

# THE RESTORATION INITIATIVE

Impacts of a multi-county Forest and Landscape Restoration Programme united in support of the Bonn Challenge

## 3 POLICY INTEGRATION AND KNOWLEDGE DISSEMINATION

### BACKGROUND

Ecosystems around the world are faced with the serious threat of degradation: approximately 30 per cent of the Earth's agricultural land is degraded<sup>1</sup> and over half of the world's tropical forests have been destroyed since the 1960s, affecting 1 billion of the world's poor.<sup>2</sup> Ecosystem degradation altogether impacts 40 per cent of the world's population, or around 3.2 billion people, and amounts to 10 per cent of global annual economic output caused by the loss of ecosystem services.<sup>3</sup>

Since 2018, [The Restoration Initiative](#) (TRI) has united nine countries and three leading institutions (IUCN, FAO, and UNEP) to implement 10 projects across Africa and Asia, with support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The main goal is to overcome existing barriers to restoration and restore degraded forests and landscapes in support of the Bonn Challenge.

- 1 United Nations Environment Programme (2021). *Becoming #GenerationRestoration: Ecosystem restoration for people, nature and climate*. Available at: <https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/36251/ERPNC.pdf>
- 2 IUCN. "Deforestation and forest degradation," *IUCN Issues Brief* (2021), <https://iucn.org/resources/issues-brief/deforestation-and-forest-degradation#:~:text=Over%20half%20of%20the%20tropical,forests%20to%20provide%20essential%20services>
- 3 IPBES. (2019). *Summary for policymakers of the IPBES Assessment Report on Land Degradation and Restoration*. Available at: [https://files.ipbes.net/ipbes-web-prod-public-files/spm\\_3bi\\_ldr\\_digital.pdf](https://files.ipbes.net/ipbes-web-prod-public-files/spm_3bi_ldr_digital.pdf)

Aerial rice field mangrove view, GuineaBissau © IUCN/IBAP



THE RESTORATION INITIATIVE

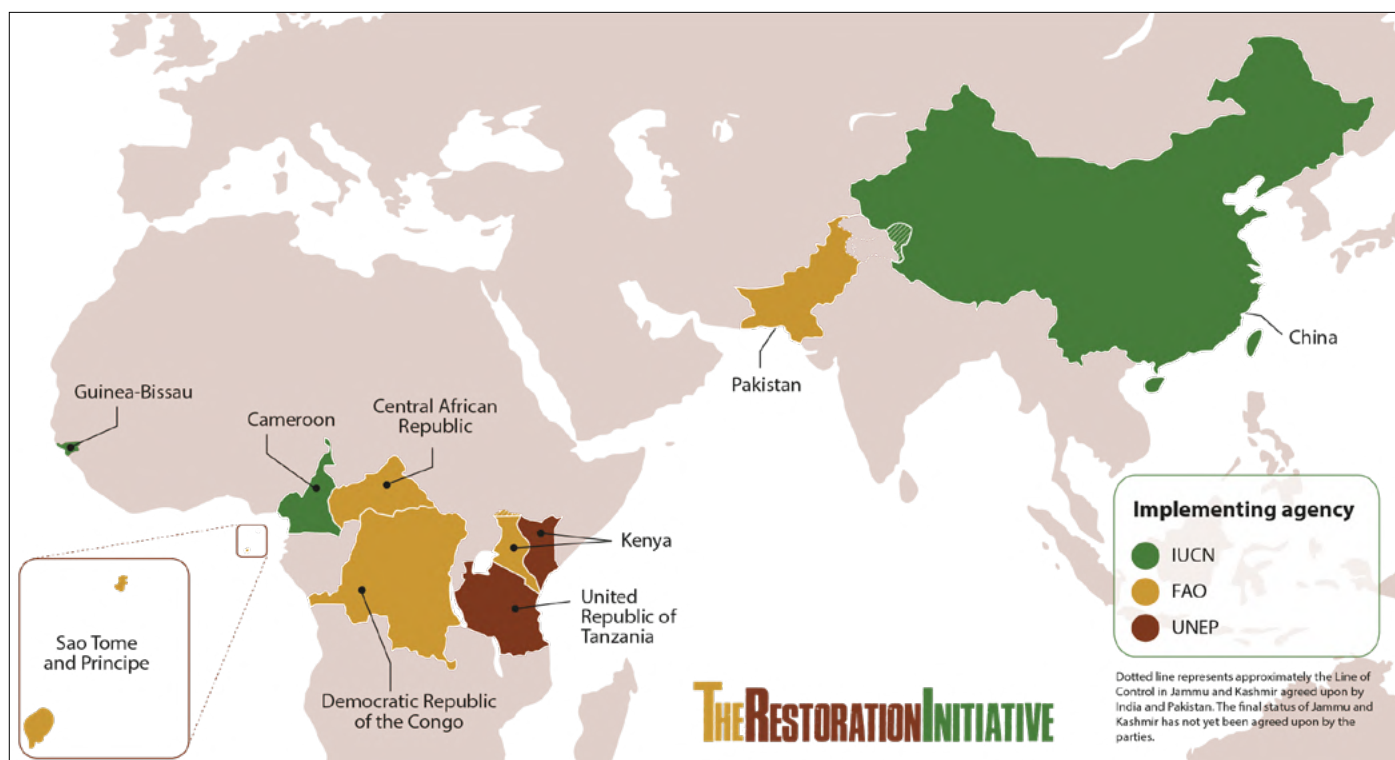


Figure 1: TRI participating countries. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Adapted from: Freepik. 2021. Earth map linear composition. Cited on 7 October 2021. [www.freepik.com/free-vector/earth-map-linear-composition\\_9386670.htm#page=1&query=world%20-The Myanmar project](http://www.freepik.com/free-vector/earth-map-linear-composition_9386670.htm#page=1&query=world%20-The%20Myanmar%20project) has been suspended since November 2021 due to the political situation.

To ensure long-term sustainability and ecological integrity, TRI restoration activities are guided by the Forest and Landscape Restoration (FLR) principles, developed by IUCN and further updated in 2018 by the Global Partnership on Forest and Landscape Restoration (GPFLR) (See Figure 2).<sup>4</sup> Informed by on-the-ground implementation, these FLR principles, along with others tailored for specific ecosystems, helped shape the *Principles for Ecosystem Restoration to Guide the UN Decade 2021-2030*<sup>5</sup> (hereafter UN Decade Principles). TRI is an outstanding example of large-scale ecosystem restoration that quickly aligned with the global restoration movement led by the UN Decade, as it integrates both UN Decade and FLR principles to restore, enhance, and sustain essential ecological and social functions in priority degraded and deforested landscapes, supporting long-term resilience.<sup>6</sup>

Underpinning these FLR principles is the **landscape approach**. This holistic perspective on restoration considers ecological connections, socioeconomic factors, and stakeholder alignment central to all restoration activities. Instead of focusing on individual sites, this

approach seeks to restore entire landscapes through a continuum of integrated activities across diverse, interacting land uses. This ensures long-term sustainability for the benefit of both nature and people. Additionally, inclusive governance that incorporates Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLCs) who own, govern, manage, and/or rely on these resources and territories is a crucial component of the landscape approach.<sup>7</sup>

A successful FLR intervention using the landscape approach would not only involve tree planting but also consider the needs of diverse stakeholders in the planning phase, develop restoration interventions for surrounding ecosystems beyond deforested areas, support local and national policy adoption to strengthen future FLR implementation, address economic drivers of degradation through activities such as income diversification, and prevent future deforestation. TRI provides actionable insights on how a landscape approach can enhance biodiversity, climate resilience, and sustainable development, reinforcing global restoration goals.

