



REDAA impact strategy

About the paper

This impact strategy draws on experience to date within the Reversing Environmental Degradation in Africa and Asia (REDAA) programme. It identifies targets for strategic actions in REDAA-supported projects and REDAA Community initiatives to deliver impact at scale.

About the REDAA programme

REDAA supports projects and a community of practice on research and action for locally led nature restoration in Africa and Asia.

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Cover photo: Green peppers being harvested near Weko, Tshopo Province, DRC.
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Table of contents

Introduction 4

Scaling out, scaling up and scaling deep – with seven types of impact 6

1. New evidence and proven tools are adopted by others for locally led nature restoration 7

2. Capabilities and preparedness for further action are built 10

3. Local governance is improved 14

4. Follow-up initiatives are launched 16

5. National policy, law, agency practices and strategies are improved to enable locally led nature restoration 19

6. Contributions are made to achieving national commitments to international environmental agreements 25

7. International policy arenas recognise key evidence on locally led action for nature 29



Introduction

Nature restoration at scale

With nature under siege in so many places, the climate cannot heal and human life is impoverished. But REDAA is helping to show how nature can make a comeback. REDAA supports research and action on the ground. Its aggregated local impact in countries across Africa and Asia is beginning to mount. This strategy draws on experience to date within the programme and identifies targets for strategic actions in REDAA-supported projects and REDAA Community initiatives to deliver impact at scale.

Support for locally led nature restoration is paying off

REDAA demonstrates that support for locally led nature restoration is cost-effective and a vital key to unlocking substantial combined benefits for biodiversity conservation, climate resilience, local livelihoods, gender equality and social inclusion. It is also now clear that REDAA has the potential to install support for locally led nature restoration in systems, policy and organisational practices with transformational impact (see this potential assessed in the REDAA [Annual Reviews](#)). This strategy identifies the main pathways through which these impacts will be delivered.

Assessing impact as it deepens and widens

REDAA's theory of change remains tested and robust: if REDAA's outputs – evidence, tools and capacity – are successfully delivered, and can be taken to scale, then the outcome of improved governance systems can be achieved. And if such positive change can be sustained, REDAA will achieve deep impact with improved understanding and decisions about environments in Africa and Asia, enabling people and nature to thrive together in a changing climate.

REDAA is carefully tracking delivery of outputs and achievement of outcomes using a proven methodology that assesses the total area of ecosystems benefiting from sustainable management practices, and the degree of transformational change in relevant policy and organisational practice (see REDAA progress assessed against indicators of progress towards outputs, outcomes and impact in the annually updated [Logical Framework](#)).

Planning strategic actions by REDAA-supported projects and the REDAA Community

Achieving further impacts will require a collaborative effort between REDAA project partners and the REDAA Scientific and Management Unit (SMU). The REDAA Community will play an important role in creating opportunities for synergistic learning across individual projects and in building the capabilities of the REDAA partners. The REDAA SMU will take a lead in advancing a portfolio-level perspective, synthesising lessons and results across projects, supporting partners to take opportunities to influence national policies, and identifying relevant international policy opportunities.

Specific actions to achieve these impacts will be developed in the SMU, Community and partner workplans. Project workplans already incorporate many elements of impact and some will be adapted to include more and incentivise further action without extra time or resources. New workplans will be developed by projects to pursue additional agreed elements of impact, and workplans among partners in the REDAA Community will be developed for events, products and engagement in national and international arenas. The SMU will establish and manage a REDAA Impact Fund to cover the costs of some of these workplans.

Effective communications to spotlight the findings

REDAA will focus on enhancing recognition of research findings and restoration actions through ongoing communications and in engagement with academic and policy forums. A synthesis of the programme's learning and experience will typically be shared through briefings, journal articles, research reports, presentations, LinkedIn posts and engagement, and impact stories. The impact stories will be carefully planned and timed to address priority areas and moments, containing not only technical information but also the voices of people involved in the projects. Data will typically be presented in visual formats.



Scaling out, scaling up and scaling deep — with seven types of impact

REDAA aims to work in three dimensions of bigger scale: first, scaling out by sustaining the gains made by projects beyond their lifespans, and by spreading and replicating them; second, scaling up by improving local, national and international policies and practices; third, scaling deep by precipitating lasting transformational change in behaviours and institutions.

Project and Community workplans aim for such scaling with plans to achieve seven types of impact:

	1. New evidence and proven tools are adopted by others for locally led nature restoration.
	2. Capabilities and preparedness for further action are built.
	3. Local governance is improved.
	4. Follow-up initiatives are launched.
	5. National policy, law, agency practices and strategies are improved to enable locally led nature restoration.
	6. Contributions are made to achieving national commitments to international environmental agreements.
	7. International policy arenas recognise key evidence on locally led action for nature.

The following sections explore these impacts in turn, describing how each impact is evident and what actions can be taken to achieve the targets for each type of impact. Some examples of these impacts that have already been achieved are also described.



