

*Forest landscape restoration (FLR) can help Kenya to restore ecosystems, improve livelihoods and enhance the resilience of resource-dependent populations to recover more quickly from periods of drought.*

## Why FLR

Land degradation in Kenya threatens the livelihoods of millions who depend on ecosystem goods and services, such as water, food, fuelwood, fodder, timber, biodiversity, watershed and soil protection, and mitigation of climate change. It also increases the risks of natural disasters such as drought, particularly in dryland ecosystems.

FLR is a high priority in Kenya, and several government-led initiatives are in place to restore lands and associated ecosystem services. These include constitutional changes – embodied in the following documents – requiring a tree cover of at least 10% across the country – the National Climate Change Response Strategy and Kenya’s Vision 2030 to protect important watersheds. The Government set a target to restore 5.1 million ha of its degraded landscapes by 2030 as part of the AFR 100 and the Bonn Challenge initiatives.

To address these commitments and implement its strategies, the government of Kenya established the multi-stakeholder Landscape Restoration Technical Working Group (LRTWG), led by the Kenya Forest Service (KFS), to carry out the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM) process and identify potential restoration opportunities. The assessment was a critical first step towards forging a coordinated National Landscape Restoration Strategy to scale up landscape restoration in Kenya. The process includes a broad range of stakeholders from multiple sectors.

For further information:  
[Landscape restoration in Kenya: Is it worth restoring degraded landscapes?](#)

## How to restore the landscape

The LRTWG held a series of workshops which focused on analysing different landscape

## QUICK FACTS

- **Kenya has pledged 5.1 million ha to AFR 100 and the Bonn Challenge.**
- **Restoration will yield KES 7.6 trillion in net benefits to various stakeholders.**
- **Preliminary conservative analysis suggests that under this scenario, the carbon sequestration potential could reach more than 130 MtCO<sub>2</sub>-e by 2063.**
- **Gender responsive FLR implementation aims to identify and support processes and areas where gender inequalities are being challenged.**

restoration options for the country. The working group identified the most pressing land use challenges affecting Kenya, as well as a list of restoration options which could help address these challenges and restore ecosystem services.

An economic analysis was also completed based on the proposed FLR opportunities and interventions modelled over a 30-year period. A series of key innovations were identified as models for implementing sub-national restoration opportunities in public forests, communal rangeland and private croplands:

- Payment for ecosystem services (PES);
- Plantation establishment and livelihood improvement scheme (PELIS);
- Commercial forestry;
- Farmer-managed natural regeneration (FMNR); and
- Livestock bunching or pooling.

The assessment also recognised that for FLR to be successful, processes and practices must adhere to Kenya’s commitment to promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment.

For further information:  
[Landscape restoration in Kenya: Stocktaking of key innovations and strategies](#)

## Current scenario

## Restoration intervention

Degraded and deforested natural forest

Reforestation through enrichment planting and natural forest regeneration

Degraded agricultural landscapes

Agroforestry on cropland; inter-cropping on dry lands; woodlots

Marginal crop areas and un-stocked plantations

Commercial tree and bamboo plantations in marginal areas and un-stocked plantations

Degraded buffer zones – waterways and road networks

Riparian planting using a bamboo; native tree-based buffer zones

Degraded rangelands

Grass reseeding (improved pastures); silvopastoral systems

## Next steps

While the national-level maps guide identification of priority areas, community consultations and local assessments must be implemented to ensure that planned activities are aligned with local objectives.

The following recommendations are proposed:

- Establish a national coordinated strategy for FLR, harmonising plans across agencies and stakeholders to maximise environmental and social benefits.
- Implement mechanisms which offer incentives for land owners to champion restoration efforts.
- Build capacity for large-scale restoration through good governance and capacity building.
- Secure financing mechanisms for both short- and long-term investment in forest landscape and rangeland restoration. The adoption of each of the restoration options will depend on the sources of financing with reasonable costs. Forest restoration in Kenya has relied on government or public financing, donor, NGOs and grants from multilateral agencies. However, there is a need to expand funding opportunities for forest landscape restoration.
- Implement a gender-responsive and equitable approach, which strengthens women's participation and ensures equitable benefit sharing.

**For further information:**  
[Landscape restoration in Kenya: Addressing gender equality](#)

[National Assessment of Forest and Landscape Restoration Opportunities in Kenya](#)

[Kenya tree-based landscape restoration potential atlas](#)

## Benefits and opportunities

Landscape restoration will help the country meet its economic, development and environmental goals. The interventions are expected to:

- Increase carbon sequestration and restore biodiversity;
- Prevent flooding, reduce erosion and restore regulation of water flows;
- Improve soil quality and forest habitats for wildlife;
- Increase livelihood diversification; and
- Stabilise riverbanks, reduce runoff and control sedimentation.

A restoration economic modelling and valuation process was implemented to inform all stakeholders on the best options for achieving restoration goals. All proposed restoration interventions show positive net present value (NPV) (7%t) per ha for the 30-year period. The most viable restoration transition was identified as intensive agroforestry using *Melia volkensii*, with a NPV of approximately KES 1.9 million. At a national scale, restoring the 5.1 million ha target will require KES 1.8 trillion over the 30-year period. However, restoration will yield KES 7.6 trillion in net benefits to various stakeholders over 30-year period.

For further information:  
[Economic analysis of FLR options in Kenya](#)



**Resources:**  
[InfoFLR.org](http://InfoFLR.org)  
[iucn.org/forests](http://iucn.org/forests)

**INFOFLR**  
 by IUCN