

ACCELERATING NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS CONFERENCE

MARCH 11-15, 2024 | LIVINGSTONE, ZAMBIA

Conference Report



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About

The Global EverGreening Alliance (GEA) with the Government of Zambia, AUDA-NEPAD, AFR100 and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration have hosted the world's largest land restoration programming conference, bringing together NGOs, governments, the private sector, technical and scientific experts, and community representatives – some of the biggest change-makers and action-takers in the world!

This spectacular event took place next to one of the world's most extraordinary natural wonders – Victoria Falls – where participants had the opportunity to deepen their understanding of GEA's Restore programmes, including the complementary skills and capacities of implementing partners, community-led planning, and carbon offsetting methodologies and finance. There were opportunities to go into the field, meet local beneficiaries, take a deep dive into topics such as Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, and learn from technical experts and thought leaders from around the world.

The Accelerating Nature-based Solutions Conference embodied GEA's core mission: uniting all stakeholders in our mission to EverGreen the Earth. The conference provided the opportunity for effective collaboration in a way that is often not possible during remote communications, allowing stakeholders to strategise, plan, and contribute directly to delivering solutions.



Thank You

In March 2024 we came together in a drought-stricken Zambia to collectively step up! The intention was to explore innovative strategies, showcase impactful initiatives, and forge partnerships aimed at restoring landscapes and rebuilding livelihoods, but above all we promised a working conference with an emphasis on action. A promise to host an event that would transform words and conversations into actions that will change the trajectory of land restoration across the world to benefit the most vulnerable.

Four thematic streams defined the Conference - wScaling NbS, Policy and Regulatory Instruments, Sustainable Finance and Risk and Building Momentum, and over 500 stakeholders from over 50 countries engaged in sessions, workshops and networking events, demonstrating their commitment to driving change.

New partnerships, investments, a Statement of Intent, an MoU and a program to harmonise efforts in Central and West Africa are just some of the achievements from this event.

The conference would not have been the success that it was without the endless drive and enthusiasm of participants from over 300 organisations, including NGOs, governments, the private sector, technical experts, and community representatives. A heartfelt thank you to everyone for joining us in Zambia and in our goal to improve livelihoods and landscapes!

Together we can Green Up to Cool Down!



Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of the Conference included:

- Showcasing the real impacts of NbS through field trips to the Global EverGreening Alliance's Restore Africa programme and other FMNR sites
- Showcasing the initiatives and approaches of key development and land restoration stakeholders, including both large international and small grassroots NGOs
- Progressing existing negotiations and exploring new NbS land restoration and carbon programme opportunities with Governments, investors and donors
- Exploring barriers, opportunities and risk mitigation strategies for sustainable financing
- Working with Governments, investors and climate negotiators to deepen understanding of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement in relation to large-scale land restoration programmes
- Working with Governments and key stakeholders to inform the development of appropriate legislation and policies in relation to NbS and carbon offsetting
- Understanding the perspectives of small-scale farmers and the beneficiaries of NbS projects in relation to the barriers and incentives to adopt and maintain NbS practices
- Exploring sustainable employment opportunities for youth in massive-scale restoration programmes
- Progressing plans with key stakeholders for regional land restoration programmes, and exploring the complementarity and harmonisation of existing project pipelines



Thematic Streams

Sessions ran under the headings of this series of themes.

1. Scaling Nature-based Solutions

Streamlining smallholder and pastoralist-led land restoration is a complex task requiring attention to barriers, challenges, and transformative impact. This involves efficiently engaging millions of farmers, mitigating long-term risks, optimising monitoring and evaluation, and fostering collaborative multi-sectoral design processes across diverse landscapes. Achieving sustainable outcomes necessitates a comprehensive approach that addresses the unique needs and contexts of stakeholders involved in land restoration initiatives.

2. Policy, Advocacy, and Carbon

This stream centred on legislation, policy, and carbon, aiming to create supportive environments for nature-based solutions and land restoration. It involved crafting policies to encourage appropriate practices, scaling up initiatives, and facilitating investment. Additionally, the stream explored challenges faced by private and public sector funders in large-scale programs, delving into constraints like land and tree tenure. A detailed exploration of Article 6 and its potential applications added understanding of the current dynamics driving carbon-related legislation.

3. Sustainable Finance and Risk

This thematic stream was dedicated to exploring sustainable finance, risk mitigation, insurance, and various financial instruments and modalities, including finance. In the pursuit of effective strategies, this stream navigated the complexities of financial aspects associated with sustainable

initiatives. By examining instruments and modalities, including the innovative approach of blended finance, the stream aimed to contribute valuable insights and solutions to enhance the financial sustainability of initiatives focused on restoration and nature-based solutions.

4. Building Momentum

This theme was aimed at building momentum for bold action towards impactful land restoration. Discussions focused on broadening support for initiatives like the EverGreening the Earth Campaign, expanding global support for Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration, securing a global pledge on carbon removals, and creating roadmaps for nature-based solutions. Additionally, attention was directed towards addressing capacity gaps, leveraging land restoration for peace-building, the wetting and cooling of the Earth, and exploring innovative approaches to enhancing food systems resilience.

These thematic streams offered a comprehensive exploration of key topics critical to accelerating the adoption and scaling of nature-based solutions.

Outcomes & Outputs

Laying the Foundation for Political Relationships with Zambia and Malawi

The Accelerating Nature-based Solutions Conference provided the opportunity for high level meetings with Ministers from Zambia and Malawi, deepening the understanding of the Global EverGreening Alliance's approach to massive scale, farmer-led restoration programmes and laying the foundation for ongoing political support.

Memorandum of Understanding for Restore Africa in Malawi

Amidst much singing and jubilation, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Catholic Relief Services, Malawi (as implementers of the Global EverGreening Alliance's Restore Africa Programme in Malawi) and the Malawian Government, demonstrating the Government's support of the programme and the scaling of community-led NbS approaches.

Workshop to Strategically Harmonise Restoration Projects in Africa

Two multi-stakeholder workshops were held to further develop the approach for strategic harmonisation of projects across Africa. During these workshops, eight emerging projects were identified that are providing a foundation for ongoing project and development to test the validity of the approach. An official launch with early case studies is planned for the Biodiversity and the UNCCD COPs later in the year.

#GreenUptoCoolDown

Following a communications-focused session on a boat on the Zambezi River, a group of organisations decided to embrace the #GreenUptoCoolDown movement, aimed at combating climate change by capturing carbon and restoring it to the land through initiatives like tree planting and landscape regeneration – practices that make our earth greener, resulting in a much cooler planet (don't miss out - [make sure you join!](#))

Conference Training Continues

Training sessions were held during the conference, allowing participants to broaden their understanding and to encourage peer to peer learning. Such was the success of the sessions that training has continued post-conference.

Statement of Intent

To mark the conclusion of the Conference, governments, key partners and hosts signed a Statement of Intent. The Statement affirmed their commitment to advance nature-based solutions in the restoration of landscapes, to rebuild livelihoods and to collectively pledge to champion Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR), accelerate carbon removals and climate finance, harness open data and evidence-based restoration planning, to foster collaboration and movement building and to ensure equitable access and benefits for all - and to do so by working together.

The Statement of Intent was then shared with the more than 500 conference participants for them to add their commitments. Signatories continue to add their support.

Outputs:

- Held the first of its kind Nature-based Solutions conference in Africa
- Brought together over 500 Natural Resource Management professionals and political bodies working on Nature-based Solutions (NbS)
- Held over 45 successful sessions
- Hosted over 29 side events allowing organisations to showcase their work to amplify NbS
- Conducted two strategic workshops that brought together experts focusing on the harmonisation of efforts to scale up NBS initiatives for better impacts
- Conducted training on three topical areas (scaling restoration, the basics of restoration and Open data for restoration planning).



Opening Plenaries

Global NbS Perspectives: Sharing Successes and Tackling Challenges

This plenary looked at how, despite Nature-based Solutions being a relatively new framing, it has already been embraced in the implementation space under different umbrella concepts e.g. sustainable land management, landscape restoration, sustainable watershed management, etc. The purpose of this plenary was to delve deeper into examples of projects or activities implementing NbS, to gain insights into the challenges they've faced, and to explore strategies for overcoming these hurdles.

Investing in Nature: Sustainable Financing Models for NbS Actions

This plenary explored one of the major hurdles for successful implementation of NbS - the lack of reliable and sustainable financing pathways that take into account the complexities surrounding NbS actions. The plenary delved into a range of innovative financial models, funding mechanisms, and investment opportunities that support and sustain NbS initiatives. It also explored the potential of impact investing, blended finance, and other financial tools to drive the expansion of NbS Actions.

Leveraging Africa's natural capital for development through the bioeconomy

This plenary took a deeper look behind the meaning of a bioeconomy with a focus on the African context and how Africa's natural capital provided a unique global advantage from a climate and biodiversity perspective. It explored how we move from speaking conceptually about nature as an asset to realising that across economies, balance sheets and financial institutions, central regulators and banks have a role to play.

From Policy to Practice: Aligning Government Strategies with NbS Goals

The policy plenary looked at how implementation and scaling of NbS actions relies on the enabling environment supporting it. This plenary explored the critical role of policy in promoting NbS and effective strategies for translating policies into action at governance levels. The plenary also engaged experts and policymakers as they discussed the need for robust policy frameworks to support widespread NbS implementation.



Session Reports

Summary

Sessions at the Accelerating Nature-based Solutions Conference highlighted many important topics, but most of all, the importance of inclusion and collaboration came up again and again in the 70+ sessions & side events held during the week.

Sessions concluded that, whilst challenges exist and should be recognised, we also have to include indigenous knowledge. The culturally specific context of the accumulated experiences and intimate understanding of their environment acquired by local people is crucial for the acceleration of nature-based solutions, for ensuring sustainable ownership and appropriate benefits. Traditional leaders are highly respected in their communities and have an integral knowledge of what their communities' needs and challenges are. By working with them and including them in the project design, implementation and distribution of benefits, we have a better chance of changing behaviour and securing sustainable outcomes.

Sessions found that there is a need for an intergenerational approach. Often the issue appears to be that young people lack interest in land management activities, but the underlying problem is in fact the lack of proper role models who can lead the way to show them that land management can be a profitable and rewarding business. However, while inclusion of youth is important, they should not be singled out. An emphasis should be placed on community level actions with all generations working together.

The topic of capital was also common in sessions. Many existing enterprises struggle to access startup capital because the benefits of nature-based solutions are not always immediate. Entrepreneurship, particularly for women and young people, requires attention.

This inclusion is essential for creating financing frameworks that are effective, sustainable and socially fair.

Other opportunities identified to help accelerate NBS adoption include engaging faith-based groups and bridging the gap between scientific knowledge and actionable policies. The significance of aligning scientific insights with practical measures and financial support was also highlighted.

Some sessions also warned against hastily planned solutions that could inadvertently harm biodiversity but there was no denying the environmental benefits of nature-based solutions such as biodiversity conservation, carbon sequestration, and climate resilience.

Session summaries have been provided by each session organiser. All sessions may not be reflected if summaries were not provided.

Session Reports

We'd like to extend our gratitude to the Session Leads who made this conference possible. Thank you for your contributions and incredible insights!

Catalysing Effective NbS Design and Implementation at Scale With the IUCN Global Standard For NbS, Demonstrated by Examples of its Successful Application

Session Lead: Charles Karangwa (IUCN)

The objective of the session is to raise awareness of the role that the IUCN Global Standard can play in the design, implementation and evaluation of effective NbS, as well as to demonstrate, through practical examples, how applying the NbS Standard can make users' NbS intervention credible and impactful.

Key issues addressed

The session aimed, first of all, to introduce participants to the IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions, its general approach and criteria through which the Standard has the potential to catalyse effective NbS at scale. The panel discussion following the presentation focused on practical examples from the ground that have built on the approach demonstrated by the Global Standard. Panellists reflected on the challenges and opportunities of designing and implementing projects that wish to balance the social, environmental, and economic aspects of NbS interventions with view to the local context and local community. Panellists furthermore exchanged views on the needs for transformational change and mainstreaming NbS, as well as what the next steps could be for the IUCN Global Standard for accelerating the uptake of NbS.

Novel ideas identified

The session presented various tools that IUCN provides to current and future users of the Global Standard to support them in the application of the Standard in the design, implementation, and assessment of NbS interventions. The presented tools included the IUCN Online Self-Assessment Tool for NbS, sector-specific guidance documents and the NbS Professional Certificate on the IUCN Global Standard. Panellists

pointed out the need for meaningful and well-planned stakeholder engagement and participatory processes, as well as the practical and long-term benefits that investing in these processes could generate. Panellists highlighted lessons learnt and good practices from various NbS projects in Rwanda, Uganda, and Malawi and also emphasised the need for legal frameworks and collaboration, as well as applying a bottom-up approach with the inclusion of youth, women, and traditional leaders.

Actions beyond the conference

Based on the experience and feedback gained during the session from participants, session facilitators agreed that IUCN needs to raise a greater awareness of the IUCN Global Standard for NbS and its supporting tools so that their application can truly contribute to the acceleration of effective NbS globally. There is a need for collecting and sharing (on an accessible platform) practical examples, lessons learnt and good practices of applying the Global Standard for NbS interventions on the ground, on a national and local level, in which IUCN Regional Offices and other partners, organisations will have an integral role. NbS project implementers on the ground will have a significant role in applying and later sharing their experience of using the IUCN Global Standard in their NbS interventions, while IUCN should effectively coordinate and, where possible, align these efforts for increased impact to address societal challenges.



Hitting the Road with the Exponential Roadmap for Natural Climate Solutions: Agriculture and Africa Session Leads: Starry Sprenkle-Hypolite (Conservation International) & Valentine Ebu (Conservation International)

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This session explores Natural Climate Solutions (NCS) in farming and grazing that can contribute to carbon removals, with African context.

Key issues addressed

We shared information on the Exponential Roadmap for Natural Climate Solutions (NCS) and the upcoming Roadmap for Africa, and the flagship Herding for Health program promoting improved cattle management in 16 areas in 7 countries and growing. Thoughts were also shared on the GEA strategy refresh, “greening up to cool down,” and activating citizen science.

Novel ideas identified

- Continuing with simple ‘project’ models can only scale linearly- to get to ‘exponential’ growth and scaling we need the ideas to go ‘viral’ and spread fast and free from people to people, like FMNR has, but with solutions for all places and land uses.
- Participants highlighted the need to translate science into policy and financial actions, and made suggestions to add ‘nature’ impact alongside Carbon.

Actions beyond the conference

- NCS Exponential Roadmap for Africa Initiative is starting up and we were very happy to meet so many stakeholders after the session. We identified 9 potential contributors of spatial planning tools, 5 interested parties in engaging African decision makers, and 13 with possible demonstration projects and success stories to amplify in the Roadmap. Please contact ssprenkle-hypolite@conservation.org

- conservation.org if you’d like to add your name/organisation to the lists!
- The UN Decade Climate Challenge was shared, and if you’re doing Restoration with Climate Impact you can click here to sign up
- Need more work and thought on policy and finance levers to scale up climate smart grazing and regenerative livestock models, will continue working- but we did form a community of practice with 8 participants already interested.
- There is interest for an NCS Roadmap for Asia

Regional and Global Approaches to Scaling Up Assisted Natural Regeneration

Session Leads: Djibril Dayamba (African Forest Forum) & Robin Chazdon (ANR Alliance Global Co-leader)

The session explores how a range of approaches are used to scale up ANR globally and in selected regions. Approaches include on-farm tree regeneration and management, forest ecosystem restoration, development of agroecosystems and silvopastoral systems, community-based ANR activities in drylands and forest ecosystems, technical support and knowledge products, and implementation of ANR within large-scale landscape restoration initiatives.