4 The Global Partnership on Forest and Landscape Restoration. (n.d.). 'Our Mission.' Available at: <https://www.forestlandscaperestoration.org>

5 UNEP, FAO, IUCN, Society for Ecological Restoration (SER). (2021). *Principles for Ecosystem Restoration to Guide the United Nations Decade 2021-2030*. Available at: <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/b234f058-9f77-4481-b870-a7fa2e7ad5f8/content>

6 TRI. (n.d.) 'Restoring Landscapes.' Available at: <https://www.therestorationinitiative.org>

7 Campese, J., Mansourian, S., Walters, G., Nuesiri, E., Hamzah, A., Brown, B., Kuzee, M. and Nakangu, B. (2022). *Enhancing the integration of governance in forest landscape restoration opportunities assessments. Analysis and recommendations*. Available at: <https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/2022-032-En.pdf>

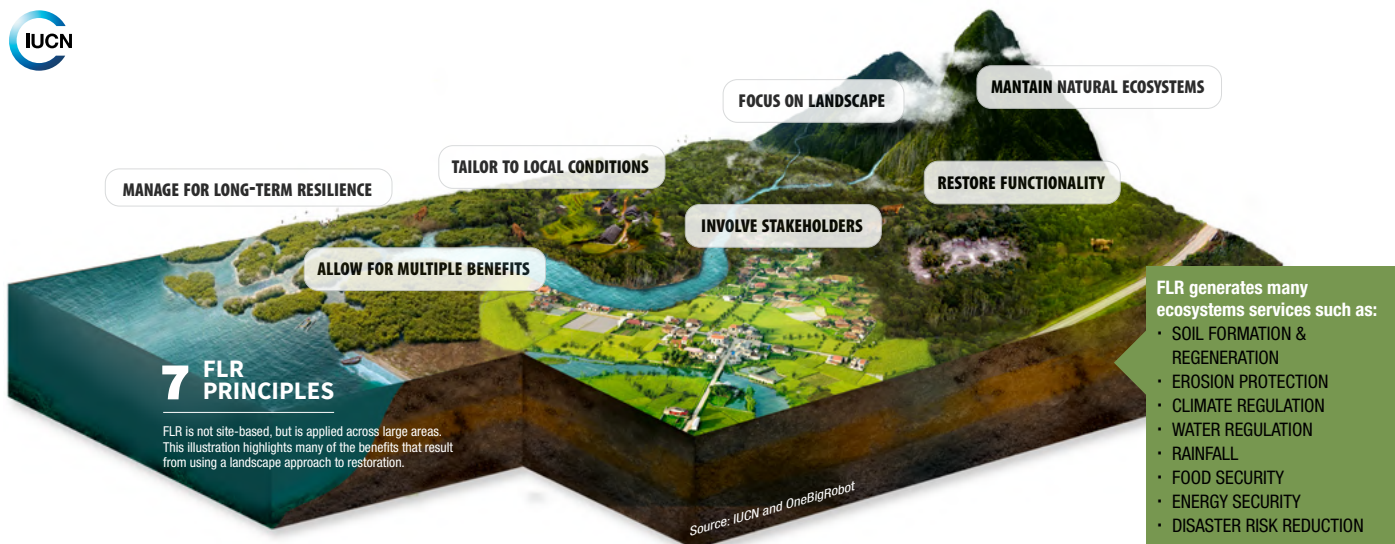


Figure 2: Principles of forest and landscape restoration (FLR). Source: IUCN and OneBigRobot

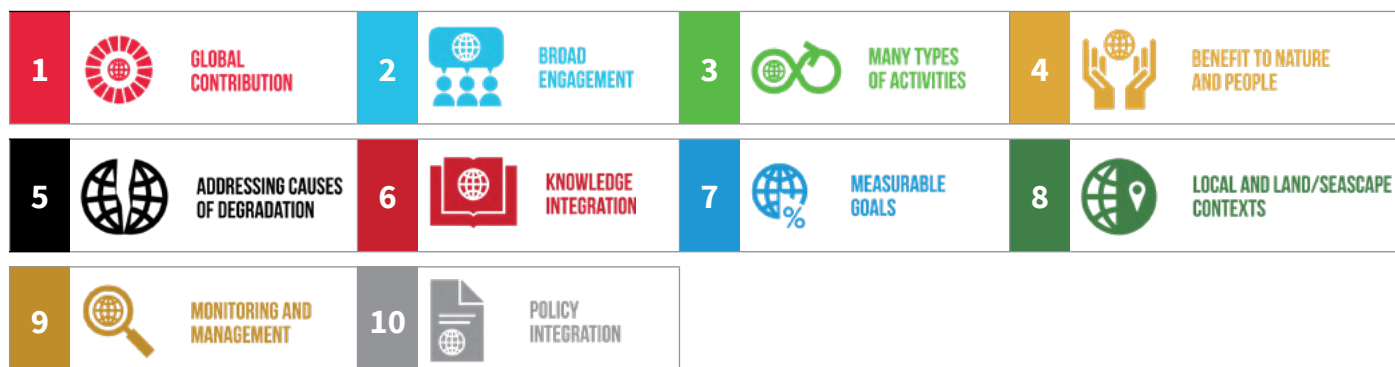
## PURPOSE OF THIS BRIEF

This brief series highlights The Restoration Initiative’s multi-level, long-term impacts. For more than 5 years, TRI has implemented large-scale forest and landscape restoration, uniting nine countries across ten projects in Africa and Asia.<sup>8</sup> Using the FLR and UN Decade Principles as a framework, this brief series explores TRI’s impacts.

**This third impact brief features the work of TRI on policy integration and knowledge dissemination across FLR interventions**, enabling aspects captured in Principles 6 and 10 of the UN Decade and FLR Principles 2 and 5. FLR Principle 2 emphasises the impor-

tance of engaging stakeholders at different scales and supporting participatory governance, whilst Principle 5 brings attention to the need to tailor approaches to the local context, including by drawing on the latest science, best practices and traditional as well as Indigenous knowledge. Although the 10 principles of the UN Decade are complementary, meaning that, in designing and implementing restoration interventions, they should all be considered together, this impact brief specifically focuses on UN Decade Principles 6 and 10, the key aspects of which are reflected in TRI’s work, as outlined in the box below and described in greater detail in the following section.

