



BRIEF  
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# FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION

## Why WWF considers Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) crucially important

Natural forests are disappearing at a rate of 7 million hectares per year, while population and consumption growth is expected to triple wood demand by 2050. Halting forest loss while meeting the needs of a growing population requires restoration at scale. Around the world there are large areas of degraded and deforested land that are abandoned or poorly managed – these are the possible “restoration fronts” that can be targeted for restoration, and that will help meet the ambitious targets set out in the Bonn Challenge commitments, as well as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

### **WWF contributes to the achievement of the Bonn Challenge commitments**

to restore 150 million hectares of forest landscapes by uniting and building on experiences and lessons learnt in implementation to date, supporting governments in making and delivering their commitments, and by leveraging the growing political and financial opportunities to deliver FLR at scale.

**WWF restoration solutions** aim to regain ecological integrity and enhance human wellbeing in deforested and

degraded landscapes and contribute to global agreements such as the SDGs and Bonn Challenge. The political and financial support behind these global agendas offers opportunities to take FLR solutions to scale. These solutions respond to the climate crisis and channel vital funding to countries most affected by land degradation and poverty, and help expand investment in the public benefits that forests provide.

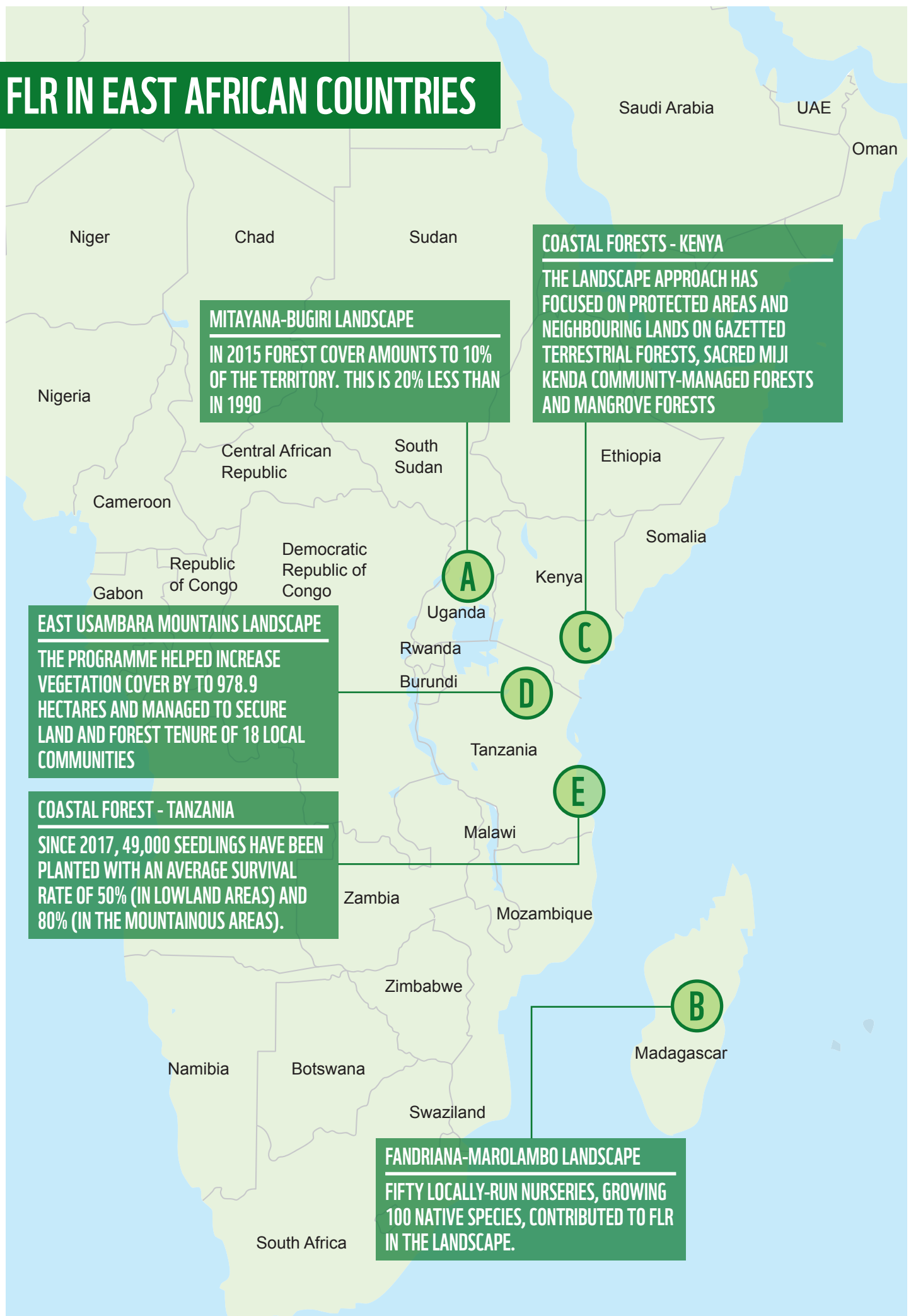
**WWF's unique position in FLR** is its long-term experience on the ground and presence across the globe. From the Amazon to Congo Basin to Borneo, WWF has a long history of working closely with forest-dependent communities as well as the world's leading and most progressive forestry-companies to innovate and implement solutions that demonstrate that timber can be produced efficiently and profitably while maintaining ecosystems and its functions (carbon, water, biodiversity) and contributing to socio-economic development. These solutions create shared value for communities, businesses and the environment.



