

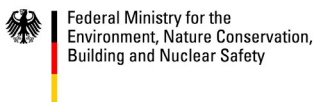
SOUTHERN AFRICA (SADC+) MINISTERIAL BONN CHALLENGE MEETING REPORT

12 - 13 July 2017

Bingu Wa Mutharika International Convention Centre
Malawi

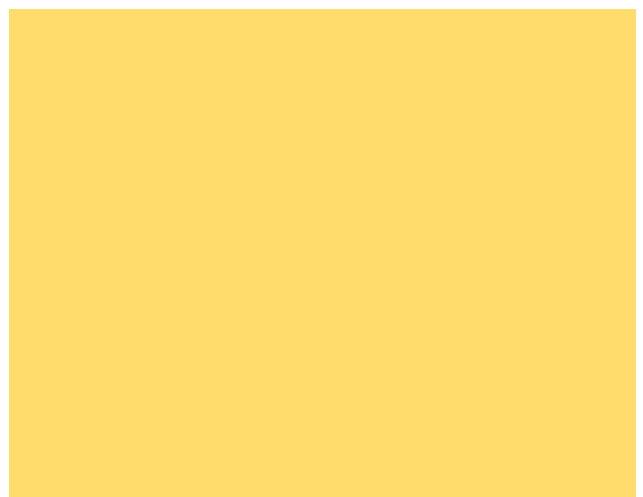


BONN CHALLENGE





What's **Inside**



1. Introduction and Background

The Bonn Challenge is a global aspiration to restore 150 million hectares of the world's deforested and degraded lands by 2020. The 2020 target was launched by world leaders at a Ministerial roundtable in Bonn, Germany, in September 2011, and extended by another 200 million hectares by 2030 through the New York Declaration on Forests during the UN Climate Summit of 2014. The international target now totals 350 million hectares. Underlying the Bonn Challenge is the forest landscape restoration approach (FLR), which aims to restore ecological integrity at the same time as improving human wellbeing through multi-functional working landscapes.

To date, 150.03 million hectares have been pledged to the Bonn Challenge and eighteen African nations have contributed more than 75 million hectares. In the SADC region this includes 17.5 million hectares: 8 million hectares by 2020 from DRC, 4.0 million hectares for Madagascar, 4.5 million hectares by Malawi, and 1.0 million hectares from Mozambique by 2030.

The Bonn Challenge is an implementation vehicle for national priorities such as water and food security and rural development, while simultaneously helping countries contribute to the achievement of international climate change, biodiversity and land degradation commitments. The African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100) fosters regional collaboration on forest landscape restoration and the Bonn Challenge as well as other targets and programmes. It aims to bring 100 million hectares into restoration by 2030. Contributions to the Bonn Challenge and to AFR100 are mutually reinforcing.

Malawi and Mozambique have experiences to offer to the region from the assessments of restoration opportunities they have undertaken. These are providing information on restoration interventions and the multiple benefits they will bring, which will guide implementation of their Bonn Challenge and AFR100 commitments.

To further raise ambition on forest landscape restoration and the Bonn Challenge in the Southern Africa region, especially among the Southern African Development Community (SADC) member countries, the Government of Malawi hosted a Ministerial Roundtable at the Bingu International Convention Centre in Lilongwe, Malawi, from 12th to 13th July 2017, with organisational support for this event by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

The objectives of the Ministerial Roundtable were to:

1. Recognise and further catalyse leadership on forest landscape restoration in the SADC region.
2. Explore opportunities for cooperation to accelerate implementation of restoration and to expand coverage of restoration efforts to low forest cover countries and regions.
3. Provide a platform for the exchange of experiences on commitments, policies, plans and other relevant measures aimed at strengthening forest landscape restoration in the region.

The following sections provide an overview of the presentations and deliberations at this Ministerial Roundtable.

2. Opening Remarks and key note addresses

This session was moderated by Prof Sosten Chiotha.

The director of ceremonies, Professor Sosten Chiotha from the University of Malawi, began the Opening session by outlining the objectives of the meeting and facilitating the introduction of all delegates present. He then handed over to the Regional Director of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) for the Eastern and Southern African Region, Mr Luther Anukur, who gave some more background of IUCN's involvement in Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) and the background to this Ministerial Roundtable, which emanated from an African Roundtable held in Kigali in July 2016, giving rise to the Kigali Declaration. Mr Anukur highlighted that FLR is not just about forests or trees but about restoring all types of land. The definition includes grasslands and bushlands as well as bushlands with a low percentage of trees. Hon Minister Bright

Msaka, who is hosting this Roundtable on behalf of the Malawi Government, was present at the Kigali Roundtable and offered to extend the momentum into the SADC region by hosting this event. Malawi has also carried out a Forest Landscape Restoration Opportunities Assessment using the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM) assessment which underpins Malawi's commitments to the Bonn Challenge. IUCN, with generous support by partners such as the German Government, has supported 29 restoration assessments worldwide of which 10 were in Africa. The Bonn Challenge and AFR100 are ambitious, but currently well on track to being achieved with communities throughout Africa restoring their land. IUCN has a long history in working with countries within the SADC region and pledges to remain a partner in supporting SADC Member States and promoting the BC Challenge and AFR100.

Following on from the Regional Director of IUCN was Dr Juliette Biao Koudoukpo, UNEP Director and Regional Representative for Africa, who highlighted that the concept of natural capital was advanced at the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) in Cairo in 2015 and strengthened in Resolution 2.13 of April 2016. Africa has extensive natural capital and Dr Biao Koudoukpo noted that new approaches need to be implemented to protect, restore, manage and sustainably use these resources, adding that rather than exporting raw materials, we need to add value in Africa before exporting. She further noted that the restoration of 100 million hectares of forest could generate 84 billion a year for direct benefits for rural communities, of which 90% would potentially be tradeable. This restoration would also lead to watershed protection, increased crop yield and several other benefits that would create opportunities. Dr Biao Koudoukpo further highlighted the role of women and youth in the management of natural resources in Africa, making the link between degradation, unemployment and migration in particular of youth to other continents due to loss of opportunities. The Bonn Challenge is an implementation tool to support the reversal of this trend, through developing new opportunities and reducing land conflict. Dr Biao Koudoukpo also noted that women play an important role in land and resource management, yet there were very few women present in this meeting. She urged participants to think differently, inclusively, so that land restoration may succeed. Lastly, Dr Biao Koudoukpo reconfirmed that she, as Africa Director for UNEP, would support SADC Ministers to bring the topic of restoration and the Bonn Challenge to the AMCEN and UN General Assembly.

The next speaker was Dr. Elvis Paul Tangem from the African Union, who reiterated that achieving the Bonn Challenge commitments and AFR100 was possible if we change our mind set and the way we have been doing things. He focussed on social problems linked to land degradation and noted that tackling land degradation can therefore also address social issues experienced widely in Africa.

Efforts must be based on fully engaged policy makers that prioritise restoration areas, as the Bonn Challenge is about development programmes that restore not only land, but also water, soil, food security, wealth, peace and harmony. We cannot talk about restoration in isolation as it requires integrated actions across sectors and levels – from communities to the international community. Discussions at the 16th AMCEN meeting focussed a lot on restoration, culminating in a resolution calling on the African Union (AU) to extend the Great Green Wall initiative to other drylands on the continent. Similarly, the G20 summit in Germany focussed attention on the challenges of poverty, land degradation and climate change in Africa and the UNCCD CoP coming up in September in China will further scrutinise progress on Climate adaptation and mitigation, so AFR100 and the Bonn Challenge are good vehicles to domesticate restoration and respond to these global challenges. When the UN Security Council meet, they talk only about armed conflict and stopping wars, but never reach out to other sectors, such as UNEP or similar to present challenges linked to causes for armed conflict. The AU has now asked for environmental information as a basis for conflict in the Sahel, which is a great break-through to environmental solutions as pathways for achieving Agenda 2063.

In addition, challenges around food security and extreme weather conditions increase across Africa, with for example, 5.5 Mill people severely food insecure in Somalia due to the worst drought in 60 years in the Horn of Africa; malnutrition in parts of northern Kenya around 60%; 11 thousand young people drowned crossing to Europe to look for better opportunities; southern Africa is recovering from the devastating effect of 2 years of El Nino effects with 14 Million people at risk of starvation across the region; livestock sold off for fear of them dying off; clashes between farmers and livestock herders and the list goes on. These are news items linked to issues of land degradation, desertification and climate change. The nexus between climate change, migration and food security is linked to the restoration agenda and it is therefore crucial for countries to set national targets for land restoration. Some 26 countries across the world have already pledged over 80 Mha, but 29 countries in Africa

still need to pledge. 4 SADC countries have pledged to date with Malawi pledging 4.5 Mha, which is almost half of their land area. Dr. Tangem ended by saying that the AU fully supports UNCCD domestication within AU Members States, stands strongly behind the Bonn Challenge and AFR100 and supports the exchange of knowledge and experiences across the continent to enhance efforts in restoration.

The US Deputy Chief of Mission in Malawi, Mr. Andrew Herrup, focussed on the launch of two interrelated Malawian strategies – the national restoration strategy and the national charcoal strategy. He noted that the USA was proud to have been part of the development of these two ground-breaking plans in support of Malawi's commitment to the Bonn Challenge. He noted that this and similar work across the region will influence the entire ecosystem of SADC and Central Africa. It will enhance food security for millions of people in the region. Malawi has lost more than 50% of its forest cover since 1970 because of charcoal production and fuelwood use. Deforestation exacerbates food insecurity. When people need wood for fuel they spend more time on collecting wood and less on economic stability. Malawi's over-reliance on fuel wood has cost the country an estimated 244 Mill USD. The successful implementation of these strategies requires bold action now. Enforcement of existing legislation will require strong cooperation across many arms of the governments. For most of the region, a move away from using wood as the primary source for energy is critical as deforestation has increased with population increases. Some of the key areas of action include avoiding high dependency on firewood as energy source, expanding energy options, expand private sector engagement in energy production and options as well as addressing unsustainable population growth. The time to act boldly is now!