Key issues addressed

The benefits of assisted natural regeneration (ANR) are documented in many contexts and include safeguarding livelihoods, protecting native biodiversity, enhancing nature’s benefits (provision of ecosystem services), increasing cost effectiveness. However, how these benefits can be scaled to reach more people, more regions, more quickly and more sustainably, remains a challenge. The session on “Regional and global approaches to scaling up Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR)” aimed to (i) discuss a set of guiding elements to consider for effective scaling up of ANR, be it vertically or horizontally and (ii) share some successful examples of implementation in the field in different sub-regions and ecosystems.

Novel ideas identified

From the session (which was well attended) some of the ideas tested on the ground and proved to be successful in selected contexts and which could guide

future initiatives, included:

the need to ensure a strong community leadership support (Chiefs & Elders) when using, for instance, farmer-to-farmer exchange to scale up ANR;

the need to make room for community dialogues and cross-learning (farmers believing in themselves);

the need to align to the interests of communities (their needs, related value chains) and use those avenues as entry points to strengthen communities’ mobilisation for ANR; tailoring approaches to local contexts and conditions and targeting multiple benefits.

continuously addressing barriers that come along with ANR adoption (some of them not foreseen beforehand);

celebrating successes / achievements help in better mobilising communities and boosting upscaling (for example, reward to best FMNR farmers in Niger)

In the specific case of mangrove ecosystems, different factors can challenge natural regeneration including high water energy, hydrological flow, lack of seeds (mother plants). The case study discussed during the session revealed that regeneration of mangrove in high water energy areas can be assisted using rocks or riley encasement methods (with PVC or bamboo pipes) to reduce the water energy on seedlings.

Actions beyond the conference

From the session, it transpired that upscaling ANR still requires a lot of effort to get the message out to stakeholders beyond the ANR acolytes; especially when it comes to humid ecosystems such as the mangroves. Fortunately, successfully tested up-scaling cases exist and just need to be properly documented (in user-tailored formats) and widely communicated so that they can be contextualised and used in other sites/ecosystems. Also, in some contexts, there is still a need to generate evidence on comparative advantages of some of the ANR approaches. All these would require strategic partnerships across

scales and mandates; from grassroots actors where the practices are tested / implemented to national, regional and global scale where the practices need to be mainstreamed into plans, policies and strategies. This is part of what the Assisted Natural Regeneration Alliance envisions in its strategy and action plan.

AFR100 and Landscape Restoration in East and Southern Africa

Session Lead: Jonathan Muriuki (GEA)

The AFR100 (the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative) is a country-led effort to bring 100 million hectares of land in Africa into restoration by 2030. In this lively event, moderated by Jonathan Muriuki (GEA), we heard about the progress made toward AFR100 by countries throughout the continent. This included Benjamin Akobund, Programme Officer, Energy Infrastructure, AU NEPAD/AFR100, who explained how AFR100 supports countries in their implementation and provided highlights to date in key countries. Hiwot Workagegnehu, Project Manager, Forests for Future, GIZ, Ethiopia, provided a case study on Ethiopia, which has pledged the restoration of 15 million hectares of deforested and degraded landscapes as part of AFR100. This is being pursued in part through the development and implementation of effective land use plans that include integrated approaches for the restoration and sustainable use of forest landscapes.

The session also explored the need to recognize and overcome the barriers to success in AFR100 implementation. This included keen insight from Sonny Zulu, Standard Chartered Bank, who spoke frankly about the goal of for-profit businesses to strengthen their bottom line, even within their philanthropic pursuits. “How do you make your nature-based solution efforts bankable,” he asked the audience. Just as important, he added, “How do we make a profit without destroying the planet?”

Audience participation was strong, including the engagement of a local farmer who posed thought-provoking questions and encouraged all panellists and participants to put their faith in the farming community to restore and protect the landscape upon which they depend for their lives and livelihoods.

The 'Forgotten Five' in Restoration Scaling

Session Lead: Peter Minang (CIFOR-ICRAF)

Indigenous Knowledge:

Contextualising knowledge is crucial, especially considering the rich tapestry of indigenous knowledge that exists across various cultures and regions. Indigenous knowledge encompasses the systematic body of knowledge acquired by local people through accumulated experiences, informal experiments, and an intimate understanding of the environment within their specific cultural context

By recognizing and valuing indigenous knowledge, we can enhance our decision-making processes and promote sustainable practices.

National Parks and Grazing Areas:

While it's essential to preserve national parks as vital ecosystems, we must also address the needs of local communities.

Turning national parks into grazing areas can be problematic because it may lead to uncontrolled animal populations and ecological imbalances. Striking a balance between conservation and community livelihoods is crucial.

Investment in Nature-Based Solutions:

Nature-based solutions offer innovative ways to address environmental challenges. These solutions leverage natural processes and ecosystems to provide benefits.

Facilitating investment in such solutions can lead to sustainable outcomes, including improved biodiversity, carbon sequestration, and climate resilience.

Developmental Side of Conversations:

While conversations are essential, we must not overlook the developmental aspects. Dialogue alone won't drive progress; we need concrete actions and policies.

Integrating conversations with practical development initiatives ensures holistic growth.

Climate Change and Forgotten Areas:

Climate change profoundly impacts vulnerable regions often overlooked. These forgotten areas face unique challenges related to water scarcity, food security, and ecosystem degradation.

Addressing climate change in these regions is critical for equitable global progress.

Paramount Chief Kawenga's Perspective:

Paramount Chief Kawenga from Malawi emphasises the importance of contextualising planning. When formulating strategies, we must consider local views and experiences.

Donors should understand that effective plans emerge from a deep understanding of the local context.

Affordable Proven Solutions:

We should prioritise affordable and proven solutions that don't require significant financial investment.

These solutions, even if they cost zero dollars, can have a substantial positive impact on communities and the environment.

AFR100: Road to 2030

Session Lead: Mamadou Diakhité (AUDA - NEPAD & AFR100)

- The objective of this session is to showcase FLR efforts in the Road to 2030.
- Provide a status of FLR implementation across AFR100 Countries
- Promote Resource and Partnership Mobilisation to provide financial and technical support for project implementation not only at AUDA-NEPAD programmatic level but also relevant activities at continental, sub-regional and national levels.
- Identify capacity needs that need to be prioritised for a successful Road to 2030
- Foster knowledge exchange among AFR100 partners

Exploring Biodiversity Credits in Empowering Community-Led Land Restoration: Insights Drawn from Carbon Credit Experiences

Session Lead: Dorothy Maseke (FSD Africa)

The session highlighted the following key questions:

- Given the use of carbon credits in restoration activities, how could biocredits play a role in financing the same activities? Are there other financial mechanisms that biocredits could activate?
- What market governance mechanisms are needed to ensure the meaningful participation of IPLCs and nature's stewards in biocredits programmes?
- Are there specific criteria or standards that should be established to ensure the legitimacy and effectiveness of biocredit programs in community-driven initiatives and who should set these?
- How can technology and data analytics be leveraged to both scale up and enhance

the monitoring and evaluation of biocredit-based land restoration projects at the community level?

- What policies are needed to facilitate biocredit use in financing land restoration programmes?

The session kicked off with Panel 1 diving into a discussion on carbon credits, drawing out invaluable lessons from the carbon markets experience that can be applied in the development of biodiversity credits. Specifically, the panellists: discussed common challenges and opportunities faced by nature-based carbon project developers; reflected on how to improve market access, price discovery and drive towards higher prices for African stakeholders; reflected on how to improve the quality and integrity of nature-based carbon projects as a way of driving towards better outcomes for environment and community; the policy landscape including NDCs and Article 6; opportunities for innovation through technology-enabled solutions; and, lessons learnt and mistakes to be avoided in emerging biodiversity credit markets – what can be built on, and what needs reimagining.

Panel 2 kicked off with a presentation of preliminary draft findings from scoping work undertaken as part of a Biodiversity Credits Landscape Report for Africa, a project supported by FSD Africa. The objective of the project is to highlight the current state of biodiversity credits on the African continent, explore the feasibility of a coordinated approach for their development, and recommend an implementation strategy, including design options and potential institutionalisation. A sobering observation is the fact that there is hardly a footprint of biodiversity credits in Africa. In fact, the draft report notes that there has only been one pre-sale of biodiversity credits in Africa so far and there has not been a single biodiversity credit project that has sold credits in Africa.

The panel further highlighted:

- The critically important element of community engagement, sharing real examples from Ecotrust's approach in Uganda, including how to assess biodiversity impact for successful community-driven land restoration initiatives.
- Some of the tools and techniques that can be used to support biodiversity credit market development, including sharing experience on policy design that can ensure fair and equitable distribution of benefits.
- The key elements for successful scaling of biodiversity credits, and the Biodiversity Investments – Researcher & Accelerator (BIRA), an FSD Africa supported accelerator programme that supports early-stage projects.
- Some findings from a Biodiversity Credits Incubator under the Sustainable Finance Coalition. The learning showed that additionality as applied in carbon credit markets does not always apply to biodiversity credits where protection of pristine areas is considered more valuable than the restoration of degraded areas. Another important lesson was that biodiversity credit frameworks need to be designed in a way that not only allows for diversity of nature, but also maintains a robust monitoring and verification process marked by transparency of methodology and a framework that is clear and available to all.

As a result of the session and post-session discussions, at least seven additional African biodiversity credit projects came forward for mapping in the study, as well as a number of key developments and areas of debate for incorporation into the final draft of the Biodiversity Credits Landscape Report for Africa. The session therefore presented a critical opportunity for raising the profile of the project, and for incorporating external feedback on preliminary findings, including flagging gaps in the preliminary findings, and inviting new perspectives in developing the final recommendations.

Restorative Agriculture as NbS in Watersheds

Session Lead: Olaf Westermann (Catholic Relief Services)

The objectives of this session were to increase understanding of watershed restoration's crucial role in climate resilience, focusing on its impacts on agriculture, food and water security, and conservation, emphasise the significance of restorative agriculture in watershed management as a nature-based solution and provide principles and guidelines for effective watershed restoration to facilitate practical application.

Key issues addressed

The critical importance of watershed management for improving food and water security, and resilience in vulnerable rural populations.

The complexity of watershed restoration, involving environmental, social, and political elements, and the need for integrated, long-term investments and collective action.

The role of agriculture in both contributing to watershed degradation and its potential as a solution through restorative practices.

Novel ideas identified

The concept of restorative agriculture as a part of the solution for watershed management was a significant focus. This approach is seen as fundamental to improving the management of land and water resources at a watershed scale, restoring ecosystem services, contributing to resilient livelihoods, and strengthening local governance.

The introduction of the CRS Watershed Restoration Guidelines, which provide a structured approach to effective watershed management, highlighting the necessity of stakeholder engagement and collective action was well received. Please write to **olaf.westermann@crs.org** for a link to the publication

Actions beyond the conference

- Roll out of CRS Watershed Restoration Guidelines with partners, emphasising the 10 principles and 8 steps outlined for effective watershed restoration.
- Encouragement of local stakeholder engagement and the establishment of sustainable institutions

and funding mechanisms for long-term watershed management

- The need for continuous learning and adaptation in watershed management practices, ensuring that they are context-specific and inclusive of local communities and their needs

Massive Scaling: Systems, Strategy & Scaling of Land Restoration for Sustainable Livelihoods

Session Leads: John Dixon (GEA) & Lalisa Duguma (GEA)

This session introduced participants to leading principles of systems, strategies and massive scaling for land and ecosystem restoration. This was combined with reflections on the scale of the challenge, systems leadership, 12 scaling principles from the GEA Field Guide, correspondence with the scaling lessons from selected cases and the key role of rural women as systems integrators. This session served as the basic introduction for the Scaling Training in the following session.

Key issues addressed

- The misperception about scaling and what it operationally meant
- The enabling conditions needed for scaling NbS

Novel ideas identified

- Scaling as much as it is about the practices is also about the social and governance processes influencing the scaling.
- There is a need to identify context specific scalable practices and processes to achieve the anticipated scaling goals.
- There is a need for system level leadership transformation to achieve scaling at the anticipated pace and extent.

Actions beyond the conference

- Continued capacity building beyond the conference
- Developing systems and mechanisms of identifying champions that can be the flag bearers of the scaling process

- Mentorship for youth to take up the mantle through GEA members and networks.

RESAf: Implementing Large Scale Land Restoration for Livelihoods, Biodiversity and A Cooler Planet

Session Leads: Phearak Svay (GEA)

This session presented the progress, lessons learned, challenges and opportunities of GEA's Restore Africa Programme - a collaborative approach to scaling NbS working together with member organisations to support small-holder farmers to improve livelihoods and build their resilience to climate change, while sequestering carbon from the atmosphere.

Key issues addressed

Land degradation has become a global concern in all terrestrial biomes in developed and developing countries. Degraded ecosystems present declined land productivity with costs borne by landowners and consumers of ecosystem services in affected landscapes and beyond. However, the impact is most felt by the poor, who rely mainly on natural capital for livelihood sustenance. While about 30% of the total global land area is affected by land degradation, the phenomenon is estimated to affect almost half of Africa's total land area, affecting about two-thirds of the population and costing about US\$10 billion to the continent's economy annually. Therefore, governments, the private sector and development partners must invest in restoring the productive capacity of ecosystems if the 2030 Agenda for the Sustainable Development Goals are to be achieved. The interconnection of the triple challenges of land degradation, climate change and biodiversity loss calls for a business case for investment in land restoration, with estimates showing that 1 dollar invested in land restoration has potential returns of between 7 and 30 dollars.

Governments in Africa have developed several policies and strategies to address land degradation in recognition of the role played by natural resources in sustaining the lives of the majority of the continent's poor. Pledges have been made under the Africa Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100) by



over 30 African countries to bring over 100 million hectares of degraded land under restoration by 2030. This will yield net benefits that create income and livelihood opportunities for the rural communities. The positive response by many partners in both public and private sectors to invest in innovative programs directed at land restoration is, therefore, a response to the proven market and livelihood incentives. The momentum is, however, slow due to limited capacity and financial resources to undertake restoration programs at a transformative scale, exacerbated by inadequate capacity for large-scale monitoring and reporting. This calls for institutional innovations that leverage present capacity in private and public sector organisations to synergise operations for mutual benefits.

GEA is the world's largest Alliance for environmental restoration with the vision of restoring degraded agricultural, pastoral, and forest lands through the regeneration and/or integration of trees, sustainably managed by local communities. This results in more biodiverse, productive, and resilient landscapes and agricultural systems, providing small-scale farmer, pastoralist, and forest-dependent communities (including people of all genders) with improved and diversified livelihoods, fostering 'green' rural economic growth and creating an agriculture sector that produces zero net GHG emissions. GEA's goal is to rally the global community in the campaign to "Green Up to Cool Down" the planet by capturing 20 billion tons of CO2 annually by 2050, working with its members and partners to ensure harmonisation of efforts and projects around the globe. This will require the restoration of 500 million hectares of agricultural lands, 575 million hectares of degraded forest lands and urban environments and the regeneration of a healthy grass-tree balance on 650 million hectares of degraded pasturelands.

The session reflected on matters such as: the importance of government engagement and collaboration, ensuring a good understanding of regulatory framework and pathway for government support at national down to local level; consideration of cultural norms among different demographics and gender; geographical considerations, including weather patterns; land tenure and access; community engagement and leveraging expertise of partners

within the consortium; and the importance of on-the-ground presence.

Novel ideas identified

- Future programs should consider intergenerational issues, social inclusion, including gender equity, and leveraging local resources and leadership, and investing in working with local organisations to build their capacity.
- Programs need to engage with the government early, including at the design phase.
- Community engagement is a rigorous process that must be complied with to ensure that standards are met.
- Be intentional about leveraging the expertise of consortium members to achieve optimal results.

Actions beyond the conference

- Carbon financing opens new opportunities for NGOs. We should continue conversations on this.
- A program of this nature requires us to learn, unlearn and relearn. Learning is key.

