# Introduction

At the launch of the International Year of Forests the Government of Rwanda formally announced an ambitious plan to integrate landscape restoration into it national development plans and to pursue a goal that would witness large-scale border to border restoration of land, soil, forest and water resources for the benefit of the Rwandan population over the next twenty five years based on an Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Government of Rwanda, IUCN and the United Nations Forum on Forests.

Given the ambition behind this target it is proposed that over the next four to five years the Government of Rwanda in collaboration with its partners pilot how to restore the functionality, productivity and biological diversity of 5 to 6 key landscapes in a way that clearly and demonstrably supports and improves rural livelihoods, opening up new development trajectories for the people that live there.  Potential candidate landscapes, provisionally identified during a mission in August 2010, include:-

- The Gishwati Forest Landscape
- The Rugezi Highland Wetland Landscape
- The Eastern Province (Akagera) Landscape
- A thematic programme of the role of planted forests and woodlots in Rwandan landscapes

This would be complemented by analysis of the opportunities and obstacles related to the relevant policy, institutional and legal frameworks across different sectors, including the Rwandan national Food Security Strategy and Action Plan, the Environmental Strategy and the Water Policy.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) has raised Rwanda's resource allocation framework (RAF) by an additional USD 6 million to help initiate the Rwanda Forest Landscape Restoration (R-FLR) initiative.  IUCN together with a number of other international partners are exploring opportunities for supporting the R-FLR, including providing additional resources to not only expand the number and scope of pilot activities but also to support a Rwandan coordination team for the initiative who would, undertake supportive technical, policy and institutional analysis, communicate and engage with all key stakeholders, support monitoring and learning within the pilot sites and ultimately  help lead any necessary processes to strengthen an enabling policy framework so that the R-FLR initiative is well placed to go to scale nationwide from 2015 onwards.

This initiative will  closely align with the GEF National Portfolio Formulation Exercise (NPFE) aimed at identifying and agreeing on priority project(s) to be financed under GEF-5.  The NPFE will be carried out over the coming months and will include preparation of an inception paper on current status, gaps, lessons learned, and will identify GEF project priorities under the GEF-5 replenishment.  It will also include national stakeholder workshops to prioritize GEF projects in Rwanda.  Finally this will include the development a project concept for the priority projects.  There may also be the opportunity for the RFLR initiative to participate in the GEF Regional Program for East Africa, which is currently under development.

Already there are several significant programmes already underway in Rwanda that include erosion prevention, soil conservation and land restoration components such as the "Land Husbandry, Water Harvesting and Hillside Irrigation" (LWH) project, the Rural Sector Support Programme and the GEF-supported "Integrated Management of Critical Ecosystems".  While Rwanda has made some impressive progress in advancing landscape restoration it is recognised by government ministers and officials that there is need for a more integrated framework to guide the design of restoration interventions across sectors.  Recent research from the CGIAR's programme on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (figure 1)has highlighted the high sensitivity and relatively limited copying capacity (based on factors such as population density, population income etc) of Rwanda and several other of its neighbours in the Great Lakes region to the impacts of climate change.  While dealing with this challenge will require action across many sectors it is also widely accepted that the more degraded an ecosystem is in terms of it functionality the less resilient the population will be to the impacts of increased variability in climatic trends.
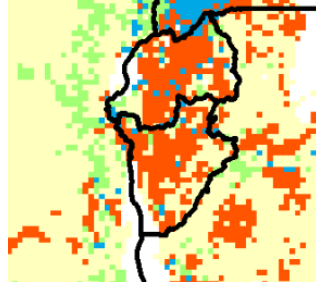
Figure 1: From: Mapping hotspots of climate change and food insecurity in the global tropics: A report by the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS), 2011.

All this presents several open questions as to what are the best options to improve and strengthen the delivery of key ecosystem functions in the light both immediate and long-term national priorities such as crop intensification, climate change adaptation, the growing importance of eco-tourism in generating foreign exchange and the Sustainable Development Vision 2020.

The immediate next step is to establish a more detailed framework for what Rwanda needs to move forward – not only at the individual pilot landscape level but also to support a credible national piloting process that will generate robust and reliable evidence based on the policies and programmes required for Rwanda to take its landscape restoration initiative nationwide by 2015.  Priorities identified through this workshop will be further refined and validated through the GEF NPFE and ongoing consultations with a wide range of national stakeholders and potential international partners. [1]

As there is a broad range of experience worldwide it is proposed that one useful starting point would be to convene an international and national technical specialist workshop as soon as possible to work to produce a first draft of the RFLR framework, conduct a quick needs analysis of what is required to prepare and initiate pilot landscape action plans and map in-country and international expertise that could be deployed in support of start-up activities in the pilot landscapes.