## THE TEN PRINCIPLES OF THE UN DECADE OF ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION



8 Cameroon, Central African Republic, China, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Pakistan, São Tomé and Príncipe, and Tanzania.



## PRINCIPLE 6

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION INCORPORATES ALL TYPES OF KNOWLEDGE AND PROMOTES THEIR EXCHANGE AND INTEGRATION THROUGHOUT THE PROCESS

UN Decade Principle 6 focuses on ensuring restoration incorporates **all types of knowledge and promotes their exchange and integration** throughout the process. This is achieved by:

- **Integrating all types of knowledge** – including, but not limited to, Indigenous, traditional, local and scientific ways of knowing – and practices, which will foster inclusive and consensual decision-making throughout the process and enable full participation of local stakeholders and right-holders;
- Focusing **capacity-development** efforts on promoting mutual learning, as well as **knowledge-sharing among stakeholders and communities of practice at local, national, and global levels**;
- Systematically capturing and sharing knowledge about effective practices and innovative approaches **to develop, adapt and replicate successful experiences**, and to avoid repeating mistakes;
- **Developing platforms and networks** for documenting and sharing knowledge and information, and making it widely available through regularly updated, easily accessible, understandable, and culturally appropriate communication and dissemination channels (considering languages and literacy levels).



## PRINCIPLE 10

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION IS ENABLED BY POLICIES AND MEASURES THAT PROMOTE ITS LONG-TERM PROGRESS, FOSTERING REPLICATION AND SCALING-UP

UN Decade Principle 10 focuses on enabling ecosystem restoration by **policies and measures that promote its long-term progress, fostering replication and scaling-up**. This is achieved by:

- **Mapping and adapting, where appropriate, all relevant governance instruments (laws, regulations, policies, strategies, and plans)**, and integrating them in the planning and implementation of projects, programmes and initiatives;
- **Coordinating** actions among institutions, sectors, and stakeholders;
- **Providing capacity-development opportunities** to empower the people, organisations, institutions and networks involved in restoration;
- **Mainstreaming** effective practices to have broad influence and allow replication;
- Identifying, mobilising, and maintaining **adequate funding** (from government, the private sector, international organisations, or other sources).

Source: <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/b234f058-9f77-4481-b870-a7fa2e7ad5f8/content>

## WHAT ARE THE POLICY AND KNOWLEDGE DISSEMINATION IMPACTS OF TRI?

Across its country projects, TRI has facilitated the creation of 61 policies and regulatory frameworks that enable FLR implementation. TRI has developed 220 knowledge products to help disseminate best practice and build capacities across landscapes, thereby maximising the knowledge provided by TRI's implementation. These numbers will likely increase as projects that began at different times continue to progress toward their targets, with many still on track to meet their goals by their respective end dates.<sup>9</sup> The case studies in this brief showcase how TRI has achieved these impacts on both local and national levels.

Although the ten country projects varied in their initial level of policy adoption and knowledge production and dissemination contexts, TRI aimed to overcome common central challenges. Firstly, in all countries and regions, **the policy and regulatory frameworks were—albeit to varying degrees – insufficient to enable FLR.** Secondly, knowledge on effective practices was insufficiently shared across landscapes, causing

challenges such as **low awareness (and therefore no ability to implement FLR) and lack of buy-in from key stakeholders.**

The policy and knowledge dissemination work of TRI was designed to address these challenges, with its impacts outlined in the following sections. First, the **TRI policy impacts** are described, highlighting the final outcomes and achievements of TRI's policy influencing initiatives. This is followed by an exploration of the **practical implementation of the Decade and FLR principles through TRI policy impacts**, demonstrating how these outcomes were achieved and their alignment with UN Decade Principle 10. Next, the **TRI knowledge dissemination impacts** are discussed, showcasing the results and influence of TRI's efforts to share knowledge and best practices to guide implementation. Finally, the **practical implementation of the Decade and FLR principles through TRI knowledge dissemination** is reviewed, illustrating how these objectives were met and their alignment with Principle 6.



Field visit during the 2023 TRI global learning workshop in Kenya © UNEP

9 The respective end dates of the TRI child projects are as follows: Cameroon (July 2024), Central African Republic (December 2025), China (December 2023), Democratic Republic of Congo (August 2024), Global Support Project (December 2024), Guinea Bissau (November 2024), Kenya ASAL (March 2025), Kenya Tana Delta (June 2025), Pakistan (December 2024), Sao Tome and Principe (May 2025), Tanzania (December 2026).

## TRI Policy Impacts

Project countries found themselves at different stages of the ‘**policy cycle**’<sup>10</sup>, which represents the different stages of developing a successful policy – an FLR policy framework, in this case. TRI country teams conducted a **thorough baseline analysis** that included **participatory consultative processes** and identified the challenges they needed to overcome to achieve their policy objectives.

Crucially, the baseline analysis informed TRI country projects’ policy-influencing strategies to achieve their objectives. The most common strategy was the **facilitation of policy formulation and negotiation**. This included activities like involving experts in policy drafting, assisting the drafting process itself, providing technical input, and hosting stakeholder dialogues and consultations. Another common strategy was **re-viewing relevant existing policies to analyse their effectiveness in promoting FLR implementation and improving countries’ policy environments**. The third most common policy influencing strategy was **knowledge creation**, such as through participatory [Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology](#)

([ROAM](#)), which outcomes provided the context for policy influencing activities. A final common policy influencing strategy was **stakeholder engagement**, which TRI facilitated by establishing stakeholder platforms.

To monitor the impact of the TRI country teams’ activities in enhancing the in-country policy-enabling environment for FLR – in line with UN Decade Principle 10 – TRI has been collecting data on the number of new or improved FLR-supportive policies and regulatory frameworks (e.g. development plans or strategies, sectoral policies, legislation, and others) adopted by TRI countries and disaggregated by jurisdictional level (international, national, regional, and local levels).

To date, TRI country teams have adopted **61 FLR-related policies and frameworks** collectively, impressively exceeding its 53 policy and arrangement targets at the local and national levels, with some TRI country projects still running (see Figure 3 and Table 1). This achievement has primarily been driven by certain TRI project countries, particularly China, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Kenya ASAL, São Tomé and Príncipe and Tanzania, which surpassed their targets, in some cases quite extensively.