350 MILLION  
HECTARES

COUNTRIES HAVE GLOBALLY  
COMMITTED TO RESTORE  
150 MILLION HECTARES  
BY 2020 AND 350 MILLION  
HECTARES BY 2030 UNDER  
THE BONN CHALLENGE AND  
NEW YORK DECLARATION  
ON FORESTS

# FLR IN EAST AFRICAN COUNTRIES



## MITAYANA-BUGIRI LANDSCAPE

IN 2015 FOREST COVER AMOUNTS TO 10% OF THE TERRITORY. THIS IS 20% LESS THAN IN 1990

## COASTAL FORESTS - KENYA

THE LANDSCAPE APPROACH HAS FOCUSED ON PROTECTED AREAS AND NEIGHBOURING LANDS ON GAZETTED TERRESTRIAL FORESTS, SACRED MIJI KENDA COMMUNITY-MANAGED FORESTS AND MANGROVE FORESTS

## EAST USAMBARA MOUNTAINS LANDSCAPE

THE PROGRAMME HELPED INCREASE VEGETATION COVER BY TO 978.9 HECTARES AND MANAGED TO SECURE LAND AND FOREST TENURE OF 18 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

## COASTAL FOREST - TANZANIA

SINCE 2017, 49,000 SEEDLINGS HAVE BEEN PLANTED WITH AN AVERAGE SURVIVAL RATE OF 50% (IN LOWLAND AREAS) AND 80% (IN THE MOUNTAINOUS AREAS).

## FANDRIANA-MAROLAMBO LANDSCAPE

FIFTY LOCALLY-RUN NURSERIES, GROWING 100 NATIVE SPECIES, CONTRIBUTED TO FLR IN THE LANDSCAPE.



FLR is an important approach to respond to the threats posed by deforestation and degradation in Africa, and to enhance livelihoods, maintain habitats and boost agricultural productivity.

For over two decades, WWF has been engaged with field initiatives in FLR across Africa in various countries, including Madagascar, Tanzania, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Kenya and Cameroon, and has thereby collected significant experience. This is complemented by the global Trillion Trees partnership with BirdLife International and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), which aims to restore and protect one trillion trees by mid-century.

In 2017, WWF joined the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100), which aims to restore 100 million hectares of deforested and degraded land in Africa by 2030. The AFR100 is the mechanism by which the Bonn Challenge is implemented in Africa, and its framework maximizes collaboration and knowledge sharing with other partners, including local communities and NGOs in critical regions and landscapes. These types of partnerships are crucial for FLR to succeed, because restoration requires multiple strategies, experiences, capacities and stakeholders.

## **B** FANDRIANA-MAROLAMBO LANDSCAPE MADAGASCAR

In 2005, WWF initiated an FLR programme in the Fandriana-Marolambo landscape situated in Madagascar's iconic moist forest. The landscape, harbouring fragmented forest interspersed with savannah, exotic plantations and fields, stretches over 203,080 hectares and is home to 150,000 people from three ethnic groups. It is rich in biodiversity, with eight lemur species, for example, having been documented. But the landscape is under pressure of deforestation.

A total of EUR 1,625,881 was invested in the landscape over 13 years. Fifty locally-run nurseries, growing 100 native species, contributed to FLR in the landscape. While 95,063 hectares were protected in 2013 (Marolambo National Park), 51,743 hectares were managed by community-based organisations and an area of 6,786 hectares was placed under active or passive restoration.

