By 2022, Regreening Africa with Trees in Rwanda aims to:
- reverse land degradation through trees on 100,000 hectares of land, and
- contribute to food security for some 70,000 households.

The program will use a range of approaches to share messages on evergreen agriculture, including Umuganda (community works) and the media, particular local radios. Rural Resource Centers will be established in each of the project districts. Lead farmers will be trained on evergreen agriculture through Farmer Field Schools/ Twigire muhinzi and the lead farmers will then train farmers at village level and establish demonstration plots. Additional approaches such as exchange visits between farmers, support to savings groups, engagement of schools and Faith Based Organisations and stakeholder forums will be used for training and to share messages on evergreen agriculture. Tree related value chains, such as the establishment of on-farm timber industry will also be supported to promote livelihood enhancement from trees on farms.

Regreening Africa with Trees is an ambitious five-year program that seeks to reverse land degradation among 500,000 households, and across one million hectares in eight countries in sub-Saharan Africa. This program supports the Government of Rwanda’s commitment to restore 2 million hectares of land as part of the Bonn Challenge and the Africa Forest Landscape Initiative (AFR100), and supports operationalization of the Rwanda Agroforestry Strategy and Action Plan.

A process for successful regreening:
- **Baseline:** measure initial conditions of livelihoods, environment and capture successful regreening practices
- **Options:** compile set of suitable tree species, management, value chain and policy interventions for the target area
- **Involve local actors** in defining their preferences amongst options and needs to locally adapt them
- **Promote options** and gather feedback from stakeholders on their performance
- **Reflect** on successes and failures and the reasons for them
- **Leverage:** communicate successes and co-ordinate with other initiatives to spread regreening more widely
- **Evaluate impact:** measure the extent regreening has changed lives and landscapes
Phase 3. Prioritize Implementation
A roadmap for Regreening Rwanda

2019

Develop guideline on agroforestry based on agro-ecological zone – led by RWFA in partnership with RAB, NAEB, UR, ICRWF, other NGOs and CSOs involved in agroforestry

Disseminate of agroforestry guidelines to the farmer level (until 2020) – led by RAB in partnership with NGOs, MINALOC, CSOs

Create a sub-sector working group (until 2020) – led by RAB in partnership with NGOs, MINALOC, CSOs

Note: the group discussed that as long as the Agroforestry Strategy has detailed actions, there is no need for an agroforestry policy

Conduct a baseline assessment covering existing agroforestry research, gaps, needs and practices and stakeholders. Identify farmers’ constraints and coping strategies and identify options for different zones and conditions (eco-economic) including the level of investment interest needed and different sectors inputs. Led by MOE and MINALOC

Develop tools and a timeline for monitoring, including identification of optimal sites (2019-2020)

Capacity building of stakeholders (2019-2021)

Establish M&E committees at district level (2019-2021)

Data collection analysis. Capture of agroforestry success stories for dissemination

Develop a decision dashboard for both socio-economic and biophysical data for use in dialogue and decision making – led by RWFA with MINEFRI, ICRWF

For all actions partners are: MOE, MINEFRI, ICRWF, MINCNFR, UR, VAF, INSD, ARDOS, PERO, FAO, WRR, and others

Establish an inter-ministerial committee (IMC) or task force – led by MOE with MINAGRI and MINALOC

Develop policy brief for donors and government, including a cabinet paper – led by NFSP, IMC, MOE

Mapping of actors in agroforestry by MOE

Hold national agroforestry advisory committee meeting by January 2019 – led by RWFA

Agroforestry action plan with clear indicators prepared by February 2019 – IMC

District agroforestry technical committees established – led by director of Agriculture and Natural Resources with local and international NGOs, RAB, UNHABIS by March 2019

Develop district target and action plans on agroforestry - led by URAF by April 2019

Assess funding gap and proposed development - in January 2019

Develop partners, district, sector, cell, village and farmer promotion AF performance contract for 2019/2021 fiscal year by July 2019 – led by IMC and MOE

Enhance outreach by increasing communication through community radio, establishing community demonstration plots and recognising best farmers through performance evaluation – led by implementing organisations

Decentralise seed/tree centres so that high quality seedlings are available near the farmers