1. New evidence and proven tools are adopted by others for locally led nature restoration

Impacts of REDAA-supported work are evident in the spread of recognition of the effectiveness of locally led restoration to other organisations and groups, resulting from project-specific communication of evidence and direct outreach. Impact and scale out can be increased if other organisations and groups take up and further mould and share effective tools and approaches developed by REDAA-supported projects (see Box 1). Some 22 REDAA-supported projects identify organisations and groups who, by project end or before, are anticipated to adopt and apply new evidence and proven approaches.

Box 1. Agroforestry approaches adopted and spread by farmers in Viet Nam

Farmers in Nam Mon and Hoang Thu Pho communes, in northern Viet Nam, joined with project partner organisations to co-design climate-resilient, market-led agroforestry pilots. The project enabled farmers to participate in a free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) process, study visits to successful agroforestry models, hands-on training sessions in field design for agroforestry, and community discussions on species selection.

The project continues to engage communities and support farmers with technical tools, monitoring systems including a climate forecasting tool, and ongoing capacity development. It facilitates farmer-to-farmer exchange and documentation of successful practices in local languages to promote replication in other areas.

This move represents a step-change for livelihoods and sustainable land use in these communes as local actors take opportunities and make their own decisions about agroforestry planning and design. The work has also begun to be mainstreamed in local government with improved institutional systems supporting agroforestry in the Lao Cai Farmers Union, local departments of Agriculture and Environment, and commune authorities.

Project led by Landscape Alliance



Impact 1: New evidence and proven tools are adopted by others for locally led nature restoration

Target scale of impact	
180 organisations and groups adopting new evidence, actionable information and proven technical approaches with attribution to REDAA-supported initiatives.	
Strategic actions to achieve impact	
Actions to ensure uptake of evidence and tools for improved practice by relevant organisations and groups, including scientific rigour in restoration research and tool development combined with active outreach and monitoring of uptake of findings.	
Components of impact	Examples in project plans
Community-based organisation networks spreading and using knowledge	Secrétariat Permanent des Organisations Non Gouvernementales (SPONG), Burkina Faso, Niger and Senegal: • Advocacy for restoration of degraded land and land rights, primarily by strengthening rural women's organisations and local land commissions, following work by participatory research groups. • Producing radio broadcasts on research-proven land governance in local languages and organising exchange visits among those involved in innovations in different localities.
Improved restoration approaches in local exercise of law	Tanzania Forest Conservation Group: • Government agencies and community organisations have taken actions to implement forest law that supports proven following agriculture as part of community forest management, following rigorous research and local organisational capability support.
Restoration techniques being rolled out	PunnurUttan, Nepal: • Research on proven fire management approaches and integration of such approaches into the operational plans of community forestry user groups and local government, supported through a community of practice, radio programmes, simulation exercises, a practitioners' handbook, policy briefs for local government and peer reviewed articles.
Technical research and data modelling installed in land planning	Bamboo for Reforestation and Greener Livelihoods (BResilient), Madagascar: • Community groups and government agencies have adopted working approaches, following engagement in their development, including: climate modelling, participatory research on cyclone survivability of buildings with bamboo, ecological and social research on growing bamboo and other species.

Components of impact	Examples in project plans
Organisational and multi-stakeholder process tools creating preparedness	Deutsche Welthungerhilfe (WHH), Sierra Leone and Liberia: Project target communities and others have adopted tools for: forest inventory; socioeconomic research; gender equity, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI) action planning; multi-stakeholder forums; farmer exchange visits; training forest management committees; training farmers in climate-smart agricultural and agroecological practices; training in advocacy; training in microfinance; developing community bylaws; setting up project steering committees at district level; preparing land lease agreements; and developing land use plans.
Peer-to-peer learning tools spreading best practices	Slum Dwellers International (SDI), Zambia, Zimbabwe and Malawi: - Project-supported eco-stewards leading restoration research with communities, peer-to-peer exchange of best practices, including videos, and a community 'what works' forum. - Building local capacities and adoption of tools to study and address ecosystem degradation and, in the community forum, to push for policy awareness.



Rows of evenly spaced tree holes prepared for planting, Bac Ha district, Viet Nam. (Photo: Georgina Diaz/IIED)





2. Capabilities and preparedness for further action are built

Impact is further evident in the improved capability and preparedness of organisations and groups to act and build on the gains made by project actions (see Boxes 2 and 3). About 23 projects identify people in organisations and groups who, by project end or before, are skilled and prepared and have begun long-term nature restoration action.

Box 2. Farmers adopt alternative pollinators and other sustainable practices in Zimbabwe

In Gokwe and North and Kariba districts in Zimbabwe, some 158 farmers have constructed contour ridges, infiltration pits and fertility trenches to effectively reduce rainfall surface runoff, minimise soil erosion, reduce siltation of water bodies and curb environmental degradation. They have also developed organic inputs such as manure and Bokashi compost.

Project partners, including Agritex officers, provided practical training, technical assistance to training sessions, practical demonstrations and community dialogues on soil and water conservation, farming with alternative pollinators, climate-smart permaculture, integrated pest and disease management, and agroecology.