The programme has built on and has been integrated into national and local policies (such as the third environmental plan), and used existing governance structures (notably, community-based organisations, or COBAs). It has demonstrated that communities' needs have to be addressed in parallel to restoring ecological interests.

## **A** MITYANA-BUGIRI LANDSCAPE UGANDA

Uganda is one of the most fertile places in the world, and its growing economy is fuelling demand for forest products. In 1990, approximately 30 per cent of Uganda was covered with forests, but by 2015 this figure had fallen to 10 per cent. The major drivers of this deforestation include a booming population – at a rate of 3.2 per cent annually – expanding farmland, unregulated charcoal production and rapid urbanization.

There are significant afforestation and reforestation opportunities to create forest on under-utilized land, often next to, or on land currently owned or leased by forestry companies. Most likely, these companies are best placed to expand forests at a low cost and fastest pace. WWF is engaging with companies and partners to ensure that plantations are managed in a way that brings both benefits to local people and the environment.





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## D EAST USAMBARA MOUNTAINS LANDSCAPE TANZANIA

The East Usambara Forest is part of the ancient Eastern Arc mountain chain stretching along the coast from southern Tanzania to southern Kenya. Research on the distribution of forests in the East Usambaras indicates that if the forests become too fragmented and isolated, then a number of the species only known to exist in this area will become globally extinct.

WWF and partners implemented a long-term programme in the Usambaras from 2004 to 2013 to conserve forests and connectivity between remaining areas and to improve livelihoods in a multifunctional mosaic landscape. This included restoring forest habitats in key areas, establishing new Village Forest Reserves and village land use plans, promoting sustainable use of forest resources, and raising awareness about the importance of forests and appropriate land management. The programme helped create 18 village land use plans to secure tenure on land and forest and 19 new Village Forest Reserves with a total of 1,041 hectares under improved management. Forest management effectiveness in these areas increased to 86 per cent in 2013, up from 53 per cent in 2009, and there was a 97 per cent decline in forest fires in Village Forest Reserves. The programme also helped increase vegetation cover to 978.9 hectares, and a total of 1.95 million trees were planted.

Through the Trillion Trees partnership, WWF, BirdLife International and the Wildlife Conservation Society are currently designing a new long-term programme in the Usambaras.

## E COASTAL FORESTS TANZANIA

WWF is working with the Tanzania government to save and restore the last remaining coastal forests of Pugu, Vikindu and Kazimzumbwi near Dar-es-Salaam, the country's most populated city. These forests, which play a vital role in maintaining ecosystem services like hydrology and as source of livelihoods for surrounding communities, have suffered from deforestation and degradation due to charcoal production, cultivation and encroachment. WWF is working with the government to restore the reserves through enrichment planting of native trees, improve management plans, develop ecotourism business plans and collaborate with the private sector. The partnership has thus far secured seed funding to enable private sector investment and has planted a total of 49,000 seedlings since 2017 with average survival rate of 50 per cent (in lowland areas) and 80 per cent (in the mountainous areas).

The three forest reserves offer ecotourism opportunities for both foreigners and Dar-es-Salaam residents, including bird watching, school trips, camping and hiking, thus providing employment to surrounding communities.

## C COASTAL FORESTS KENYA

The coastal forests of Kenya are part of the eastern Africa coastal forests ecoregion that runs from Southern Somalia to Southern Mozambique. Since 2005, WWF has been working with a wide range of stakeholders including the national government, county governments, communities and other conservation organizations to sustainably manage these forests for biodiversity and human well-being. Through implementation of the landscape approach, the work has focused on protected areas and neighbouring lands on gazetted terrestrial forests, sacred Miji Kenda community-managed forests (commonly known as Kaya forests) and mangrove forests. The key actions have been management, conservation and restoration of degraded and deforested lands as well as increasing investment in locally-controlled forestry (ILCF) and cross-border initiatives aimed at controlling trade in forest products.

WWF's Forest Programme in coastal Kenya has focused on two landscapes – the Kwale-Kilifi in the south and Lamu-Ijara-Tana in the north. Notable achievements include support for implementation of participatory forest management, including development and implementation of participatory forest management plans, establishment and capacity building of county-based forest owners' associations for ILCF, support in establishment of community-based nature-based enterprises and restoration of degraded lands and gazettement of forests for improved management.

### Contact information

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#### Why we are here.

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

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