Côte d'Ivoire

Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology

ROAM
COUNTRY
BRIEF

Forest landscape restoration (FLR) will support millions of Ivorians whose livelihoods depend on ecosystem services and the sustainable management of forests and productive landscapes.

Why FLR

Côte d'Ivoire lost more than 80% of its natural forests over a period of just 50 years to the combined effects of agriculture, bushfires, illegal forest exploitation, mining, and the synergistic impacts of a changing microclimate. The degradation of forest landscapes directly affects the total production capacity at the national level, considering that the country's economy is heavily dependent on agriculture and agroforestry. Cocoa production is particularly important for the country's economy.

To address these challenges, IUCN carried out a Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodolgy (ROAM) process in Côte d'Ivoire in 2016 with financial support from United Nations Environment Programme. Several stakeholders from different sectors took part in the assessment. The participatory process included two workshops, one for inception and the other for validation of results.

FLR in Côte d'Ivoire aims to support Ivorians whose livelihoods depend on ecosystem services and natural resources, while enabling the country to achieve its restoration pledge to the Bonn Challenge.

How to restore the landscape

Six identified land use types (parks and reserves, gallery forests, production forests, humid and coastal areas, mining areas and savannahs) present opportunities for wide-scale restoration. Three other types (sacred forests, cocoa, coffee and plantation systems) present excellent opportunities for mosaic-type restoration.

At the national level, there are over 5 million ha of opportunity areas for both wide-scale and mosaic-type restoration in biodiversity conservation hotspots, productive forests and the rural domain. FLR interventions were targeted for the following priority areas:

QUICK FACTS

- **Côte d'Ivoire has pledged to restore 5 million ha by 2030 as the country's contribution to the Bonn Challenge.**
- **FLR can contribute approximately 98,000 ha toward the achievement Aichi Target 15, through protected natural forests as they pertain to biodiversity conservation hotspots.**
- **Over 556,000 ha present an opportunity for productive forests and plantations.**
- **Over 4.4 million ha of cropping systems can be enhanced by agroforestry, improving production and food security.**

Parks and nature reserves
- Protection and natural regeneration of parks and reserves
- Natural regeneration
- Control of bush fires

Mangroves, coastal and humid zones
- Coastal erosion control

Gallery forests
- Implementation of management plans
- Invasive species control strategies

Productive forests
- Reforestation
- Surveillance against bushfires, illegal logging and poaching
- Encroachment management
- Enhancement of land tenure status

Private plantations
- Secure access to land

Sacred forests

- Support for community-based by-laws
- Capacity building in communities with sacred forests
- Outreach and land certificates
- Assisted natural regeneration

Cocoa and coffee systems

- Agroforestry
- Securing land tenure

Benefits and opportunities

No quantitative cost-benefit modelling of restoration interventions was performed because appropriate, quality data were unavailable at the time of the assessment. However, the report offers a detailed list of types of costs and benefits to be expected from FLR implementation in Côte d'Ivoire, grouped by intervention type and by land use category.

In general, wide-scale restoration interventions will enhance State revenue, generate local employment opportunities, biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services, while mosaic restoration will significantly enhance community livelihoods.

Another set of benefits from implementing FLR is associated with carbon sequestration. The assessment indicated that the restoration interventions, if fully implemented, would sequester approximately 600 million tonnes of CO_2 that can be counted toward their nationally determined contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Agreement; and will guide the implementation of sustainable forest management and reforestation activities under the Forest Investment Programme (FIP)."

FLR interventions in Côte d'Ivoire	CO_2 sequestration potential (tCO_2)*
Protection and natural regeneration of parks and reserves	69,434,731
Reforestation and enrichment planting (productive and planted forests)	197,190,952
Rural domain (agroforestry)	332,818,948

*Estimations used Tier 1 values of the IPCC (CCNUCC, 2006).

Next steps

Côte d'Ivoire is fully committed to adopting restoration as a pillar in its REDD+, and agriculture and forestry sustainable development programmes. There is a strong political leadership on restoration, with the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MINEDD) and Ministry of Forests and Water Resources (MINEF) being the lead agencies/stakeholders.

The following recommendations are proposed:

- Update existing datasets with site-specific information for detailed planning and implementation of restoration interventions;
- Continue to pursue the integration of productive forests and other land use types (e.g. watersheds, gallery forests, humid zones and other protected forests) in a forest landscape restoration approach, promoting synergy between MINEDD and MINEF agendas;
- Deploy different policies and legal and institutional frameworks on a case-by-case basis, especially when aiming to strengthen land tenure security issues; and
- Use a stratified approach during detailed planning and implementation of FLR initiatives and promote the use of information generated by local researchers for specific, local land use systems, including more accurate potential carbon sequestration models.

For further information:
Opportunities for Restoring Degraded Forests and Landscapes in Ivory Coast

Opportunités de restauration des forêts et paysages dégradés en Côte d'Ivoire

Resources:
InfoFLR.org
iucn.org/forests

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