



## **Alliance for Restoration of Forest Landscapes and Ecosystems in Africa**

*presents*

## **Community-Based Forest Landscape Restoration in Africa -**

Tree-rich landscapes to foster biodiversity, climate change,  
resilience and better livelihoods on all levels

at



## **XV WORLD FORESTRY CONGRESS**

**Date and time: May 5, 2022**

**from 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM**

**Room CR 318B**

*Keywords: Restoration, Biodiversity, Community-based, Tree species, UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration*

*Session Objective: Discussion of ecological and social aspects of the restoration of ecosystem services*

## Agenda:

- **Individual presentations by**
  - **Christophe Besacier, FAO** – Providing the framework of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration
  - **Nicola Breier, BMUV** – Introduction in the AREECA programme and policy perspective in restoration activities (video message)
  - **Teko Nhlapho, AUDA-NEPAD** - Community based restoration in AFR100
  - **Anita Diederichsen, WWF** -Restoration from a conservation perspective
  - **Charles Karangwa, IUCN** – Restoration in East Africa
  - **Ernest Obeng Adu, GIZ** – Local perspective on restoration: experiences from working with local communities in Ghana
  - **Prisca Munthali, FAO** – Local perspective on restoration: experiences from working with local communities in Malawi
- **Panel discussion:** Development aspects vs Ecosystem Restoration – the future of large-scale forest restoration moderated by **Hannah Weggerle, GIZ**
- **Q&A**

With forest restoration activities worldwide picking up speed under the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration an increasing conflict of expectations of local stakeholders versus the interest of donors can be perceived.

Local stakeholders, such as communities or national authorities, often request that restoration activities focus on improving income-generating activities such as the production of timber and firewood, often with non-native tree species, to meet development and livelihood objectives. International donors, on the other hand, frequently tend to focus on the restoration and conservation of natural ecosystems and their biological diversity. Since restoration measures are required to accommodate both local actors and international donors, trade-offs often occur to the detriment of one side. The selection of tree species plays a crucial role here - which benefits does the selected species provide for the ecosystem and the people living in it? Many sites are reforested with fast-growing, non-native and economically valuable tree species, often driven by former donor recommendations and often regardless of the impact on the degraded ecosystem. How attractive can native tree species be? Which are necessary for conserving and restoring biodiversity and other services of ecosystems? Which also contribute to the livelihoods of the poorer local population?

Under the ongoing UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration the discussion on this conflicting situation will gain increased importance and raise interest in both the international donor community and the implementing agencies carrying out forest restoration activities.

The ecological consequences of decisions made today will be most visible 20 years from now.

Therefore, this discussion will focus on:

How can we move from a development vs restoration discussion towards a *development THROUGH restoration* approach?