Dr. Horst Freiburg, Head of Division of Climate Change, Forest and Biodiversity and representing the BMUB, conveyed greetings and good wishes for a successful meeting from Minister Barbara Hendricks to the Hon Bright Msaka. He acknowledged Malawi's role in leading the Bonn Challenge and Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) work into the SADC region and noted the continued strong supporter of the German Government for the Bonn Challenge and FLR. Germany hosted the original meeting in Bonn that gave rise to Bonn Challenge, which set ambitious goals for restoration and envisaged a platform for sharing experience, as well as promoting action on the ground. This meeting is the second regional platform in Africa, adding to the three in South America and recently also one in Indonesia. This shows the need to integrate not only environment and biodiversity, but also people – FLR is about restoration of ecosystem services, which includes people, as the users of these services, and sustaining livelihoods. Dr Freiburg highlighted the need for owners of the process and gave the example of the Minister in Malawi as the owner for his own country, but also to stimulate this issue in the region. He further noted that implementation is key, but that no one size fits all, which is why FLR has a very wide spectrum of different approaches adapted to local needs. This platform today and tomorrow can serve as the enabling environment to start implementation. FLR is about being or becoming creative. Investing in the future is investing in preserving natural resources. Germany remains committed to supporting FLR and is also keen to support a global landscape forum in Bonn which will bring all other landscape interventions together into one forum.

In the final address of this first session, Honourable Bright Msaka, Minister of Natural Resources, Energy and Mining for Malawi, officially launched the National Forest Landscape Restoration Strategy and National Charcoal Strategy and opened the meeting. On behalf of President of Malawi, Hon Msaka noted that he was honoured and privileged to preside over this BC High-level meeting. On behalf of Malawi, he welcomed all delegates; and hoped that they would experience the warm heart of Africa. He expressed his gratitude to all attendees for being present and noted that this was only the second such meeting in Africa and the level of attendance was very encouraging. He thanked all previous speakers for their insights and inspirations and noted that our presence here confirms that our forests and natural resources are important for the socio-economic development of our countries. In many of our countries, forests have been exploited unsustainably, leading to land degradation. Sadly, Governments have waged war on their citizens to protect the forests; or citizens have waged war on their governments to protect the forests. Some effects of degradation and deforestation include ecological imbalances, hunger, poverty and many others. All of these challenges are a direct consequence of the loss of forest cover – nature works as a system, so one bad action brings about a million bad results. Increasing number of countries are recognizing FLR as a powerful and effective tool to address land restoration and reforestation. The Government of Malawi has set a target of 4.5 Mha for

restoration under the Bonn Challenge and AFR100 and is setting an example to encourage other countries to follow. The Honourable Minister then officially launched the two strategies in support of Malawi's pledge to the Bonn Challenge: the National Forest Landscape Restoration Strategy and the National Charcoal Strategy. He invited delegates on a field trip after the meeting, to view a site where FLR is effective in Malawi to demonstrate the BC and AFR100 targets are achievable.

He continued by adding that some countries represented have already made pledges, and others are planning to do so very soon. He noted that this meeting is a great opportunity to share experiences on FLR in the region and that there is a global network already, of which Malawi is already a member. He encouraged all countries in SADC to join this global network too. Honourable Msaka ended by saying that we meet in Lilongwe as like-minded people committed to FLR for the welfare of our people and to actualize our belief that forest landscapes are critical for our people. He hoped that all delegate would share experiences, best practices, create and negotiate partnerships between and among countries and sectors, highlighting that working together can achieve more. Finally, he thanked IUCN, BMUB, DFID, WRI, BMZ, NEPAD, and SADC for their support for this meeting and threw a challenge into the room: We are here to change the future – “if not now, when? If not us, who”? He then declared the meeting officially open.



Day One Sessions

Key messages

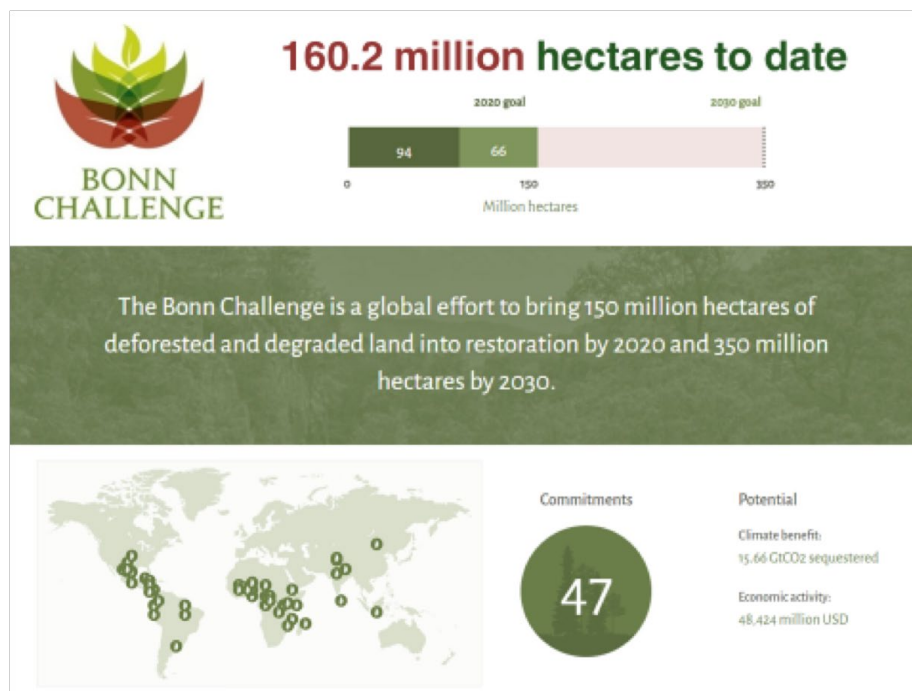
Many countries in the SADC region are busy with restoration activities, some are currently defining the LDN targets and will use this as a basis for a commitment and some countries have already committed to AFR100 and the Bonn Challenge

Countries have a wealth of experience on land management and restoration to share with one another and are constantly increasing this “knowledge bank”.

The underlying causes of degradation are often similar across several countries and include harvesting for fuel wood, overgrazing and unsustainable agricultural practices.

Session 1:

Bonn Challenge Overview



As an introduction to this session, a presentation was made by Stewart Maginnis, Global Director, Nature Based Solutions Group, IUCN. Mr. Maginnis stipulated that the goal of FLR and the Bonn Challenge is to ‘re-instate’ and enhance multiple ecosystem goods and services simultaneously, thereby restoring economic productivity and ecological integrity to degraded landscapes. FLR is not “just about” forestry or “just about” planting individual sites, but it requires integration with other land uses, delivery of a broader range of societal benefits and a vision for a better-managed landscape. Globally, land degradation is estimated to equate to 5% of GDP lost, in many countries of this region, even more – what could be done with an additional 5%? Globally 12Mha of land is lost due to degradation cumulatively every year. This loss is not only about land and soil, but also very closely linked to water. 40% of the global population lives in water scarce areas and land degradation exacerbates this water scarcity. Water scarcity not only a function of the amount of rainfall, but very much about retention and how we manage water when it lands on the soil – with land degradation, water is lost almost

immediately. If we get this right, FLR can touch millions of lives. Drivers of degradation vary from country to country due to different influences and tools such as ROAM help to pin point where restoration can take place, linking with the economics and livelihoods of the people as well as to identify a relevant restoration methodology for each particular region or country. Another important aspect is inclusive stakeholder engagement and the need for ministries of agriculture, water, environment, finance, infrastructure and others to collaborate to have a vision for a better managed landscape – Malawi has shown this in their FLR Strategy. Land degradation is not only a great cost to a country, but also a lost opportunity for development, thus supporting a strong case for prioritizing FLR as a country priority. The cost of taking action is less than the cost of inaction and in addition, for every dollar invested in restoration, 3 dollars are gained, making restoration an economically sensible solution too.

Roundtable Discussion:

Update on Country Restoration initiatives

What progress have countries made in their commitments to Forest Landscape Restoration and other mechanisms to restore degraded lands? What are the drivers of successes? How can we best identify the challenges and solutions to accelerate the progress, scale up landscape restoration successes and ensure they are targeted for support?

Burundi: Honourable Minister of Environment of the Government of Burundi thanked organizers for inviting him in the meeting and noted that restoration is not only a priority for Burundi but also for Africa. Burundi made its commitment in 2015 to the Bonn Challenge and aim to restore a total areas of 2million hectares by 2030. The government have put in place a presidential programme for landscape restoration and as a country degradation remains an issue of high priority under the leadership of His Excellence Pierre Nkurunziza , President of the Republic of Burundi.

Rwanda: Almost all of Rwanda's land area is committed (2 Mha), and forest landscape restoration is included in its Vision 2020. The main concern in Rwanda is food security and linked to this: soil protection. Rwanda has made progress on soil protection infrastructure so that today, 56% of land is under soil infrastructure protection (radical terraces). The Government of Rwanda had committed that at least 30% of its dry land should be covered by forest and currently 29% is already covered, so we are on track to meet this target. Rwanda is also making progress on agroforestry and conservation smart agriculture to sustain and protect our soil as well as promoting indigenous species to use in restoration activities. In a second phase, Rwanda is planning to decrease the number of people reliant on charcoal. Currently, 80% of the population rely on charcoal, so there is an urgent need to address this as Rwanda cannot achieve its restoration targets if 80% of people are reliant on charcoal. Improved cooking stoves, biogas, solar energy, petroleum gas, and some other ideas are all being trialled in Rwanda. The intention is to reduce the population reliant on charcoal to 50% within 3 years and so Rwanda is engaging with Malawi to understand their Charcoal Strategy.