Produce agroforestry extension materials in local language and distribute to farmers – led by ICRWF, RWFA, RAB, NGOs, MINAGRI

Incorporate agroforestry component in existing groups, land, environment committees – led by districts and NGOs

On farm research, at the local level, to enhance adoption

Identify most adaptive tree species for each agro ecological zone for diversification of agroforestry

Capacity building for agroforestry extension staff and lead farmers through formal training to available staff and volunteers, exchange visits (2019-2021) led by NGOs

2020

2021

2022

Promote research on agroforestry to support evidence based actions (2019-2024) – led by RAB and RWFA in partnership with ICRAF and UR

Market analysis of potential value chains to client decision making and solutions

Enabling farmer cooperatives to improve their efficiency (in management models)

Community based tree and crop improvement

Assess available capacity in the agroforestry sector to identify gaps (2019-2020) – led by RWFA, districts, MINAGRI, RAB and NAEB

Research on agroforestry genetic resources yearly

The Regreening Africa project will support collaboration of agroforestry actors, support in the development of extension materials and monitoring approaches, including development of a decision dashboard.

Key terms

Agroforestry: Land-use systems and practices in which woody perennials are deliberately integrated with crops and/or animals on the same land management unit

Evergreen agriculture: a form of intensive farming that integrates trees with annual crops or pasture, promoting a green cover on the land throughout the year

FMNR (Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration): Systematic regeneration and sustainable management of trees and shrubs from living tree stumps, roots and seeds

The national agroforestry strategy is a document that has been produced and validated and is now ready for action ... in addition to what we have now we need more quantitative targets and more attention to monitoring and evaluation, tracking progress and making things happen.

- Dr. Dennis Garrity, CIFAP EVERGREENING GLOBAL ALLIANCE
Stakeholder commitments to regreening Rwanda

Commitments made by stakeholders at the close of the workshop

My organization is determined to mobilize and train farmers for planting trees. Advocate for the establishment of laws, and regulations that will allow the development of agroforestry in Rwanda.

- JOSEPH GAFARANGA, Secretary General of the Imbarago Farmers Organization in Rwanda

Integrating trees into landscapes through agroforestry has been a fundamental approach recognized by the Government of Rwanda and our partners to meet national targets for restoring degraded land, increasing trees on farms, increasing our country-wide forest cover and enhancing the lives and livelihoods of the people of Rwanda.

- HON. DR. VINCENT BIRUTA, Minister of the Environment, during the opening of the SHARED workshop

Species selection, nursery development and research

“Select and prioritize species to be improved and promoted for agroforestry”

“Facilitate production of seedlings in nurseries, distribute them and follow up the planting and tree establishment on the Rwandan landscape”

“Conduct agroforestry research trials which will continue in line with the roadmap: participate in fund mobilisation”

“Conduct community mobilization on agroforestry/multipurpose trees and shrubs: I will ensure the availability of planting material to the community”

Collaboration, project development and resource mobilization

“Collaborate within local authorities, plan closely with farmers, partners and lead farmers to make project’s objectives succeed”

“Advocate within my organization to position ourselves as a stronger agroforestry partner and contributor”

“Support in developing projects that advance agroforestry in Rwanda and attract donors: disseminate good practices to farmers”

“Practice agroforestry on my own land”

“Advocate for scaling up of agroforestry interventions across all World Vision Rwanda intervention areas”

“Mobilize funds to take agroforestry to scale”

“Work closely with different stakeholders in area of implementation to achieve the targets and possibly go over and make sure that all degraded areas are regreened”

“Support technical coordination between central/ministry and the local players”

Evidence creation and sharing

“Contribute to evidence gathering, dashboard content review and review action plans and targets at national and district level”

“Participate in data collection, good monitoring and reporting of the achievement to district level”

“Establish strong monitoring and evaluation system leveraging on existing systems at local and national levels; ensure participatory monitoring and evaluation of agroforestry projects”

“Work with the university on disseminating the agroforestry approach in the ELD Project”

“Raise awareness in the community on agroforestry and benefits and to increase the surface with tree cover”

“Support dialogue and evidence sharing to enhance agroforestry scaling and success”

Reversing land degradation in Africa by scaling-up evergreen agriculture

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