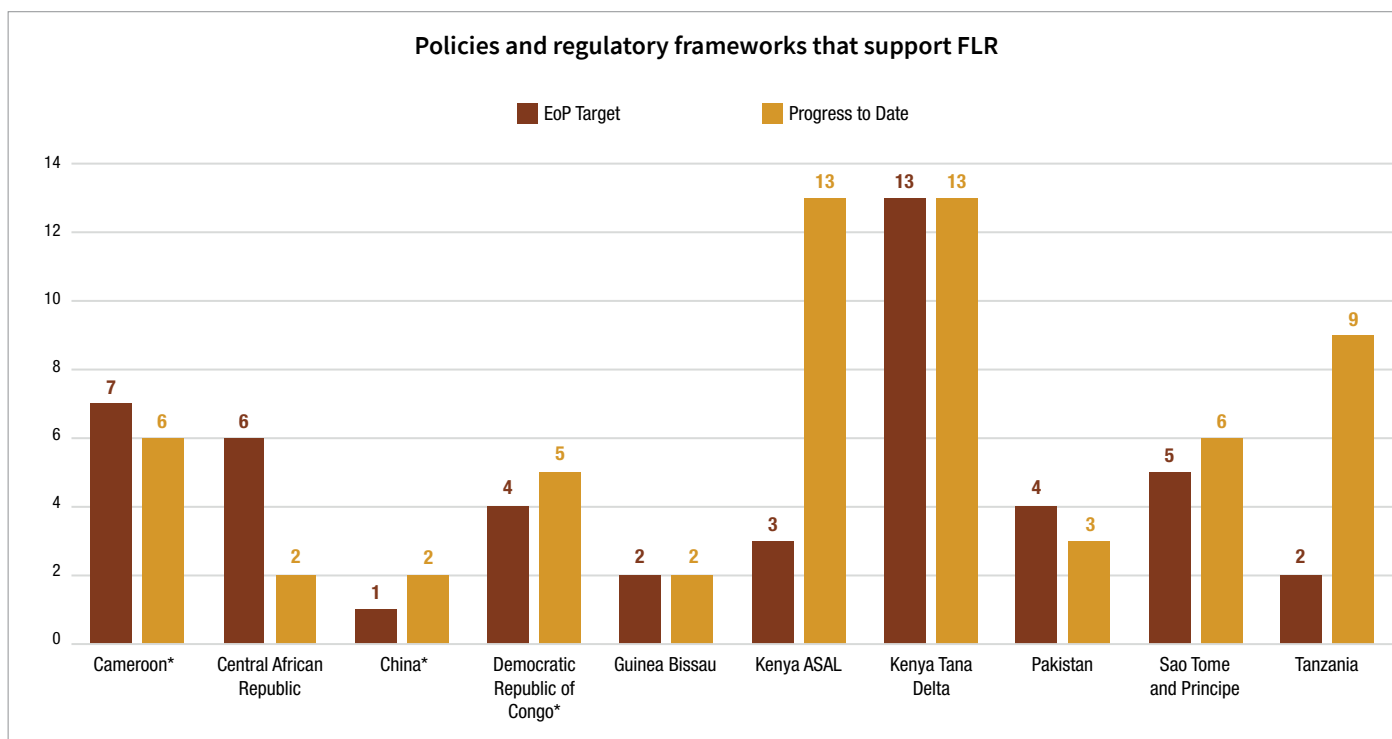


Figure 3. Child project targets and progress to date on support for adoption, improvement, or enhancement by TRI project countries of FLR-supportive policies and regulatory frameworks.

10 See IUCN, “Review of IUCN’s Influence on Policy Phase I: Describing the Policy Work of IUCN,” (2005): 35–38, <https://iucn.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/global-iucns-influence-on-policy-phase-i-february-2005.pdf>.

TRI country project	Major policy milestones supported/contributed to by TRI
Cameroon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Harmonized Action Plan for the Restoration of Degraded Land and Forest Landscapes in Cameroon (2020-2030)</li> <li>Legal Decision – “Modalities for the Circulation of Non-Timber Forest Products in Plantations”</li> </ul>
Central African Republic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revision of the country’s Forest Policy</li> </ul>
China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Green Path to Growth State Forest Farm Policy Research in China’s New Stage of Economic and Social Development</li> <li>Implementation Roadmap of Pilot Sustainable Forest Management in China</li> </ul>
Democratic Republic of Congo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provincial Strategy for the Restoration of Forests and Landscapes in South Kivu</li> <li>Legal Documents on Bushfires and FLR</li> </ul>
Guinea Bissau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Final Draft of the National Mangrove Law</li> <li>First Draft of the National Strategy of Mangrove Restoration</li> </ul>
Kenya ASAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forest and Landscape Implementation Action Plan (FOLAREP)</li> <li>10-Year National Strategy for the Sustainable Commercialization of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs)</li> <li>The Forest (Incentives and Equitable Benefit Sharing) Regulation</li> <li>County Environment Action Plans</li> </ul>
Kenya Tana Delta	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eight Major Policies: National Forest and Landscape Restoration Action Plan (FOLAREP), Lamu County Climate Change Policy, Lamu County Climate Change Regulations, Lamu County Climate Change Act, Lamu County Forest Policy, Lamu County Forest and Landscape Restoration Action Plan</li> <li>Restoration Action Plan, Lamu County Integrated Development Plan, The Physical and Land Use Planning Act 2019</li> <li>County Integrated Development Plans for Tana Delta and Lamu County</li> </ul>
Pakistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Management of the Country’s 2015 Forest Policy</li> <li>Climate Change Policy</li> <li>Chilgoza Forest Multi-Functional Management Plans</li> </ul>
São Tomé and Príncipe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Platform for Forest and Landscape Restoration</li> <li>National FLR Plan</li> </ul>
Tanzania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Forest and Landscape Restoration Strategy</li> <li>National Environmental Master Plan for Strategic Intervention</li> <li>National Forest Policy Implementation Strategy</li> <li>National Environmental Policy</li> </ul>

Table 1: main policy milestones the TRI contributed in each project country

Table 1 shows the main policy milestone(s) that TRI contributed to in each TRI project country. As mentioned above, TRI’s work on enhancing policies and regulatory frameworks include various types of documents, including:

- National and/or local development plans or strategies (e.g. five year economic and social development plans);
- Ministerial or sectoral decrees;
- Sectoral policies (e.g. forestry, CC, water, agriculture, energy, etc.) and related investment plans;
- Legislations (laws) affecting the use and management of the environment and natural resources;
- Existing or new regulations (including guidelines) affecting the use and management of the environment and natural resources.

From the list above, the most common policy milestones across TRI countries have been **(a) strategies, action plans and development plans, (b) sectoral policies, and (c) legislation, each contributing to FLR implementation in a different way**. Generally, strategies and plans facilitate FLR by outlining the priorities and actions that should be taken, increasing the likelihood of governments prioritising FLR and taking necessary action. For example, the two strategies and the National Environmental Master Plan for Strategic Intervention in Tanzania are likely to influence government programming by clearly outlining degradation hotspots and the restoration activities that should be taken. In Kenya Tana Delta, county development plans facilitate FLR not only by guiding the implementation of restoration actions but also by allocating specific budgets for restoration.