Important questions raised

- How does the program consider sustainability in terms of investing in working with and building the capacity of local organisations?
- Does the program measure land degradation and if so, how?
- What is the program budget?
- How does the program create market access for farmers?
- What is the ratio of exotic and indigenous trees being promoted in the program?
- How does the program sell carbon elements to youth?
- How does carbon revenue work and how much farmers will receive?
- Does the program's approach work in a fragile and conflict context?

Exploring the Intersection: Nature, Finance, and Regulations and Policies in Africa

Session Leads: Dorothy Maseke (FSD Africa) & Sechaba Selialia (FSD Africa)

This session highlighted the;

- Role of policies, regulations and frameworks as catalysts for investment in nature
- Interconnectedness and the linkages between Financial Decisions and Biodiversity as supported by policy and regulation
- Policy landscape in Africa including the successes and challenges in National Nature Strategies and evaluating their impact
- TNFD framework

Key issues addressed

- Agriculture remains a key sector around which Africa should ideate nature-based solutions
- Local communities need to be closely involved in the conceptualization and implementation to integrate their priorities
- This is essential for effective, sustainable, and socially equitable financing frameworks
- There remains a lack of definition and language around technology and solutions around nature at the policy level

Novel ideas identified

- Local communities should be involved in Green bonds as part of inclusive financing
- There is so much red tape for a community to just start participating (e.g requirements to register a cooperative fund)
- Community projects need to align with government priorities
- Communities are sitting on land, which is a valuable resource which can be considered an investment (In general, communities need to take stock of the value of the resources they currently have)

- Nature positive contributions are much more challenging to measure. Taxonomies will assist in identifying nature positive initiatives
- Land restoration tends to be long term investments which need to be reconciled with the short-term return requirements by banks and the way in which bankers are trained

Actions beyond the conference

- Prioritise nature-based solution transactions focused on the Agricultural sector
- Promote the proactive engagement of local communities in conceptualising and implementing nature-based solutions

Lessons for Scaling-Up Land Restoration from Regreening Africa

Session Leads: Mieke Bourne (CIFOR-ICRAF) & Patrick Worms (CIFOR-ICRAF)

This session highlighted a successful large-scale restoration program in Africa and discussed what made it a success. Important lessons from Regreening Africa with other programs/organisations were shared, and discussions held on how these lessons could be explored in other initiatives.

Key issues addressed

The session explored the way in which a careful attention to social and collaborative issues allowed a number of culturally very different organisations to come together and become one team to deliver what is arguably one of the world's best restoration projects. This assessment was arrived at by the UN Decade, which crowned Regreening Africa with the title of Restoration Flagship at UNEA. The session emphasised that the challenges of large-scale restoration are typically not technical (as most people understand the importance of techniques like FMNR or holistic grazing management), but cultural and managerial. The deployment of sophisticated relationship management and learning tools like ICRAF's SHARED was emphasised.

Novel ideas identified

The biggest challenge Regreening Africa left open on the technical and social sides was: how to integrate

nomadic pastoralist management of landscapes with that of settled farmers?

Actions beyond the conference

Applying holistic approaches to grazing and crop production promised to deliver extraordinary benefits in terms of resilience, adaptation and mitigation.

Financing mechanisms for NbS: Community-Centric Restoration Financing – A case for Rwanda

Session Leads: Joseph Njue (IUCN) & Hannah Weggerle (GIZ)

The session showcased the power of placing communities at the centre of restoration. Taking resources down to the communities and empowering them to establish bio-enterprises responds to more than one criterion for the NbS Standard. This includes NbS actions/projects being able to address key societal challenges, encourage inclusivity and transparency, and ensure the economic viability and sustainability of the actions.

The example from Rwanda inspires the need for governments to develop inclusive, adaptive, and scalable financing mechanisms. Conventionally, project design, implementation, and monitoring is left to national governments, where sizable amounts of funds are managed and utilised. The result of this is obvious. It's "more talk than actions" even as land degradation and the effects of climate change continue to devastate millions of lives and livelihoods. While we may not change the hierarchy of fundraising – which is essential for establishing seed catalysers/ accelerators for restoration - we can devise a mechanism where funds are deliberately channelled to the local communities to drive real change. This calls for an inclusive conversation on a community-centric approach to restoration financing where decisions are made from the bottom to address real issues affecting people and landscapes.

Again, being our foot soldiers in combating degradation, desertification, and climate change, farmers and landowners deserve empowerment for actions on the ground.

Actions beyond the conference

- IUCN, GIZ, and the entire AREECA Consortium call for the following:
- Recognition of communities (local farmers and landowners) as the key change makers and accelerators of restoration and NbS.
- Development of localised community-centric restoration financing mechanisms in Africa to encourage local bio-enterprising for widespread and accelerated restoration in Africa.
- Deliberate policy actions that will encourage the adoption of community-centric restoration approaches in Africa.
- The application of IUCN Global Standard for NbS in the design and assessment of restoration actions.
- Increased knowledge exchange on best practices, success stories, and NbS in Africa.

Overcoming Financing Hurdles in Implementing Nature-based Solutions, with a Focus on Land Restoration

Session Lead: Lalisa Duguma (GEA)

This session had several key themes; to

- Explore challenges associated with financing NbS, particularly in the context of land restoration projects.
- Identify innovative financing mechanisms and strategies to overcome hurdles in implementing nature-based solutions.
- Share best practices or case studies showcasing successful financing models or efforts for land restoration initiatives.
- Foster dialogue and collaboration among stakeholders to accelerate investment in accelerating land restoration.

Key issues addressed

- The big question of emphasis was whether financing is the real challenge or lack of clarity around the right bankable ideas and the enabling conditions associated with it.
- The lack of readily accessible financing for financing NbS

- Readiness for investable projects at local level is limited

Novel ideas identified

- Blended finance as a way forward;
- Building investment readiness at local levels;
- Domestic resource mobilisation e.g. The Pakistan Environment Trust
- Innovative Partnerships to de-risk NbS investments
- **Actions beyond the conference**
- A number of existing financing opportunities were shared by The World Bank for project developers to engage with;
- Capacity for innovative partnerships that can tap into existing financing opportunities is needed.

Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration: Reaching the Billion

Session Lead: Tony Rinaudo (World Vision Australia and GEA Ambassador) & Irene Ojuok (Right Livelihood College Bonn and GEA Ambassador)

This session showcased World Vision's ambitious one billion hectare restoration goal alongside World Vision Zambia's scaling approach, which heavily relies on working with and through partners.

Key issues addressed:

WV Zambia discussed its current activities and the scaling business plan.

- The path to success includes;
- The importance & necessity of generating greening movements as distinct from mere addition of new projects was emphasised and examples, constraints and recommendations on movements were shared.
- Recognising the power of nature to heal itself if given a chance and a little helping hand as opposed to assuming that expensive, highly technical and complex solutions are necessary. Even in extremely harsh climates and in degraded lands, nature has enormous and often unrecognised ability to self-heal if we work with it instead of fighting against it.

- People – particularly those whose livelihoods depend on the health and functioning of the environment are not the problem, but part of the solution. Inclusiveness, empowerment and enabling are needed as opposed to restrictive regulations and top down approaches.

Novel ideas identified from the event

Wherever there was a forest in the past – even the distant past some degree of potential for regeneration exists. Even in the absence of living tree stumps and dormant seeds, (when destructive human behaviours such as continuous overgrazing, annual complete burning and regular removal of woody biomass), restoration is possible at low cost, rapidly and at scale. Large parts of the earth are covered in 'invisible forests in plain view' – meaning, they simply go unrecognised and are therefore ignored and not assisted to regenerate. Greater advocacy, awareness building and socialising of methods such as ANR and FMNR are needed.

Actions beyond the conference

The session was well attended and gave an opportunity to further normalise and embed FMNR into greening conversations and thinking. A direct outcome was a number of promising connections and early discussions with potential partners – follow up meetings have been organised.

- More information on FMNR is available here - <https://fmnrhub.com.au/>
- The FMNR manual is available in English, French and Spanish - <https://fmnrhub.com.au/fmnr-manual/>
- Online training in FMNR is available here - <https://fmnrhub.com.au/fmnr-online-training/>

Faith-based and Inclusive Approaches to Scaling Land Restoration

Session Leads: Alan Channer (GEA) & Irene Ojuok (Right Livelihood College Bonn and GEA)

Key issues addressed

This session explored the role of faith communities and institutions in the dynamics of scaling land restoration - from sensitisation and advocacy, to the implementation of restoration on land owned by faith-based communities, to the role of traditional

and religious actors in fostering inclusive, multi-stakeholder collaboration and mediating land-based disputes. It also explored faith as a source of personal motivation to safeguard the natural world.

Novel ideas identified

- As of 2020, there are 49% Christians and 42% Muslims in Africa. Mobilising these faith-based communities to support NbS will accelerate it. To engage faith-based communities, packaging NbS is critical. To do this will take a committed and pragmatic expert group.
- Faith can unify and connect people with what is really important. It is easy to get lost in everyday challenges, but caring for the creation is an imperative that we can all feel, and when we become conscious of this imperative, we act.
- Faith gives people hope even when there's none. It respects everything that was created by the Almighty. The Holy Quran and the Holy Bible both describe the garden of Eden as heaven yet still warn about destruction if humanity does not heed the ways of the Creator.
- Faith is a source of vision, inspiration and courage. It provides strength to persevere in times of discouragement and opposition, and insight into solutions. Feeling part of the miracle of Life, we look at it with admiration, respect, and gratitude. Ultimately, creation belongs to God, and caring for it is an act of obedience and gratitude. In nature we see God. We are all called to be good stewards of our God's creation.

Actions beyond the conference

- To work closely with faith and traditional communities at all stages of restoration programming and implementation.
- To mainstream faith-based and inclusive land restoration.
- To work with theology institutions and faculties to strengthen the theology of environmental restoration in theology curricula.
- To set up a Working Group to effectively package NbS for support and uptake by faith communities.
- To identify faith communities which are successfully fostering land restoration so as to share and amplify their experiences with

faith communities which are less engaged in restoration.

Managing Risks in Accelerating Finance for Nature-based Solutions

Session Leads: Malik Dasso (Africa Climate Foundation) & Fanuel Massawe (Africa Climate Foundation)

By 2050, an annual investment of approximately US \$674 billion is needed to effectively address and counteract the loss of biodiversity, cap climate change at 1.5°C, and attain land degradation neutrality. This amount is four times higher than the current investment, currently set at US \$154 billion and it is imperative to secure funding for Nature-based Solutions (NbS) through various climate finance mechanisms. It is also noted that carbon financing is gaining momentum as a means to scale climate funding and mobilise private capital. In this context, it is crucial to gather additional information about the operational, financial and regulatory risks and opportunities linked to climate finance and carbon finance. This will facilitate the creation of a strong pipeline of financially viable projects (GI2, 2023).

Key issues addressed

The event delved into the critical nexus between NbS and risk management within the realm of climate and carbon finance. It analysed the inherent risks in accelerating finance for NbS investments, participants explored innovative approaches to bolster investor confidence. The session explored the following key questions:

- What are the potential risks associated with nature-based solutions (NbS) financing.
- What are the best strategies to mitigate risks and enhance investor confidence in NbS projects that offer public benefits e.g. biodiversity and ecosystem conservation?
- What are the best practices for integrating risk management into NbS financing programs and who should set these? Provide examples that have worked in LDCs.
- The carbon credits mechanism has more recently come under pressure from civil society as a form of greenwashing. What are the current risks in

using carbon credits for NbS financing especially in LDCs?

- What are the available de-risking tools against the regulatory uncertainties in the carbon credit markets?

Novel ideas identified

- Risks of not financing NbS may result in greater losses of social and environmental benefits due to the monetization of benefits. However, ongoing efforts to classify nature as an asset class, offer hope for reducing resistance to NbS financing in the future.
- Financing the first loss on capital is a key strategy for unlocking commercial capital for long-term NbS projects.
- Multilateral banks operating in Africa have established best practices for NbS financing, which risk-averse DFIs can learn from.
- Incorporating risks at project ideation stages, ensuring gender inclusion and job creation opportunities, contextualising projects to the country context, and ensuring that NbS are not solely focused on tree-growing but also include livelihood improvements, enhance the possibility of NbS financing.

Actions beyond the conference

- Free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) needs to be underscored when developing NbS projects so that communities understand and participate in risk identification and management.
- Insurance can play a role in underwriting NbS projects. However, the carbon credit market is still nascent, and it will take some time to establish its trends before insurance can be used for carbon projects.

Restoring a Safe Climate by Accelerating Carbon Removals: The Global Pledge

Session Lead: Dennis Garrity (GEA)

Carbon dioxide removals from the atmosphere are now widely recognized as essential to restore a safe climate for humanity and the planet. Nature-based solutions are already providing over 99% of

removals, and they are projected to further grow rapidly in the future. This session will discuss an effort to secure an agreement among countries to establish global targets for removals, and to establish their commitment to accelerate their investments in research, testing and scaling of nature-based solutions and other prospective removals methods.

This session aimed to:

- Build broader awareness of the critical importance of carbon dioxide removals to restore a safe climate.
- Elucidate the critical role of nature-based solutions in supporting the global effort to cool global temperatures to avoid catastrophic climate change.
- Discuss the current status of international endorsements for the carbon removals pledge, by countries and by nonstate actors.
- Explore the action needed during the coming year to launch the pledge and to implement it effectively.

The presentations and panellists discussed the current efforts of the Global EverGreening Alliance, and the High-Level Champions Carbon Removals Team, to secure the global pledge among the nations of the world, and among non state actors. Early in 2023, Nigel Topping, COP26 High-Level Champion, challenged the Alliance to spearhead an effort to land such a pledge, that would follow on to the Global Methane Pledge which was launched at COP26. That pledge now has the endorsement of 150 countries.

The urgency of ramping up removals has been spotlighted by recent science, which shows that the rate of global heating is accelerating, and that the 1.5C target is now likely to be exceeded by the end of the decade, or soon after. The goal of the EverGreening the Earth Campaign is to be capturing 20 billion tons of CO2 annually by 2050, while improving livelihoods and caring for the land.

The global pledge includes quantitative commitments on the level of removals to be achieved by 2040. It puts in place monitoring, reporting and review mechanisms for annually assessing progress toward the targets, and declares adherence to a set of principles for carbon removals, including safety, durability, performance, transparency, accountability,

co-benefits and climate justice. Participants were invited to engage in this effort.

African Leadership and Carbon Market Understanding

- Achieving sustainable environmental goals requires unwavering commitment from African leaders. These leaders hold the power to shape policies, allocate resources, and drive change.
- To combat climate change effectively, they must grasp the intricacies of the carbon system and its market dynamics. Carbon markets offer opportunities for countries to remove substantial quantities of CO2 from the atmosphere, earn carbon credits, and invest in green projects.
- By engaging with experts, understanding carbon pricing mechanisms, and promoting market-based solutions, African leaders can position their nations as active participants in the global carbon removals pledge.

Community Sensitisation for Regreening

- The heart of successful regreening lies within our communities, particularly among farmers.
- Sensitising them about the importance of restoring degraded lands is paramount. Regreening not only enhances ecosystem health and contributes to carbon removals, but also brings financial benefits. By establishing trees, improving soil quality, and practising sustainable agriculture, farmers can boost crop yields, diversify income streams, and mitigate climate risks.
- Community workshops, educational campaigns, and local partnerships can empower farmers with knowledge, encouraging them to embrace regreening practices.

From Household Needs to Ecosystem Protection and the Role of Carbon Markets

Session Leads: Dale Lewis (COMACO)

This session highlighted the COMACO model as an ecosystem solution for Zambia, describing the business approach, financing opportunities and growth potential.

