Regreening Africa: Restoring Africa’s Degraded Lands through Agroforestry

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What’s the urgency?

- 25% of global land area is degraded, affecting 1.5 billion people (UNNCD, FAO)

- 65% of Africa’s agricultural land is degraded which also offers big potential for restoration

- UN declared 2021-2030 the decade of ecosystem restoration

- Land restoration contributes to various SDGs
Why land restoration at scale?

1. Connectedness (human & nature) + (land, water & air)

2. Tradeoffs and synergies are optimised at scale

3. Embracing complexity

Practical Perspectives From Regreening Africa:
Mission: to restore 1 million hectares, benefitting 500,000 households across 8 countries!
Match different restoration practices to context: some of our practices, activities & strategies under Regreening Africa

Practise: soil & water conservation (half moons in the Sahel)

Practise: FMNR

Strategy: planting High value fruit trees for income and nutrition

Activity: training farmers on vegetative propagation techniques for different trees to shorten maturity period

Strategy: gender integration in restoration activities and access to benefits
What doesn’t work: practices and process

• Practices
• Silver bullets – these are mostly quick technical fixes such as tree planting, FMNR, etc.

• Focus on technologies and forget the policy and social dimensions of restoration: tenure issues, gender aspects, local rules and bylaws on trees, forests & livestock management...

• Process
• Programs designed in a top-down manner with local communities as “participants” or “beneficiaries”
### How do we achieve scale?

#### 3 key things:
- **Partnerships**
- **Investment**
- **Practice**

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<th><strong>Local communities</strong></th>
<th><strong>International agencies</strong>—global platforms to generate political will, catalyse investments</th>
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<td>Develop a shared vision of the landscape because decisions of millions of smallholder farmers shape the landscape on a daily basis</td>
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- **National & subnational governments**—They need actionable evidence for policy formulation, budgetary prioritisation as well as mobilising action

- **Research & academic institutions**: They need to provide timely, robust and actionable evidence; capacity and knowledge transfer with national and local research institutes

- **Private sector**—developing sustainable value chains that translate to substantial economic benefits to farmers and don’t compromise the natural resources

- **CSR**

- **Funding agencies**:
  - What theory of change are you investing in and is it really transformative?
  - How are outcomes & impacts measured? Are they sustainable? Are they gender transformative?

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**How do we achieve scale?**

- **Partnerships**
- **Investment**
- **Practice**
Thank you!

For more information:
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