Botswana has not yet committed to the Bonn Challenge or AFR100. It is a country the size of France, but only has a population of 2.2 Million, as it is semi-arid with half of the country covered in Kalahari sands and lots of (agriculturally) unproductive lands. Botswana has various programmes that deal with combatting desertification and this is a country priority independent of international commitments. Activities currently conducted include gully erosion control and bush encroachment control, mostly implemented by communities, with minimal intervention from the Government. Rural communities are encouraged to plant trees as a food security measure in so-called 'backyard tree nurseries'. Since 2009, over 2 mill trees have been planted in this way. The Government spends about BWP 150 000 per annum to produce seedlings for communities for backyard gardening. Another initiative, supported through a GEF Sustainable Land Management (SLM) grant, is to rehabilitate rangelands and thereby improve livelihoods. The focus is not always on productive soils, but on securing sustainable livelihood in these semi-arid areas in a way appropriate to these areas. Through the Kalahari-Namib Project, sand dunes have been reclaimed, invasive species – prosopis in particular, planted in the 1970s – removed and appropriate (indigenous) trees planted. Some of the SLM practices applied in Botswana include intercropping, low-till approaches and the use of paddocks.

Swaziland has not yet subscribed to AFR100 or the Bonn Challenge, but do have existing land restoration programmes. Swaziland is currently busy setting its Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets under UNCCD

and once this is finalised, it will be easier to join AFR100. The unique challenge in Swaziland is that agricultural expansion currently fosters forest removal and intensive productivity is important for food security. Swaziland, as the current Chair of SADC, also reported on the Regional UNCCD Forum held in April in Johannesburg, in which all SADC member states were encouraged to commit to the AFR100, so should be able to get commitments from all SADC countries over the coming months.

Madagascar: Madagascar committed to restore 4.0 million hectares by 2030. The country is among the most degraded countries in Southern Africa and needs immediate action. The country have also completed their national forest and landscape restoration strategy and investment plan. Currently Madagascar with support from the World Bank is developing landscape level restoration plans that will enable and guide implementation of the strategy.

Malawi reported on various activities in support of their commitment to the Bonn Challenge, including climate smart agriculture, watershed management and farmer management to increase forest cover on farmlands. Currently, 80% of agricultural land is under various forms of interventions to restore the land.

Zimbabwe shared their approach of identifying the main causes of deforestation and land degradation and then coming up with solutions that address or minimize these causes with the intention of reversing the situation. One of the causes of degradation is the Tobacco farming, so the Government has put a levy on this, which then flows back into a fund used for restoration. Zimbabwe has commercial forest plantations and is looking for over 21000 ha of planted land by 2021. In Zimbabwe there are existing programme to reduce wild fires, soil erosion, enhance agricultural practices and avoid agriculture on slopes and river bends. An innovative new programme has started on river courses that uses silt for purposes of land reclamation. Zimbabwe have not committed to Bonn challenge yet, but want to be part of the AFR100 and benefit from what is going on in the region.

Mozambique is finalizing their restoration analysis at the moment, following in the tracks of Malawi, who just launched their national FLR strategy today. Mozambique is currently also busy with measuring carbon stocks and reviewing drivers of degradation, which include shifting cultivation, charcoal, wild fires and urbanization. Drought conditions in the country also contribute to land degradation in Mozambique. The key challenges in Mozambique are law enforcement for the protection of natural resources, farming on river banks and charcoal production. Some initiatives that are taking place in the country at the moment include forest plantations, especially in the central and northern provinces, as well as woodlot development to meet energy needs. When we joined AFR100, our intention was to develop our national strategy and guidance on how to move on implementation. Mozambique has committed 1Mha under the Bonn Challenge.



Session 2:

Linking Forest Landscape Restoration with Sustainable Development Goals, Country Priorities and other African mechanisms

Key messages

Land Degradation Neutrality targets, AFR100 and Bonn Challenge all contribute towards reducing desertification and developing sustainable land management options. The UNCCD is the MEA that speaks to land management.

Farm-based restoration and conservation agriculture are good opportunities to support FLR strategies and achieve sustainable land management.

Many country boundaries are key features such as rivers or mountains, that are shared and collaboration to manage and protect these features is critical.

Small farmers, women and youth are key players in land management and should be considered investors in their own right.

This session had two introductory presentations to set the scene. The first presentation on LDN target setting and the linkage with FLR initiatives across Africa was given by Boubacar Cisse, UNCCD Coordinator for Regional Coordination Unit (RCU) for Africa. Mr Cisse noted that the UNCCD is the only international agreement dedicated to land management and that all the initiatives spoken about in the previous session can be housed within the UNCCD and contribute to the implementation of the UNCCD. Sustainable Development Goal 15.3 on combating desertification by 2030 speaks to LDN. LDN target 13 links with the Bonn Challenge and the CoP 12 in Ankara also took a decision on LDN. Mr Cisse explained that the LDN targets are voluntary – if country does not set a target, there is no obligation to do so. However, most African countries are currently engaged in the target setting process (46 out of 54, supported by UNCCD Secretariat), which involves first setting a baseline on land productivity, carbon stock and land cover, then identifying the drivers of degradation and eventually setting targets built on these baselines. There is a commitment from countries that they will have defined their targets by the next CoP – at least at technical level. Among countries that have a draft (technical level) target are South Africa, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Madagascar, Namibia and Swaziland. Mr Cisse concluded by reiterating that many initiatives in Africa are supporting SLM, including individual country initiatives as well as regional initiatives such as the Great Green Wall and the Limpopo Basin Initiative.

The second introductory presentation was by Dennis Garrity of the World Resources Institute, detailing the COMESA EverGreen Fertilizer Initiative, which focusses on restoring smallholder agricultural land with fertilizer trees and shrubs. Mr Garrity noted that FLR must also focus on degraded farmlands and rangelands, as is detailed in Malawi's strategy, which includes a goal to increase the amount of trees on farmlands. The trend in biomass productivity over a 25 year period is declining alarmingly fast, especially in the southern half of the continent. How to reverse the process of long term degradation and boost land restoration has become a major topic within African countries. The key is to find cost effective options so that millions of farmers can restore their farms locally. The parkland renaissance on Niger farmlands is an example where several millions of farming households regenerated trees across 7 million hectares without any financial help and using indigenous tree species, mainly *Faidherbia albida*. Farm based restoration can be an incredible base for further FLR. Malawi and Zambia are working on Conservation Agriculture using *Faidherbia albida*. 100 trees per hectare are recommended in Zambia within maize fields. In intercropping systems, the maize may double or triple without applying fertilizer. In Malawi, farmers are trialing the use of *Gliricidia* sp. in densities up to 5000 per hectre – between maize rows. These are severely pruned in the growing season to avoid competition, but after harvest trees are allowed to grow – providing soil nutrients, fodder as well as wood and possibly fuel sources. Through the microclimate that is created, the crops are also much more drought resilient. Mr Garrity concluded by noting that if the billions of USD paid in subsidies for fertilizers can be shifted to these kinds of restoration activities (intercropping using fertilizer trees and shrubs), then it is very possible to achieve many of the targets we set.

The subsequent Roundtable discussion focussed on sharing success stories on policy development to link the Bonn Challenge and SDG to landscape restoration and how to bring these to the AMCEN and UNGA. What mechanisms (e.g. institutions, incentives, and policies) are the most effective in achieving bottom-up solutions to sustainable economies with top down policies in a way that can reconcile conflicting needs and opportunities on the ground? What are the success stories and opportunities that we can identify, and what would help promote learning and positive outcomes elsewhere?

Swaziland noted that sometimes we are too theoretical and need to be more practical – all the initiatives that were mentioned this morning, all aim at restoration – so many funds going into this, but not sure if this lands in the right place. Need to come up with a structured financing tool to direct resources to the ground – not more meetings. Need to get these funds to the farmers – how do we channel these funds where they are needed. Need to stop planning, but get active on the ground.

Zambia is not a signatory to Bonn Challenge yet, but is having internal discussions how to join. Zambia is guided by a 5-year national development plan (NDP) (2017 – 2021), which includes a goal of ½ Mha for increased forest cover to address the loss of 0.6% of forest annually. The NDP promotes a multi-sectoral approach that will help break down silos between sectors and foster better collaboration. Zambia also has a forest strategy in place, which includes private sector engagement and has given the forestry sector a mandate to plant about 20 ha in 100 districts per year. Zambia is also part of pilot project on REDD+ and currently developing a forest investment plan.

DRC: The Democratic republic of Congo committed to Bonn Challenge with 8million hectares. DRC have developed baseline to enable tracking their Bonn Challenge commitments. DRC expressed commitment of the country which have diverse landscapes and many challenges, and called all partners to join with financing restoration. “Countries need technical and financial partners to achieve these ambitions targets” said DRC Representative.

The Chair Hon Minister Bright Msaka echoed DRC and called for joint , strategic planning and coordination of Forest landscape restoration with other sectors in the country for efficiency.

“ situation where everyone is doing very different things and no one is in control – advocating unity in terms of planning of what happens on which land (coordinated approach across sectors)” said Honorable Mska.

