

LOCAL ACTION FOR LAND RESTORATION IN AFRICA IN THE FRAMEWORK OF AFR100 INITIATIVE

Launched in 2015, with more than 100 projects ongoing across 27 countries, the [African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative \(AFR100\)](#) continues its work to find new financial sponsors to implement projects and enterprises with a focus on local development.

An [article published in November 2022 on the AFR100 website](#) informs that at the COP27 event, three financing partners have announced new commitments of a \$2 billion fund for the AFR100 Initiative, to build local capacities and make grants and loans available for local communities and entrepreneurs which are restoring degraded land in Africa.

The *African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative* AFR100 is a country-led effort [to bring 100 million hectares of land into restoration by 2030](#). Involving 32 partner countries, it aims to accelerate restoration, to enhance food security, to increase climate change resilience and mitigation, to improve livelihoods and combat rural poverty. The African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) is acting as the AFR100 Secretariat.



Since its launch, widespread political leadership was mobilized across partner countries. Priority restoration areas were mapped and designated, and national plans and strategies were created in all participating countries. A great effort was made by the promoters to identify the partners willing to finance the concrete activities and, with the support of a first group of donors, the [TerraFund for AFR100](#) was established to finance the first projects. In 2021, the AFR100 Initiative managed to selected 80 community projects and 20 enterprises working across 27 countries, to fund them through grants and loans. These projects are managed by non-profit community organizations and by for-profit local businesses in their territories, restoring thousands of hectares, growing millions of trees and engaging thousands of community members.

[The 100 projects currently in progress are presented on the TerraFund website](#) allowing to know more about their activities. The website highlights that they have demonstrated promising pathways to reverse the land degradation in Africa, proving that there is a better way to sustain economic growth while supporting community-based organizations and entrepreneurs to restore their land, forests, and natural ecosystems. These restoration projects employ a wide variety of tree-based restoration techniques, ranging from agroforestry (growing trees on farms to improve food security) through assisted natural regeneration (helping trees grow back to revitalize biodiversity).

The AFR100 Initiative has been launched by African leaders recognizing that the degradation of continent's agricultural land threatens economic and environmental ruin for millions of farmers. At



the same time, the effects of climate change as lower crop yields, erratic rainfall, prolonged droughts, are making life harder for millions of people. AFR100 has also been designed recognizing that local leadership is a key aspect because communities manage nearly 70% of African land and they know how to build ecologically and socially sustainable projects.

The projects supported by the AFR100 Initiative, many of them of small-scale, include not only activities tackling reforestation, but also promote greater use of organic food production, more efficient food processing to reduce pressure on land from agriculture, the reduction of chemical fertilizers, soil protection and water conservation among many others. In addition, [ten principles for a landscape approach](#) to reconciling agriculture, conservation, and other competing land uses provide additional details on the approach adopted by the AFR100 Initiative to achieve social, economic and environmental objectives in areas where agriculture, mining, and other productive land uses compete with environmental and biodiversity goals.

Restoring denuded African landscapes and addressing the associated economic and social damage continues to be a tough challenge. According to a [Report published in 2021 by FAO and the African Union Development Agency](#), up to 65% of productive land in Africa has been degraded, while 45% of the continent's land areas have been affected by desertification and both processes have been exacerbated by climate change.

In this context, by adopting a local development approach framed in national plans and strategies, the AFR100 Initiative represents an important point of reference for community-based organizations and local based enterprises that carry out projects for the recovery of degraded areas, bringing environmental, economic and social benefits to local population with a sustainability perspective. AFR100 contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda and to the objectives of the [United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration](#).

The new funds announced at the at COP27 event for the second phase of the AFR100 Initiative will contribute to finance more ecologically and socially sustainable projects in degraded areas. While waiting for the definition of methods for their management, the information disclosed by the call made in 2021 and published in the [TerraFund for AFR100](#) website offers new interested actors a guidance on the criteria and methods adopted with a view to joining the Initiative.

Information on the new steps of this important initiative can also be found in the website of the [World Resources Institute WRI](#), which collaborates with the Secretariat established by the African Union Development Agency. For example, through the [Land Accelerator Africa](#), the WRI is also providing technical assistance to 100 enterprises, getting them ready to receive and pay back loans in the framework of the AFR100 Initiative.

To know more

[AFR100 Initiative website](#)

[AFR100 Infographic](#)

[News on new funds announced at COP27 in afr100 website](#)

[100 projects restoring landscapes in Terra Fund website](#)



[7 Ways African Leaders Are Restoring Their Landscapes - AFR100](#)

[How 4 African Champions Are Restoring Land and Improving the Lives of Rural Farmers in Rwanda - AFR100](#)

[TerraFund for AFR100 website](#)

[AFR100 Technical Partners](#)

[AFR100 Partners Manual](#)

[News in AUDA-NEPAD website](#)

[Financing Africa's Land Restoration Enterprises and Projects - TerraFund for AFR100 in AUDA-NEPAD](#)

[Report 2021- FAO and African Union Development Agency](#)

[Top 100 Land Restoration Projects and Enterprises in World Resources Institute \(wri.org\)](#)

[Roots of Prosperity: The Economics and Finance of Restoring Land - World Resources Institute \(wri.org\)](#)

[Request for Proposals 2021 - AFR100Terramatach](#)

[Article in Ecofin Agency](#)

[Article in impact-investor.com](#)

[2nd Continental Report on the Implementation of Agenda 2063 - AUDA-NEPAD](#)