Policies have the power to enable FLR through concrete measures, restoration targets and by putting FLR at the forefront of the government's approach to sustainable forest management. For instance, by including actions, priorities and monitoring strategies that promote FLR in CAR's revised Forest Code, CAR is making FLR and sustainable land management the central pillar of the country's forest management – a significant positive change from previous practice. In Pakistan, the improvement of the National Forest Policy brought the focus on a community-based forest management approach, thereby completely reorientating the forestry sector's involvement of local communities and private sector actors and facilitating effective FLR.

Legislation facilitates FLR by incentivising and normalising behaviour conducive to FLR and by aiding the implementation of FLR on the ground. For example, in Cameroon, the legal decision on Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) in plantations and the Agroforestry Notebook incentivised individuals to establish NTFP plantations and boosted people's involvement in restoration activities. In Guinea Bissau, as mentioned above, the National Mangrove Law normalised beneficial agricultural practices in the country's mangrove landscapes. In DRC, one legal document incentivised desired behaviour with regards to the management of bushfires, whilst the other aided the implementation of the FLR Strategy.

A key added value of TRI as an international programme lies in its ability to create opportunities for collaboration. For example, when one TRI country's policy team successfully improves the in-country enabling environment for FLR, TRI offers a platform to share this achievement as a best practice with other TRI countries. This has already materialised through several exchange visits among participating TRI countries, the latest of which is a visit by TRI Guinea Bissau's team to São Tomé and Príncipe in April 2024. TRI in Guinea Bissau shared its successful experiences of restoring mangrove ecosystems with the TRI São Tomé and Príncipe team, and the two teams defined a common roadmap between relevant authorities in the two countries with a view to develop common strategies and conduct joint advocacy to finance initiatives for mangrove ecosystem conservation and for climate change adaptation.

## Practical implementation of the Decade and FLR principles through TRI policy impacts

**To ensure an enabling policy environment for achieving restoration objectives, all relevant policy documents (including laws, strategies, and plans)**



*Nursery visit during 2023 TRI global learning workshop in Kenya © Eva Teekens*

**should be mapped and adapted where appropriate and integrated into restoration projects (Principle 10).** TRI country teams, such as Cameroon, followed this by conducting comprehensive policy reviews including policies and plans that support or hinder forest restoration, creating a series of suggestions to be included in new policy tools. This allowed the country team to work with the government officials to elaborate a framework document on a national FLR strategy, which then informed the approved Harmonised Action Plan. By outlining the activities, the country's government can implement to support FLR, the Plan contributes to creating a policy environment conducive to FLR.

**To maximise the long-term net gain from restorative activities, TRI supported the coordination of actions among institutions, sectors, and stakeholders (Principle 10)** by establishing multi-stakeholder platforms and cross-sectoral coordination mechanisms. For example, in Guinea-Bissau, TRI contributed to the creation of the National Platform on Mangrove Landscapes Restoration (PLANTA), gathering 6 public institutions, 11 national and international NGOs, 5 projects and 11 individual resource persons who are all involved in conserving mangrove landscapes or managing mangrove rice fields. PLANTA was instrumental in assisting with the development of the National Mangrove Law and the National Mangrove Strategy, providing technical assistance and feedback, without which the policies would not have been robust and would have faced difficulty with obtaining approval. Unregulated agricultural practices have been one of the main barriers to restoration in Guinea-Bissau's mangrove ecosystems. The law provides the necessary regulation and normalises sustainable agricultural practices, which secure net gain from restoration in the long run. TRI in Tanzania provides an excellent example of cross-sectoral coordination mechanisms and is included in the case studies below.



## TRI Knowledge Dissemination Impacts

In line with UN Decade Principle 6, TRI recognises enhanced awareness and knowledge-sharing on effective practices and innovative approaches as a key enabling condition for FLR. The failure to share this information across communities hinders effective restoration as it prevents communities from gaining awareness of and subsequently developing, adapting and replicating successful experiences and from avoiding mistakes. In addition, it hinders the ability to generate buy-in among key stakeholders, primarily policy and decision-makers, who play a key role in enabling and mainstreaming FLR. As a result, **the development of FLR-knowledge products – for both TRI projects and countries, as well as the wider community of restoration practitioners – is a key objective and rationale for the programme.**

To monitor the impact of TRI country teams’ activities in facilitating knowledge-sharing to raise awareness of FLR needs and opportunities (in line with UN Decade Principle 6), TRI has been collecting data on knowledge products, measured by the number of knowledge products (a) developed (e.g. reports and good practices collected from country activities, guidelines or manuals created based on good practices), (b) disseminat-

ed (hard copies of certain products distributed) and (c) accessed through relevant knowledge platforms (digital copies clicked on/downloaded on the TRI website or The Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism knowledge base<sup>11</sup>).

The developed knowledge products took on various forms, including digital and/or physical scientific articles, policy briefs, reports, guidelines, manuals, software, tools and educational materials as well as media products. The products were also disseminated through various channels, including, but not limited to, radio, training curricula and capacity-building events. The chosen format and dissemination channel was chosen based on the aim of a given knowledge product – which ranged from raised awareness, through increased stakeholder (including decision-makers, community members and partners) knowledge and capacity, to stakeholder buy-in.

Since the project’s inception, TRI has developed and disseminated 220 knowledge products, surpassing its end-of-project target of 107 (see Figure 4). These products form a significant part of the targeted support provided to 422,497 individuals as part of TRI to date. Further information on this issue can be found in TRI’s impact brief on project beneficiaries.