This short document presents and annotated agenda and participants list for consideration and modification by the Government of Rwanda.

## General Objective

To outline a definitive process and means of implementation for the initiation and pilot phase of the Rwanda Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative as a direct complement and contribution to ongoing erosion prevention and landscape restoration activities already underway.

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[1] It may be possible to further streamline the process if the national stakeholders slated to participate in the NPFE are the same as those participating in the RFLR workshop.

## Specific Outcomes

1. An outline framework, enjoying broad support of all national participants, that details the "theory of action" for the pilot phase of the RFLR initiative; including:
   - Intended achievements that the RFLR pilot phase will deliver;
   - Strategic approaches in terms of the "what" (actions), the "how" (processes) and the "who" (national and international actors);
   - Underlying assumptions that will be tested during the course of the pilot phase; and
   - Operational approaches to prepare and initiate pilot landscape action plans
   - Potential risks and opportunities that may influence success, including priority programmes of other major land-use sectors

2. An summary document on current global experiences of landscape restoration approaches, tools and policies and their relevance / applicability to the Rwanda situation
3. An options paper for sustainable finance and technical support for the pilot phase

## Workshop outline

The workshop will bring together key technical specialist – both national and international – to consider the "state of the art" knowledge and tested best practice on landscape restoration and the opportunities and challenges of applying this in key Rwandan landscapes. The workshop will be hosted by the Government of Rwanda in collaboration with IUCN and the United Nations Forum on Forests as an activity of the Global Partnership for Forest Landscape Restoration (GPFLR). Financial support will be provided by IUCN, the African Model Forests Network, SDC and other partners, including the GEF (to be confirmed). The workshop would bring together 30 – 35 participants (including 12 to 15 international experts) together to exchange experience and develop an outline strategic framework for the pilot phase of the Rwanda Forest Landscape Restoration initiative.

The workshop is proposed to take place in Kigali from the 18th July to 20th July 2011 with field trips to some of the candidate pilot sites on the 19th July to enable international participants, as well as some of their national counterparts, to make collective rapid appraisals of the key issues opportunities and challenges to be addressed in the design of the landscape pilots. The final day would be reserved for participants reflect upon their field observations and develop preliminary recommendations drawing on "State of the Art" knowledge about the technical, economic and social considerations for implementing appropriate and proven landscape-scale restoration strategies.

The workshop will build upon some of the conclusions arrived at during the World Bank / ICRAF / Eco-agriculture Partners / IUCN sponsored Investors Forum for Landscape Restoration (25th – 27th June in Nairobi).

## Workshop participant skills

Landscape restoration is more than just a technical challenge – it will requires consideration of social and livelihood issues, it needs to take into account how soil, water and forest restoration interfaces with agricultural productivity, there may be legal and tenurial challenges to resolve and, of course there is the ubiquitous issue of the finance and economics of restoration. While all of these issues cannot be comprehensively addressed at the outset it is nevertheless important that a framework to guide the pilot phase needs to consider adequately how and at what stage these elements should be dealt with.

The workshop will therefore attempt to ensure a balance of perspectives and experiences among the participants. This includes:

*Restoration of Natural Resources*
- Experience in restoration of natural forest stands (University of Chiang Mai)
- Experience in forestation as well as restructuring and improving planted forests (UK Forestry Commission)
- Experience in of dry forest restoration (with respect to pastoral systems) (IUCN / HASHI –TZ)
- Experience in wetland management and restoration (IUCN)
- Experience in restoration for biodiversity conservation (IUCN)

*Finance and Economics of Restoration*
• Experience in mobilising the private sector for landscape level restoration
• Experience of innovative sustainable funding mechanism such as Social Investment Bonds
• Experience of international financial windows that could be mobilised – e.g. REDD+ (UNFF/WB)

*Agriculture and rural development:*
• Experience of how restoration activities can be designed explicitly to complement existing national agriculture and food security priorities, in particular contributing to the functionality and productivity in small-scale farming systems (ICRAF / Eco-agriculture partners)

• Experience in the design and implementation of innovative rural incentive schemes: restoration activities may require a temporary or permanent change of land-use or land-use practice in certain locations. This in turn requires that those who currently own or use these areas benefit from appropriate and adequate incentives[2].

