

COURSE REPORT

Forest Landscape Restoration

(Delivered in French)

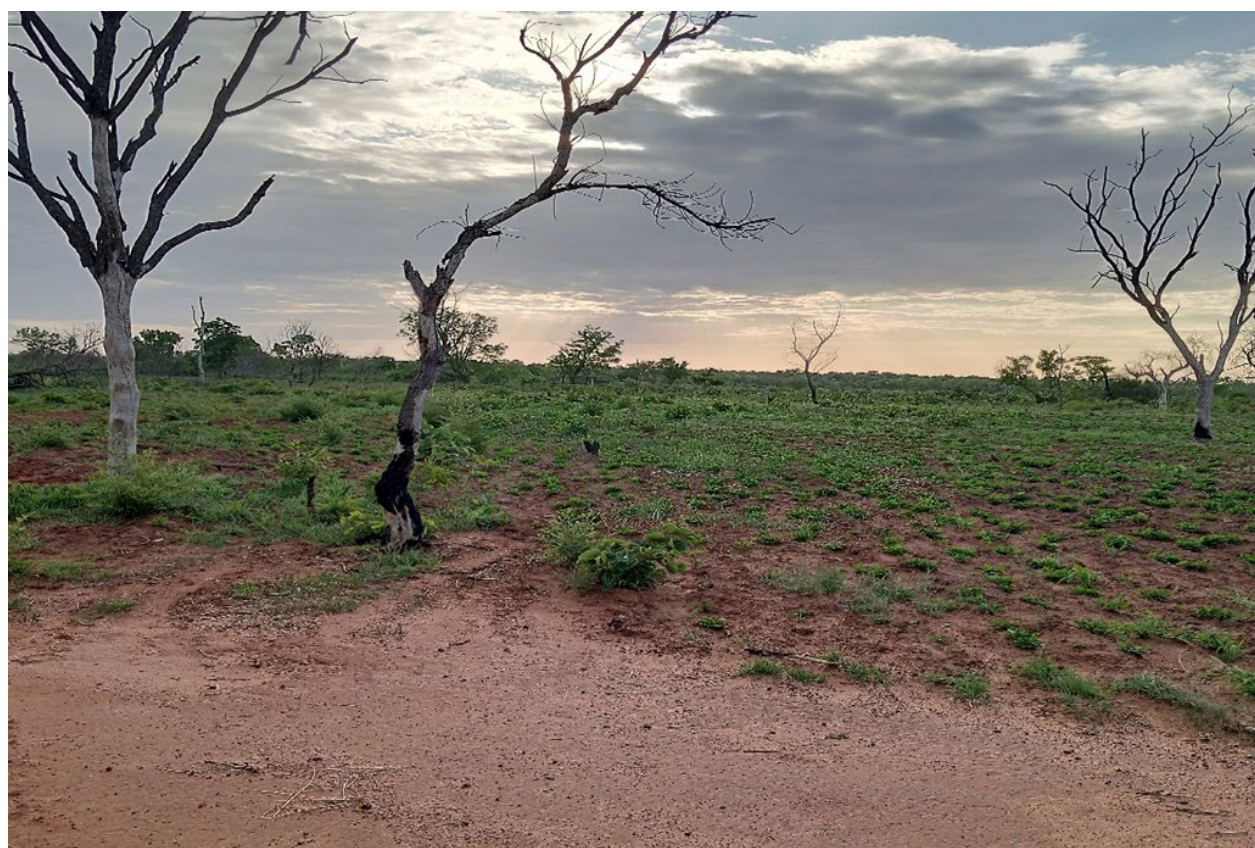
September 11 to October 30, 2022

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 restore millions of hectares of degraded and deforested land under the Bonn Challenge, an international effort to restore 350 million hectares around the globe by 2030. Achieving these commitments, however, requires that decision-makers address the diverse ecological, sociopolitical, and economic factors that affect restoration efforts at different scales. A sound understanding of forest ecosystem function and sociopolitical context can guide decision-making for effective restoration and management of forest landscapes.



Site of participant Samson KOULAMADJI's project in Chad © Samson KOULAMADJI

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: knowledge of biological, social, economic, and political factors that inform forest landscape restoration (FLR) efforts; skills to develop a restoration plan for their own local context; and access to a community of practice to further their restoration careers.

Course objectives:

- Develop participants' ability to evaluate biophysical and socioeconomic conditions of a site and identify appropriate FLR interventions
- Guide participants on engaging with stakeholders, offering an overview of conditions 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 for FLR
- Support participants in their site analyses and implementation of restoration and monitoring plans, and
- Facilitate participants' engagement in critical discussion and development of a regional network of practice for their work on FLR.