Malawi is currently conducting their LDN target setting and has draft targets, which link to the FLR work under the Bonn Challenge. One of the draft targets is that by 2030 there is no net loss and 5% improvement in forest cover. Specifically, Malawi is working on improving productivity and natural forest as well as promoting tree planting. Malawi would like to dedicate more resources to communication of successful methods and farmer to farmer learning.

Rwanda noted that 60% of the population is youth and 55% of the population are women and that these two segments of the population have to be included in these actions. Rwanda further noted that in their parliament, youth and women are well represented (roughly in line with percentage of population). Rwanda has sector plans in place for all the sectors, which are integrated to subnational and district levels and linked to performance targets evaluated annually. Rwanda emphasized the need for policies to be integrated with each other to achieve successful implementation.

Burundi plants 50 ha of trees per year and suggested an approach of education on issues of land management from a very young age so that children become the new generation of good land managers. Youth play an important role in restoration of country side and there is an opportunity to put this youthful energy to good use. Burundi also highlighted the value of collaboration with international organisations in particular on best practices and exchange of experiences.

Zimbabwe also confirmed that the cross-sectoral approach is key and all Ministries need to be engaged and buy into the process. The current Government approach of Command-Agriculture as a response to hunger in the country has increased yields substantively, as it was a coordinated effort from the top (see also point by DRC). Success requires both leadership from the top and collaboration amongst sectors.

Dr Biao Koudenoukpo (UNEP) highlighted that landscape restoration is also about behaviour and cultural change, so reviewing our education systems may also be valuable. She also noted the importance of the interface between science and policy, especially science and innovation informing policy development. She further called on governments to therefore support research as there is no innovation without research.

All of **Botswana's** national policies are aligned to the SDGs and in the forest policy, all MEAs were considered during the development process, domesticating them into the new policy. In relation to FLR and UNCCD, Botswana is pursuing SDG target 15.3 and trying to bring the Rio Conventions together. The NDP focusses on poverty alleviation and livelihoods, identifying livelihoods that are not directly reliant on natural resources and promoting these as well as putting emphasis on education and public awareness on land degradation. Some of the challenges that Botswana is experiencing include conflicting and competing land use policies and people's mindset towards the environment, i.e. that land that is under conservation is perceived as land awaiting ownership. There is an urgent need to clarify that conservation land is not vacant land.

Dr Tangem (AU) noted that youth engagement has been coming up in discussions on development in particular on agriculture and land restoration and that it has become clear that examples set by grandparents and parents are not inspiring the youth of today, so we need to adjust our methods of communication and put restoration and land degradation into a context that makes sense to the youth of today. He suggested that the way to inspire youth today is through social media platforms and that this should be better exploited for the purposes of land restoration.

Ms Diana Mawoko from the AFR100 Secretariat housed within NEPAD was happy to see so many countries signing up to AFR100 and Bonn Challenge. She reiterated the importance of youth participation and women empowerment and agreed that education is critical as well as using the relevant platforms to reach youth and get them engaged. Ms Mawoko shared that AFR100 brings together countries as well as technical and financial partners and is therefore a platform to drive the implementation of reforestation on the continent.

Mr Charles Karangwa of IUCN highlighted that many country boundaries are key features such as rivers, mountains, that are shared and collaboration to manage and protect these features is critical. This collaboration brought a number of challenges such as different priorities as well as policies and approaches on different sides of the border. Diplomacy is therefore an important tool to address these issues and this is where regional bodies can play an important role. Illegal wildlife trade is another example that requires collaboration and there are good examples and lessons from TFCAs and IWRM in terms of cross-border collaboration.

Mozambique also picked up the theme around youth, noting that a recent study in Mozambique had found that farmers are generally aging with no replacement moving in. Youth do not want to go back to the field and farming cannot be done with drones or joysticks, which puts the country in a real dilemma. In addition, some banks do not want to give grants to old farmers, so Mozambique desperately need youth to come on board and therefore need to find a way to engage youth in farming and land management.

Stuart Maginnis of IUCN commented on the discussions around finance, which is indeed a major challenge that governments need to think about addressing. Finance to small scale farmers and communities – usually in the form of grants - are a good option, but should work on farmers investing in their own land. Private investment is mostly large-scale corporate investment, but finance needs to be inclusive too and small scale farmers need to be able to access funds from private sector lenders. Some interesting experiences in the region are currently being developed but we have got to think of small farmers, women and youth as investors in their own right.

Charles Karangwa highlighted that youth in Rwanda have started a movement called “don't want to inherit degraded land”, which is made up of youth under 21 years, who are speaking to policy makers about not wanting to inherit degraded lands. He expressed the hope that this can be another voice to influence how decisions are made around land use and restoration.

Botswana concluded that through the TFCAs, e.g. the Kazango-Zambezi TFCA (KAZA), there was also collaborative work on restoration on an ecosystem level through cross-border initiatives. Botswana further highlighted that through transboundary projects, benefits can be accessed that may not be available otherwise.

Session 2:

Linking Forest Landscape Restoration with Sustainable Development Goals, Country Priorities and other African mechanisms

Key messages

Huge opportunities to use existing funds more efficiently through cross-sectoral engagement and mainstreaming of restoration activities at national and international levels to channel funds from various sectors towards the same goal

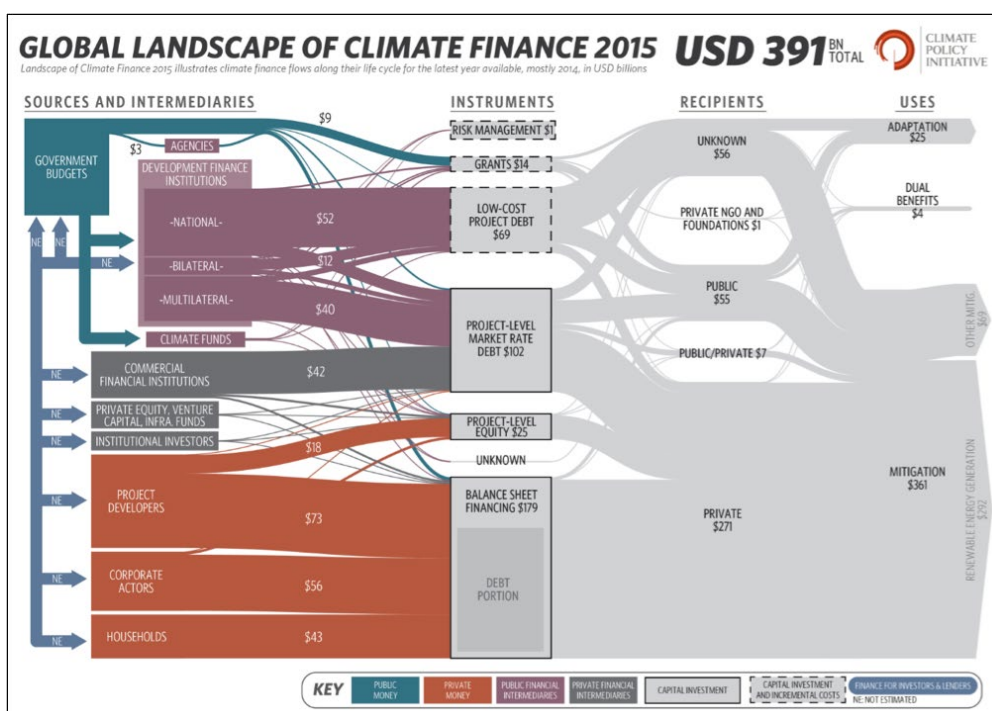
Investment in domestic markets makes up 74% of all investments and public investment as a driver is critical to stimulate private sector investment

Empowering farmers/land owners to invest in their own land is a key action for successful restoration and land management. Small holder farmers are small scale investors and have a vested interest in their land.

Valuing natural capital as part of the real economy is an important baseline for any investment strategy

Mainstreaming restoration and sustainable land management into policy and strategies to facilitate a more holistic approach that meets national goals and therefore

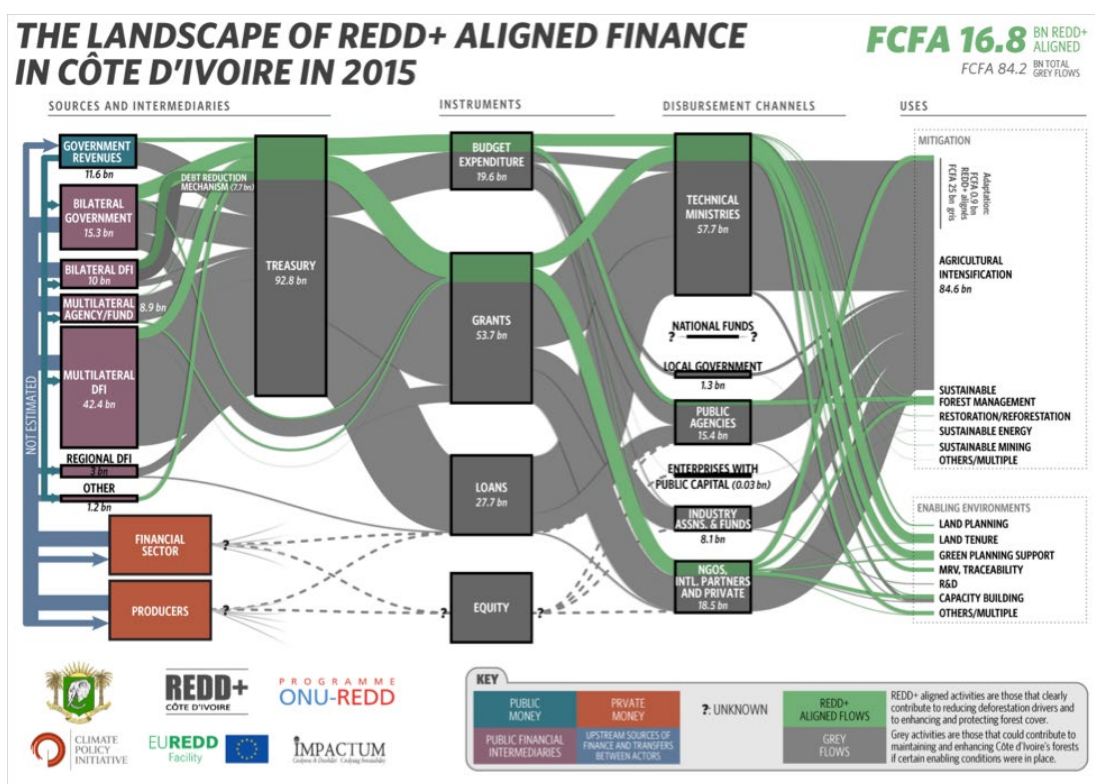
This session had one introductory presentation by Jane Wilkinson, Director of Business Development, Finance and Strategy at the Cloudburst Foundation. Ms Wilkinson gave an overview of the global climate finance and noted some of the mechanisms for investment that could be tapped into to support restoration efforts and avoid degradation. She noted the caveat that the information presented was based on ability to collect data and that in landscape restoration and similar initiatives, not much data was available. Her analysis showed the lifecycle of climate finance as well as diagnostic tools, and essentially focused on who spends what, how and where. The overall conclusion shows that the vast majority of climate finance is spent on mitigation, based on Bloomberg data on renewable energy projects. For adaptation her analysis only provided a conservative estimate, as much data was not included.



