

Partnership Session

Financing Land Restoration in Africa

When: Thursday 14 May, 09:00-10:30
Where: Room 9

Partnership session background

Land degradation has emerged as a major threat to the development of green economies worldwide. Degraded lands cannot provide the goods and services needed by people living in and around them. They could be restored into sustainable agriculture, agroforestry, pastoral uses, or natural and planted forest cover. Globally some 2 billion hectares of degraded lands are in need of restoration, with Africa being home to approximately 1/3 of the overall restoration opportunities.

International commitments to land restoration have been launched through the Bonn Challenge and the New York Climate Summit of September 2014 that have declared global commitments to restore 350 million hectares. Four African countries have so far made commitments to restore 27.5 million hectares, and many more commitments are under consideration. These restoration opportunities require financing. Restoration investments will depend on what type of restoration is required, who owns the land, and who will benefit from the restoration process. Public-private partnerships are being developed to bring together governments, civil society and the private sector to pursue effective models for restoration through profitable and sustainable land management at scale. This session will therefore explore the commitments that have been made, and will highlight emerging models for restoration investments. It will chart a vision for the future of vastly increasing such partnerships throughout Africa.

Partnership session goals

- Broaden awareness of current global goals and targets and African national commitments to land restoration for food and water security, climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity, job creation and better livelihoods;
- Discuss prospective new African government land restoration commitments, building on the recent commitments of four countries;
- Explore the business case to mobilize private sector engagement in the restoration agenda and the various types of financing that are or could be supporting them;
- Highlight examples of new public-private partnerships that are evolving to make these African restoration commitments successful at scale.

Partnership session agenda

Overview: The session will open with an introduction to Global Restoration Initiative and current restoration commitments in Africa.

The partnership solution is contributing to reaching the proposed SDGs (1, 2, 6, 8, 13, 15 and 17)

SDG 1	End poverty in all its forms everywhere
2	End hunger, achieve <u>food security</u> and improved nutrition and promote <u>sustainable agriculture</u>
6	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
8	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
13	Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
15	Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
17	Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

3GF Africa Regional Conference 2015



Country commitments: Panel Remarks by representatives of countries that have already made restoration commitments. Followed by remarks by countries that could potentially make a commitment.

Regional initiatives: Remarks from representatives of organizations supporting land restoration initiatives and their experiences:

- AU-NEPAD Climate Smart Agriculture Vision 25x25
- UNEP AMCEN contribution
- TerrAfrica contribution
- IUCN Global Drylands Initiative

Role of the private sector: discussion on the business case to mobilise private sector engagement in restoration and the various types of financing

Public-private partnerships: Remarks on the role of the private and public sectors in supporting land restoration initiatives

- Grow Africa private sector engagement
- African Union Commission

Action:

- Example of an evolving public-private partnership for land restoration at scale in Kenya