The project has continued providing technical support to expand outreach, ensure women get a stronger voice in local leadership, sustain the progress made and scale the impact across more communities. Aerial and satellite monitoring is being developed, and the project is incorporating digital innovations to capture and share data.

By implementing regular follow-up training, community meetings, farmer exchanges, field days and an annual symposium for all stakeholders in the initiative, the project is well set to contribute towards improved soil health, reduced pesticide use, increased crop yields, reduced environmental degradation, and improved livelihoods and biodiversity.

Project led by Nutrition Action Zimbabwe (NAZ)

Box 3. Radio changes behaviour and brings restoration action to life in Kenya and Tanzania

In southern Kenya and northern Tanzania, audience numbers have greatly risen for radio shows about farming and nature restoration issues. News features, first-person narratives and talk shows are broadcast in local languages by four FM radio stations and delivered on memory sticks to listener groups in communities with solar-powered hand-held devices.

An assessment reveals that following capacity strengthening work, over 100 practitioners — in the radio stations and among organisations whose expertise they draw on — are using learning on what radio approaches work best. The four stations are producing weekly content drawing on research on food systems, environmental health and climate change, and bringing work at community level to life.

They have focused on climate-smart farming, land restoration and Indigenous knowledge, and are ensuring that marginalised voices are featured. Some 125 programmes have been produced to date and assessment — brought together in research papers and policy briefs — shows that 25% of radio audiences and 50% of the community listener group members are adopting new behaviours that favour nature restoration.

Project led by WWF Tanzania/BBC Media Action



Impact 2: Capabilities and preparedness for further action are built

Target scale of impact	
3,000 people in organisations and groups affecting ecosystems deploying their improved capability, including 1,000 people using their capability to achieve GEDSI in these organisations and groups, with attribution to REDAA-supported initiatives.	
Strategic actions to achieve impact	
Project-specific actions to improve capability, such as training and learning events and courses, and deployment of that capability in actions aimed at long-term nature restoration.	
Components of impact	Examples in project plans
Organisational development and legal capacity	Community-Led Environmental and Agricultural Restoration (CLEAR), Tanzania: • Building capacity of three member-based organisations to spread community action research on invasive species control, farmer-managed natural regeneration, water-retention and erosion prevention techniques, and climate-smart food crop production. • Institutionalising in local organisations inclusive approaches for women, youth and people with disabilities, and land ownership and land use planning. • Providing capacity support to help local government incorporate local restoration work in government plans. • Sharing progress and strategising future plans of all three organisations in multi-stakeholder reflection meetings.
Climate-smart agriculture, agroecology, forestry and agroforestry capacity	Keystone Foundation, India: • Training barefoot ecologists from communities. • A memorandum of understanding with the Forest Department, to clear invasives and enable community-based ecosystem restoration approaches with invasive and native species management, extended to other sites. • Working to install locally led restoration in India's employment guarantee scheme and other government schemes.

Components of impact	Examples in project plans
Place-based restoration promoted through restoration champions	ForestAction Nepal (FAN): • Providing capacity building training for selected restoration champions to work with communities and government agencies to promote place-based and diverse strategies for restoration across the country. For example, several agencies have promoted widespread use of fire and regeneration suppression of <i>Phoenix loureiroi</i> (dwarf date palm, locally known as Thakal), an undergrowth species in Nepal's tropical forest, yet project evidence shows the species is not invasive. The project incorporates a new management framework for this species in its capacity work. Fifty restoration champions continue to be trained and will be joined by a further 30 by project end.
Microfinance and business capacity	Save the Children, Vietnam: • Training ecosystem-based enterprises on climate-sustainable livelihoods with ecosystem protection and restoration, and on women ownership/leadership of businesses. • Enabling communities to monitor the implementation of business plans for ecosystem-based enterprises to ensure nature restoration benefits from local livelihood activities. • Co-organising an annual trade and investment conference in target provinces, which has enabled ecosystem-based enterprises to secure opportunities for further funding and improve their product's value.



A beetle pollinator on an okra plant. (Photo: copyright Nutrition Action Zimbabwe)





3. Local governance is improved

Scaling up to policy at local level is evident in an increase in support for locally led nature restoration in the practices of local governance agencies (see Box 4). Some 19 projects identify local governance policies and agencies in which there is scope for improvement.

Box 4. Community environmental stewardship recognised in megacity planning in Bangladesh

Government actors in Bangladesh have demonstrated a shift from ignoring or criminalising informality in Dhaka's huge informal settlement, Korail, towards recognising and valuing the community's environmental stewardship, and the beginnings of restoration of the previously heavily polluted Gulshan-Baridhara lake.

Given that the Korail settlement land is hugely valuable real estate, the community is unlikely to secure full land rights and is forced to use the court system to avoid being evicted. It has thus been a huge step forward for community efforts to be recognised by government and to be granted use rights for the lakeside.

The project has undertaken research and supported improvements in community-led environmental practices based on research results. The work continues to involve officials in participatory processes, documenting successful examples of stewardship, and advocating for the integration of community-managed spaces into formal planning frameworks.