Financing and Investments Options for NbS

Session Leads: Titus Nampala (S&P Global)

This session shined a light on the sustainability landscape in Southern Africa, assessing the interplay of physical and nature-related risks and opportunities, performance and disclosures. It explored S&P Global's nature solutions, their open-source nature risk and impact methodology, developed in collaboration with the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, and how their engagements with stakeholders globally have resonated differently across regions.

Core themes

Fiduciary Duty and Regulatory Requirements

Sustainability considerations, including nature-based solutions, are increasingly viewed as part of an investor's fiduciary duty, particularly in regions like North America and Europe where regulatory requirements are becoming more stringent.

Net Zero Targets and Transition Plans

Companies and investors are setting net zero targets and evaluating transition plans to align with these goals. This includes assessing the credibility of transition plans, which increasingly incorporate nature-related metrics alongside traditional climate-related metrics.

Challenges in Identifying Nature-Positive Investments

Despite growing interest in investing in companies that contribute positively to nature, there is a lack of clarity and taxonomy framework, especially compared to climate-related investments. Investors are hesitant to make significant moves without clear guidelines.

Ecosystem Footprint and Physical Risk

There is a growing recognition of the reliance of companies on ecosystem services and natural capital, with an increasing focus on assessing physical risk exposures associated with biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse.

Financial Risks of Biodiversity Loss

Biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse are identified

as top economic risks, indicating the significant financial risks associated with the degradation of natural capital.

Open Data for Restoration Planning Training: Part I & Part II

Session Lead: Lalisa Daguma (GEA)

Core themes

Evidence and Mapping for Restoration: Restoration efforts should always begin with a solid foundation of evidence. Before we embark on any restoration project, we need to understand what existed in the ecosystem previously. This involves conducting thorough assessments, gathering historical data, and documenting the original flora and fauna. Satellite imagery, field surveys, and ecological studies help us map the landscape accurately. By knowing what was there—whether a lush forest, grassland, or wetland—we can effectively tailor our restoration strategies. Mapping allows us to identify priority areas, set realistic goals, and measure progress over time. So, let's gather evidence, create detailed maps, and chart a course toward rejuvenating our natural habitats.

Clarity in Terminology - Seedlings vs. Trees:

You've hit the nail on the head! Clarity in the language is crucial, especially when discussing reforestation. Often, people use the term "planted trees" loosely, but there's a significant difference between a seedling and a tree. When we say we've planted a million trees, we must ensure that these are mature trees, not just seedlings. Let's be precise in our language, celebrate the small beginnings (seedlings) and the grand achievements (full-grown trees), and work together to restore our green heritage.

Strengthening Local Governance to upscale FLR: The role of Traditional Leaders (Chiefs) for Successful Community-Led Restoration

Session Leads: Tangu Tumeo (IUCN) & Hannah Weggerle (GIZ)

The session's overarching goal was to inspire participants to replicate this forum model in their own regions, fostering stronger collaboration with traditional leaders. By placing traditional authorities in

the driver's seat of restoration projects, we anticipate transformative change and a significant potential for upscaling sustainable initiatives.

Key issues addressed

Our discussions underscored the critical need to integrate indigenous knowledge and traditional leadership into the latest conservation strategies. We emphasized the need for authentic and inclusive community participation to ensure that involvement is empowering and sustainable over time. Another key challenge discussed was the need to balance development needs with conservation goals, which requires innovative and collaborative approaches to make effective use of nature-based solutions. The panel showcased the indispensable role of traditional authorities and community leaders in steering these efforts towards success, and advocated for frameworks that support diverse interests and values. This session aimed to lay the groundwork for more effective, inclusive and sustainable environmental management practices. Participants were made aware of the immense potential and knowledge that early involvement of traditional leaders can bring.

Novel ideas identified

NbS projects and initiatives should always begin by consulting with local and traditional leaders to better inform and guide their actions, and to ensure sustainable ownership and appropriate benefits. Traditional leaders are key to understanding the challenges and needs of communities. They enjoy a high level of respect and authority within their respective communities and have a great deal of power to change behaviour and ensure sustainable outcomes. Only together can we identify and implement NbS.

The Chiefs in Malawi have signed a Call to Action together with the H.E the President to agree on a joint way forward concerning sustainable management of natural resources. Think about a possible Call to Action or National/Local Chief Forum in your work and countries!

Actions beyond the conference

All participants have been asked to review their interventions and work and involve traditional leaders in their decision-making and implementation processes. Chief Forums or Call to Actions are two examples for such actions.

Developing a Big Tent on Global Land Restoration: How the Campaign and the UN Decade, 1t.org, and Other Major Restoration Initiatives Can Be Mutually Supportive

Session Lead: Phoebe Barnard (The Stable Planet Alliance)

This session developed a set of prioritised, concrete, agreeable and viable mechanisms for collaborative acceleration via different means, as needed to take our existing restoration work to scale, at speed.

Key issues addressed

We explored how to break out of the philanthropically-and-organizationally competitive boxes in which we all still work to identify concrete mechanisms for collaboration, resource pooling and visioning to bring about technical, behaviour and even spiritual changes in order to drive a global-scale civilizational shift.

Novel ideas identified

We are at the crossroads of humanity and need to depart somewhat from siloed or failed approaches and balance restoration of land, climate, biodiversity and society. This is likely humanity's biggest opportunity for the last 7000 years.

Actions beyond the conference

We identified collaboration on climate actions, concrete land restoration accelerator mechanisms and organisational and social opportunities for building this global "big tent" from the UN Decade into civil society and restoration communities on the ground.

One of the many recommendations that emerged from the discussion was the value of having a dedicated communications platform, such as Slack, to streamline and nurture deeper interactions and collaboration among the global efforts.

Community engagement: is Free Prior Informed Consent the answer?

Session Lead: Emma Drew (GEA)

Communities residing in areas undergoing land restoration activities should actively participate in the

project's design, implementation, and the distribution of benefits resulting from these initiatives. Various organisations have employed different strategies to engage communities in such activities over time. Recently, Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) has emerged as one of the most comprehensive approaches, featuring a well-structured deployment model. This session aimed to spotlight some elements of the community engagement processes adopted by implementing organisations to enhance community in the project.

The role of international and regional trade rules in NbS programming

Session Lead: Patrick Worms (CIFOR-ICRAF)

Trade policy since the Second World War has typically been about lowering international trade barriers. But for the past decade, we've seen increasing calls for trade policy to take social and environmental issues into account. A growing set of agreements and treaties are seeking to husband capitalism's wild spirits to do, with the European Union's Deforestation-free regulation just the latest example.

The session explored how trade policy encourages or hinders the development of a global market for regenerative practices, including carbon. It sketched a vision of how it should evolve to move us from degenerative to regenerative trade.

Key issues addressed

For most of the postwar decades, trade policy was designed to facilitate international trade by coming to agreed rules on technical issues and progressively lowering customs duties. Today, trade rules are being asked to do many other things, from distinguishing between acceptable and unacceptable labour practices in producing countries, to encouraging more agro-ecological ways of producing global commodities. A prominent example of that is the EUDR, the European Union Deforestation Regulation, which recently came into force and aims to encourage deforestation-free exports and imports to and from the EU. A key challenge with it, which was eloquently expressed by panellists and some members of the audience, is the sheer administrative complexity of complying with it, and the concomitant risk that it would leave the smallest and weakest smallholder farmers out of its remit.

Novel ideas identified

The European Union reviewed over 1 million public comments before adopting the EUDR, and suggested ways in which the tool can be harnessed to improve and refine subsequent efforts at trade management.

Actions beyond the conference

Expanding the dialogue with small and medium-sized enterprises from Africa before agreeing new trade rules

Global and National Land Restoration Movement Building

Session Leads: Alice Muller (World Vision Australia), Mieke Bourne (CIFOR-ICRAF) & Mclarence Mandaza (World Vision Australia)

This session shared lessons on building local, national and global restoration movements, showcasing how a national restoration movement in Kenya was built as a basis for developing such movements in other countries.

Key issues addressed

- How to build movements and partnerships for restoration (some of the challenges for this are moving beyond project only thinking, funding challenges...)
- Challenge of maintaining interest in movements
- Entry level of starting a movement- local vs national
- The involvement of youth in social change and movement building

Novel ideas identified

- Movements can support exponential growth and spread of restoration/FMRN
- Favourable policies (for tree use rights) and awareness about the policies - Ownership – rights/tenure are critical
- Co-creation of bylaws with communities to minimise threats
- Normalisation of new practices such as FMNR – work with influencers (faith and thought leaders, chiefs etc)
- Value chains that add value and give a fair and decent price for the products
- Support to champions
- Targets can help focus the collective mind
- Government catalyses but the initiation and push for movement should come from the people

Actions beyond the conference

- Cascading targets down to the sub-national/local level
- More experience sharing on movements globally
- Non-state actors to lead the movements
- Bring in young people to lead the movements

NbS and Intergenerational Sustainable Land Management: What Way Forward?

Session Leads: Lalisa Duguma (GEA) & John Masinde (SNV)

This session aimed to comprehensively explore challenges, practices, and policy considerations regarding the long-term sustainability of land use, with a focus on diverse global perspectives. Experts from Africa and Asia delved into the significance of ISLM, addressing region-specific obstacles, showcasing successful practices, and discussing the significance of formal and informal knowledge transfer, youth engagement, and technological innovations. The session also highlighted gaps in existing policies and practices and proposed considerations for future frameworks, offering insights tailored to the unique contexts.

Key issues addressed

- For NbS to be successful, an intergenerational approach has to be adopted. This is missing at the moment.
- The rural ecosystems, which are the basis of the global food, water and energy supply, are facing an unprecedented challenge of knowledge system breakdown as youth who carry the actions forward are missing in many developing countries' rural contexts.

Novel ideas identified

- Despite the strong emphasis on lack of interest by youth in land management activities, the underlying problem was in fact the lack of proper role models who can lead the way and show the youth that land management is a profitable and rewarding business case.
- The project from Uganda run by Fairview Ventures indicated youth are more committed to the NbS actions than ever before. Because of the transformation through FMNR in Niger, the aspiration of youth is now tilting largely towards becoming farmers in the future as opposed to being a doctor or so.

- Youth should not be singled out and become the subject of emphasis in the NbS discourse as NbS needs a stronger focus on community level actions where all generations should work together for a better future.

Actions beyond the conference

- There is a need for a deliberate need to have a youth engagement strategy in place and mainstream in every NbS actions design and interventions. GEA has a great opportunity as it has huge member institutions that could have such a strategy implemented.
- Such strategies should reflect youth friendly approaches such as the use of technology and youth oriented access to resources e.g. finances, etc.

Partnerships for Scaling NbS

Session Leads: Maaike Slotema (GEA) & Steph Smith (GEA)

This session involved an interactive discussion about partnerships for NbS. After a brief presentation introducing the key themes, participants formed four groups – two focused on ‘scaling up’ and two on ‘scaling out’. Participants discussed three broad questions in their breakout groups. After each small group discussion, we came together as a full cohort to discuss key themes.

Common themes that emerged from this process are below.

1. What are the key components of a successful partnership for NbS?

- Focus on complementarity
- Mapping who is doing what / clear roles and responsibilities
- Trust building
- Shared vision
- Capacity building

2. What are the challenges in establishing and maintaining successful partnerships? And how could we overcome them?

- Conflicting priorities
- Power imbalance
- Insufficient and/or inequitable distribution of

resources

- Lack of continuity or sustainability mechanism

3. Do you have examples of innovative partnership models? What are the success stories within your group?

- Clear, early agreement on ways of working
- Co-creation throughout
- Equitable and transparent distribution of resources
- Exchange learning between partners
- Working with small local organisations, grassroots movements and community-led projects will get more traction
 - Mix of different organisations
 - Mix of global and national – e.g. access to funding (Zimbabwe Iki project)
- Different sizes of organisations
- Public and private
- Different focus areas – e.g. conservation orgs partnering with development orgs development
 - Mix of expertise
- Using existing networks to scale out

Full notes section provided on following page.

Multi stakeholder platforms co-created with local partners

- Watershed investment program
- Kafue Flats Joint Action Group (KFJAG)
- Trash for Cash
- WWF-PIN Partnership in Western Province – combing development partner with conservation partner
- WWF-CARE Alliance in the KAZA (conservation and livelihoods)

Partnerships for Scaling NbS Full Notes

	Scaling up	Scaling out
Characteristics of a good partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common cause/vision • Shared responsibility • Clear objectives and communication • Capacity building • Avoiding duplication • Focus on complementarity • Mapping who is doing what • Language – talking in the local language • Trust building • Traditional leadership engagement • Bottom-up consultation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarity on roles and approaches, including governance and entry points • Evidence based organisations • Public and private • Different focus areas – e.g. conservation orgs partnering with development orgs development • Alignment of objectives and outcomes • Capacity building is key • Specific and complementary skills; credibility • Identification of gaps in partnership • Efficient use of resources
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Values may not be clear or aligned • Bureaucracy and red tape (scaling up) • Insufficient and/or inequitable distribution of resources • Lack of consensus • Unequal power balance • Technical complexities • Inadequate documentation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M&E challenges • Lack of expertise and skill set • Vested interests • Slow movement/ bureaucratic • Expensive • Conflicting priorities • Self interest • Lack of transparency • Lack of political will • Lack of continuity • Institutional memory
Solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-selection and co-creation • Leveraging core values that align • Advocacy, lobbying, dialogue with government • Partnerships and relationship management • Equitable and transparent distribution of resources • Technical capacity building and training • Develop documentation skills • Exchange learning between partners • Policy changes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased resource allocation • Capacity building • Institutional strengthening • Operationalising policies • Decentralisation/ centralisation • Assessing where need is • Dialogue / communication • Areas of intervention for scaling up • Piloting to assess potential or effectiveness • Research (evidence based)
Success	<p>Working with small local organisations – you get more traction (e.g. BCP + Natures Nectar + ??)</p> <p>Mix of global and national – e.g. access to funding (Zimbabwe Iki project)</p> <p>Community led projects – food chain + smallholder farmers in Zambia working with larger partners</p> <p>Large NGO partnering organisations at different scale (small, mid, large) – e.g. Save the Children</p> <p>Public private partnerships</p> <p>Networks that supports partnership</p> <p>Organic development of by-laws adopted</p> <p>Alignment of common goals because of similarity in priorities</p> <p>Science based evidence to develop relevant policies</p>	<p>Very targeted partnership</p> <p>Private sector driven partnerships</p> <p>Clearly defined partnership with due diligence and clear parameters of engagement</p> <p>Learning platform (sector, theme)</p> <p>Using an existing network to scale out</p> <p>Collaborative partnership with community based organisations or grassroots movement</p>

The Great Food System Disruption: Implications for Global Land Restoration

Session Lead: Dennis Garrity (GEA)

This session aimed to broaden awareness of the projections that a great food disruption is coming, and that it has major implications for accelerating the scaling-up of NbS for land restoration. It explored the implications for animal agriculture in developed and developing countries and elucidated the scale of land-use change in relation to the targets of the Evergreening the Earth Campaign.

A range of quite revolutionary new foods are currently being developed. These include precision fermentation protein products, enhanced plant-based meats, and cell-cultured meats are currently developing rapidly. These new food sources are projected by some analysts to reach price parity with animal-based meats and dairy products during the coming decade. Some of these novel food sources may soon be less expensive, and provide cheaper protein alternatives for families with limited food budgets.

Such a shift to these novel foods may result in reduced future demand for land clearing of natural ecosystems for livestock, and reduced demand for land to produce feed grains and pasture. If these projections prove true, there are significant implications for global land use change that may influence the potential for evergreening landscapes and reducing agricultural greenhouse gases.

The panel noted that diet shifts are an important action track that could 'release' hundreds of millions of hectares of marginal agricultural lands for restoration. The discussion brought out many issues that need to be given serious attention, particularly how agriculture in the developing countries might be impacted by the great food disruption.