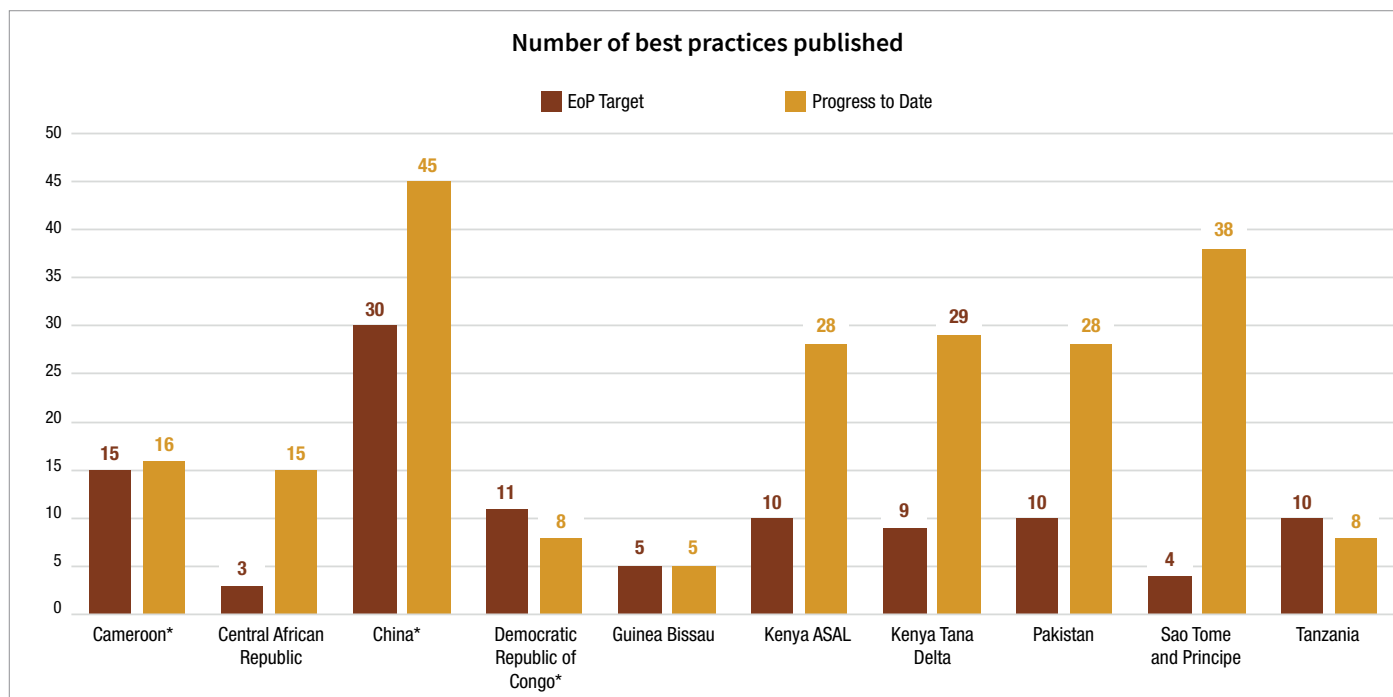


Figure 4. Child project targets and development of TRI knowledge products

11 The Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism (FLRM) knowledge base is a comprehensive resource database on FLR developed by FAO.



Communication and training materials from the TRI Guinea-Bissau project. © IBAP/Pierre Campredon

Alongside the 10 country projects, TRI also includes the Global Learning, Finance and Partnerships project ('the Global Child' hereafter), which is responsible for **overall programme coordination to ensure coherence and promote integration of the national child projects**. The Global Child also plays an important role, primarily in best practice integration, where it has achieved notable impacts. Since the start of the project, the Global Child has organised numerous knowledge-sharing and capacity development events, **including 5 TRI Global Knowledge Sharing** events, which were attended by all country project teams.

The Global Child has improved actionable knowledge on FLR through enhanced tool packages, with a total of 7 packages, enhanced with case studies, developed. In 2020, the Global Child published [Restoring the Earth – the Next Decade](#) in *Unasylva*, FAO's international journal of forestry and forest industries, and is also available in French, Spanish, Chinese and Korean. The following year, FAO published a joint publication with WRI titled [Mapping Together: A Guide to Monitoring Forest and Landscape Restoration Using Collect Earth Mapathons](#), also available in French. Recently, in July 2024, the Global Child developed five e-learning courses (available in English and French) on the following topics: [Introduction to FLR](#), [Sustainable Financing of FLR](#), [Monitoring FLR](#), [Developing bankable business plans for sustainable forest-based enterprises](#) and [Planning seed and seedling supply for FLR](#). This has already improved stakeholders' knowledge on how to action FLR – **95% of stakeholders who attended the Global Knowledge-Sharing event last year have confirmed they had gained additional knowledge**

**to support FLR implementation**. Additionally, in 2023, FAO developed a Forestry Working Paper on [Delivering tree genetic resources in forest and landscape restoration](#) and a [policy brief](#), in collaboration with Biodiversity International, calling for the sufficient strengthening of capacities to deliver sufficient tree seed for FLR. IUCN also carried out biodiversity assessments in [Cameroon](#), [Kenya](#) and [Central African Republic](#), publishing the results and [practical applications](#) of the Species Threat Abatement and Restoration (STAR) metric in TRI projects.

With a specific focus on policy, the Global Child has developed and disseminated flagship knowledge products for estimating the impacts of biodiversity in FLR and designing fit-for-purpose policy influencing plans, [interinstitutional coordination mechanisms](#) (including 2 case studies, from Kenya and Pakistan, both TRI countries) and [enabling policies for FLR](#) (with 5 case studies). Additionally, TRI countries' policy milestones and policy influencing strategies have been published on the [Panorama Solutions website](#) and, more recently, in **Panorama In Focus: Policy Impact of the Restoration Initiative on Forest and Landscape Restoration**.

Finally, the Global Child is also responsible for improving knowledge dissemination through online learning journeys and meetings (face-to-face and virtual). **2,272 TRI country project stakeholders benefited from face-to-face and virtual learning linked to TRI, and 19,401 people benefited from online knowledge (as of June 2024)**. Nearly 16,500 people visited the FLR Mechanism (FLRM) knowledge base.

## Practical implementation of the Decade and FLR principles through TRI knowledge dissemination

**Capacity development efforts should focus on systematically capturing and sharing knowledge about effective practices to develop and replicate successful experiences (Principle 6).** In line with this approach, TRI in China created the online “Mulan Forestry Course”, capturing the Mulan State Forest Farm’s approach to forest restoration and management over nine video lessons. The course raises foresters’ awareness of the FLR approach, building their ability and self-confidence to use it, thereby facilitating flourishing, more diverse and productive forests across the country. It helps foresters from State Forest Farms across the country better understand FLR methods and discover areas for improvement.

In another example, TRI in DRC built the capacity of members of the Dimitra Clubs – groups of local men, women and young people who organise on a voluntary basis to bring about positive changes in their communities. To do so, the country project team developed and disseminated image-based educational tools and technical sheets (including on agroforestry), which Dimitra Club members used to guide their restoration activities. This has already generated impressive impacts, with 707 ha restored through agroforestry. In addition, TRI in DRC collaborated with the Evangelical

University in Africa to develop teaching materials on FLR for secondary schools and universities. The project’s collaboration with the Dimitra Clubs and a local university additionally reflects TRI’s alignment with a key aspect of Principle 6, which is using readily accessible, understandable and culturally appropriate dissemination channels (which take into account literacy levels) to maximise the knowledge exchange.

Ecosystem restoration should also strive to integrate all types of knowledge and practices in the process – including, but not limited to, Indigenous, traditional, local, and scientific (Principle 6). The TRI’s integration of scientific and traditional knowledge, in particular, into its activities has helped project teams secure buy-in from the local community and decision-makers. For example, TRI Guinea Bissau’s economic valuation of mangrove services, estimated at USD 7,000 per hectare per year, helped convince decision-makers that restoration is a strategic priority for the country. In Kenya ASAL, TRI supported the Mt Kulal forest community in obtaining the right to manage the forest in collaboration with the county government. By doing so, TRI Kenya ASAL promoted conservation, which is locally led and uses traditional management knowledge and practices in grazing, wood fuel and honey collection, and ecotourism. By integrating the community’s traditional knowledge and enabling their full participation, TRI in Kenya ASAL ensured its activities would benefit forest conservation while supporting local livelihoods.