Consultation platforms developed by the project resulted in a charter agreed among stakeholders, identifying critical actions amid institutional complexity.

The project consortium has signed a memorandum of understanding with a society representing an elite neighbourhood across the lake. It is hoped this will lead to their support for the agroecological approach to be extended around the lake edge. The goal is to get Korail's community-managed ecological infrastructure recognised within a new Dhaka North City Corporation Open Space Action Plan and within a new Dhaka Wetland Restoration Policy.

ReWET project led by River and Delta Research Center and University of Sheffield

Impact 3: Local governance is improved

Target scale of impact	
20 agencies of local government implementing improved policies and practices.	
Strategic actions to achieve impact	
Project-specific actions engaging organisations of local governance and agencies of national government operating locally, to install and implement more enabling policies and improved institutional practices for locally led nature restoration.	
Components of impact	Examples in project plans
Local governance policy improvements	Haribon Foundation, the Philippines: - Facilitated membership of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in land development councils, the local government legislative branch and the management board of the Aklan River Watershed Forest Reserve. - Training para-biologists, teaching citizen monitoring of ecosystems, and installing Indigenous Peoples and local community objectives for restoration in strategies for protected area and neighbouring area management. - Working with Indigenous Peoples to craft and register their Ancestral Domain Sustainable Development and Protection Plan.
Better practices in local government agencies	Arannayk Foundation, Bangladesh: - Bandarban Hill District Council, Upazila and Union Parishads, and community based organisations (CBOs) institutionalising support for locally led forest landscape restoration and good hill farming practices. To date, these better practices have enabled 24 communities in four sub-districts of Bandarban to successfully restore more than 760 hectares of degraded forest in two years, with more to come. Sustainable land management for improved livelihoods in the Ethiopian Rift Valley (SMILE): - Local government departments of agriculture, education and job creation involved in project practices of beekeeping and gully restoration, installing support for locally led restoration support in their plans. International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, Uganda: - Government and nongovernmental organisation (NGO) refugee community support agencies and community leaders engaging with research and adopting climate-resilient agroforestry systems and technologies through which refugees can grow themselves a better future in agroforestry.





4. Follow-up initiatives are launched

Another form of scaling out is evident in new funded initiatives and programming on locally led nature restoration (see Box 5). About nine projects anticipate precipitating new initiatives and programming on locally led nature restoration.

Box 5. Mangrove and mud-crab management attracts new supporters to scale up in Myanmar

Mangrove forests protect coastal populations. They save lives during storms. They are also at the heart of livelihoods and food security — mangroves are fish and crab factories, they meet the timber needs of millions, and are one of the most efficient carbon stores on Earth. Yet they are being decimated and need restoring. But you have to get it right — every site is different, and it is rarely simply a matter of planting mangrove seedlings in the mud.

In many cases, restoring water flow, land elevation and slope facilitates the natural transportation of mangrove propagules, and over time mangroves regenerate themselves. In some places planting seedlings can indeed help speed up the process. But the right mangrove species need to be put in the right place and at the right elevation. Then long-term monitoring and expert local management is needed.

The Myanmar project has developed several new aquaculture approaches with a particular focus on mud-crab production. Community Forest User Group (CFUG) members in Amar sub-township were among 60 participants from 20 CFUGs who participated in a series of productivity trainings on mangrove friendly aquaculture, including improved mud-crab farming practices, delivered by technical expertise formerly from the Department of Fisheries.

Maintaining more mangrove canopy can, in turn, increase the level of crab output per hectare.

The project has moulded effective partnerships and practical support from local governance institutions. With some 60 organisations in the country, it is now developing a local governance of biodiversity action plan. The project partners have also won one of the first two awards of US\$1.5 million from the Global Mangrove Alliance to double the area of the REDAA-supported project, and a new supporter has emerged for a further doubling of the area in a new location.

Project led by WWF Myanmar

Impact 4: Follow-up initiatives are launched

Target scale of impact	
10 new initiatives and instances of programming new support for locally led nature restoration.	
Strategic actions to achieve impact	
REDAA-supported project partners take actions appropriate to their context, to plan, propose and secure support for new initiatives and programming on locally led nature restoration.	
Components of impact	Examples in partner plans
New initiatives building on progress made by partners	RECOFTC, Cambodia: - Building on the REDAA-supported project's Myanmar work with Pa'O communities in the avocado sector with a new project 'Nature Positive Livelihoods for Indigenous Women and Youth', which is incorporating financial literacy, and adapting the model to Cambodia in several commodity-production landscapes. SDI, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Malawi: - Building on the REDAA project and doubling the area within which work with the same locally led restoration objective is undertaken, with funding from a new source. Forest Peoples Programme: - Carrying out follow-up work to put Indigenous rights into law in Cameroon and Republic of Congo, with support from a foundation. SMILE, Ethiopia: - Leveraging impact fund support from a sister project.