Changing Diets for Environmental Safeguarding

Shifting our dietary habits is indeed a challenging but necessary process when it comes to safeguarding our environment. Our food choices have a significant impact on the planet. By altering what we consume, we can contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, conserving water, and preserving biodiversity. However, this transition can be painful

because it often involves breaking away from familiar eating patterns and embracing new, sustainable options. As individuals, we must recognize that our dietary decisions play a crucial role in the overall health of our ecosystems. By opting for plant-based diets, supporting local and organic produce, and minimising food waste, we can actively participate in environmental preservation.

Personal Responsibility and Agricultural Impact

Governments do not dictate the specific foods we should eat; instead, they provide guidelines and regulations to ensure food safety and security. Ultimately, the choices lie with each of us. Unfortunately, a significant portion of land disruption occurs due to agricultural practices, particularly in ranching and farming. Large-scale livestock production demands extensive land for grazing and feed crops, leading to deforestation, soil degradation, and habitat loss. Similarly, intensive farming practices can deplete soil nutrients, contaminate water sources, and contribute to climate change. As responsible citizens, we must weigh the environmental consequences of our dietary preferences and consider sustainable alternatives that benefit both our health and the planet.

NbS in Sustainable Forest Management Through Certification Tools: Legal, social and economic aspects of forest management

Session Lead: Harrison Kojwang

This session explored sustainable forest management solutions such as the forest management (FM) and chain of custody (CoC) certification standards, and the Rainforest Alliance Certification in Sustainable Agriculture. Their practical application in conservation and restoration was highlighted, as was FSC's ecosystem services procedure and utilisation. This is a tool to verify the 'impacts' of well managed forests on safeguarding and enhancement of ecosystem services.

Core themes

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Ecosystems Services (ESS) process supports global environmental

objectives such as climate change and restoration of landscapes for biodiversity, clean water and soil protection.

It is important to plant trees but also to grow trees. Growing trees is a process; following up trees to grow to maturity is where FSC specialises. FSC has the certified skill to grow forests and support individuals to obtain forest management certification.

FSC supports the benefits people obtain from ecosystems. Within the FSC system, the ecosystems are categorised into, biodiversity, carbon sequestration, watershed services, soil conservation, and recreational services.

It is important to ensure the process of using forest products, like timber, conforms to sustainable forest management practices. This includes ensuring that timber is processed in a way that does not damage the environment and is sustainable for forests. It also includes managing resources in ways that are sustainable and will create diversity.

The criteria is applicable worldwide and addresses a wide array of issues. This criteria has been used to develop country specific national forest standards.

The biggest challenge is with local communities of people because this process requires a lot of technical skills. So, for communities we encourage group certification to manage the cost. FSC continues to monitor and provide support years after certification.

A new European Union (EU) deforestation regulation means that exporters for these products to the EU need to show that they are deforestation free. The EU does not want to be associated with tropical deforestation.

FSC does a lot more now than it used to in the past. There is a global standard which is country by country adapted and tailored to specific country contexts.

Namibia example; as an arid country with nutrient limited soils, Namibia has wooden areas only in the very north. There is not much data apart from old photos and oral history but in the near past Namibia was a wooden savannah. Currently there is massive bush encroaching about 25-40 million hectares (about half of rangeland). A combination of human and natural factors contributed to this encroachment. Namibia is trying to thin their rangelands to go back to wooden savannahs. Namibia has a very well-developed research focus. There has been a massive

amount of research done on the water balance of the soils and other areas. The University of Namibia has been monitoring the removal of biomass for years. So far this removal has not shown significant negative impact for carbon but monitoring has only been done for five years so it is an on-going process. FSC has certified 1.5million hectares but there has to be active after-action management to maintain the savannah as it is brought back. Aftercare, fire and chemical browsers. Fire has to be managed very carefully.

Not all charcoal out of Africa is bad charcoal. Well managed forests can produce timber and charcoal that is ethically sourced.

Namibia power has gone into biomass energy as an alternate energy source.

Independent researcher not paid by FSC. Research focus impact of forest management efforts on the ground.

Results

Heavier animals benefit more from FSC than smaller animals because they are more sensitive to changes in diet and recover more slowly.

NbS and the Relevant Policy Contexts

Session Leads: Severin Kalonga (WWF) & Lalisa Duguma (GEA)

Key issues addressed

- Many policies exist in Africa. However, many of the policy frameworks lack coherence and clear implementation strategies especially when it comes to NbS actions.
- There is a shortage of clear policy instruments guiding NbS actions.

Novel ideas identified

- NbS actions are not new. There is a need to relook at the existing policy instruments to make sure there is an alignment as well as synergistic opportunities.
- There is also a need for creating enabling conditions through the policy instruments to de-risk NbS investments as well as create regulatory framework that support NbS actions.

Actions beyond the conference

- There is a need to sit at the table with policy makers

for NbS actors to inform the policy discourse so that past siloed approaches to policy making and translations do not happen as NbS actions need multisectoral approaches.

- Policy making should be informed by evidence taking into account sustainability.
- NbS project implementers should be strong advocates of what they do.

Closing the Widening Gap: Advancing Training, Education, and Capacity Building for Land Restoration Globally

Session Lead: Elizabeth Moore (Catholic Relief Services - CRS)

Key issues addressed

If NBS solutions are to be accelerated and scaled, there is a need for strong Training and Capacity Development that reach multiple audiences, use a diverse range of modalities, and cover a range of topics. GEA has an opportunity to write a proposal for scaling evergreening, which will include the idea of an Evergreening Academy.

In this session, participants discussed major themes related to Training and Capacity Development for Evergreening, including: Foundational Values Required for successful T&CD; best approaches for supporting and engaging local communities in T&CD; best approaches for virtual/in person and formal and informal T&CD; and “Big, bold, creative ideas”.

Novel ideas identified

Core themes that emerged from the breakout groups are below.

Opportunities and Values:

- A robust communication channel to share 1) evidence; 2) learning; 3) stories.
- A Pan-African network of learning centres
- Dynamic active nimble formal and informal partnerships create cohesion
- Focus on localised mentoring coaching, and supporting community change agents, peer-2-peer capacity and intergenerational knowledge passage
- Incorporation of influential community leaders in curriculum development from start
- Identifying, analysing and developing material around “behaviours” for land restoration
- Demand-driven capacity development
- Private Sector inclusion, value chain approach,

- profitable solutions
- Use pre-existing structures and knowledge networks; locally tailored materials, context specific
- Intentionally incorporate indigenous knowledge practices/systems

Actions beyond the conference

The GEA Fellows Training and Capacity Development Working Group will take the work from the session, and use it to inform and build recommendations, especially towards the development of the proposal for the European Commission by GEA/CIFOR-ICRAF, which includes a piloting of the Evergreening Academy.

The Role of Communication in Accelerating NbS

Session Lead: Sally Armitage (GEA)

Key issues addressed

Participants brought their own issues and challenges to the session to be discussed and these included a lack of shared clear terms and language used by all NbS communicators, the need for independent advice and assistance when dealing with negative attention from the media, and barriers to working effectively together and supporting each others’ work.

As we agreed, if we had really found the best way to communicate the issues and the solutions, we wouldn’t all still have so much work to do!

Novel ideas identified

In an open and frank discussion, participants came up with the idea of an independent committee, composed of some of the participants to serve as an independent sounding board, or advisory group, available to the group to be able to provide guidance in times of crisis or reputational risk to any of the represented organisations.

It was also suggested that everyone unite behind one hashtag to help push consistent messaging – it was suggested this be #GreenUptoCoolDown

Actions beyond the conference

A few immediate actions were agreed upon, some of which have already taken place:

- To form a WhatsApp Group, open to all communicators
- To all promote and support the hashtag #GreenUptoCoolDown and to test an initial day of everyone posting the same graphic, but with the messaging their own
- To work towards taking a closer look at the language we use and how it could potentially be improved and used consistently
- To arrange regular meetings via Zoom to keep the momentum going
- To establish an independent advisory group to support when organisations are experiencing a complex messaging or media situation

NbS and Entrepreneurship opportunities

Session Leads: Lalisa Duguma (GEA) & Harko Koster (SNV)

Key issues addressed

Entrepreneurship on NbS is still at its infancy especially at community and rural levels. There is a strong need to boost the entrepreneurship ecosystem especially targeting youth and women. Many existing enterprises are facing numerous challenges such as startup capital as the benefits of NbS are not always immediate.

Novel ideas identified

- Opportunities for entrepreneurship through NbS exist in various forms. Entrepreneurs need to understand the needs of NbS actions, identify entrepreneurship opportunities and develop a convincing business case.
- There is a need to help communities particularly youth and women to access resources that empower their entrepreneurship skills.
- There is a deliberate need to include entrepreneurship with NBS actions so a sustainable livelihood means through income and employment could be established.
- The right partnership model is so critical.

Actions beyond the conference

- Building capacity for entrepreneurship is so critical especially among those working with youth and women.
- Deliberate plan to mentor communities and youth to help them prepare bankable business cases is crucial.
- Governments and financing agencies should put in

place appropriate provisions for NbS as opposed to other convention financing models to ensure the adoption and hence the benefits of such practices benefit local, regional and international communities.

Restoring the Health and Productivity of Grazing Lands Globally

Session Leads: Nick Sharpe (The Savory Institute)

This session presented global and local scaling options of NbS for grasslands and grazed environments.

Key issues addressed

The panel consisted of the following speakers (listed in order of appearance) Nick Sharpe (Savory Institute), Etienne Oosthuizen (African Centre for Holistic Management) and Rolf Shenton (Grasslands Trust, Ltd). Key issues addressed could be summarised as ecological literacy as applied to grazed lands and evolution of grasslands and rangelands and the role of ruminant animals in brittle environments. We also discussed overgrazing vs. partial/selective grazing patterns, community mobilisation around shared grazing objectives and scaling strategies for improved land management.

Novel ideas identified from the event

While not necessarily novel, we discussed Holistic Management, decision-making within a holistic context, Holistic Planned Grazing, integration of livestock in crop fields, the increasing role of Carbon and other ecosystem service markets in extensive agriculture and the capacity of grasslands and rangelands to sequester and mitigate GHG emissions from natural (ruminant animals) and artificial (hydrocarbons) sources.

Actions beyond the conference

The discussion principally focused on continuing the development of improving land and livestock management through the work currently ongoing in each of the speakers different organisations (Savory Institute, African Centre for Holistic Management, Grasslands Trust Ltd), rather than a new initiative or working group, though there have been and will continue to be opportunities for collaboration among these organisations in bigger and more ambitious

projects in the near future. There have also been exchanges of information and contacts to research the capacity of grasslands to sequester Carbon as compared to dryland forest.

NbS, Biodiversity Conservation and the Global Biodiversity Standard [BGCI]

Session Leads: Kirsty Shaw (BGCI)

BGCI presented long-term solutions and best practices for tree planting, forest protection, restoration, and agroforestry systems, focusing on the importance of native and threatened trees to protect, restore, and enhance biodiversity, replacing the “any tree at minimal cost” approach to climate change solutions. Examples were shown of how to combine the considerations of biodiversity, local communities, and carbon capture, involving smallholder farmers and indigenous communities, and improving livelihoods through capacity building and sustainable utilisation of plant resources, rather than seeking short-term gains through unsustainable exploitation. Species-level approaches for biodiversity conservation were also presented, along with the potential of NbS to be viable as compensation for biodiversity impact (Biodiversity Impact Credits).

The session also focused on biodiversity measurement and monitoring techniques, presenting the Global Biodiversity Standard (GBS), the world's only international certification that recognizes and promotes the protection, restoration, and enhancement of biodiversity. It was demonstrated how this tool aims to drive improved outcomes for biodiversity, ecosystems, and the communities that rely on them in support of the goals of the Global Biodiversity Framework. BGCI, through its network, highlighted its support for implementing partners in adopting the standard to deliver quality restoration projects and biodiversity benefits, reversing the trend of poorly-designed tree planting schemes that accelerate the decline of biodiversity.

Finally, the session also highlighted the risks of not considering biodiversity in NbS projects.

Key issues addressed

In this session, BGCI highlighted that nature-based solutions have the potential to achieve strong biodiversity outcomes. Trees are essential to life on Earth, as they play important ecological, cultural and

economic roles, and their importance on regulating climate and soil fertility is essential for the planet.

However, a number of challenges were also presented.

- Many species are under significant threat. Currently, as reported in the State of the World's Trees report, a third of the world's trees species are threatened with extinction in the wild.
- The current focus is often on planting high numbers and quickly for carbon capture, so biodiversity and livelihood opportunities are often missed.
- Well-intentioned but badly planned solutions to climate change, such as tree planting schemes that promote the planting of invasive species, can inadvertently cause harm to our world's ecosystems, by displacing or damaging biodiversity, accelerating the extinction of species and in many cases, increasing CO2 emissions.

The risks of not considering planting the right species in the right place were also presented, including:

- Planting of invasive species that displace native biodiversity.
- Planting tree species in places that were not previously forested and displacing native biodiversity.
- Planting species that are not suitable and won't survive, which means wasted effort and resources, projects that do not realise their intended outcomes, and disappointed funders.
- The loss of threatened tree species if they are not brought into conservation / planting programmes
- Continuing with the \$1 per tree planting model will result in limited benefits to communities
- Missed opportunities for biodiversity, carbon and livelihoods.

Novel ideas identified

The session shared tools and case studies to demonstrate that NbS projects can be designed at the species or landscape level to positively impact biodiversity and help to save threatened species from extinction, whilst still providing carbon offsetting and livelihood benefits.

A case study from Kenya was presented, where a BGCI-led carbon project called “Kaya Connect:

Restoring the Eastern Africa Biodiversity Hotspot” is being designed and developed focusing on the importance of native and threatened trees. The project is protecting, restoring and enhancing biodiversity, and providing an alternative to the “any tree at minimal cost” approach to climate change solutions. The project involves smallholder farmers and indigenous communities and is improving livelihoods through capacity building and sustainable utilization of plant resources, rather than short-term gains through unsustainable exploitation. More than 170 native tree species have been propagated in community nurseries in less than two years, demonstrating that, by bringing in botanical expertise to identify species and provide training on propagation techniques, it is possible to achieve results quickly for a high number of native species. This project can be replicated.

The Global Tree Assessment (GTA) is putting conservation assessments in place for all of the world's tree species. Data from the GTA is now being used to develop tools to help policymakers, funders and practitioners to incorporate the right species into planting programmes to achieve multiple benefits. These tools include BGCI's Global Tree Portal, which provides country-level distribution data and conservation assessment data for the world's tree species, and country-level checklists can be downloaded to help with species selection. BGCI's Climate Assessment Tool can be used to determine the chances of individual tree species surviving in a given site, under various climate change scenarios. This tool uses data from BGCI's PlantSearch database of living plant collections, which will soon also have propagation protocols included. The Global Biodiversity Standard has also recently been developed: the world's only international certification that recognises and promotes the protection, restoration and enhancement of biodiversity. The certification also has a mentorship programme associated with it, to support practitioners to enhance the biodiversity outcomes of their projects. BGCI also presented a model for achieving Biodiversity Impact Credits focused on the recovery of threatened tree species.

These tools, backed up by case studies of best practice, aim to drive improved outcomes for biodiversity, ecosystems and the communities that rely on them in support of the goals of the Global Biodiversity Framework. BGCI, through its network, can support implementing partners in adopting the

“The conference was an important opportunity to connect with practitioners and share tools that BGCI has developed which aim to reverse the trend of poorly-designed tree planting schemes and replace these with solutions that promote strong biodiversity outcomes, as well as carbon and livelihood benefits”.