*Participation and multi-stakeholder engagement:*
• Experience in community involvement and participatory methodologies for restoration
• Experience in gender-related aspects of agriculture and forest management (WOCAN)

*Long term monitoring against social, economic and biophysical parameters*
• Experience in the design and implementation of continuous monitoring systems (UNEP)


# Draft agenda

## Sunday 17th
             Participant arrival
16:00       Visit to the Rwanda Genocide memorial

## Monday 18th: am
08:00       Welcome, scene setter and introductions

08:30       Opening remarks and introductions (H.E. Amb. Stanislas Kamanzi, MINRENA)

08:50       The challenges of soil and ecosystem degradation in the "land of a thousand hills" – current situation and experience (Dr Rose Mukankomeje, REMA)

09:15       Improving food security while avoiding ecosystem decline: Rwanda's experience and challenges (Dr Jean Jacques Mbonigaba Muhinda, MinAgri)

09:40       Agro-forestry and ever-green agriculture – international experiences in managing land for improved food production and improved ecosystem functions (Dr Dennis Garrity, ICRAF)

10:05       An overview of Forest Landscape Restoration – key concepts and practical experiences (Stewart Maginnis, IUCN)

10:30       COFFEE

11:00       Overview of workshop process & structuring of groups

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[2] There are several relatively successful models of social incentive systems such as Bolsa Floresta in Brazil and the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act in India – some simply guarantee waged labour for a minimum number of days other provide credits in return for certain socially beneficial activities such as keeping children in school. There appears little reason why such mechanism could not be deployed in support of implementing landscape restoration. Equally China has gained considerable experience with the "Grain for Green" mechanism that compensated farmers for shifting from annual cultivation to tree-crop based permaculture on steep slopes.

11:30    *Visioning* – based on local and international experiences what measures could be realistically achieved over the duration of the pilot phase that would tangibly assist Rwanda in systematically and coherently integrating forest landscape restoration with other key land-use sectors?

12:30    Identify and prioritize key elements of implementing this vision, notably:

i) Existing barriers to address and opportunities to build upon, (conceptual modelling);
ii) Prioritized next steps for implementation (matrix ranking)

13:30    Lunch

## Day 1: pm
14:30    Group work continued

1530    Plenary discussion and feedback on group work (using a carousel) to identify the 3 – 4 key issues / challenges that need to be addressed early on in the pilot phase (Note the outputs of this activity will define the key themes to be explored during the field trip)

16:30    Introductory briefing to field visit site(s) – this may be 2 to 3 groups depending on the number of visit (see note below)

17:30    SUGGESTION: Knowledge market place on five key issues – e.g. "climate change, food security and restoration" (Bruce Campbell), "financing landscape restoration" (Dominic Elson & John Spears), "reference framework approach to forest restoration (Steve Elliott) ", "community and farmer participation in landscape restoration" (Sarah Scherr), "national assessment of restoration and carbon mitigation potential" (Lars Laestadius)

## Day 2: Field Visits
Participants will be divided into three teams to visit three quite distinct landscapes – Gishwati, Eastern Province and an important wetland site (all sites will be less than 2½ hours travel time from Kigali.

The purpose of the visit is two-fold:
- Familiarization of international participants with government supported activities (such as the Gishwati Land and Water Management project) and the opportunity to talk with local stakeholders about how they perceive the opportunities and challenges.
- Promote practical exchange between national and international participants on lessons and experiences that might be used in addressing the key issues / challenges identify during the previous day.

NOTE: the field trips will need careful pre-planning.  Information briefs will need to be prepared ahead of time and careful scheduling of stops, interviews and discussions arranged.  Once in the landscape travel time should be minimized to enable as much time to be spent in the field as possible. Two or three individuals should be nominated ahead of time as group rapporteurs

06:00    Depart for field

08:30    Begin individual field tours (packed breakfast and lunch included)

15:30    Depart field and return to Kigali (stopping for lunch en route)

| 18:00 | Arrive Kigali (opportunity to freshen up and relax – while small rapporteur teams finalize their conclusions and prepare powerpoint report back for Wednesday morning[3]) |
|---|---|
| 19:30 | Workshop dinner |