Components of impact	Examples in partner plans
Initiatives by partners in new areas and/or approaches	CLEAR, Tanzania: • Project partners securing FAO support for microfinance work building in part on the REDAA project. WWF Tanzania: • Exploring expansion to the REDAA-supported project locations in northern Tanzania, of a project with the Trillion Trees initiative, WWF Tanzania, WWF Mozambique and faith-based organisations – currently focused in the Ruvuma landscape in southern Tanzania and Northern Mozambique. Nature Fundi, Tanzania: • Applying the eco-credit model developed in a REDAA project in marine resource governance programme development with new support.
New partnership and multi-partner initiatives	ReWET, Bangladesh: • Continuing to develop the scope of a major Climate Adaptation Fund project city-wide in Dhaka. IIED, international: • Exploring possibilities with several foundations and new partners for a programme of support to locally led nature restoration in one or more regions.



5. National policy, law, agency practices and strategies are improved to enable locally led nature restoration

Impacts can also be scaled up when REDAA partners are successful in changing the rules of the game by influencing national institutional practices, laws and policies to enable widespread and lasting locally led nature restoration. This involves careful identification of the national policies and institutional practices that have major effect, as opposed to those that do not. It is also likely to need substantial engagement with the processes of policy implementation and institutional practice over time (see Box 6).

Some 18 projects anticipate influencing and improving national policies and institutional practices that enable locally led nature restoration.



A team takes measurements as part of field research run by REDAA partner ForestAction Nepal. (Photo: Lila Nath Sharma/ForestAction Nepal)



Box 6. Legal decree advances land security for Indigenous Peoples in the Republic of Congo

Project partners focus on advancing Indigenous Peoples' land rights, conservation and restoration in land use and development corridor planning, including the programming of free, prior and informed consent, in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Republic of Congo.

The Draft Decree on Special Measures for Securing Indigenous Peoples' Customary Land Rights (implementing the 2011 Indigenous Peoples Law) was identified as the key instrument for turning legal recognition into real land security for Indigenous Peoples in the Republic of Congo. Fieldwork revealed a persistent implementation gap between rights on paper and rights in practice. So the work has focused not only on legal drafting, but also on using community-based evidence, including detailed mapping, to show how Indigenous customary land rights, shared territories and cohabitation issues arise in practice.

Project partners are advocating for the inclusion of:

- Participatory/differential mapping as legal evidence
- Recognition of shared and overlapping customary lands, and
- The definition of the Indigenous notion of *mise en valeur*.

This is strategic work because it moves Indigenous Peoples' customary land tenure from symbolic recognition to administratively usable rights. Without it, Indigenous Peoples will face continued dispossession through conservation, forestry and carbon projects.

The approach used is to: marshal project field evidence to show what implementation looks like, not just argue for it; co-draft text with state organisations; and sustain engagement with the Direction Générale de la Promotion des Peuples Autochtones (General Directorate for the Promotion of Indigenous Peoples, DGPPA), using three workshops as decision points, not just consultations.

Coalition and legitimacy are achieved among the Forest Peoples Programme (FPP), the Centre d'Encadrement Communautaire pour le Développement (CECD), the Congolese Observatory for Human Rights (OCDH) and Indigenous organisations – with women leaders visibly involved. Insider-outsider tactics are used, combining rights-based advocacy, informal pressure and detailed clause-by-clause legal input from FPP on the draft decree.

The draft decree was validated in December 2025; it now reflects differential mapping, shared-territory governance and definition of specific concepts (including the notion of *mise en valeur*). The next steps are to secure its adoption and support implementation and ideally its replication across the Congo Basin.

Project led by Forest Peoples Programme

Impact 5: National policy, law, agency practices and strategies are improved to enable locally led nature restoration

Target scale of impact	
40 instances of change in national and subnational development and environmental policies, plans, practice or investments demonstrating influence by, or utilising, REDAA-supported evidence, actionable information, tools and approaches.	
Strategic actions to achieve impact	
Advocacy of research findings, partnering and engagement with policy holders and legal and institutional practitioners to promote policy and institutional changes favouring locally led nature restoration.	
Components of impact	Examples in project and partner plans
Improve coherence of national sectoral agency practices	Arannayk Foundation, Bangladesh: Improving coherence of national sectoral agency practices through coordinated planning and monitoring of land use at district level to inform improved land-use planning.
	FAN, Nepal: Informing and shaping national restoration strategies and the implementation plans for the Invasive Species Management Strategy 2025 and the Kathmandu Declaration on Invasive Species 2025, to effectively support site-specific approaches.
Install new approaches in government agency plans and practices	NAZ, Zimbabwe: - Incorporating a farming-with-pollinators approach in sectoral agencies' support for smallholder enterprises. - Including modifying provision of inorganic fertilisers, pesticides and hybrid seeds to reduce detrimental effects on biodiversity. - Improving central government agency practices in support of smallholder land tenure and nature restoration.
	CLEAR, Tanzania: - Installing farmer-managed seed systems in law and improving practice of land use policies. - Advocating for farmer-managed seed systems to be recognised by law and regulation.