Some key messages highlighted in Ms Wilkinson's presentation (and reflected in the slide below) included:

1. A total of 391 Billion USD investment on the ground around the world for climate, mostly by private investors. Development Funding Institutions, who have multiple mechanisms to channel funds, also contribute and are developing a growing number of instruments to take on risks.
2. 74% of this total amount is raised and spent domestically. National policies make investors more comfortable to invest in domestic markets. 243 Billion USD of private finance was raised and spent within domestic markets, the majority of this in OECD countries.
3. Risk is a huge factor – sound policy and an enabling environment are key to raise confidence for investors to put money into countries.
4. Total investment is way below what it should be.

Ms Wilkinson illustrated the flow of REDD+ aligned finance through a national case study from Cote d'Ivoire shown in the slide below:



The green flows in the slide above reflect finance that is actually achieving its goals as set out in REDD process and the larger grey flow represents finance that could go towards reducing deforestation or improving afforestation, but needs more safeguards that in fact it is not contributing to degradation.

Key messages from this slide included:

1. More than 4 times the funding invested does not hit its target
2. FLR and similar interventions need to be mainstreamed into policy and strategies to facilitate a more holistic approach to restoration that meets national goals and therefore channels funds from various sectors towards the same goal. Malawi's example for an FLR strategy shows this well, for e.g. through agricultural intensification based on improved productivity and farmer management.
3. Donors spent 55 times more on agricultural intensification than on REDD+ programmes, which means there is a large opportunity to convert "grey finance" into "green finance".
4. At a minimum, grey flows should not contribute to further degradation, but ideally should contribute to FLR targets and similar.

Roundtable discussions focussed on existing and new pathways for financing to meet the needs of the country and responded to issues such as needs, challenges and enabling environment for successful and increased investment opportunities (private, public, donor financing), incentivizing communities as front-line investors in restoration of their lands (e.g through microfinance), opportunities to enhance private sector engagement, programme-based and sector-wide approaches to accessing funding and the potential of taxes and subsidies to support landscape restoration.

Zambia noted that accessing finance is complex and that the cost and capacity required even just to request funding are quite high and that application are often extremely technical, often requiring special consultants to work on proposals.

Rob Wild (IUCN) shared information from an investment forum in Kigali earlier this year, which highlighted the gap between sources of money and projects requiring funding. He noted that there was willingness of investors to spend money, but they often found no bankable projects. At the same time, good ideas and entrepreneurs cannot find the right kind of finance for their projects. There are some examples starting to bridge this gap, but there is an urgent need to build a stronger infrastructure between investors and communities and entrepreneurs. The packaging of restoration activities as investments and not projects for private sector engagement is key.

Madagascar is developing an investment platform of mixed funds at the moment and need good guidelines for investment to ensure its success.

Malawi would like to hear back on the experiences that Madagascar has with its investment platform and also invited comments from IUCN to better understand how governments can take on more of the burden of making restoration happen, and rely less on donors.

IUCN responded that private sector involvement is critical, as this can be much more sustainable than donor funding and therefore building businesses around restoration and smart agriculture is an important contribution. Some donor funding may still be needed, but through cross-sectoral engagement governments can perhaps also improve money available in support of restoration. Many activities can be streamlined towards restoration using existing budgets, so much emphasis needs to be put on mainstreaming and political commitment. If political commitment in place, this drives cross-sectoral engagement and national strategies with integrated resource mobilization strategies that require creativity and innovation.

The World Bank is supporting FLR with 1.6 Billion dollars in Africa by 2020 and another 1.6 Billion USD by 2024 and is also mobilizing a number of other development partners to invest in FLR. Further, it is preparing large landscape interventions, eg. in Mozambique, Malawi and Zambia, e.g. in the Shire River basin.

Malawi mentioned that it is important to determine the causes of degradation and make sure that the funds go towards addressing these causes, and not towards endless meetings. He raised the question on how to manage resources better and achieve proper results and in particular ensure that funds trickle down to grass-roots?

The World Resources Institute offered “village saving loans” as a way of community financing that FLR can benefit from.

Rob Wild (IUCN) offered methodologies and models for community financing developed in Uganda, and also being implemented in Shire Valley, based on community investment that incentivises community land use planning. He highlighted the need to increase the rate of sharing these models.

As a final contribution to this discussion, Stuart Maginnis asked Ms Wilkinson what her advice to policy makers would be to take home and discuss further, out of the range of options she had presented in the slides. Ms Wilkinson responded that public investment as a driver is critical to stimulate private sector investment. She noted that even small holder farmers are small scale investors and have a vested interest in their land. Her advice was therefore to value natural capital as part of the real economy as an important baseline for any investment strategy.

Day Two Sessions

Session 4:

Assessing Opportunities for Restoration - A roadmap for a Sustainable Economy

Key messages

Understanding the drivers of degradation and the key areas of opportunity for restoration is the basis for a sound strategy. The Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM) is a tool that offers a systematic approach to gathering this background information.

Restoration is a cross-cutting topic and needs to be tackled through cross-sectoral collaboration at all levels – from national to district and local.

This session focussed on examples from the region to showcase existing initiatives on FLR and in particular also the strategic planning that went into commitments and implementation strategies. Three presentations provided a frame for this discussion.

The first presentation was on the Malawi Restoration Opportunity Assessment case study provided by Dr Clement Chilima. Dr Chilima emphasised that there are many challenges in Malawi, including deforestation through charcoal production leading to soil erosion leading to a lot of silt which damages the electricity in the country and decreased land productivity and soil fertility. He noted that a restored landscape is more productive with diverse land uses and that the National Charcoal Strategy and the National FLR Strategy are a result of the Malawi ROAM study recently completed. Dr Chilima briefly outlined the process that Malawi followed which included a brief background to FLR in Malawi and then the restoration opportunity assessment process and the development of the strategies. This process also informed Malawi's pledge to restore 4.5 Mha by 2030.

In reviewing the background to FLR in Malawi, Dr Chilima emphasized that many communities were already aware of the value of trees in their own societies with some sort of landscape restoration already taking place locally where farmers are deliberately protecting trees on farmland. The assessment process then included meeting communities at grassroots level to assess opportunities for restoration based on their understanding of food security and degradation issues and possible solutions. This informed maps for the opportunities assessment, to which estimates on costs for restoration on a district level were added. Challenges that were noted by the communities, such as soil fertility and soil erosion, helped to prioritise the issues to tackle. This process identified a total of 7.5Mha that have opportunities for restoration according to communities and government. Malawi then came up with opportunity marks to identify priority areas for different interventions, e.g. for poverty alleviation or agricultural technology, and these were overlaid again on the maps, informing the development of the national strategies. The Charcoal Strategy was developed because charcoal making was identified as a major issue that should be tackled specifically.

The second presentation was the Rwanda Case Study on Implementing Forest and Landscape Restoration, provided by Dr Prime Ngabonziza, Director General at the Rwanda Water and Forest Authority. Dr Ngabonziza noted that agroforestry was key in Rwanda and that 45% of their land area was potentially available for this. He outlined the context within which Rwanda is working: currently forest cover is around 28-29%, almost hitting the target of 30% set for 2020. However, extreme poverty is at 23% in Rwanda and the GDP per capita is 720USD. Many parts of Rwanda's forests are owned by private individuals and in rural areas, 27% is owned by government and some small % by private institutions. In preparing a plan for the restoration activities, the government identified agricultural areas, wood lots, areas for agroforestry, protected forest, areas of natural forest and riverine areas. Cabinet decided last week that all river banks and wetlands should be protected under Presidential order, which facilitates Rwanda to contribute to the Bonn Challenge commitment. This information fed into a map of where agroforestry will be implemented including about 1100 Mha on steep slopes

and about 1.1Mha on flat slopes. Rwanda has also developed a Forest Strategy of Rwanda which identifies different approaches based on the relevant land ownership models. Forest Management plans are in place in many places, which guide districts and other stakeholders in the sustainable management of forests. The Government of Rwanda is also contracting private sector entities to manage areas in accordance with the Forest Strategy, esp for tea production. In addition, some public-private partnerships for forest management exist aiming to improve management of these areas. Where agroforestry is not an option, woodlots are planted. Lastly, taxes are levied on the volume harvested, not on the area planted and tax reduction are given to afford an opportunity to improve the management of some areas that are currently not well managed. The key challenge is that 72% of Rwanda's population rely on fire wood, so in addition to the restoration work, Rwanda is also introducing petroleum gas and improved stoves to reduce this heavy reliance on wood.