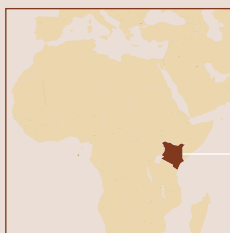
Community members Resilience Fund, DRC © FAO/Benjamin DeRidder

## HOW DID TRI ACHIEVE THESE IMPACTS?

The following three case studies – from Kenya Tana Delta, the Central African Republic (CAR) and Tanzania – highlight the specific impacts that have been achieved in relation to policy and best practice inte-

gration (as articulated in UN Decade Principles 10 and 6, respectively) on the national and local levels and the activities TRI country teams engaged in to achieve them.

### KENYA TANA DELTA



Four community forest associations signed forest management agreements with the Kenya Forest Service. © TRI Kenya Tana Delta project

#### OUTCOMES

Firstly, TRI in Kenya Tana Delta provides an excellent example of how **ecosystem restoration** can be **enabled by policies and measures promoting its long-term progress** at a local (county) level (**Principle 10**). The project’s key impact in this respect has been ensuring that a total of 4 counties – Tana River, Lamu, Kilifi, Taita Taveta – now have specific budgets dedicated to restoration and sustainable land management, encompassing different categories, including climate change, wildlife conservation, forests, conservation of water catchments, and farmlands through climate-smart agriculture. This impact is significant as counties initially had minimal tree planting budgets, which means **adequate funding has been mobilised to maximise the long-term net gain from restorative activities (Principle 10)**. Additionally, since there were no county policies, legislation, or strategies specific to FLR and achieving restoration targets, and the Forest and Landscape Restoration Implementation Action Plan (FOLAREP) was only adopted recently, another significant impact of the project has been successfully supporting the endorsement of 17 policies in the beforementioned counties. The en-

*The project’s key impact has been ensuring that a total of 4 counties now have specific budgets dedicated to restoration and sustainable land management*

dorsements **ensure an enabling policy environment** in counties that face severe risks of over-exploitation, deforestation, and overgrazing. This allows them to engage in FLR more effectively and ultimately help **achieve Kenya’s Bonn Challenge commitment** of restoring 10.6 million hectares (**Principle 10**).

Secondly, TRI in Kenya Tana Delta has successfully **promoted the exchange of knowledge (Principle 6)** with other priority landscapes in Kenya through the development of **29 knowledge products**, including ‘Participatory Natural Resources Management: How to involve local communities and other stakeholders’, [‘Participatory Forest Management in](#)

[Kenya: Lessons Learned After Twenty Years of Implementation \(1997-2018\)](#)’ and [‘Kenya’s Key Biodiversity Areas \(KBAs\) Status and Trends 2022’](#). Using these documents, the TRI Kenya Tana Delta team **shared experiences and lessons learned** from the project with county governments in coastal and western Kenya, allowing them **to develop, adapt and replicate successful experiences and avoid repeating mistakes (Principle 6)**. The products also included more visual documents, such as a 2024 calendar with the theme of Kenya’s coastal birds to showcase the richness of coastal forests and the need for restoration and an Ecological connectivity map for the Tana River Delta. The products were widely disseminated through social media and the distribution of hard copies at conferences, such as the 1st Joint International Scientific Conference on Utilisation of Biological Resources for Sustainable Development, Nature Conservation and Climate Resilience.

## INTERVENTIONS

The TRI Kenya Tana Delta team undertook several activities to achieve these outcomes, including (1) capacity development programmes, (2) coordination of action amongst stakeholders, and (3) funding mobilisation – all of which are activities highlighted in UN Decade Principle 10 and Principle 6 as necessary for maximising long-term net gain from restoration.

### 1. Capacity development

A total of 8617 people participated in some kind of **capacity development** initiative as part of the project, which was designed to ensure an enabling policy environment (Principle 10) **and facilitate the exchange of knowledge about effective practices and innovative approaches (Principle 6)**.

Firstly, the country project team trained 34 members drawn from 5 Community Forest Associations (CFAs) on advocacy and lobbying, **providing capacity-development opportunities to empower the people and organisations involved in restoration (Principle 10)**. These trainings provided information on how to engage in consultations about county budgetary processes and how to lobby for the prioritisation of FLR in coun-

ty budgets, i.e. **how to lobby for the mobilisation of adequate funding from the government (Principle 10)**.

Secondly, **platforms and networks were developed to facilitate the exchange of knowledge (Principle 6)**. A total of 55 Village Natural Resource and Land Use Committees were formed and trained on sustainable land management. National Site Support Groups (SSGs) Forums were held annually for 4 years throughout the project’s implementation to allow stakeholders to share lessons, challenges and experiences. The beneficiaries appreciated the impacts of these capacity-building and knowledge dissemination programmes. For instance, one female beneficiary noted that participating in TRI’s activities in Kenya Tana Delta taught her and her community about FLR, the development of environmental action plans, and value chains that promote sustainable use of natural resources to generate positive results for nature and communities in arid and semi-arid lands.

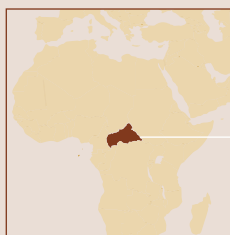
### 2. Coordination of action among stakeholders

Building on this momentum, TRI in Kenya Tana Delta **convened** stakeholders and directly funded their participation in consultations and validation forums to aid a significant FLR-advancing national policy – FOLAREP. 74 high-level events have been held, including national and sub-national representation from key sectors, meaning adopted policies, plans, and strategies have received inputs from nearly 10,000 individuals. Consultations and workshops, gathering information from diverse stakeholders, including local leaders and national agencies, were needed for policies to get through the validation process and garner enough political will. In other words, through **intersectoral policy coordination**, the TRI Kenya Tana Delta team **facilitated an enabling policy environment (Principle 10)**.

### 3. Funding mobilisation

Apart from training groups on lobbying for restoration funding, TRI **directly mobilised adequate funding from the government (Principle 10)** by making 30 written submissions at both national and county levels to influence budgets, Finance Bills, County Fiscal Strategy Papers, County Annual Development Plans and County Budget Estimates.

# CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)



Review of cartography within the Pissa community, CAR © FAO

## OUTCOMES

The Central African Republic (CAR) exemplifies TRI's ability to achieve similar impacts to TRI Kenya Tana Delta, albeit primarily (though not exclusively) at a centralised national level. TRI in CAR has successfully facilitated the revision of the country's Forest Code, the final version of which has now entered its final phase of revision and validation. Additionally, TRI in CAR has produced an upgraded Wood Energy Supply Plan (WISDOM) in Bangui, which is being finalised. The TRI CAR team has therefore contributed to the **adaptation of important governance instruments to ensure an enabling policy environment (Principle 10)**, which adequately addresses the varying issues facing restoration, sustainable land management, maintenance of carbon stocks and emission reductions in the Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) sector. The team has further contributed to **ensuring an enabling policy environment (Principle 10)** on the local level by assisting with developing a land-use plan for the country's Southwest region.