Components of impact	Examples in project and partner plans
Install new approaches in government agency plans and practices <i>(continued)</i>	SDI, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe: • Installing locally led restoration in urban development policies and plans. • Advocating the routing of climate finance to local eco-stewardship – money handled by the community to implement, for example, the Green Climate Fund, and the urban poor fund managed by local groups. • Installing local restoration in national urbanisation policy in Zambia. • Influencing national slum upgrading and national urban policy, in Malawi.
	BResilient, Madagascar: • Installing appropriate bamboo sector strategy in national reforestation strategy and enabling policies. • Advocating for existing government guidelines for improved resilience of traditional construction systems to include the use of bamboo.
Improve implementation rules and systems of existing policies	WHH, Sierra Leone and Liberia: • Modifying implementation rules and programming of forest, conservation and community land rights laws. In particular, there is opportunity to engage with the President's special initiative on Renewable Energy, Climate, and Food Security in Sierra Leone.
	Save the Children International, Vietnam: • Improving the enabling of inclusive finance in legislation on biodiversity, protected area regulations, national strategies and provincial and local regulations on ecotourism and inclusive finance.
	Tearfund, Rwanda: • Integrating community-led restoration into national institutional planning frameworks, including recognition of co-creation of restoration plans with communities as a key means to implement the National Environment and Climate Change 2018 policy.

Components of impact	Examples in project and partner plans
Contribute to positive national policy targets	SMILE, Ethiopia: Local-level action is recognised as contributing to three national policy targets: tree planting through climate-resilient green economy (2011), strengthening nurseries through training and inputs; agricultural and rural development policy (2024); watershed policy – community-based watershed management programme, at Kebele level (local administrative unit).
Influence changes in national policy	International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Uganda: Influencing refugee land access policy and institutional systems shaping land access, including Vision 2040, national land policy and national land use policy.
	Cambodia Indigenous Peoples Organization (CIPO): Integrating Indigenous Peoples rights in National Policy on Agriculture Development and protected area policies, and pushing for land title following Indigenous community facilitators proving their wise land use with governance institutions.
Influence changes in law and regulation	Tanzania Forest Conservation Group, Tanzania: Supporting improvement of implementation guidelines, regulations and policy interpretation appropriate to long fallow land use in community-based natural resource management and carbon projects.
	Haribon Foundation, Philippines: Installing provisions supporting environmental and social objectives of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in protected area legislation and management plan.



Box 7. National peatland bill shaped in the Philippines

Peatland conservation and restoration is hugely important for carbon storage, biodiversity and local livelihoods. The Leyte Saba Basin Peatland (LSBP) area has been declared as a local conservation area. The project partners are advocating for peatland legislation at *national* level through a national peatland bill proposed to the House of Representatives and Senate. It was submitted to congress after national elections in 2023 and needs to be refiled now.

Strategies and tactics include:

- Carrying out research to build scientific evidence for the importance of peatlands for biodiversity, livelihoods and prevention and mitigation of floods. Supplying research policy briefs, articles and position papers to legislators.
- Carrying out political and stakeholder analysis to identify champions in House of Representatives for the bill, and to engage local government officials at provincial level.
- Holding national conferences engaging the Department for Environment and Natural Resources and Climate Change Committee, a national peatland forum in April 2026 with stakeholders from departmental agencies and from other peatland areas in the Philippines, and World Wetlands Day activities with schools and government agencies.
- A federation of civil society organisations in the peatland area advocating for the bill, with some represented on the LSBP management council, and a public consultation with communities on their advocacy agenda.
- Engaging media and intensifying communications strategies and community outreach campaigns, including focus group discussions at community level, community radio and TV talk shows, jingles, blogging, social media and op-ed writing.

In addition to the national peatlands bill the project continues to focus on: participatory action research with farmers on rewetting, revegetation strategies and other practices improving livelihoods; strengthening local leadership; and collaborating with LSBP Management Council and local government in the development of a Local Conservation Area Management Plan and Ordinance.

Project led by International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR)



6. Contributions are made to achieving national commitments to international environmental agreements

Nearly all the countries in which REDAA operates (with the exception of Myanmar) have established a national target for ecosystem restoration based on their involvement in international environmental agreements. Specifically, under the three Rio Conventions – the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) – targets have been set in one or more of the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) objectives. In many cases these targets are quite specific in terms of the hectareage and types of ecosystems to be restored and even the priority locations of those ecosystems.

Examples of these targets for REDAA countries are illustrated in the tables below (Green cells: there is a specific target on restoration; yellow cells: restoration is mentioned in general terms; no colour cells: there is no mention of restoration or targets are not available).