Course structure:

During this seven-week course, participants accessed educational materials (video lectures, case studies, readings, and interactive presentations), participated in live discussion sessions, and submitted weekly assignments.

Course modules:

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

Through the course activities, participants integrated concepts they learned into the design of their own restoration projects. Participants who finished all requirements, including submission of a restoration project document, received a certificate of completion.



SEMAINE 1

Introduction à l'écologie, perturbation, et potentiel de régénération

11 - 17 septembre



SEMAINE 2

Aspects socio-culturels et politiques de la restauration

18 - 24 septembre



SEMAINE 3

Pratiques et stratégies de RPF

25 septembre - 1 octobre



SEMAINE 4

Intégration de RPF à des fins productives

2 - 8 octobre



SEMAINE 5

Le suivi des projets de restauration et MEOR

9 - 15 octobre



SEMAINE 6

Financement pour la RPF

16 - 22 octobre

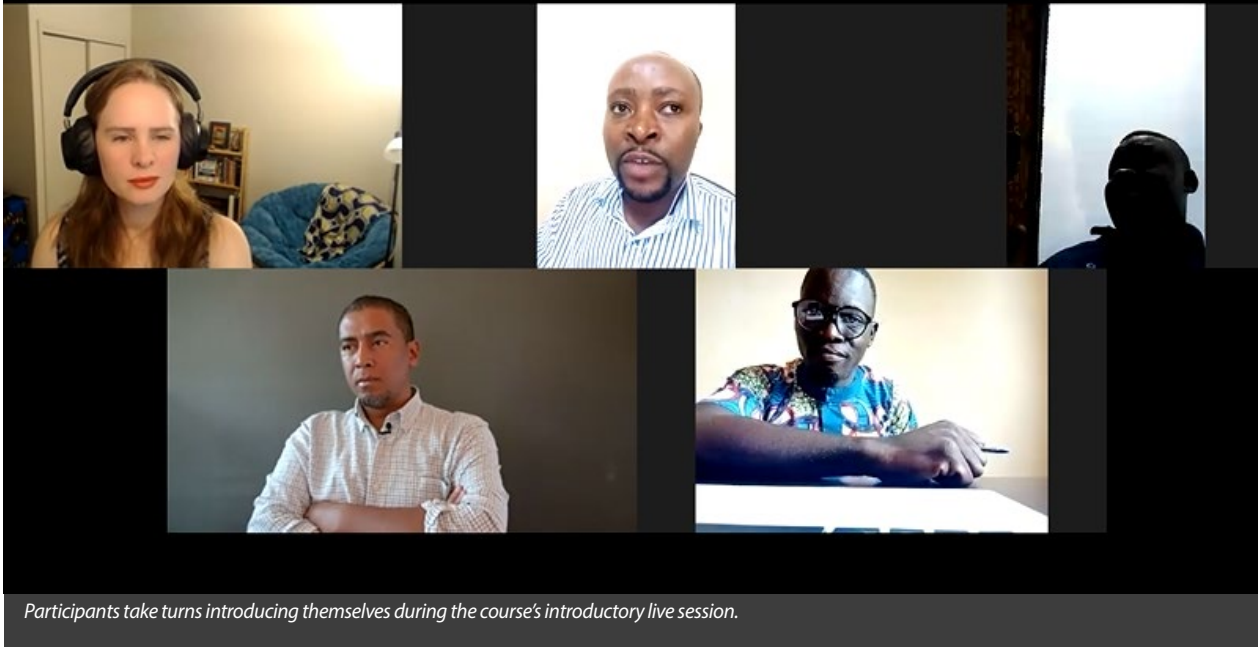


SEMAINE 7

Clôture et achèvement des projets

23 - 29 octobre

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

**Participants:**

Twenty-six young restoration professionals working in West and Central Africa enrolled in the course. Participants represented 10 countries and various institutions.

Instruction team:

Dr. Tendro Tondrasoa Ramaharitra served as lead instructor, with facilitation support from Karin Bucht (ELTI) and Jacob Barker (YSE). Benjamin DeRidder (FAO), Marius Ekué (CGIAR), Esoham Joël KPATCHIA (UN Youth Task Force Focus Group), Patrice Savadogo (FAO), Carolina Gallo Granizo (FAO), Christophe Besacier (FAO), and Lucy Garrett (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 in the course.

Outcomes and follow-up:

Most participants engaged actively with the course materials and said they benefited from their interactions with instructors and peers. Participants developed 14 unique landscape restoration plans focused on seven countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal, and Togo). Participants rated their learning experience as 4.8 out of 5. Many expressed interest in further training, especially on financing FLR initiatives.

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