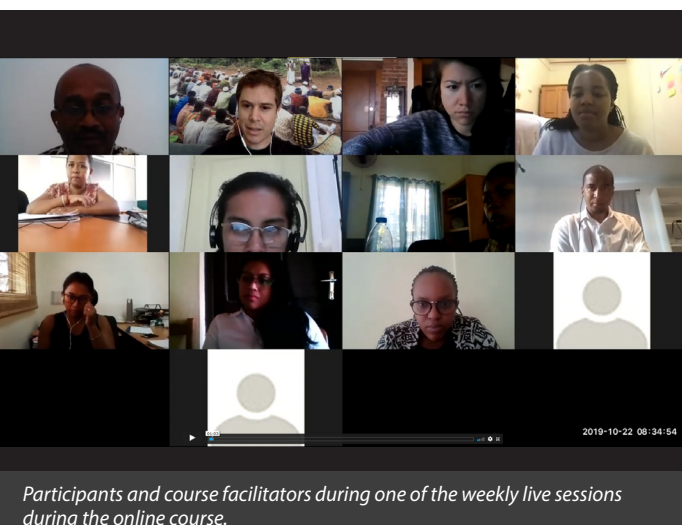
Participants started the **in-person workshop** with a two day field visit to various sites in the Boeny region of Madagascar followed by three days of classroom-based lectures and interactive group work.



Course participants discussing course themes during an interactive group exercise.



Course participant presenting on the outcomes of an interactive group exercise during the in-person workshop.



Participants and course facilitators during one of the weekly live sessions during the online course.

During the field visit, participants went to several sites including an agroecological project in Andranofasika commune, antierosion activities in Manerinerina commune, and a community-led mangrove restoration effort in Boanamaray commune.

The in-person workshop included the following sessions:

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

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 landscapes of Ambilobe in Diana region and Betsiboka catchment in Boeny region.



Participants visiting a project site in Andranofasika, Boeny, Madagascar during the course field visit.

Participants

Eighteen individuals participated in the full blended course experience. In addition, 19 people attended the in-person course only and 12 attended the online course only. Participants represented a range of institutions including government offices, regional projects, nonprofit organizations, and universities.

Instruction team

Karin Bucht (ELTI) and Dr. Alain Ndoli (IUCN) facilitated the in-person workshop, with support from Radhika Dave (IUCN), Ephrem Imanirareba (IUCN), Naomie Kayitesi (IUCN), Julien Noel Rakotoarisoa (MEDD), and Joelle Ravelomanantsoa (IUCN).

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) and Lysa Uwizeyimana (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 Madagascar following their participation in the course.

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