**DAY 3: am**

| 08:00 | Presentation of field visit reports and discussion |
|---|---|
| 09:00 | Working groups to develop an action framework (using causal mapping technique) Including the definition of strategic actions & processes and clearly identifying the risks and opportunities that will influence success (this activity will provide the necessary material for "specific outcome 1). |
| 10:30 | Coffee |
| 11:00 | Plenary discussion and key conclusions from group work |
| 12:00 | Identify additional conditions and capacities (distinguishing between those that already exist in Rwanda) that that can be drawn upon to fill identified gap in advancing a systematic approach to forest landscape restoration; for example, new strategic partnerships, new technical approaches to restoration etc. |
| 13:00 | Lunch |
| 14:00 | Group work – Building on the morning's work, define and agree specific measures, activities and approaches at the individual pilot landscape level – sufficient to meet the vision and objectives of the pilot phase. |
| 15:30 | Summary of workshop; overview of the way forward |
| 16:30 | Closing remarks – H.E. Amb. Stanislas Kamanzi |
| 17:00 | Close of workshop |

**Day 4**
Participants depart
Workshop steering group – finalizes workshop outcomes including "specific outcome 1" – an outline framework for pilot phase of the RFLR initiative.

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[3] In order to assist this process the workshop organizers may wish to prepare an outline template in advance so that there is a broad consistency between each of the field visit teams. This could consist of common questions such as "What are the key drivers of degradation and most promising entry points for restoration?" "Who are the stakeholders at are most affected by degradation – what are their priorities for restoration?" "What existing institutional structures exist in the landscape that could be most effectively deployed to negotiate restoration outcomes among stakeholder groups?" "Is there restoration activities already underway in the landscape, what techniques being applied and what are the major constraints to scaling up?"

# WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

| No. | Name | Country | Institution | Expertise |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | H.E. Stanislas Kamanzi | Rwanda | MINRENA | Minister |
| 2 | Dr Rose Mukankomeje | Rwanda | REMA | Environment |
| 3 | Mr Frank Rutabingwa | Rwanda | NAFA | Forests |
| 4 | Dr Jean Jacques Mbonigaba Muhinda | Rwanda | MINAGRI | Agriculture |
| 5 | National participants | Rwanda | | |
| 6 | National participants | Rwanda | | |
| 7 | National participants | Rwanda | | |
| 8 | National participants | Rwanda | | |
| 9 | National participants | Rwanda | | |
| 10 | National participants | Rwanda | | |
| 11 | National participants | Rwanda | | |
| 12 | National participants | Rwanda | | |
| 13 | National participants | Rwanda | | |
| 14 | National participants | Rwanda | | |
| 15 | National participants | Rwanda | | |
| 16 | National participants | Rwanda | | |
| 17 | National participants | Rwanda | | |
| 18 | National participants | Rwanda | | |
| 19 | Jiyuan Liu | China | UNEP | Long term monitoring |
| 20 | John Liu | China | Independent film-maker | Restoration |
| 21 | Cleto Ndikumagenge | Cameroon | CBFP | Regional forest policy |
| 22 | Patrick Verkooijen | USA | World Bank | Climate Smart Agriculture |
| 23 | Bruce Campbell | Denmark | CCAFS (CGIAR) | Climate Change |
| 24 | Peter Besseau | Canada | IMFN | FLR |
| 25 | Wang Xiaoping | China | Beijing Forestry Society | Restoration policy |
| 26 | | South Africa | Nedbank | Private Sector Finance |
| 27 | | Tanzania | Green Resources Africa | Private Sector |
| 28 | Lars Laestadius | USA | WRI | Mapping & Monitoring |
| 29 | Tim Christophersen | Canada | CBD - Secretariat | Biodiversity |
| 30 | Benjamin Singer | USA | UNFF | International Forest Policy |
| 31 | John Spears | USA | World Bank | Finance |
| 32 | Yoko Watanabe | USA | GEF | Finance |
| 33 | Mike Dudley | UK | Forestry Commission | FLR and plantations |
| 34 | | Tanzania | HASHI | Dryland Forest Restoration |
| 35 | Dr Steve Elliott | Thailand | Univ of Chiang Mai | Natural Forest Restoration |
| 36 | Dr Jeanette Gurung | Thailand | WOCAN | Ag & Gender |
| 37 | Mr Dominic Elson | East Timor | Independent | Finance |
| 38 | Dr Sarah Scherr | USA | EcoAgriculture Partners | Ecoagriculture |
| 39 | Dr Dennis Garrity | Kenya | ICRAF | Agroforestry |
| 40 | Marta Monjane | Kenya | IUCN | Forests |
| 41 | Stewart Maginnis | Switzerland | IUCN | FLR |
| 42 | Mine Pabari | Kenya | IUCN | Facilitator |
| 43 | Gisèle Umuhumuza | Rwanda | REMA | Facilitator |