Dr Ngabonziza also shared how FLR is mainstreamed and budgeted in Rwanda, down to district level and stakeholders on the ground. This is governed by a 5-year plan, which informs a sector strategy that focusses on specific sectors that is shared with districts, who are then also governed by regular reviews through frameworks for monitoring and evaluation of these sector plans. FLR implementation happens through a clear governance structure for implementation and is evaluated at the end of each year.

The final presentation to set the scene was given by Mr Alphonse Polisi to illustrate cross-institutional collaboration in the implementation of Forest Landscape Restoration in Burundi. Burundi has a high use of wood as fuel. Degradation of the land is caused mainly by overgrazing, some biophysical factors, and other factors, leading to over 100 tons per ha lost through erosion and transported downstream, losing both top soil and fertility. The cost of not acting against erosion is high and regeneration very expensive, so Burundi needed to consider protection and restoration to avoid desertification. In doing so, Burundi intends to use best practices to restore the land, so as not to end up damaging it even more. There is a particular need to build capacity on how to fight erosion and how to do climate smart agriculture as communities do not know how to do this.

Burundi has therefore set up a FLR focal point and also a task force across sectors to address FLR implementation. All relevant sectors including Finance, Environment, Water and also the meteorological department are involved. Data on issues and existing work is collected regularly across sectors and from various stakeholders including communities and NGOs, and this allow Burundi to report back to the Bonn Challenge. At the moment, Burundi is busy mobilizing resources for restoration activities, including watershed management in the Bujumbura area.

The Chair then opened the floor to inputs and discussions from the Roundtable by summarizing that most countries had similar bad practices and the solutions and best practices are therefore also more or less similar. This re-enforces the potential for exchange across the region to work together on restoration issues.

Burundi emphasized the importance of family planning as a contributor to better land management and to reduce the pressure on the land and is looking forward to working together on the issue of restoration.

Rwanda not that the main challenge is not the knowledge, not the political will, not the behaviour, but the coordination and ability to work together on this issue effectively. As an example, Rwanda noted the issue of water, which is used by a variety of sectors to support economic activities. Water is replenished through the forests and the questions is, why are other sectors that use this water not contributing to FLR? If forests are not maintained, there will not be hydropower in future, as the plants will be full of siltation. Other countries in Africa produce petrol and forests are important for climate mitigation, so again, these sectors should be involved and contribute to FLR. Rwanda emphasized the need for mobilization of funds for FLR and requested information on this. Lastly, Rwanda asked all other SADC countries to sign the Kigali Declaration, which is already signed by Mozambique, DRC and Rwanda

Swaziland reiterated that similar challenges elicit similar remedies and technologies and requested an emphasis on action, noting that information was available, but action was needed now. Swaziland also suggested taking the problem to where it belongs, meaning that for too long, governments have tried to shoulder the farmers problems and have made them dependent on government. Responsibility for restoration must also be put in the hands of the farmers. There is a need to put in place structures to empower farmers to take responsibility for their own resources through an integrated approach on food security in degraded areas

and empowering farmers to be business people. When we invest money today, we need to ensure that it catalyses further investment, and is not only swallowed each day. Lastly, Swaziland indicated that they want to be part of the Kigali Declaration and will work with the Minister to sign it. Swaziland's LDN target is ½ Mha, which can be contributed to Bonn Challenge.

Malawi urged countries to utilize their parliaments, and cross-sectoral committees within parliament, to further the initiatives around restoration of landscapes. There has been examples of conflicts between policies and the place to resolve these are in parliament and in these committees. Malawi challenged all countries to support these parliamentarians and committees in their respective countries. Malawi also noted that the FLR opportunities assessment has provided a good basis for FLR work in the country and the recommendations made by the assessment will be followed up by the ministry. Recommendations also address climate changes issues, so there will be a need to work across ministries to implement this work.

Madagascar noted that they started from the issue of soil losses and then analysed the potential for restoration. Madagascar also emphasised the importance of information exchange and that it was very useful to hear about other experiences to be able to review benefits and impacts. Particularly the analysis of impact is important for restoration.

IUCN congratulated countries that shared experiences and noted that assessments are quite important after making the pledge, to create a basis for implementation. Plans are best informed by assessments and evidence of best practice. IUCN also cautioned about assumptions of existing plans, which can lead to destruction rather than improvement (e.g. by use of invasive species) and also ensuring the interventions have long-term benefits and not just short-term gains. IUCN further encouraged continuing with the scientific approach, as it is important to "get it right" and to mainstream at all levels into the existing planning mechanisms.

Germany congratulated the Honourable Minister on his wonderful chairing, thanked everyone for the rich exchange of experience and also congratulated Malawi on their FLR strategy. Germany noted that FLR is a process that needs a vision over decades, so needs to be taken up in the long-term and Malawi is showing this. FLR is for the people and with the people. Other regions of the world also have similar challenges and therefore it would be possible to also stimulate a south-south exchange on this. Germany reiterated its government's support of the process and future activities on FLR in the region.

The Chair then thanked Germany for the role they have played in providing leadership in restoration efforts and noted that the Bonn Challenge places an onerous challenge on countries to make sure it succeeds but that Germany has supported Malawi in this process so far and offered his gratitude to Germany for this support.



Session 5:

Linking Financial, Technical and Policy Needs for Restoration

Key messages

Linking restoration back to national goals and priorities is key to allow policy harmonisation, coordinated budgeting and cross-sectoral collaboration in implementation.

Existing funds, if well-coordinated, can contribute substantially to restoration, e.g. through appropriate agricultural outreach and development, as well as meeting its intended goal of food security.

This session began with a brief update on AFR100 and Technical Platforms enabling partnerships by Diana Mawoko of NEPAD, who hosts the secretariat for the AFR100 initiative. She summarised much of the discussions of the past days, highlighting who was doing what and where as well as the role of regional hubs in restoration. AFR100 contributes directly to the Bonn Challenge and to SDG 15 and was initiated as a direct response to the AU mandate on reforestation and restoration to connect political and technical partners. 5 Countries in SADC have committed 21.1 million hectares to date, but 3 million ha are lost annually in Africa. Overall, Africa has the potential to restore approx. 700 million ha. AFR100 is not just about planting trees but also about tree conservation, seed regeneration and natural regeneration. Implementers on the ground have to connect to the grassroots to design and create FLR. In conclusion, Ms Mawoko encouraged countries to commit to AFR100 and the Bonn Challenge to facilitate better land management and restoration of degraded areas.

In the Roundtable discussion that followed, the focus was on financing of restoration activities (in particular through engagement with other sectors within a country) and linking existing funds to the relevant restoration activities.

Swaziland noted that the Government could not afford to bear all the costs and that there is a need of other institutions to support FLR, also referring back to the presentation by Jane Wilkinson on existing funds that can be better utilized for FLR.

COMIFAC shared that Rwanda had asked the Executive Secretary of COMIFAC to assist in resource mobilization for restoration to learn from experiences in that region. Many investments are made in restoration, but these are not necessarily coordinated, which increases the administrative burden for applicants. However, the recently concluded G7 meeting included discussions on the coordination of the Rio Conventions to facilitate more effective resource distribution and use. It was noted that 2 Bill USD were not collected and spent by countries, so there is clearly a need to increase access to existing funds and make these more accessible. A multi-sectoral approach is crucial, as implementation requires a joint approach and it is imperative that countries put in place coordination mechanisms to access and use all funds available as efficiently as possible. COMIFAC offered to share their experiences with any country that is interested.

Jane Wilkinson from Cloudburst also reiterated the amount of money available in agriculture: up to 200 billion USD paid by governments to support agriculture. This was mostly earmarked for agricultural intensification, not necessarily climate smart agriculture and therefore it is crucial to set up systems to better make use of these existing funds and “greening” these funds to support climate smart agriculture and other similar outcomes for restoration. On the issue of Taxation, she gave the example of Indonesia, which has very low taxation on extraction of natural resources thus pretty much giving resources out for free. This means that the government is not collecting any funds for reforestation, even though it will be held responsible for restoration efforts. Ms Wilkinson emphasized that getting domestic taxation systems right to manage natural capital better can help substantially in sourcing funds for restoration.

The AU highlighted huge opportunities for financing that were outlined during the Financing for Development Conference in 2015. One great example of financing came from Colombia, which does not receive international aid and is very strong and independent on their financing of restoration and infrastructure, mostly through loans and domestic mobilization of resources. Other countries shared innovative mechanisms such as pension funds

for investments and financing infrastructure or private equities and more effective use of the private sector. The main challenge is about better understanding the restoration process and how profitable this sector can be – it is bankable, and this point needs to be clear to the investors. The AU noted that the Finance Departments/ Treasuries should be invited to come to these meetings so that they can also understand these issues better and support the coordinated allocation of funds.

Botswana picked up on the point of the crosscutting approach and noted that this has been a huge challenge since in past forest management was in the Ministry of Agriculture and in most countries is now in the Ministry of Environment and therefore, today, the agriculture sector has a sense that it is not their duty to restore forests. The Ministry of Agriculture focusses on food security and often does not make the connection with FLR and climate smart agriculture. This shows that there is little or no alignment of budgets and policies at national level and there is an urgent need to realign some priorities and focus not only on food security but also restoration and conservation, in particular making the link between these two.

