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Sida Decentralised Evaluation

Cowater International & Tana Copenhagen

Mid-Term Evaluation of the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100) - Phase I

Final Report

Mid-Term Evaluation of the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100) - Phase I

**Final Report
October 2025**

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The views and interpretations expressed in this report are the authors' and do not necessarily reflect those of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Sida.

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

AFR100	the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative
APM	Annual Partnership Meeting
ARLI	African Resilient Landscapes Initiative
AU	African Union
AUDA-NEPAD	African Union Development Agency - New Partnership for Africa's Development
BMZ	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
ET	Evaluation Team
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FLR	Forest Landscapes Restoration
NP	National Platform
OECD-DAC	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development – Development Assistance Committee
SEK	Swedish Kroner
Sida	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
QA	Quality Assurance
REC	Regional Economic Community
ToC	Theory of Change
WRI	World Resources Institute

Preface

This evaluation was contracted by Cowater International through the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) Framework Agreement for Evaluation Services and conducted by Tana Copenhagen. The Evaluation Team consisted of Tom Mogeni Mabururu (Team Leader) and Renaat Van Rompaey (Forestry expert) and Grace Muchunu (Team Members). The Draft Final Report was quality assured by Ingela Ternstrom, independent of the evaluation team. The assignment took place in the period between 28 October 2024 and 31 March 2025.

Executive Summary

Introduction

This report presents the findings, conclusions and recommendation of the *Mid-Term Evaluation of the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100) - Phase I*. The evaluation covers the period December 1st, 2020 to May 2023.

The primary purpose of this evaluation was to provide evidence-based input for discussions between Sida, WRI, and the AUDA-NEPAD on programme implementation, achievements and activities integration and outreach with other donors and actors. To achieve this purpose, the evaluation was guided by three objectives: assessing progress and learning based on programme implementation, achievements and interaction with other actors; identifying successful strategies and areas that need improvement; and undertaking a strategic assessment to enable Sida assess progress of its portfolio in sustainably managing biodiversity in Africa and promote future collaboration with other actors as well as inform strategic decision making.

The evaluation applied the OECD/DAC criteria of relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability. The evaluation applied a theory-based approach, mixed methods data collection, utilisation focused approach and an evaluation matrix that guided all phases of the evaluation. Data were collected from key documents, key informants drawn from AUDA-NEPAD, WRI, AU, Focal Persons from countries, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), consultants and international partners; and on online survey of youth and women entrepreneurs.

Findings

Relevance: The Sida intervention was catalytic by design and facilitated the overall AFR100 initiative shift from the mobilisation to implementation phase through tracking AFR100 commitments, supporting networking and collaboration and creating synergies among FLR programmes and capacity building. Through these actions, the intervention was responsive to the continental, national and technical and financial partners' policies, priorities and needs. The Theory of Change of the intervention was also clearly defined and aligned to the mandates of AUDA-NEPAD and countries and had the right assumptions. However, the gaps was in defining the pathway to change at community level. The successes and challenges of the AFR100 were also documented and shared with stakeholders but the use of the documentation is not evident.

Coherence: The collaboration and networking among partners was established at continental level but faced shortcomings such as lack of a long-term plan and vision, inadequate preparation and follow up on agreed actions. Collaboration and

networking at country level varies from country to country and is determined by capacity, resource availability, political stability, and timeframe to which country joined AFR100 and participated to the trainings and knowledge sharing. The project, however, did not reach the extent of establishing networking and collaboration at community level. In addition, avenues for information sharing are also in place, including the AFR100 website and various stakeholder meetings. However, the overall communication strategy to guide information sharing was developed in 2019 and needs to be updated.

Effectiveness: Although the intervention did not have a monitoring plan with indicators and targets, the evaluation found that the intervention outputs were achieved for both workstreams. However, there was limited time or period for countries to effectively utilise these outputs to contribute to outcomes. For instance, the AFR100 monitoring framework provides the indicator to track implementation progress and targets at country level. Although the framework is newly developed, the ongoing work on technical design of FLR registries gears towards strengthening monitoring and reporting strategies. It was also noted that the assumptions of the intervention design did not hold true. For instance, the political will expressed through pledging hectares to be restored was not followed with countries committing domestic resources to the initiative; the focal persons had limited capacity to coordinate and implement the AFR100 while the entrepreneurs trained found that investors were not interested in investing in forest landscape restoration businesses while government support was also limited.

Efficiency: The intervention was to a large extent delivered in a timely manner except for the effect of COVID-19 on year 1 implementation. AUDA_NEPAD and WRI dedicated adequate staff with an appropriate mix of staff to implement the project. The funds utilisation was also high, over 85%. The implementation approaches adopted were appropriate up to national level. The approach to reach and build community resilience differs from country to country but was affected due to capacity needs and availability of resources. In addition, approaches to reach and build community resilience were not well defined. The project, however, lacked a monitoring plan with clear indicators and targets limiting effective monitoring.

Sustainability: Measures for sustainability of the Sida intervention results are not yet in place; but the integration of the monitoring tools such as the monitoring framework and registries, technical assistance platforms, AFR100 roadmaps and Gender Action Plan into national programmes could enhance sustainability at the regional, country and community levels in the long-run. Similarly, measures for sustaining the land accelerator programme such as raising funds from investors have not worked but there is potential to sustain the programme through partnership with other financial partners such as WRI who have established the TerraFund to support enterprises.