- Kirsty Shaw,
Head of Conservation Planning & Action, BGCI

standard to deliver quality restoration projects and biodiversity benefits, reversing the trend of poorly-designed tree planting schemes that are accelerating the decline of biodiversity.

Actions beyond the conference

The Global Biodiversity Standard (GBS) will be launched and open for business at CBD COP 16, later in 2024. Practitioners are invited to apply for certification and sign up for mentoring support to improve the biodiversity outcomes of their projects. Various practitioners who attended the session noted their interest in GBS assessment. Funders and networks are welcome to reach out to discuss how the GBS can be integrated into their portfolios, for example BGCI and the Global Evergreening Alliance will be exploring how the GBS can be embedded into the design phase of projects to secure positive biodiversity outcomes.

Session participants also showed strong support for challenging the “any tree at minimal cost” approach to climate change solutions and were supportive of BGCI's upcoming work with partners to make the data tools to support planning and implementation of NbS projects more accessible and user-friendly.

To realise the potential of NbS projects to achieve strong biodiversity outcomes, all sectors will need to be engaged.

A New Economy and Civilization: Integrating the Protection and Restoration of Lands, Climate, Biodiversity and Communities

Session Lead: Phoebe Barnard (The Stable Planet Alliance)

This session worked toward building a multi-scale working framework to create a new economy and civilization by bridging the siloed global land, climate, biodiversity and social restoration communities - and help plan integrated restoration projects at scale and at speed.

The workshop opened with a brief illustrated set of challenges and reflections, followed by a facilitated process of elaborating the draft multi-scale framework for integrated restoration planning and action. Workshop participants were divided into five breakout groups to contribute their field expertise and observations of social, climate, biodiversity and land restoration to ensure a well-grounded, bold, transformative framework output.

The groups recommended a great range of actions to build the multi-scale framework and to refresh and invigorate the EverGreening the Earth 'Green Up to Cool Down Campaign'. These included: Use stories and case studies from the Global EverGreening Alliance to strengthen its influence at all levels, ground the campaign with an inspiring vision, advocate within restoration projects to connect to the global campaign, set clear goals, be action-oriented and centered on communicating its priorities, convene a group of donors to fund campaign activities adequately, engage faith-based communities, better integrate the contributions of women and youth, and strengthen policy advocacy, among others.

The Roots of Climate Resilience in Africa's Drylands: Catalysing Synergies Between Land Restoration, Community Building and Peace

Session Lead: Alan Channer (GEA)

This session explored the ways in which community-based land restoration can foster social cohesion and peace, and how synergies can potentially be

enhanced such that climate resilience is strengthened and scaled up in fragile, dryland contexts.

Key issues addressed

This session explored the factors which enable successful nature-based solutions (NbS) in Africa's drylands by delving into four examples of community-based environmental restoration: farmer-managed natural regeneration in Burkina Faso and northern Kenya; reforestation & afforestation in Humbo, Ethiopia, and community-based natural resource management in Namibia. The session went on to examine the extent to which community-based collaboration over shared natural resources can be a pathway to social cohesion and peace - and thus to the social, environmental and economic foundations of climate resilience in these fragile contexts.

Novel ideas identified

Several common enabling factors for fostering climate resilience through Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) emerged from the case studies:

- Engaging community & local government actors right from problem identification and project inception, and working closely with them throughout.
- The importance of devolving rights over natural resources to the communities who depend on them, noting that this may require policy change so that communities are empowered to make decisions over how their natural resources are used... eg the Presidential decree in Niger that allows farmers to cut their own trees.
- The importance of building strong community-based legal governance, capacities and systems at the local level, and empowering communities to take ownership of their resources and their development, including putting in place clear benefit-sharing arrangements before the benefits accrue.
- The importance of patient, predictable sources of finance over a long time period (10 years and more), so that communities have a reliable revenue stream and can invest in their long term development
- When these factors are in place, CBNRM can be a driver of multiple benefits – economic, ecological, social - and a driver of peacebuilding.

The session also noted that:

- While Africa drylands and its inhabitants are vulnerable and consistently under stress, holistic land restoration initiatives anchored in NbS can enable community-building and foster peace, for example between sedentary farmers and mobile pastoralists.
- Context-based & integrated FMNR, in particular, is very cost-effective and can contribute simultaneously to several SDGs (1,2,3,5, 13, 15 and 16).
- NbS varies between contexts and countries. The different NbS approaches deployed within a country should be framed within that country's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), in order to contribute to an integrated approach to climate resilience.

Actions beyond the conference

- To pay very high attention to the community dynamics of NbS programmes - and to put in place, not only 'guardrails' with respect to community rights and benefits, but also mechanisms which affirm communities as true co-investors in NbS. Such mechanisms must include participatory planning with communities of NbS programmes. This is appropriate not only because it is the right thing to do in terms of equity for communities, but also because it minimises intra-project conflict and helps guarantee the ultimate success of NbS projects. While it may take more time and cost more money, it is an investment worth making.
- Thereby to put meaning into the phrase 'community-led restoration', notably with respect to large programmes supported by carbon finance, eg 'Restore East and Southern Africa'. 'Community-led restoration' will remain an empty phrase if communities themselves have not defined what it is. Furthermore, participatory planning, monitoring and evaluation at the grass-roots level allows for the co-creation of knowledge and generates a sense of ownership by communities, which in turn leads to strong commitment and shared responsibility and solidarity. Fully engaged community leaders will be ready to innovate in the context of the changes and challenges that will inevitably take place in very long projects, for example those which are designed to accrue carbon credits to farming households for 40 years. Genuine community participation in local programme development is a prerequisite for programme success.
- NbS programmes should not shy away from

fragile, dryland contexts. On the contrary, they are well-placed to succeed in these contexts, when communities are at the forefront. Synergies between land restoration and community development need to be mainstreamed in restoration programmes. At the same time, pilot projects that bring out the synergies between land restoration, peacebuilding and climate resilience in fragile drylands need to be developed, so that these synergies can be better understood and amplified.

- A Working Group arising from this session could help identify key objectives, activities, expected benefits, sites and potential partners for pilot projects in fragile drylands.
- Packaging/standardising NbS to the major agro-ecological and sociocultural contexts of Africa would simplify promoting NbSs to each country's government & CBO systems.
- Conducting a joint review in two years of synergies between land restoration, peacebuilding and climate resilience to assess progress.

Side Event Reports

Summary

Side events offered a platform for organisations to highlight success stories, showcase innovative ideas and introduce practical solutions. We were thrilled by the enthusiasm to host side events at the Accelerating Nature-based Solutions Conference, and to see the impactful work being carried out on the ground.

The importance of collaboration carried across to side events. We saw examples of how indigenous fire management practices in Australia have demonstrated the benefits of traditional approaches and how in other parts of the world clean cooking systems have been used to address reforestation. Other side events saw some very impressive planting goals, the importance of soil health in sustainable agriculture, an app that puts everything needed for greening using nature-based solutions right in the farmers' hands, initiatives focusing on Nature-based Solutions for children and the promotion of women-led enterprises; all of which highlighted the broadening scope of nature based solutions projects.

It was incredibly encouraging to see the commitment and enthusiasm of all our participants. Stakeholder collaboration (including private sector and Government involvement) and integration of indigenous knowledge is key for meaningful change.

Side Event summaries have been provided by each side event organiser. All side events may not be reflected if summaries were not provided.

Communities Regreen the Sahel: An Example of FMNR Scaling-up

Lead: Tougiani Amadou Abasse (INRAN - Niger)

The “Communities Regreen the Sahel” program is a bottom-up approach to scaling up FMNR since 2017, coordinated by a consortium of partners from Niger, Burkina Faso, Senegal and the Netherlands.

Key issues addressed

We presented the Communities Regreen the Sahel (CRS) programme which is carried out by the organisations CRESA & INRAN in Niger, SPONG in Burkina Faso and IED Afrique in Senegal, and coordinated by Both ENDS in the Netherlands, as a concrete and successful example of scaling up FMNR. The main challenge discussed was the challenge of accessing funding that enables us to continue our work at local level and to scale it up. By scaling up we do not only mean the number of hectares and farmers applying FMNR, but also scaling up quantitatively and qualitatively the institutional support at local/national/international level for FMNR.

Novel ideas identified

We identified interest in our holistic, concrete, cost effective, locally led and based approach. One of the novel ideas that was discussed is to more explicitly highlight how our approach to FMNR contributes to peace building, conflict prevention and resolution at the local level. As well as how it fosters local social cohesion and partnerships between different actors, between for instance farmers and pastoralists or school teachers and farmers.

Actions beyond the conference

Further explore connections and possibilities to develop collaboration with some of the organisations we met during the meeting; create further visibility for the Communities Regreen the Sahel program, and its specific community-led approach, the institutionalisation of FMNR at local/national/international level in terms of enabling policy and access to markets.

Clean Cooking and Reforestation: The Perfect Synergy

Lead: Folake Salawu (Green Recovery Nigeria)

Community-based organisations from five African countries are scaling up digitised reforestation. Given that harvesting fuelwood is the main driver of deforestation, this event shared a net-positive solution.

Key issues addressed

This session presented a video and survey results from the DUAPA Africa youth-led technology driven reforestation movement. Representatives from five countries shot video and surveyed local residents in reforestation/restoration areas about their cooking practices. The survey results validated the hypothesis that there is high demand across the board for improved cookstoves in rural and urban communities. It also demonstrated that local stakeholders recognize that reforestation is not sustainable if it is not accompanied by clean cooking systems because wood fuel for cooking is one of the main drivers of deforestation in much of Africa.

Novel ideas identified

That climate financing mechanisms designed for removals through reforestation in Africa should be accompanied by clean cooking systems. Therefore, projects moving forward should approach both issues simultaneously and we need crediting methodologies to address both issues, and figure out how to frame up-front investment to communities. It also came out that there are many nuances to clean cooking on the community level, including great variances in availability of technology, ability to pay, and which stoves would be viable in a given context.

Actions beyond the conference

DUAPA, Nature4Climate and the Clean Cooking Alliance are looking to follow up with some of the carbon developers participating for guidance on how to frame a combined project in different contexts: Liberia, Ghana, Nigeria, Uganda and Kenya.

Lessons Learned From Australia’s Largest Biodiverse Reforestation Carbon Sink

Lead: Dr Philip Ireland (Carbon Neutral)

The Yarra Yarra Biodiversity Corridor project is an example for large-scale, nature-based carbon initiatives, demonstrating effective land restoration and biodiversity conservation for worldwide application.

Key issues addressed

Our session “Lessons Learned From Australia’s Largest Biodiverse Reforestation Carbon Sink” centred around the unique challenges and successes in biodiverse reforestation, especially in semi-arid environments. Central to this discussion was Carbon Neutral’s remarkably successful project, the Yarra Yarra Biodiversity Corridor, demonstrating how the private sector can play a transformative role in addressing climate and biodiversity challenges.

Novel ideas identified

Emphasising our unique position as one of the few private companies at the conference, we showcased Carbon Neutral’s pioneering site preparation and direct seeding methods, and ability to take risks and mobilise finance for Nature-Based Solutions. Carbon Neutral’s approach, aligning with recent global research, illustrates the crucial role of private sector innovation in ecological solutions, particularly in adapting to the impacts of climate change and addressing the biodiversity crisis.

Actions beyond the conference

We highlighted the importance of ongoing engagement and knowledge exchange within the reforestation community, emphasising the private sector’s role in pioneering new practices and supporting sustainable development initiatives. This includes the need for continuous dialogue and shared learning to further advance sustainable reforestation efforts.

Call to Action: Ecosystem Restoration via Resilient Wildfire Management

Lead: Diogo Ladvocat (Maki Planet Systems)

Maki Planet Systems catalyse carbon finance flows to scale regenerative landscape projects via wildfire management. This event showcased their work in identifying potential partners for immediate implementation in Southern Africa.

Key issues addressed

- For many, fire is seen as a threat, however, indigenous fire management techniques in Australia have been proven to benefit communities, the climate and biodiversity.
- Climate change and land-use change are projected to make wildfires more frequent and intense, with a global increase of extreme fires of up to 14% by 2030, 30% by the end of 2050 and 50% by the end of the century, according to the UN Environment Programme.

Novel ideas identified

- We need to flip the wildfire issues approach from reactive to prevention and preparedness: Currently, direct responses to wildfires typically receive over 70% of related expenditures, while planning receives less than 30%.

Actions beyond the conference

- Globally, there is a significant opportunity to harness the social, economic and environmental benefits of wildfire management – and this is the very reason we launched Maki.
- Savanna Fire Management (SFM) is a way to mitigate risks and promote ecosystem restoration in large-scale.
- Maki Planet Systems is finalising the Verra method so we can drive carbon finance to wildfire management.

Digitally Regreening African Landscapes

Leads: Nadia de Waal (JustDiggIt Foundation) & Carl Lens (JustDiggIt Foundation)

What’s the correlation between a shovel and AI? Regreening! JustDiggIt’s programmes



combine low-tech solutions with high-tech innovations to scale up greening.

Key issues addressed

The audience responded positively to our Digital Platform for Regreening, acknowledging challenges such as limited connectivity and access to mobile phones and electricity in some rural regions.

Novel ideas identified

An exciting proposal emerged during the session: to collaborate with governments and UN bodies to co-create reporting mechanisms within our mobile app. By aligning with their monitoring frameworks, we collaborate with them to support adoption and implementation of our platform.

Actions beyond the conference

This event served as a platform not only to showcase our digital solution for NBS but also to gather invaluable insights from our (target) audience. While we anticipated certain outcomes, receiving confirmation was affirming. We encountered new challenges that serve as learning opportunities, including unexpected avenues for collaboration! Overall, it was an exceptionally fruitful event, where we've had meaningful exchanges and we can start paving the way for further progress in our endeavours.

Moving forward, we emphasise the importance of collaborative efforts to maximise impact on NbS. As Abel Liampale from WWF stated, our shared client is Mother Nature. We are actively engaging with similar organisations, UN bodies, and governments to align strategies for Digitally Regreening African Landscapes. Our immediate focus is on the rollout of the app in Tanzania, followed by knowledge sharing and expansion to other African countries, all in collaboration. Regreening is done together!

NbS4Children Launch: How Can Development INGOs Help Accelerate NbS?

Lead: Kayne Harwood (Save the Children Global

Ventures)

This exciting launch kicks off with an engaging panel discussion on how development INGOs can help overcome barriers to accelerating NbS and ensure Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities are included as equal participants in NbS projects. NbS4Children are building a pipeline of NbS projects that leverage carbon markets to scale and contribute to achieving a future where every child grows up healthy, safe, educated and climate resilient. Their panel featured local children's voices through participation of a Zambian youth climate activist.

Key issues addressed

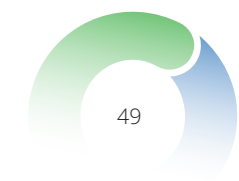
The event focused on the twin and sometimes competing issues of the need to scale NbS while ensuring they address fair participation and benefit sharing with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities. Save the Children has launched the Nature-based Solutions for Children (NbS4C) to develop a pipeline of NbS projects that deliver benefits for climate and nature while also improving children's health, education, security and resilience.

Novel ideas identified

Community-led, high integrity carbon projects which deliver community benefits can be expensive to deliver and therefore harder to finance. We explored the role of NGOs in innovating around blended finance to fund projects as well as promoting the importance of integrity and fairness to the carbon industry and funders. Save the Children has developed a Fair Standard to certify projects that are led by and provide a fair share of benefits to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs).

Actions beyond the conference

Broad collaboration is required to develop innovative funding mechanisms for NbS projects and to set benchmarks around fair benefit sharing with communities involved in NbS projects. SCGV will continue to develop the NbS4C portfolio and the Fair Standard, in consultation with IPLCs, towards these goals.