The Chair concluded by highlighting the need to look at budgetary processes to ensure that restoration agenda is included in all sectors budgets, thereby increasing the overall allocation to restoration activities and facilitating better cooperation.



Session 6:

Extending Commitments to the Bonn Challenge and High Level Resolution/ Recommendations

Key messages

Chad committed 5 million ha of land by 2030.

The Lilongwe Call to Action was adopted by the meeting

All SADC Member States were encouraged to make commitments to the Bonn Challenge (and AFR100)

Malawi Call for action will be tabled to SADC meeting for endorsement by other countries in the region.

In this final session of the High-level Roundtable, delegates developed the Lilongwe Call to Action and the Honourable Minister Msaka invited further commitments to the Bonn Challenge, endorsing Kigali Declaration on Forest landscape Restoration and encouraging countries in the SADC region to join efforts to end degradation. The Lilongwe Call to Action is attached in Annex III.

The Representative of Chad presented a pledge on behalf of the Minister of restoring 5 million ha of land by 2030. He noted that soil salinity and less rain (drought) create a growing challenge in Chad for agriculture. Degradation is estimated to be increasing by 5% of the land per year and therefore the Government of Chad is embarking on this restoration journey and committing to the Bonn Challenge to restore degraded land.

Closing Remarks

In his closing remarks, Mr Luther Anukur (IUCN) said that IUCN was very excited to be part of this meeting and the movement for restoration. For IUCN, partnership is key and this is not just about restoring landscapes but something that we have to do together. IUCN is here to continue this partnership and is greatly encouraged by meetings such as these.

The current Chair of SADC (Swaziland), on behalf of the audience and the constituents they represent, congratulated the Chair on a well-attended and well run meeting. He also congratulated Malawi on its achievements to date, including the two strategies launched during this meeting and noted that Malawi should maintain the leadership on this initiative, as it had shown that it is ready to lead. Recognizing the Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Deputy Chair of the Parliamentary Committee, he noted that their presence at this meeting indicated that Malawi takes this issue very serious. The Chair of SADC also recognized the Minister from Burundi (in absentia) and thanked the sponsors, financiers and organizers. He noted that he had attended many meetings, but only about 10 had made sense so far, as there was action that followed and he hoped that this was not just another meeting. He also pointed out that International Organisations were good at kicking off initiatives, but when it came to implementation, they tended to move on to the next initiative. The Chair of SADC then thanked Germany for their support in this entire process, as well as others such as the AU, UNEP, NEPAD, WB, WRI, WWF and other organisations present here. Lastly, the Chair of SADC thanked all the people that are not seen, appreciating the translators, moderators, master of ceremonies and all resource persons – thank you for all this effort. In closing, the Chair of SADC reiterated that SADC wants to continue to work with IUCN that all SADC Member States sign the Kigali Declaration and become party to the Lilongwe Call for Action as well as subscribing to the AFR100.

The Deputy Ambassador for Germany, Mr Thomas Staiger voiced a special pleasure at being here, as he had lived in Bonn before where the Bonn Challenge was first decided. He then thanked the Government of Malawi and the Hon Minister for hosting this important event as well as for their contributions to the Bonn Challenge and the AFR100. Malawi contributed ambition and vision and the launch of the strategies will contribute to alleviating the degradation in this country. Mr Tanker thanked IUCN for the initiative and all delegates for contributions, recognizing the new commitments by Chad and Swaziland. Germany is deeply committed to FLR

and will remain so in the future, supporting the Bonn Challenge and also the AFR100, including through bilateral funds here in Malawi to move the restoration agenda forward. Mr Tanker ended by saying that investing in FLR is investing in the future – let's join in investing in our future!

Finally, the Honourable Minister Bright Msaka SC concluded the meeting by recognising that this was a hugely successful conference and noting that delegates were there because they believed that what they saw on the ground is not good enough and therefore they must change that. If we leave Africa the way it is today we have not succeeded. The participation of all the people, and particularly of the farmers, is key. Small activities all across our nations will at the end of the day add to something that is visible and significant. As we go back, we must remember that the environment is key and central to whatever we do in our nations. We mess up that, we mess up everything in our countries. We must go home and make sure that from now on our national budgets centralise the environment throughout all sectors to ensure that we can make this happen. Finally, Hon Bright Msaka announced that the Republic of Congo had offered to host the next conference, providing the platform to continue this work in all regions of Africa.



Annexes

AGENDA

SOUTHERN AFRICA (SADC+) BONN CHALLENGE MINISTERIAL MEETING

DAY ONE: 12TH JULY 2017			
TIME	ACTIVITY	SPEAKER	MODERATOR
08:00 - 09:00	ARRIVAL & REGISTRATION	Prof Sosten Chiotha	Ministry of Natural Resources, Energy and Mining
09:00 - 10:30	AGENDA 1: Opening remarks and key note address		
	Introductory Remarks and objective of the meeting	Chief Director	Director of Ceremonies, Prof Sosten Chiotha
	Remarks by IUCN Regional Director	Luther Bois ANUKUR	
	African Union	Dr. Elvis Paul Tangem	
	Head of Office, DFID Malawi	Ms. Jane Marshal	
	USA Ambassador	H.E. Virginia Palmer	
	Remarks by the Germany Parliamentary State Secretary	Dr. Horst Freiburg	
	Opening Remarks and Launch of the National Forest Landscape Restoration Assessment Strategy	Hon Bright Msaka SC. Minister of Natural Resources, Energy and Mining	
10:30 - 10:45	Group Photo		
10:45 - 11:10	COFFEE BREAK		
11:10 - 12:30	AGENDA 2: Bonn Challenge - Overview on what is happening where, linking BC to extended target and regional platforms (AFR100)		
	Overview on Bonn Challenge, New York Declarations and other Platform	Stewart MAGINNIS, Global Director IUCN and GPFLR Secretariat	Director of Ceremonies, Matthews Malata,
	Roundtable Discussions: update on country Restoration initiatives, successes, challenges and solutions	Discussions between Ministers	<i>Moderator:</i> Dr Judith Kamoto
12:30 - 14:00	LUNCH BREAK		

14:00 - 16:00	AGENDA 3: Linking Forest Landscape Restoration with Sustainable Development Goals, Country Priorities and other African mechanisms (LDN, GGW, ALRI)		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation on linking FLR and the outcomes of the recent African Ministerial Conference of Environment Minister by Dr. Juliette Biao Koudenoukpo, UNEP Director & Regional Representative, Africa Office (7min) • Presentation on LDN targeting and Linkage with FLR initiatives across Africa by UNCCD Boubacar Cisse, UNCCD, Coordinator for Regional Coordination Unit (RCU) for Africa (7min) • Presentation on COMESA EverGreen Fertilizer Subsidies Initiative by Dennis Garrity (7min) 		
14:00 - 15:00	Roundtable Discussions on Policies, and opportunities for sustainable economies		Moderated by William Chadza,
15:00 - 16:00	Roundtable Discussion on Cross border Challenges and opportunities for collaboration to accelerate FLR	All Ministers and their Representatives	Moderated by Teddie Kamoto
16:00 - 16:30	COFFEE BREAK		
16:30 - 18:00	AGENDA 4: Financing and Investing Restoration		
16:30 - 17:00	Overview of climate finance; global flows and instruments	Jane Wilkinson, Director of Business Development, Finance and Strategy at the Cloudburst Foundation	
17:00 - 18:00	Roundtable Discussions on Public Financing, Private and Donor Financing, what are the initiatives and needs	All Ministers	Moderated by Prof Sosten Chiotha
18:00 - 19:30	COCKTAIL (Networks and Linkages)		

DAY TWO: 13TH JULY 2017			
TIME	ACTIVITY	SPEAKER	MODERATOR
09:00 - 09:15	Recap for day one	William Chadza	Matthews Malata
09:00 - 10:15	AGENDA 5: Assessing Opportunities for Restoration-A roadmap for Sustainable Economy		
	Malawi Restoration Opportunity Assessment Case Study	Dr Clement Chilima	WRI, Stella Gama
	Rwanda Case Study on Implementing Forest and Landscape Restoration	Mr. Prime Ngabonziza, Director General Rwanda Water and Forestry Authority	
	Cross institutional collaboration to implement Forest and landscape Restoration in Burundi	POLISI Alphonse, Burundi	
	Roundtable Discussions on needs assessment for Restoration opportunities	All Ministers	
10:15 - 10:30	COFFEE BREAK		
10:30 - 11:30	AGENDA 6: Linking Financial , Technical and Policy Needs for Restoration		
	Update on AFR100 and Technical Platforms enabling partnerships: who is doing what and where? Roles of Regional Hubs	Mamadou Diakhite	NEPAD
	Roundtable Discussions on Partnerships and Coordination of Development Partners	All Ministers	AFRICAN UNION
	AGENDA 7: Extending Commitments to the Bonn Challenge and High Level Resolution/ Recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chad • Any other country 	All Ministers	Stewart Maginnis
11:30 - 12:00	Closing Remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country Representative (TBC) • Hon. Minister Bright Msaka ,SC 	Director of Ceremonies, Matthews Malata
12:00 - 13:00	LUNCH BREAK		
13:30 - 17:00	FIELD VISIT		

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

SOUTHERN AFRICA (SADC+) BONN CHALLENGE MINISTERIAL ROUNDTABLE

NO	NAME	DESIGNATION	NATIONALITY	ORGANIZATION	E-MAIL	PHONE #
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SOUTHERN AFRICA (SADC+) MINISTERIAL BONN CHALLENGE MEETING