A fisher's hut near a creek in the Phyapon, Ayeyarwady region of Myanmar. (Photo: copyright WWF Myanmar)



Africa: restoration targets in international environmental agreements

Country	NDC targets	NAP targets	NBSAP and CBD national targets	LDN targets
Senegal	99,621 ha of agricultural land under assisted natural regeneration (ANR) by 2030			Multiple targets for different ecosystems
Sierra Leone			Effective restoration of 30% of degraded land by 2030	Multiple targets for different ecosystems – forest, shrub, wetland
Liberia	Ensure 30% of annually reforested land is on customary land		Restore degraded ecosystems by 15% by 2027 and 30% by 2030	Multiple targets – specific districts named
Burkina Faso	100,000 ha of ANR in 25 communes			Multiple targets
Niger	913,932 ha ANR		Restore 30% of degraded land by 2030	Multiple targets
Ethiopia	Increase area under sustainable forest management (SFM) to 7.2 million ha by 2035		Area of degraded wetland and terrestrial land decreased by 20% by 2030	Multiple targets
Uganda			At least 30% of degraded ecosystems restored by 2030	Multiple targets
Kenya			At least 27.3% of degraded areas under effective restoration by 2030	Multiple targets including for named catchments/basins
Rwanda			Increase area of degraded land under restoration by at least 10% by 2030	Multiple targets but quite general
Democratic Republic of Congo			Effective restoration measures in at least 30% of degraded areas by 2030	Multiple specific targets
Republic of Congo				Multiple targets
Madagascar		Restore 4 million ha of forest by 2030 (as part of AFR100 target)	By 2030 at least 25% of degraded ecosystems under effective restoration	Multiple targets but quite general

Country	NDC targets	NAP targets	NBSAP and CBD national targets	LDN targets
Malawi	Multiple quantitative targets for trees on agricultural and natural land		By 2035, ensure that 45% of terrestrial, 20% of wetland and 50% of aquatic Key Biodiversity Areas are under spatial planning, management and restoration	Multiple targets
Tanzania			At least 30% of degraded areas under effective restoration by 2030	Multiple targets with specific hotspots named
Zambia			At least 30% of degraded areas under effective restoration by 2030	Multiple targets
Zimbabwe			At least 30% of degraded areas under effective restoration by 2030	Multiple specific targets
Namibia	Various targets e.g. 10,000 ha of riparian buffer reinstated			Multiple targets

Asia: restoration targets in international environmental agreements

Country	NDC targets	NAP targets	NBSAP and CBD national targets:	LDN targets
Bangladesh			By 2030, 15% of degraded forest land and 5% of wetlands will be restored	Multiple targets
Myanmar				
Nepal	Establish agroforestry systems at the rate of at least 5,000 ha per year		By 2030, restore 10% of degraded terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems effectively	Multiple targets
India			Ensure that by 2030, at least the prioritised 30% of degraded areas are under effective restoration	
Cambodia	Halve deforestation rate by 2030, expand forest cover, and scale up agroforestry.		10% of protected areas and ecosystems under pressure are in an advanced state of restoration	Multiple targets
Vietnam			Restore at least 20% of degraded natural ecosystems	Multiple targets
Indonesia				Multiple targets
Philippines			At least 30% of degraded ecosystems restored by 2040	

Sources: [Nationally Determined Contributions \(NDCs\)](#) | [UNFCCC](#), [National Adaptation Plans](#) | [UNFCCC](#), [National Reports](#) and [NBSAPs](#), [Land Degradation Neutrality Targets](#)



Impact 6: Contributions are made to achieving national commitments to international environmental agreements

Target scale of the impact	
10 countries in which substantial contributions to NBSAPs, NDCs, NAPs, and LDNs are made.	
Strategic actions to achieve the impact	
Project-specific actions, with potential REDAA SMU support, to communicate contributions to national targets (including areas and locations) and engage with policymakers to get contributions recognised and recorded in national reporting on these targets.	
Arenas in which to achieve impact	Examples in partner plans
NBSAPs	FPP: - Critically analysing the Republic of Congo's NBSAP, and contributing to its modification. FAN: - Contributing to finalising Nepal's NBSAP 2026–2031 and achieving targets: 1 on biodiversity conservation, 2 on ecosystem restoration, 8 on invasive species management, and 25 on inclusive management of lands and resources.
NDCs	IITA: - Including contribution to climate-smart agriculture in Uganda's NDC planning (and its NAP). FAN: - Promoting over 70 species of trees for planting in agroforestry, contributing to Nepal's NDC 3.0 target of establishing 5,000 hectares of agroforestry annually.
NAPs	PunnurUttan: - Incorporating better community fire management in Nepal's NAP. SMILE: - Rehabilitation of degraded lands contributing to national watershed development campaign in Ethiopia's NAP (and LDN).
LDN	SPONG: - Installing farmer-managed natural regeneration in Senegal, Niger and Burkina Faso LDN planning. WHH: - Contributing to LDN restoration targets in Sierra Leone and Liberia.



7. International policy arenas recognise key evidence on locally led action for nature

REDAA will aim to optimise its contributions to have impact in key regional and international forums, and beyond restoration to wider climate, nature and development policy processes. The SMU will capture evidence and lessons emerging from partners' locally led efforts to restore nature and contribute to climate mitigation and resilience while securing people's wellbeing, showcasing this evidence alongside partners at and around key regional and international forums. It is likely that key themes in this evidence will include: effective actions for improved gender equality and social inclusion; nature and climate intervention practices; local finance systems innovations; enterprise and value chain breakthroughs; and tractable targets in policy work.

