# Uganda

**Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology**

*An integrated forest landscape restoration (FLR) approach will play a crucial role in supporting Uganda's long-term socio-economic growth.*

## Why FLR

Uganda is endowed with unique and vast forests and forest ecosystems that play a crucial role as biodiversity habitats, while also meeting the country's socio-economic needs. However, a high population growth rate, combined with an economic model based on rising demands for wood, wood products, as well as land for agriculture and settlements, are driving the country to unprecedented forest loss. Landscapes and biodiversity are being destroyed, compromising the sustainability of the flow of ecosystem services.

To address these challenges, Uganda has prioritised forest restoration by setting targets in its Vision 2040, National Development Plan and the National Forestry Plan. Aligned with its commitment to the Bonn Challenge, Uganda's Government has begun implementing actions to restore its degraded and deforested landscapes. The restoration objectives are to improve ecosystem quality and resilience, provide opportunities for rural livelihoods, while securing water and energy supplies, and support for the low-carbon economic development.

The government is making efforts to halt forest loss and degradation across the country. This is reflected in an integrated policy, legal and institutional framework. Collaboration with diverse state and

### QUICK FACTS

- **Uganda pledged 2.5 million ha to the Bonn Challenge.**
- **8,079,622 ha of land throughout the country were identified as opportunity areas for FLR.**
- **Northern moist farmland, Karamoja, and Southwest rangeland landscape zones offer the largest area for restoration.**
- **A radio programme launched by IUCN helped to reach local communities to exchange FLR knowledge and connect stakeholders implementing FLR.**

non-state actors are key to this process, including development partners and both local and international civil society organisations.

## How to restore landscapes

As part of the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM) process, the stakeholders, including the National Forest Authority and Forest Sector Support Department, proposed restoration activities by selecting appropriate tree species and defining management practices to improve existing land uses.

Afforestation, reforestation, agroforestry and natural regeneration were the preferred and most feasible restoration interventions. Riparian vegetation restoration and natural regeneration were unique to a few landscapes, while agroforestry, afforestation and reforestation were crosscutting. Indigenous tree species were widely preferred due to their high ecological value, while exotic species were considered for their higher commercial value.

The restoration practices identified for each landscape are:

- **Afro-montane:** natural regeneration and agroforestry;
- **Karamoja:** woodlots;
- **Lake Victoria Crescent:** agroforestry;
- **Northern moist farmland:** woodlots and agroforestry;
- **South East Lake Kyoga flood plain:** agroforestry;
- **Southwest rangeland:** woodlots; and
- **Western mid-altitude:** agroforestry.

FLR in Uganda seeks to address the needs of local communities, while enhancing the ecological value of landscapes. For these reasons, agroforestry and natural regeneration were identified as the priority interventions.

## Benefits and opportunities

The outcomes of the forest landscape restoration opportunities assessment supported the development of Uganda's REDD+ strategy, Forest Investment Plan and climate change resilience programme. Specific elements of technical feasibility, economic and financial viability can attract investments for implementation. For example, the Community Environment Conservation Fund has been promoted as an incentive mechanism that helps catalyse restoration implementation.

Two significant challenges were identified that must be addressed in the short term:
1. Effective inter-institutional and inter-sectoral coordination; and
2. Identification of funding sources capable of covering the initial costs of FLR transitions in large areas of the territory.

Further recommendations include:

- Adopt policies and laws that promote added value in forest-based industries.
- Ensure the economic value of forests are acknowledged as natural capital.
- Subsidies in form of planting materials, training and forest extension services will be critical in implementing restoration interventions in all the landscapes.
- There will be a need to implement regular monitoring of restoration sites in order to understand the sites' forest restoration trajectory and for guiding management and intervention practices.
- Use agroforestry in early forest restoration transition phases in protected areas experiencing encroachment to overcome socio-economic and ecological obstacles.
- Develop policy and legal instruments to hold landowners accountable for degrading forests, and assist them in restoration with a mechanism to monitor their progress and to minimise fragmentation.
- Enhance the involvement of non-state actors such as companies, traditional institutions and civil society organisations.

**For further information see:**
Forest Landscape Restoration Opportunity Assessment for Uganda

**Resources:**
InfoFLR.org
iucn.org/forests

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