**Environmental
Leadership &
Training Initiative**

Forest Landscape Restoration
(Delivered in English)

September 21 to November 8, 2020
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 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. Understanding the ecological processes that relate to forest functioning and the socio-political context of restoration implementation can guide decision-making and the development of strategies for effective forest restoration and sustainable land management.

Live session presentation with course participant and guest expert, Rose Akombo (Kenya Forest Service).

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This online course, delivered in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Oranization of the United Nations (FAO), was designed to provide restoration practitioners and decision-makers in Africa with a holistic understanding of ecological and social fundamentals and FLR in practice, to enable them to develop and implement locally-adapted restoration approaches in their own landscapes.

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 FLR and scaling up;

• Present information, an overview and case studies of the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM), associated tools and finance strategies in order 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 on a weekly basis and connect with a global network of practitioners working on FLR.

WEEK 1
Introduction to ecology, disturbance, and regeneration potential
September 21 - 27

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:

WEEK 2
Socio-cultural and political aspects of restoration
September 28 - October 4

WEEK 3
FLR practices and strategies
October 5 - 11

Module 1. Introduction to ecology, disturbance, and regeneration potential

Module 2. Socio-cultural and political aspects of restoration

WEEK 4
Integrating FLR and production activities
October 12 - 18

Module 3. FLR practices and strategies

Module 4. Integrating FLR and production activities

WEEK 5
ROAM and M&E of restoration projects
October 19 - 25

Module 5. ROAM and M&E of restoration projects

Module 6. Financing for scaling up of FLR

Module 7. Course wrap-up

WEEK 6
Financing for scaling up of FLR
October 26 - November 1

The course activities supported participants to develop an landscape restoration plan and apply what they learned in the course to their own work on FLR. Participants also exchanged experiences and shared concepts and tools with each other, the ELTI facilitators, and guest experts.
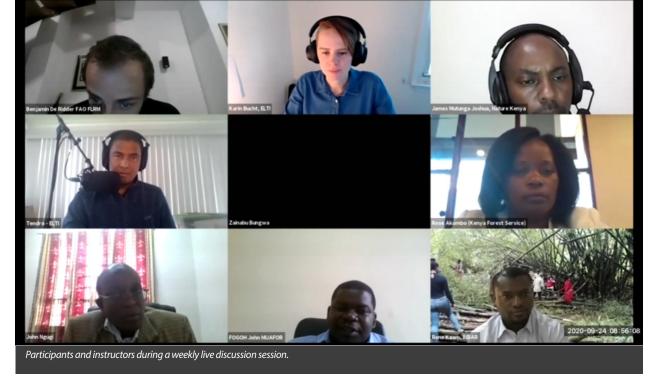
WEEK 7
Course wrap-up
November 2 - 8

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 received a certificate of completion.

Participants: This course was offered to fifteen environmental professionals working throughout Africa. Participants represented five countries and various institutions including FAO, Nature Kenya, the International Bamboo and Rattan Organisation, and local national forest services.

Instruction team: Dr. Tendro Tondrasoa Ramaharitra (Ph.D.) served as lead instructor and Karin Bucht (Africa and Blended Training Programs Coordinator, ELTI) facilitated the course delivery. Benjamin DeRidder (FAO), Chris Kettle (CGIAR), Adriana Vidal (IUCN), Rose Akombo (Kenya Forest Service), Pedro Regato (freelance consultant), James McBreen (IUCN), Christophe Besacier (FAO), and Mathilde Iweins (FAO) served as guest experts during the weekly live sessions. Additionally, more than 20 international speakers presented theory and case studies in pre-recorded lectures delivered during the course modules.

Outcomes and follow-up: The majority of participants were actively engaged throughout the course and benefited from the feedback they received from the instructors and their peers. Through the couse, participants developed seven unique landscape restoration plans focused on four countries (Cameroon, Central African Republic, Kenya, and Malawi). Participants rated their learning experience in the course as 4.7 (out of 5), with many expressing interest in further training on related themes.

For more information: Contact Karin Bucht, ELTI Africa and Blended Training Program Coordinator (karin.bucht@yale.edu)