Nature Based Solutions To Promote Regenerative Agriculture

Lead: John Tabb Kandila (Zero Two Heroes)

Key issues addressed

- How to partner with other members of the GEA through joint ventures, collaborations and partnerships to implement NbS.
- Action areas include a set-up of projects that promote key intervention areas as per the guidelines of GEA.

Novel ideas identified

- The ideas identified include working together as a team with other members of the Alliance, sharing ideas and other opportunities available through social media platforms such as WhatsApp groups, Instagram, Twitter etc.
- New ideas are accepted by the Alliance. This was acceptable to be channelled through the Strategic Advisory Committee.
- Development of global campaigns, movements through FMNR, regenerative agriculture and microbial technologies to promote sustainable climate-smart agriculture.
- Global campaign for Green Up to Cool Down.

Actions beyond the conference

- Introduction of microbial technology to promote NbS.
- Complementing each group's activities in the promotion of NbS and other restoration activities.
- Joint training and capacity development through benchmarking and other approaches.
- Strong participation in webinars and other organised workshops arranged by GEA.

Strengthening the Power of Women's Leadership in Nature-Based Solutions

Lead: Cheryl Margoluis (CARE - WWF Alliance)

Local and regional leaders discussed the opportunities, challenges, and successes of financing and scaling women-led nature-based enterprises.

The CARE-WWF Alliance joined CARE in co-hosting the only session in the conference

that was devoted to the critical role of women in nature-based solutions. In this invigorating and inspiring conversation, we heard from three local organization leaders who are strengthening the power of women in communities throughout Zambia and Tanzania through nature-based enterprises to improve women's livelihoods while caring for the environment.

In recognition of the power of collaboration and partnership, our conversation also included local representatives from international non-governmental organizations and research institutions to discuss the opportunities for learning and capacity sharing across businesses and to scale successful programs within countries and regions.

Engagement among speakers and the audience enriched the discussion as we explored how to overcome cultural resistance to women's leadership and whether trainings and opportunities should distinguish between men and women in their focus. Underscoring the importance of this session, Njamasi Chiwanga, LEAD Foundation Tanzania, declared that LEAD Foundation treats men and women the same in their projects, "but the women become the flagships – every time."

We were honoured by the attendance and participation of Her Royal Highness Chieftains Muwezwa the First, who encouraged organisations to seek out and collaborate with the Royal Highnesses in Zambia to work together on increasing the role of women in climate solutions.

Special thanks to Prudence Masako, Country Director for CARE International Tanzania, for moderating this invigorating session.

And many thanks to our speakers for sharing their insights and learnings:

Jennifer Featherstone, Happy Planet, Zambia
Musonda Kapena, Namfumu Conservation Trust, Zambia
Njamasi Chiwanga, LEAD Foundation Tanzania
Phosiso Sola, Senior Scientist, CIFOR-ICRAF
Henry Loongo, PhD., MSc., CARE Zambia
Abel SIAMPALE, WWF Zambia

NbS in Zambia: Transforming Local Success Into Scale With You!

Lead: Janis Hanf (GIZ)

Local leaders and communities share their insights and lessons on implementing NbS, and GIZ discusses Watershed Investment Programme approach.

Key issues addressed

The session focused on highlighting the various land-use activities leading to catchment degradation within the Lower Kafue Sub-catchment (LKSC) in Zambia. The biggest drivers of degradation include overgrazing and deforestation, resulting in increased sedimentation and erosion due to reduced vegetation cover, drying up of rivers in the dry season reducing local water availability and reducing community resilience to extreme climatic events.

Mr. Likolo, Mutama-Bweengwa Water User Association, presented on the success of the AWARE project, implemented by GIZ and co-financed by the European Union and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, which focused on implementing 16 demonstration sites with local communities, benefitting >48,000 people through trainings and the implementation of 210 km of soil bunds, creating additional water storage capacity of 113,000m³, construction of 14 check-dams to trap sediment and slow down water run-off.

Janis Hanf (GIZ) introduced AWARE 2.0 and the need to significantly scale the activities from demonstration sites to landscape wide restoration and protection. Considerations are being given to diversifying interventions, identifying sustainable financing mechanisms and facilitating partnerships for sustainable resource mobilisation.

To this end, the Zambian Water Resources Management Authority (WARMA) and GIZ, applied to the Nature for Water Facility (N4W) for support in setting up a Watershed Investment Program (WIP) for long-term water security.

Novel ideas identified

Tamryn Heydenrych (N4W) presented an innovative approach that delivers ecosystem services by investing in nature, centred around Nature-based Solutions as the interventions needed to help deliver long-term water security. A WIP aims to set-up a sustainable mechanism for collective action that brings different water users together, such as utilities, government, business and agriculture.

A feasibility study is being conducted in the LKSC to determine if NbS can deliver significant water security benefits to address the water quantity and quality concerns. Work includes scientific modelling, developing a cost-benefit analysis to monetise ecosystem benefits, identifying key beneficiaries and potential funders and packaging findings into a Business Case.

Actions beyond the conference

Nature for Water Facility's Watershed Investment Program approach brings together key stakeholders focused on a shared long-term water security goal at the landscape scale, prioritising implementation areas to maximise impact, identifying sustainable funding solutions and creating a favourable governance mechanism to drive action.

Protected Areas as Anchors and Sources for Effective Landscape Restoration

Lead: Matthias De Beenhouwer (African Parks)

Legacy restoration efforts have often been planned and implemented in isolation of conservation efforts and vice-versa, representing a missed opportunity to leverage the impact that effective protected area management can have on building the foundations for effective restoration efforts. This event shared how to better map, visualise and capitalise on these "missed opportunities" to scale the impact and long-term sustainability of landscape restoration.

Key issues addressed

To roll out durable NBS at scale, it is important that restoration and conservation efforts are leveraged at landscape level. There is a high need for partnerships and collaboration where the synergies are mapped out and gaps are filled in to assure efforts are holistic at landscape-level. Restoration has been shown to be significantly more successful and less risky if planned around and jointly with conservation areas. Positive spill-overs can be leveraged while buffer areas are helping to create socio-economic, financial and ecological self-sustainability in the landscape.

Novel ideas identified

We need to come together to challenge the status-quo: There is a high need for the NBS dialogue to be Africa driven instead of buyer driven. There is also an urgent need to broaden the NBS investment sector to include countries that are generally under the radar, like South Sudan, Tchad and Central African Republic. These are generally areas with very high NBS potential but are underrepresented at global events, have underdeveloped frameworks and/or have more limited in-country capacity.

Actions beyond the conference

Bridging the restoration and conservation sector: there is a clear divide between the 2 sectors. The conference has helped to bridge that gap but it will require continuous dialogue to reduce the gap.

Ecological Mapping: landscape planning results in opportunity mapping. This can result in feasibility assessments for NBS at landscape level where partners can come in and contribute to the landscape. Partners have been identified to explore synergies in the direct landscapes of some of the parks in our portfolio.

Partnership Mapping: Opportunities for partners to come in and fill gaps elsewhere in the portfolio, there is thus a need to keep the conversation going and become more visible on where opportunities lie. Specifically for Zambia, we were able to identify partners that can work in the landscapes around our protected areas.

Connecting Smallholder Farmers to Carbon Markets In Zambia - How to Scale Agroforestry, and the Policies Needed to Support Access to Carbon Finance

Lead: Luke Viljoen (One Acre Fund Zambia)

One Acre Fund (1AF) is an agricultural service provider that delivers food security and prosperity-boosting services to 4M+ smallholder farmers (SHF) across nine African countries. Facing climate change, tree planting has proven to be the single most productive asset accumulation vehicle for rural households, both financially and environmentally. 1AF will help SHF's plant ±100M trees in 2024 and is on track to reach 1 billion trees by 2030. This scale is made possible by an agroforestry model that supports rural communities through production (via decentralized farmer-run nurseries), training, distribution, and stewardship.

To boost rural incomes and climate resilience further, One Acre Fund partnered with Acorn/Rabobank to launch a carbon pilot in Zambia. The carbon pilot, now in year three, provides farmers with a mix of indigenous trees (chosen for their soil fertility and co-benefits) intercropped across one hectare. SHF challenges that the 1AF model addresses: SHF enrollment and certification, permanence, MRV, financing/sales, and policy.

Across Africa, governments have begun drafting carbon regulations, however, many proposed policies do not accommodate SHF models. On the one hand, governments must grapple with complex international agreements, carbon accounting, domestic economic goals, and administrative capacity. On the other hand, SHF carbon models face policies that could make them financially or operationally unviable.

Using the Zambia pilot as a reference, 1AF developed the following policy recommendations to ensure SHF's are included in carbon markets:



- Separate private and public carbon project classifications
- Jurisdictional rules that allow multiple carbon models
- Revenue sharing and tax policies that attract both bankable and impactful projects
- Establishment of a carbon registry

Highlight

Hedges Tembo, Director of Climate Change in the Ministry of Green Economy and Environment, spoke and affirmed the Zambian government commitment to collaboration across carbon stakeholders to ensure that Zambia's carbon regulations are both attractive and inclusive.

Key issues addressed

While there are efforts to make carbon offsets better, there are fundamental flaws in the underlying model and we feel that it is crucial to explore whether companies/institutions have alternatives that could be more impactful and avoid the inherent problems of the voluntary carbon market. When we talk about VCMs there are two clues in the name – 'voluntary': companies can choose to do something different and 'market': there may be alternatives that involve investments but that don't involve use of a market.

Novel ideas identified

We discussed alternative approaches that companies can take instead of buying carbon credits that are more accessible, more ethical, simpler and drive greater positive action; we had useful exchanges on approaches that provide a transformational, rather than transactional, response to the climate crisis.

We discussed ITF's developing thinking on 'beyond offsets' and shared similar alternatives such as that of the New Climate Foundation's Guide to Climate Contributions and WWF's excellent work on 'Credibility and Climate Action: A Corporate Blueprint'.

Actions beyond the conference

ITF has a draft theory of change to build further momentum in this area

Identify key stakeholders or individuals who will play a role in advancing the outcomes of the session. Clarify the responsibilities and actions

required from each party to move the agenda forward effectively.

Some of the participants and other delegates at the conference expressed interest to stay involved. ITF needs to secure funding to support further convening and thinking, both with companies and NGOs, in this area.

Advancing the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration: Best Practices and Monitoring

Lead: Andrea Romero Montoya (FAO)

The session provided an overview of some of the efforts developed to help achieve the mission of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (UN Decade). To do so, the session started by highlighting the need to overcome challenges such as the insufficient technical capacity and political will, as well as the lack of transparent monitoring to foster the transformation of national commitment into effective restoration actions on the ground. The UN Decade, co-led by FAO and UNEP, has established an Advisory Board, a network of partners and five taskforces (on Best Practices, Monitoring, Finance, Youth and Science) that join forces to help overcome these and other challenges.

To that end, the following collective efforts were highlighted during the session:

1. The new call for nomination of UN Decade World Restoration Flagships to be open until 30 April 2024;
2. The recently launched UN Decade Standards of practice to guide ecosystem restoration, which provide recommendations on how to apply the UN Decade principles and thereby maximise benefits for nature and people from restoration activities;
3. The Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring (FERM) platform, which serves as the official monitoring platform for tracking global progress and disseminating good practices for the UN Decade. It also supports countries in reporting areas under restoration for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Target 2; and
4. The UN Decade Capacity, Knowledge and

Learning Action Plan, which proposes eight capacity development initiatives tailored to different stakeholder groups and is currently being implemented by the FAO-led Taskforce on Best Practices. The session was a key opportunity to identify synergies with capacity development activities being undertaken by conference participants in order to promote collaboration with each of the initiatives through follow-up discussions.

Scaling Farmer-centred Solutions From the Soil Up across Africa

Lead: Leigh Winowiecki, CIFOR-ICRAF, Coalition of Action 4 Soil Health

The event "Scaling Farmer-centred Solutions from the Soil Up across Africa" organised by the Coalition of Action 4 Soil Health (CA4SH) and CIFOR-ICRAF addressed the pressing issue of soil degradation and its detrimental effects on food systems and livelihoods. It underscored the urgency for multi-stakeholder action to promote healthy soil ecosystems across Africa. It highlighted the importance of incentivizing smallholder farmers to prioritise soil health and integrating Nature-based Solutions (NbS) into their farming systems. The event showcased novel approaches to sustainable agriculture, such as proper use of locally available soil amendments like animal manure and intercropping systems to improve soil health and crop production, providing markets, agronomic advisory services, and income diversification to farmers, implementing integrated systems that promote climate-smart agriculture practices, and behaviour change among communities. A call to action was issued to include different stakeholders (including farming communities, science, policy, development, conservation, and the private sector), indigenous knowledge and strategic partnerships to drive impactful change. It was emphasised that soil health is often overlooked but is the cornerstone of successful restoration efforts and sustainable agricultural practices. Actionable steps going forward were identified including collaborations with local leaders, levelling the playing field for producers using

nature-based solutions, and incentivizing adoption of these solutions over time. Strategies to overcome barriers to adoption and scale up NbS practices were emphasised, with a call for long-term incentives and financial support from both public and private sectors. As the African Union gears up to host the Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health Summit, and with an action plan in place to improve soil health, the momentum generated by this event underscores a growing recognition of the need to prioritise soil health on the continent's development agenda. To conclude, healthy soil practices can be scaled in Africa through implementation, monitoring, financial investments, and policy support.

Beyond Offsets - Alternative Approaches to Support Community-led Restoration

Lead: James Whitehead (International Tree Foundation)

Key issues addressed

While there are efforts to make carbon offsets better, there are fundamental flaws in the underlying model and we feel that it is crucial to explore whether companies/institutions have alternatives that could be more impactful and avoid the inherent problems of the voluntary carbon market. When we talk about VCMs there are two clues in the name – 'voluntary': companies can choose to do something different and 'market': there may be alternatives that involve investments but that don't involve use of a market.

Novel ideas identified

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Actions beyond the conference

ITF has a draft theory of change to build further momentum in this area

Some of the participants and other delegates at the conference expressed interest to stay involved. ITF needs to secure funding to support further convening and thinking, both with companies and NGOs, in this area.

Scaling Nature-based Projects Digitally: AirImpact Demo Event

Lead: Antti Saarnio (AirImpact)

The Great Green Action initiative is launched amidst a critical juncture for Africa, where its 674 million hectares of forests face the prospect of diminishing by 30% due to the need for an additional 200 million hectares of farmland. This need arises from the continent's population boom, expected to grow by over 1 billion in the coming years. Without innovative and concerted efforts, converting forest land to agriculture could significantly erode Africa's forest cover. At the heart of The Great Green Action lies a commitment to reversing these trends through innovative, actionable strategies that do not merely aim to halt deforestation but to foster an environment where restoration, conservation, and sustainable agricultural practices coexist and thrive. This requires recognising the intricate balance between sustaining ecological health and agricultural needs and advocating for a future where economic development and environmental preservation are not mutually exclusive but are integrated seamlessly for the betterment of all communities and the planet.

The Great Green Action workshop addressed the significant challenges of balancing Africa's rapid population growth with the need for increased farmland, which threatens to diminish its forests. Key discussions revolved around integrating sustainable agricultural practices with forest restoration and conservation to ensure ecological and

community prosperity. Novel ideas included leveraging development funding for enhanced investor confidence, establishing green economies tied to anti-deforestation efforts, and promoting community ownership through direct financial mechanisms. Proposed actions span from initiating community partnerships for revenue sharing to advocating for legal and policy reforms that support sustainable practices. The discussions also emphasised the importance of integrating biodiversity valuation into economic models, creating robust standards for carbon credits, and exploring new financial models to support conservation projects. These actions aim to foster a sustainable relationship between frontline communities and their environment, ensuring ecological preservation alongside economic prosperity.

