

COURSE REPORT

Forest Landscape Restoration

(Delivered in French)

January 30 to March 20, 2022

An online course organized by:

Environmental Leadership & Training Initiative (ELTI)

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

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 committed to restoring millions of hectares of degraded and deforested land under the Bonn Challenge, 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. Understanding the ecological processes that relate to forest functioning and the socio-political context of restoration implementation can guide decision-making and develop strategies for effective forest restoration and sustainable land management.



Site of participant Clarisse DJAO MEIN'DA's restoration project in Cameroon © Clarisse DJAO MEIN'DA

ELTI is an initiative of the Yale School of the Environment and was created with generous support from Arcadia, a charitable fund of Peter Baldwin and Lisbet Rausing (www.arcadiahfund.org.uk).

This online course, delivered in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), was designed to equip young restoration professionals in Central and Western Africa with: (i) knowledge of biological, social, economic, and political factors that shape forest landscape restoration (FLR), (ii) skills to develop a restoration plan for their own local context, and (iii) access to a community of practice to help further their restoration careers.

Course objectives:

- Provide the knowledge to evaluate and compare an array of forest landscape restoration methodologies and how the biophysical and socioeconomic conditions of a site influence the decision-making about which strategies to utilize;
- Provide guidance on stakeholder engagement and how to analyze the enabling conditions that are needed to successfully implement and scale up FLR;
- Present an overview and case studies of the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM), associated tools, and finance strategies to develop a strategic plan for FLR;
- Allow participants to analyze the ecological conditions, disturbance history, sociopolitical factors, and monitoring plans in order to plan for FLR in a specific region or area; and
- Provide the opportunity for participants to engage in critical discussion and develop a regional network of practice for their work on FLR.

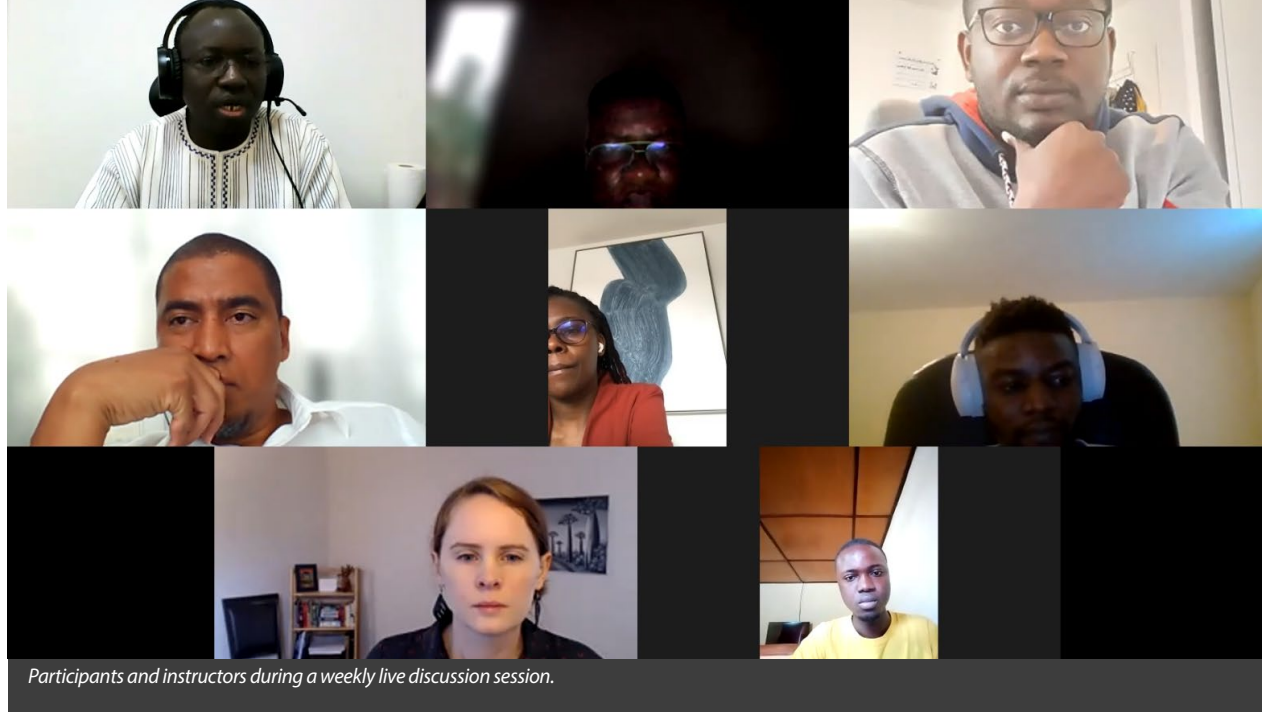
Course structure: During this seven-week course, participants accessed educational content (video lectures, case studies, readings, and interactive presentations), participated in live discussion sessions, and submitted weekly assignments. The course was divided into the following thematic modules:

- Module 1.** Introduction to ecology, disturbance, and regeneration potential
- Module 2.** Socio-cultural and political aspects of restoration
- Module 3.** FLR practices and strategies
- Module 4.** Integrating FLR and production activities
- Module 5.** Monitoring restoration projects and ROAM
- Module 6.** Financing for FLR
- Module 7.** Course wrap-up

Through the course activities, participants integrated the concepts they learned into the design of their own restoration projects. Participants also exchanged experiences with each other, the ELTI facilitators, and guest experts.

	SEMAINE 1 <u>Introduction à l'écologie, perturbation, et potentiel de régénération</u> 30 janvier - 5 février
	SEMAINE 2 <u>Aspects socio-culturels et politiques de la restauration</u> 6 - 12 février
	SEMAINE 3 <u>Pratiques et stratégies de RPF</u> 13 - 19 février
	SEMAINE 4 <u>Intégration de RPF à des fins productives</u> 20 - 27 février
	SEMAINE 5 <u>Le suivi des projets de restauration et MEOR</u> 28 février - 5 mars
	SEMAINE 6 <u>Financement pour la RPF</u> 6 - 12 mars
	SEMAINE 7 <u>Clôture et achèvement des projets</u> 13 - 19 mars

View of the online platform where participants accessed the course materials.



Participants and instructors during a weekly live discussion session.

At the end of the course, participants who finished all course requirements, including completion of a restoration project document, received a certificate of completion.

Participants: Twenty-five young restoration professionals working in Western and Central Africa enrolled in the course. Participants represented 12 countries and various institutions, including environmental ministries, universities, non-profit organizations, and other local environmental organizations.

Instruction team: Dr. Tendro Tondrasoa Ramaharitra served as lead instructor, and Karin Bucht (Program Manager, ELTI) facilitated the course delivery. Benjamin DeRidder (FAO), Marius Ekué (CGIAR), Jean-Philippe Schwab (UNEP), Patrice Savadogo (FAO), Carolina Gallo Granizo (FAO), Christophe Besacier (FAO), and Mathilde Iweins (FAO) served as guest experts during the weekly live sessions. Additionally, more than 15 international speakers presented theory and case studies via pre-recorded lectures during the course modules.

Outcomes and follow-up: Most participants engaged actively with the course materials and stated that they benefited from their interactions with instructors and peers. Through the course, participants developed 13 unique landscape restoration plans focused on eight countries (Benin, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea, Niger, Senegal, and Togo). Participants rated their learning experience in the course as 4.6 out of 5, with many expressing interest in further training related to climate change and FLR financing. Since completing the course, participants have continued to interact with each other and exchange via WhatsApp and independent Zoom discussion groups.

For more information: Contact Karin Bucht, Program Manager, ELTI (karin.bucht@yale.edu)