Moreover, TRI CAR's project partners, the academic institutions ISDR (Higher Institute for Rural Development) and ICRA (Central African Agricultural Research Institute), have successfully **promoted the exchange of knowledge (Principle 6)**. They developed ten technical fact sheets to train local communities, **systematically capturing and sharing knowledge on effective practices**

*TRI CAR's project partners have successfully promoted the exchange of knowledge and they have developed ten technical fact sheets to train local communities*

**(Principle 6)** in restoration, such as Payment for Biodiversity (PBR) schemes – which involve paying forest owners, farmers, or landowners as an incentive to manage their resources to conserve biodiversity.

## INTERVENTIONS

The TRI CAR team undertook two main activities to achieve these outcomes: (1) capacity development programmes and (2) coordination of action amongst stakeholders – both activities highlighted in UN Decade Principle 10 and Principle 6.

### 1. Capacity development

The TRI CAR team primarily focused their capacity-development efforts on **knowledge-sharing among communities of practice (Principle 6)**.

The TRI country project partners have conducted multiple training sessions at their respective sites

in Pissa and Mbaiki to improve local communities and Indigenous People’s knowledge of FLR, thereby focusing capacity development on **knowledge-sharing among communities of practice at the regional level (Principle 6)**.

In 2023, the TRI CAR team, in partnership with WWF, actively worked with local communities and Indigenous people in Mona-Sao in the Sangha-Mbaéré Prefecture in the country’s southwest to counter deforestation caused by poor agricultural practices. As one local farmer describes: “Before, we cut down trees without worrying about the consequences. We knew the forest was moving away but didn’t know what to do. Thanks to the TRI project, we learned how to restore and preserve our forests while generating income opportunities.” As such, **the TRI CAR team systematically shared knowledge about effective practices to avoid repeating mistakes (Principle 6)**.

Several awareness campaigns have also been conducted, including educational sessions in schools reaching over 783 students (out of which 345 were girls). These campaigns demonstrate TRI’s consideration of **using appropriate channels (taking into account literacy levels) to disseminate knowledge (Principle 6)**.

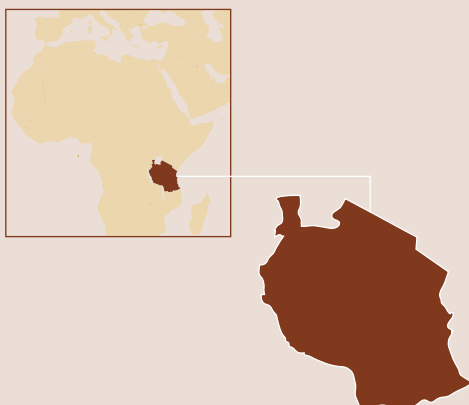
## 2. Coordination of action among stakeholders

TRI in CAR established technical working groups and involved decentralised local authorities to support the development of the South-West Land Use Plan. Several stakeholder consultations also took place to define and plan the process of revising CAR’s Forest Code and to provide technical input. Without input and recommendations, policies would not have adequately addressed the diverse priorities of different stakeholders. In addition, the National FLR Coordination – a multisectoral body which will significantly support forestry policies and their integration as a central pillar in strategies to combat climate change – has been reactivated and operationalised thanks to the project’s resources. Two consultation frameworks have also been set up in the project sites of Mbaiki and Pissa to facilitate the integration of FLR in public policies at the central and decentralised levels. These initiatives will further support CAR’s policy work and ensure policies reflect the views and priorities of diverse stakeholders. Thus, **through intersectoral policy coordination, the TRI CAR team contributed to creating an enabling policy environment (Principle 10)**.



*Cut lines establishment, Tana Green Heart Industrial Estate site © Nature Kenya*

# TANZANIA



Iringa District, Tanzania © IUCN

## OUTCOMES

Firstly, the TRI Tanzania team **enhanced the in-country enabling environment for sustainable landscape restoration (SLR)** by **adapting** or formulating eight national policy documents (Principle 10), such as the National Environmental Policy (2021), the Forest Policy Implementation Plan 2023, the National Environmental Master Plan for Strategic Interventions (2022–2032), and the Community-Based Forest Management Strategy 2023.

Secondly, TRI Tanzania has published several knowledge products, including five newspaper articles and 2 video documentaries. The team has also prepared a draft report capturing the process and outcomes of introducing cross-sectoral planning **to share knowledge about innovative approaches**, allowing relevant stakeholders to **replicate successful experiences (Principle 6)**.

## INTERVENTIONS

The TRI Tanzania team undertook two main activities to achieve these outcomes: (1) policy mapping, (2) capacity development programmes, and (3) coordination of action amongst stakeholders – all of which are activities highlighted in UN Decade Principle 10 and Principle 6.

### 1. Policy mapping

**To ensure an enabling policy environment**, TRI in Tanzania **mapped relevant governance**

*TRI Tanzania organised trainings and meetings or capacity development and knowledge sharing with nearly 13,739 practitioners, researchers, policymakers, and community members – most of whom were women.*

**instruments**, conducting a baseline study to identify gaps that may hinder the implementation of SLR initiatives (**Principle 10**). It has also completed an institutional capacity assessment for mainstreaming SLR and biodiversity conservation into sectoral policies, plans, strategies, and programmes. Without this, TRI would have faced difficulty generating recommendations for improving the policy environment due to insufficient information.

### 2. Capacity development

TRI Tanzania's approach to capacity development represents an excellent example of how capacity building on the local level complements policy-making on the national level, contributing to long-term net gain from restoration.



To **ensure an enabling environment**, TRI in Tanzania **provided capacity development opportunities** for local leaders. Thanks to the team's training, TRI Tanzania has empowered **(Principle 10)** 704 local administrators and community leaders, ensuring they are capable of implementing SLR programmes.

In addition, TRI Tanzania organised trainings and meetings with nearly 13,739 practitioners, researchers, policymakers, and community members – most of whom were women. In particular, a total of 96 councillors had their capacities strengthened, securing their political buy-in to promote restoration. As such, TRI in Tanzania also **focused its capacity-development efforts on promoting knowledge-sharing among stakeholders and communities of practice (Principle 6)**.

### 3. Coordination of action amongst stakeholders

To further ensure that restoration is **enabled by policies and measures promoting its long-term progress**, TRI in Tanzania **has established a well-functioning system for coordinating actions among institutions, sectors, and stakeholders (Principle 10)**. It has set up 19 cross-sectoral coordination mechanisms and 10 cross-sectoral SLR working groups, bringing diverse stakeholders together to find a common vision and facilitate the achievement of the country's restoration objectives. The cross-sectoral coordination mechanisms include the Project Steering Committee and Technical Advisory Committee, which enhance project governance and oversight. The cross-sectoral working groups include the National SLR Working Group along with 2 Basin SLR Working Groups and 7 District SLR Working Groups.



fruit tree plantation, Kenya © UNEP