Initially, strategies for each pillar were discussed:

1. Connecting Finance with Action and Results: Proposals included international development funding to bolster investor confidence and a milestone-based trust system ensuring direct community payments for conservation actions.
2. Greening Economies: Strategies focused on integrating economic activities with anti-deforestation regulations for lasting impact and a 'carrot and stick' model to incentivize sustainable practices.
3. Supporting a Lasting Change: Discussions emphasised local ownership and management as crucial for project permanence, alongside developing an academy for community education on sustainable practices.
4. Converging Practices with Standards: The workshop advocated for enhancing carbon credit quality through transparency and digitalisation, redefining reduction carbon credits, and recognizing biodiversity as a valuable asset.

To complement the initial outcomes, the workshop identified additional solutions and proposed actions to support each pillar further.

For instance:

1. Additional Solutions and Proposed Actions for Finance and Action:

Participants highlighted strategies for enhancing community involvement and financial mechanisms for conservation efforts. Solutions include improving awareness about the benefits of conservation, ensuring equitable land rights with a focus on gender disparities, and enhancing government cooperation for policy support. The actions proposed involve setting up community partnerships for revenue sharing, developing balanced financing models that combine private and public funds, creating and advocating for African conservation standards focusing on inclusivity, and urging project developers to define and adhere to high-quality standards for sustainable practices.

2 Additional Solutions and Proposed Actions for Green Economies:

Participants advocated for solutions, including lobbying for regulatory changes, extending deforestation legislation to financial sectors, and introducing biodiversity credits as economic incentives. Proposed actions focus on developing comprehensive project design documents, incorporating non-carbon benefits into project audits, engaging key industries early, standardising information for investors, crafting transition financing models, promoting nature-positive transition plans, ensuring market transparency, regulating minimum prices for credits, facilitating connections between project developers and buyers, and engaging the media to build awareness and support for these initiatives.

3. Additional Solutions and Proposed Actions to Support Lasting Change:

Participants identified solutions and actions focusing on community-driven conservation efforts. Solutions emphasise early community engagement, equitable land ownership models, transparent project design, diversified revenue streams, and enhancing women's leadership roles in conservation. Actions proposed include involving communities from project inception to ensure their perspectives shape

conservation efforts, advocating for land ownership models that benefit communities, strengthening women's leadership, designing projects for impact with suitable financial mechanisms, and implementing fair pricing strategies for environmental services.

4. Additional Solutions and Proposed Actions for Converging Practices with Standards: Participants emphasised the valuation of nature as a key economic asset, advocating for practices and financial models that support conservation. Solutions proposed include recognizing restoration as a monetizable activity, ensuring carbon pricing transparency, and adjusting REDD+ credits' application towards net-zero targets. Proposed actions involve creating natural asset-backed loans, legal frameworks against ecocide, fair trade principles for carbon markets, and developing standards of excellence for conservation efforts.

Informing Restoration Through Best Practices – From Knowledge to Action

Lead: Hannah Weggerle (GIZ) & Joseph Njue (IUCN)

The critical importance of knowledge sharing on nature-based solutions cannot be overstated, especially as our planet faces the twin challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss. These solutions, which leverage the sustainable management and restoration of natural ecosystems, offer a path forward that can mitigate these issues while promoting environmental sustainability and resilience. Many nature-based solutions have already proven successful and urgently need to be documented and shared in an accessible manner to replicate their success globally and amplify their impact on environmental sustainability.

The PANORAMA platform is an inclusive online knowledge sharing platform accessible to all solution providers and is currently hosting 1440 nature based solutions from around the world. By visiting PANORAMA, stakeholders from various sectors can engage with a '

wealth of real-world examples, learn from a diverse array of lived experiences, and, most importantly, share their unique insights and solutions. In alignment with and support of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, the FERM platform extends a warm invitation to individuals and communities worldwide. It encourages them to contribute their own experiences and solutions, thereby enriching the global dialogue on ecosystem restoration while supporting the monitoring of efforts worldwide.

This collective endeavour underscores the vital role of knowledge sharing in combating environmental challenges. Documenting and disseminating nature-based solutions on accessible platforms like PANORAMA and FERM amplifies their impact, demonstrating our shared commitment to supporting the planet's ecosystems and inhabitants. Engaging in this dialogue is not merely about sharing information; it's about fostering a community dedicated to sustainable global progress.

Scaling Nature-based Solutions: From Scaling Innovations to Systems Thinking

Lead: Olaf Westermann (Catholic Relief Services)

Key issues addressed

The challenges of scaling innovations in nature-based solutions (NbS) to achieve sustainable change at a systems level.

The complexity of transitioning from linear scaling approaches to systemic change that addresses underlying causes of environmental degradation.

The importance of understanding and influencing the systemic conditions like policies, practices, resource flows, relationships, power dynamics, and mental models that perpetuate problems like land degradation.

Novel ideas identified

The concept of "Collaborative Influence Approaches" was highlighted as a method to catalyze change. These approaches include advising, advocacy, awareness-raising, convening, and collaborative demonstration

to influence systemic conditions and promote sustainable change at scale.

Actions beyond the conference

Emphasis on the need to engage in collaborative efforts to influence systemic conditions, which involves working with government, private sector, local organisations, and other stakeholders.

The need to employ a multi-faceted approach to scaling that includes institutionalization (scaling up), expansion (scaling out), and influencing norms (scaling deep) to ensure sustainable and widespread impact.

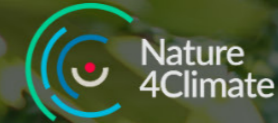
The importance of continuous learning and adaptation in the implementation of nature-based solutions, with a focus on addressing multiple pain and leverage points within the system to achieve lasting change.



Our Partners



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



Participating Organisations

- 1t.org, World Economic Forum
- Acted
- Action Against Hunger
- Aerobic Agroforestry
- Africa Centre for Holistic Management
- Africa Leadership Transformation (ALT) Foundation
- African Climate Foundation
- African Development Bank
- AFRICAN FOREST FORUM (AFF)
- African Forest Forum (AFF) and ANR Alliance Africa Chair
- African Leadership Transformation Foundation
- African Leadership University School of Wildlife Conservation
- African Parks
- African Parks - Zambia
- African Rangelands
- African Union Development Agency - NEPAD
- Agro-Shnrub Alliance
- AJESH
- Allen Institute for AI
- Alliance for Nutrition and Reconstruction (ANR)
- Alliance for Nutrition and Reconstruction
- Ambition Loop
- AMW & Co Legal Practitioners
- An Environment For Women
- Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO)
- AUDA-NEPAD
- AUDA-NEPAD/AFR100 Secretariat
- Awaken Trees
- Axum
- Ayuda en Accion
- BAIF DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH FOUNDATION
- Bamboo Village Trust
- Barka Impact Foundation
- Besix Ballast Needam
- BGCI
- Big Ship CBO
- Biocarbon Partners
- Booma Women Cooperative
- Botanic Gardens Conservation International
- Both ENDS
- Brethren In Christ Compassionate and Development Services
- By Life Connected
- Byala Zambia
- C4 EcoSolutions Pty Ltd
- CADRO/Happy Planet
- Carbon Neutral
- CARE
- Care for Nature Zambia
- CARE International / Zambia
- CARE International in Tanzania
- CARE International in Zambia
- CARE Malawi
- CARE Nederland
- CARE Nepal
- CARE Netherlands
- CARE Zambia
- CARE-WWF Alliance
- Catholic Relief Services
- Catholic Relief Services (CRS)
- Catholic Relief Service
- CCARDESA
- CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL FORESTRY RESEARCH (CIFOR-ICRAF)
- Centre for Community Organization and Development
- CESVI
- CIFOR-ICRAF
- Cirrus
- Clearpath Leadership Awareness Network
- CLIMATE ACTION PLATFORM - AFRICA (CAP-A)
- Climate Asset Management
- Climate Champions
- ClimatePartner Imapct GmbH
- ClimateShift Solutions
- Coega Biomass Centre
- Community Markets for Conservation
- Concern Worldwide
- Conduit Investments (Pvt) Ltd
- Conservation Alive Kenya
- Conservation International
- Conserve Global
- Council for World Mission
- CrossBoundary
- CRS
- Department of Forestry
- Department of Land Resources Conservation - Ministry of Agriculture
- Destination Livingstone
- DFCD - WWF NL
- Diamond TV
- Eastville Preparatory Mutare Zimbabwe
- Eastville Preparatory UNSDGS Program
- ECODEVEC - Ecology and Development Center
- EcoRestoration Alliance
- Ecosystem Restoration Standard
- Eden Reforestation Project
- Eden Reforestation Projects
- Edgewise Business Solutions Limited
- ELEKA Trust
- Entomo Farm
- EnvironCompass
- Environment Africa
- Environment Africa Trust
- Environmental Conservation Trust of Uganda (ECOTRUST)
- Equity Capital Resources Plc
- Ethiopian Forestry Development
- EU Delegation to Zambia & COMESA
- Evergreening Alliance
- Fairventures Worldwide FWW gGmbH
- FAO
- Farm Africa
- Farm Africa Ethiopia
- FarmTree
- FCDO
- Federal Ministry of Environment
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- Forest Regeneration Partnership
- Forest Sector Transformation Unit, Ethiopian Forestry Development, Ministry of Agriculture
- Forest Stewardship Council
- FORLIANCE GmbH
- FSC
- FSD Africa
- FSD Africa Investments
- GIZ
- GIZ Rwanda
- GIZ Zambia
- Global Evergreening Alliance Limited
- Global Shea Alliance
- goodcarbon GmbH
- Government of Zambia
- Grassroots Trust
- Great Green Action
- Great Green Wall Frontline
- Green Farm Zinc
- Greene Crest Farms and Resort
- Grounded IFC
- Groundswell International
- Growth 4 Zambia
- GUSTAMBO
- HAND IN HAND EASTERN AFRICA
- Hallpax
- Heidehof Foundation
- Heidehof Stiftung GmbH
- Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation
- HEROU ALLIANCE
- Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team
- ICEA LION INSURANCE HOLDINGS LIMITED
- IMPULS AFRICA LIMITED
- Incitare International
- Independent
- INRAN
- International Centre for Research in Agroforestry, ICRAF
- International Centre for Research in Agroforestry, ICRAF
- International Tree Foundation (ITF)
- International Union for Conservation of Nature
- Itezhi-Tezhi District
- IUCN
- Justdiggitt
- Justdiggitt Foundation
- Kalomo Agroforestry & Beekeeping Association
- Karingani Game Reserve
- Kenya Forest Service
- Khowani Farms
- Kijani Pamoja: The Kilimanjaro Project
- Kirehe District
- Kulima Mbobumi Training Centre
- LEAD Foundation
- Liberian Youth for Climate Actions
- Lifeworks Global
- Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources
- Lion Rouge
- Luano Honey
- Lukkomano Charity Organization
- Maki Planet Systems
- MARANATHA CENTER CONVIVIAL
- Market Systems Resilience Ghana
- Mazabwka
- Mennonite Central Committee Zimbabwe
- Mennonite Central Committee, Zimbabwe
- Mercy Corps
- Mercy Corps Uganda
- MIGA World Bank Group
- Minda Trust
- Ministry of Tourism
- Ministry of Agriculture & Irrigation
- Ministry of Local Government
- MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES CLIMATE AND CHANGE
- Ministry of Tourism
- Ministry of Tourism and Environmental Affairs
- Ministry of Water and Environment
- Minsitry of Green Economy and Environment
- Mohammed VI Polytechnic University
- Mongabay Org Corporation
- Mupapa Wood Limited
- Mutama Bweengwa Water User Association
- Mwinimunda, Guardian of the Garden
- My Trees Trust
- Namfumu Conservation Trust
- National Council on Climate Change
- National Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
- Native
- NATIVE FEEDS
- Native, a Public Benefit Corporation
- Nature Finance
- Nature for Water Facility
- Nature4Climate
- Nature's Nectar
- NBS Bank Limited
- NBS Bank PLC
- NetHope
- North Luangwa Conservation Programme
- Nsumbu Tanganyika Conservation Programme
- OLIVER WYMAN
- One Acre Fund
- One Acre Fund Zambia
- Opelo Capital Limited
- Oxfam
- Oxfam International (Oxfam in Africa)
- Pakistan Environment Trust
- Peace Parks Foundation
- PELUM Zambia
- People in Need
- People in Need Zambia
- Plan Vivo Foundation/Edinburgh Napier University
- Planboo Eco AB
- power fm
- Precision Development
- Prime TV
- Privat Sektor
- Project Biome and SAOSO
- Rainforest Alliance
- Regenshope Initiative
- ReSCOPE Programme
- Respira International
- ReWild
- ReWild Africa
- Rwanda Forestry Authority
- Rwanda Rural Rehabilitation Initiative, RWARRI
- Salesforce
- Sammie Organic 2. SO2 Feed
- Save the Children
- Save the Children Global Ventures
- Save the Children International , Nepal CO
- Save the Children Zambia
- Savory Institute
- Score Against Poverty
- SCORE AGAINST POVERTY
- SDG Center for Africa
- Securities and Exchange Commission
- Self Help Africa
- SIWI
- Smallholder Agroforestry Finance B.V.
- SNV
- SNV Netherlands Development Organisaion
- SNV Zambia
- Solidaridad Southern Africa
- SOS SAHEL
- SOS SAHEL International France
- Source2Source Inc.
- South Pole
- Standard Chartered House
- Stellenbosch University
- Stichting Justdiggitt
- SUGECO
- Sustain Afric
- Sustainable Farming Solutions
- Sustainable Finance Coalition
- Terraformation
- The African Stove Company (TASC)
- The African Women's Network for Community management of Forests - REFACOF
- The Mast Newspaper
- The Nature Conservancy
- The World Bank Group
- Total LandCare
- Towards Sustainable Use of Resources Organisation
- Tree Aid
- Trees for the Future
- Triple Capital
- UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration Secretariat
- UNDP (Biodiversity Finance Initiative)
- United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
- US Agency for International Development
- Verra
- WATER FOR WATER (WfW)ZAMBIA
- WATER FOR WATER ZAMBIA
- WeForest
- WeForest Zambia
- Welthungerhilfe

- West Lunga Conservation Project
- Wildlife Crime Prevention
- Wildlife Producers Association of Zambia
- WORLD BANK
- World Bank Group
- World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)
- World Vision
- World Vision - Southern Africa
- World Vision Australia
- World Vision Ethiopia
- World Vision International
- World Vision Kenya
- World Vision Malawi
- World Vision Zambia
- World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)
- World Youth Parliament for Water
- World Youth Parliament for Water (WYPW)
- world youth parliament
- WorldFish
- WRI
- WWF
- WWF Zambia
- Wyss Academy for Nature
- Youth Bridge Foundation
- YOUTH4NATURE
- YPARD Eswatini
- Zambesia Conservation Alliance
- ZAMBIA DAILY MAIL
- Zambia Industrial commercial Bank (ZICB)
- Zambian Governance Foundation
- Zambian Governance Foundation for Civil Society
- Zambian Government
- Zambian Women in Agricultural Research and Development
- Zanaco
- ZayoHub
- ZayoHub Mafisa
- ZayoHub/Mafisa
- Zero Two Hero
- ZICB
- Zimbabwe Environmental Law Association
- ZNBC





World Vision

REACHING THE BILLION

Tony Rinaudo
Principal Climate Action Advisor
World Vision Australia



Your Feedback



CONFERENCE

85%

participants rated it 4 and above (out of 5)



NETWORKING

78%

were satisfied with networking opportunities

99% participants are interested in attending future events



1/3

agreed networking was the conference highlight



SESSIONS

1/6

participants rated FMNR as their favourite session



FUTURE AGENDAS

44%

would like to see more networking opportunities

1/12 rated the plenaries and side events the most enjoyable



38%

would like to see more stories featuring local people



*Statistic collected from a survey of 108 of 500 participants.

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