Key regional and international forums and initiatives will be prioritised where REDAA evidence can add value to, and inform, discussions; where there are existing connections and entry points from among REDAA partners and SMU; and where there are opportunities within other IIED initiatives. Examples of key evidence that may be wielded in specific international arenas – on growth, jobs and bioeconomy, and on finance mechanisms for nature and climate respectively – are offered in Boxes 8 and 9.

Box 8. Nature-positive farmer-company relationships in agroforestry value chains in Myanmar

Diverse local actors in Shan State, Myanmar have participated in multi-stakeholder platform (MSP) events and are pursuing a shared township-level vision and strategy for a nature-positive and inclusive avocado sector. Among the actors are Pa'O smallholder avocado farmers from project target and other villages in Shan State, organised through: Pado-Net (the Pa'O Baby Avocado Network), a farmer-led community-based enterprise established during the project; local private sector actors, including members of the Myanmar Avocado Producer and Exporter Association and processing and trading companies; and local NGOs and capacity development service providers, who have facilitated knowledge exchange and technical support. Pado-Net was formed in direct response to an early MSP finding that collective farmer groups were critical to a sustainable, inclusive business model, meaning the platform itself produced a new locally led institution at the heart of the business model it was designing. The MSP has adopted inclusive planning exercises to prioritise the technical and market challenges and co-develop strategies to address them. This is a shift from fragmented efforts by the different actors, dominated by the private sector, towards a more coordinated and inclusive approach involving significant private sector investment in the value-chain, and nature positive actions by smallholders.

Project led by RECOFTC



Box 9. Microfinance systems growing locally led nature restoration in Tanzania

To date, 42 community microfinance groups (CMGs) in Katavi, Songwe and Mbeya regions in Tanzania have initiated an eco-credit scheme, and 20 villages have formally committed to implementing environmental management actions. Some 1,375 smallholder farmers, a big majority of them women, are involved (582 in Katavi, 329 in Songwe and 464 in Mbeya). Farmers are implementing these actions on their farms, including soil and water conservation, agroforestry and climate-smart agriculture. Some are also serving as community trainers, cascading their knowledge of the practices to their peers.

The project has enabled the 1,375 farmers to participate in comprehensive training on eco-credit methodology and sustainable agricultural practices. These trainings covered topics such as soil and water conservation, agroforestry, climate-smart agriculture, and the principles of eco-credit systems. The CMGs and farmers thus capacitated are now implementing and monitoring these sustainable agricultural practices. Given the local and broader Tanzanian experience of village savings and loans schemes the eco-credit model builds on good foundations. Loan takers in the CMGs are committed to sustainable farming practices as a condition of their loans, and to date a high level of loans are paid back in full. Farmers are connected in a peer-to-peer extension approach, which will help scale out the adoption of sustainable practices, and with the Tanzania Informal Microfinance Association of Practitioners as an active project partner, the project has potential to influence the spread of CMG eco-credit approaches in Tanzania.

Project Nature Fundi led by Rikolto



Farmers in Songwe, Tanzania receiving training from an expert on land reclamation and afforestation.
(Photo: Happy Rwekaza)

Impact 7: International policy arenas recognise key evidence on locally led action for nature

Target scale of the impact	
10 key international policy arenas into which messages from REDAA are installed.	
Strategic actions to achieve the impact	
REDAA SMU and partners consolidate key policy messages, synthesise evidence, and plan and execute arena-specific advocacy actions in key international forums where meaningful contributions and impact is identified as likely.	
Arenas in which to achieve impact	Examples
Nature policy	• CBD Conference of the Parties (COP) 17 in 2026 and/or COP18 in 2028: IIED REDAA staff will attend in person and will explore joint interventions with REDAA partners, including side events on Restoration Day. • UN Decade on Restoration, Bonn Challenge, AFR100 and other restoration-focused forums: involvement in one or more key forums. • Principles for Inclusive Nature Action: REDAA projects will document alignment with, and contributions to, this internationally endorsed set of Principles (one event at CBD COP17, another at London Climate Action Week 2027, others as they arise over the remaining programme term). • Global Peatlands Initiative: involvement in one or more key forums.
Land degradation neutrality policy	• UNCCD COP17 in 2026 and/or COP18 in 2028: REDAA will explore supporting interventions by REDAA partners, including delivering messages prepared at Desertif'actions 2026.
Climate policy	• UNFCCC COP31 in 2026 and/or COP32 in 2027: IIED and REDAA partners may attend, and may participate in the biodiversity and forestry pillar of the action agenda. • East African Community Climate Adaptation Master Plan: involvement in one or more key forums.
Growth, jobs and bioeconomy	• Africa Food Systems Forum: involvement in one or more key events.
Finance for nature and climate	• London Climate Resilience Finance Summit in 2026 (organised by IIED) and London Climate Action Week events in future years.