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SOUTHERN AFRICA (SADC+) MINISTERIAL BONN CHALLENGE MEETING

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Kigali Declaration on Forest Landscape Restoration in Africa

We, Ministers of African countries and representatives gathered in Kigali on July 26th and 27th, 2016 for the Africa High Level Bonn Challenge Roundtable, hosted by the Government of Rwanda, in collaboration with the East Africa Community and the International Union for Conservation of Nature

Acknowledging that African countries are among the most affected regions in the world by effects of climate change even though the continent bears a minimal responsibility with regards to the causes of this global phenomenon;

Recognising that forest landscape restoration has an important role in the pursuit of sustainable development in African countries, by maintaining and rebuilding countries' natural capital in order to deliver essential societal and economic benefits to rural and urban communities alike;

Recognising that forest landscape restoration is an effective mechanism to operationalize key elements of global processes, notably the Sustainable Development Goals, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Aichi Targets, and the United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification;

Aware that forest landscape restoration offers multiple benefits that align directly with African Nations economic growth and poverty reduction plans. These include the aspiration of the African's Union Agenda 2063 and its first ten-year implementation plan, bolstering economic growth and diversifying livelihoods, creating green jobs, improving agriculture practices, enhancing food security, improving the availability and quality of water resources, increasing the capacity for climate change resilience and adaptation, contributing to climate change mitigation, combating desertification, protecting biodiversity, and reducing the impact of natural disasters;

Aware that forest landscape restoration can reach millions of African citizens involving local communities, which includes women and other key stakeholders in decision-making processes on inclusive and sustainable land use, as well as identification and implementation of specific objectives for restoration;

Recognizing that African Nations face similar challenges and common problems related to land degradation and subsequent planning and implementation of forest landscape restoration, and that countries have an opportunity to engage and deepen regional collaboration, as well as to strengthen partnerships in order to identify the best solutions to materialize successful action in favor of forests, ecosystems, and people;

Convinced that in order to tackle these challenges it is necessary that African Countries build a strong movement within their jurisdictions to take bolder steps across sectors towards sustainable use of forests, protection of their forest reserves, promoting agroforestry among other climate-responsible practices, and restoration of degraded and deforested lands;

Highlighting that coordination initiatives and exchange of experiences on restoration between African Countries and through south-south exchanges is critical to optimize African restoration efforts;

Recognizing the need for sustained mobilisation of public and private sector financial resources in forest landscape restoration in Africa, to incentivize all stakeholders including and especially strengthen the communities and households that live in landscapes to continue as major investors in their own landscapes;

Re-affirming the Bonn Challenge's role as a global platform for action and mobilization of policy, financial and technical support in favor of the implementation for nationally defined targets that address resilience and adaptation to climate change, land degradation, food and water security, biodiversity conservation;

Recognizing that achieving the Bonn Challenge's 350 million-hectare restoration goal could generate US \$170 billion per year in net benefits from watershed protection, improved crop yields and forest products, and could sequester up to 1.7 gigatonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent annually;

WE ARE COMMITTED TO:

1. Reaffirm our commitments to the Bonn Challenge target to bring 150 million hectares of deforested and degraded landscapes into restoration by 2020 and 350 million hectares by 2030;
2. Encourage fellow African Governments to mainstream restoration into their national development policies;
3. Develop and strengthen continental capacity for restoration by developing technical expertise and developing environmental and social standards for the implementation of forest landscape restoration to help tackle climate change effects, improve human well-being, ecosystem health and biodiversity conservation across Africa;
4. Maintain this commitment in support of collective climate change action that will mitigate the emissions of greenhouse gases and support our communities to adapt and build resilience to climate impacts, as well as use ecosystem-based approaches to reduce risk to extreme weather and disasters;
5. Reinforce the collaboration on forest landscape restoration across the region and south-south collaboration, through the "forest landscape restoration regional policy and technical hubs" located in Kigali and Yaoundé, as well as the promotion of restoration through regional intergovernmental bodies, mechanisms, and economic commissions, as well as regional platforms such as AFR100 and other associated initiatives
6. Undertake national action to champion innovative financial schemes that enable domestic investments in forest landscape restoration, for example through the strengthening and development of national climate and land management fund mechanisms, tax incentives and other fiscal policies to encourage all stakeholders to participate and invest in the implementation of restoration at scale;
7. Improve coordination of efforts on forest landscape restoration by local communities, civil society organizations, private sector, research institutions, investors and development partners;
8. Call on development partners, international finance institutions and the private sector to support domestic investment and facilitate access to external investment opportunities in forest landscape restoration, including among others international funds such as the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility that are currently supporting regional programmatic initiatives on FLR.
9. The Kigali Declaration on forest landscape restoration in Africa remains open for further signatures through September 1st, 2016 when the Declaration will be celebrated at the World Conservation Congress in Hawai'i.

Signed:

Hon. Vincent Biruta
Minister of Natural Resources
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Hon. Nii Osah Mills
Minister of Lands and Natural Resources
Ghana

Hon Abdalla Deng Nhial
Ministry of Environment and Forestry
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Hon. Arlette Sombo-Dibele
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Hon. Sam Cheptoris
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Hon. Rosalie Matondo
Minister of Forest Economy, Sustainable
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Hon Christine Sagno
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The Lilongwe Call for Action on **Forest Landscape Restoration in Africa**

We, Ministers of African countries and representatives gathered in Lilongwe on July 12th and 13th, 2017 for the SADC+ Ministerial Bonn Challenge Summit, hosted by the Government of Malawi issue this 'Call for Action for Forest Landscape Restoration in Africa'.

Recognising and valuing the African restoration initiative - AFR100 as the continental platform to contribute to and implement the Bonn Challenge, the global mechanism for the restoration of degraded land that aim to harness political, technical and financial backing for national restoration targets.

Endorsing the Kigali Declaration on the promotion of forest landscape restoration in Africa and the need for its effective implementation;

Highlighting that the economic cost of land degradation regularly exceeds 5% of GDP within the region, making forest landscape restoration a national development priority;

Emphasizing that the costs of inaction on land degradation exceed the costs of action by an estimated factor of four to one;

Confirming that forest landscape restoration is a broad approach that integrates restoration across different land types and uses, including forests, drylands, woodlands, wetlands and farmlands;

Also confirming that these efforts are in direct support of sustainable development goals and land degradation neutrality as reflected in SDG target 15.3, Agenda 2063 Aspiration 7.

Acknowledging the regional specific focus in the SADC region, as defined through the existing SADC Protocol on Environment (2014) and supporting programmes and plans such as the SADC Biodiversity Action Plan (2013), SADC Sub-Regional Action Plan to Combat Desertification (2015), SADC Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (2015) and SADC Regional Green Economy Strategy and Action Plan (2015);

Highlighting the recent decision by the UNCCD regional forum, held in South Africa in April 2017, which encouraged Member States to participate in the Bonn Challenge through AFR100 as a contribution to Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN);

WE:

1. Reaffirm our existing commitments to the Bonn Challenge to restore 150 million hectares of deforested and degraded lands by 2020 and 350 million hectares by 2030;
2. Encourage other African Countries make ambitious commitments to the Bonn Challenge' as a global initiative, the AFR100 regional platform, as well as other sister initiatives such as the Great Green Wall, Land Degradation Neutrality and the Sustainable Development Goals.
3. Encourage further signatures to the Kigali Declaration by those countries that have not already signed and promoting its up take at the national level;
4. Request research and analysis to better understand the emerging links between degradation, poverty, migration and conflict;
5. Encourage Governments to mainstream restoration into their national development policies and laws including developing and implementing national forest landscape strategies with an emphasis on the

need to ensure coherence and consistency between land-use, fiscal and other relevant policies;

6. Promote the incorporation of natural capital valuation within land-use policies and programmes, with a view to strengthening national accountability over their implementation and how these measures enhance or diminish the sustainable management of land, soil and natural resources;
7. Commit to the inclusion of youth and women in forest landscape restoration action, specifically encouraging the Bonn Challenge and AFR100 to make this a central theme of the next regional FLR meeting;
8. Undertake to explore increases in domestic investment of resources towards action on the ground including the alignment of domestic investment policies, social safety next developing incentives for farmers and their communities, including revolving funds, tree fertilizer subsidies and similar approaches;
9. Call on development partners, international finance institutions and the private sector to support domestic investment and facilitate access to external investment opportunities in forest landscape restoration, mechanisms, including among others international funds such as the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility;
10. Promote increased collaboration and coordination on forest landscape restoration within the SADC region and with other African regional economic communities with a view to promote cross-learning and effective approaches of land restoration at scale;
11. Promote cross-learning and effective approaches of land restoration at scale through south-south collaboration, within Africa and across continents;
12. Promote 'business unusual' approaches including regenerative development to reverse climate change and promote interlinkages of different networks such as trans frontier conservation areas, the Miombo network and others
13. Develop a culture of restoration and strengthen continental capacity to achieve this by developing technical expertise, mainstream restoration in education curriculums and developing environmental and social standards for the implementation of forest landscape restoration to help tackle climate change effects, improve human well-being, ecosystem health and biodiversity conservation across Africa;
14. Promote cost effective approaches that increase tree survival, including farmer-managed natural regeneration for restoration.
15. Undertake to explore options for FLR monitoring and evaluation activities, including enabling framework for policy and financial resources.
16. Encourage promotion of efficient fuel energy alternatives to reduce deforestation
17. Develop strategies and implementation plans to reverse degradation on coastal zones as a result of sea level rise and effects of climate change; including degradation of soil in agricultural lands, salt intrusion.

Signed in Lilongwe, July 13th 2017