Conclusions: The main conclusions based on the evaluation findings are as follows:

- The Sida intervention design and its ToC were relevant to the AU, Partner Countries and technical and financial partners' needs, policies and priorities but implementation challenges such as inadequate capacity of focal points, inadequate funding for some activities and limited domestic resources among others hindered the intervention from realising its objectives
- Mechanisms and tools for documenting AFR100 successes and challenges are in place but the use of the data or the documentation is not evident
- Collaboration and networking was higher at continental level and weakened as one progresses downstream to community level.
- The Sida intervention activities were implemented and expected outputs achieved. However, the outputs have not been well utilised to contribute to outcomes partly due to the short period of phase 1
- Continental and national linkages and coalitions functioning faced limitations due to funding and capacity
- Lack of monitoring plan hampered the assessment of the project performance

Recommendations: Key recommendations of the evaluation are as follows:

- Review the intervention design and ToC to define a clear pathway to reaching or impacting on communities
- In collaboration with countries and technical and financial partners, establish a knowledge management and learning component of the AFR100
- Improve data analysis and knowledge generation to enable various audiences use the data collected through the AFR100 monitoring system.
- Strengthen collaboration and networking at all levels through developing a long-term plan covering all levels of AFR100 implementation with clear goals and outcomes
- Develop or update the communication strategy to include a clear goal and objectives and measurable results as well as pitching the strategy at strategic communication.
- Advocate to countries to dedicate resources and support further capacity building to enable countries adopt and use key outputs of phase 1 such as monitoring framework, restoration registries and the gender action plan
- Strengthen linkages by setting up and resourcing the national platforms and build advocacy capacity of focal points
- Train countries to mainstreaming outcomes of the phase 1 to their national FLR operational model to ensure effective application of the approaches at the community level
- Develop and implement a monitoring plan/framework for the project
- Integrate tools into national programmes, advocate for domestic resources
- Develop partnerships with other financial partners to sustain land accelerator programme

1 Introduction

1.1 BACKGROUND, PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

African countries and their development partners launched the African Forest Landscape Restoration (AFR100) initiative, during the Global Landscape Forum at the Conference of Parties (COP21) in Paris in December 2015, where forest landscape restoration was a key agenda item of the global movement to adapt to and mitigate climate change. AFR100 is a pan-African, country-led effort to restore 100 million hectares of degraded and deforested landscapes by 2030 and to support the households living there.

AFR100 partners earmarked more than USD \$1 billion in development finance and more than \$540 million in private sector impact investment to support restoration activities. 13 of the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) submitted by African countries to COP21 included restoration and conservation of standing forests. Commitments announced through AFR100 also support the Bonn Challenge, a global target that aimed at bringing 150 million hectares of land into restoration by 2020, adopted in Germany in 2011; the New York Declaration on Forests that extended that challenge to 350 million hectares by 2030, and the African Resilient Landscapes Initiative (ARLI), an initiative promoting integrated landscape management with the goal of adapting to and mitigating climate change. Thus, under AFR100 initiative, African countries make the land available and the partners (such as World Bank, Germany, WRI, African Union) invest to make it happen.¹

Sida published its strategy for regional development cooperation in sub-Saharan Africa (2016–2021). Through this strategy, Sida aimed at contributing to increased regional integration and strengthened capacity to address cross-border challenges and opportunities at regional level. It signed a grant agreement with the African Union, AUDA-NEPAD, in December 2020, Sida contribution No 14594.² The objective of this grant was to contribute to the implementation of AFR100 initiative through mobilising and coordinating Africa countries to track progress towards the AFR100 2030 targets.

The primary purpose of this evaluation was to provide evidence-based input for discussions between Sida, WRI, and the AUDA-NEPAD on programme implementation and achievements and activities integration/outreach with other

¹ Evaluation teams of reference and the AFR100 Project Proposal

² Evaluation terms of reference

donors and actors.³ The objectives⁴ of the evaluation were threefold: 1) To assess progress and learnings through: a) assisting AUDA-NEPAD, WRI, and Sida in evaluating the progress of programme implementation and achievements and the interaction between the different actors; and b) identifying successful strategies and areas needing improvement. 2) To inform future decisions through utilizing the evaluation findings to guide decisions on enhancing project implementation, including Phase II of the AFR100 contribution. 3) To undertake strategic assessment for Sida in order to: a) enable Sida to assess the progress of their portfolio in sustainably managing biodiversity in Africa; b) provide insights into possible future collaboration with other actors; and c) provide insights to inform strategic decision-making.

The primary users of this evaluation are AUDA-NEPAD, WRI, Sida's Unit for Regional Development Cooperation in Africa and other partners involved in the intervention (AFR100 Management team). In addition, the evaluation results will be presented to the AFR100 management team.

1.2 EVALUATION OBJECT AND SCOPE

Evaluation object

African forests and landscapes are under significant pressure and severely compromised. It is estimated that the continent loses approximately 2.8 million hectares of forest each year and about 50 million hectares of land is affected by degradation. Deforestation and landscape degradation threaten ecological functions, contributes to decreased food production, reduced quality of life and increased poverty, particularly, among rural households and smallholder farmers. These effects are compounded with climate change pressure which adds to the already devastating social and economic effects of forest loss and land degradation.⁵

The widespread degradation across landscapes in Africa presents opportunities to initiate transformational forest landscape restoration (FLR). FLR is a process of regaining ecological functionality and enhancing human well-being across deforested and degraded forest landscapes in order to improve livelihoods and lift people out of poverty. FLR also provides prospects to improve soil fertility, stabilise food production and reduce food insecurity while protecting biodiversity and restoring the integrity of the ecosystem.⁶

The African Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100) was launched in December 2015, during the Global Landscapes Forum at the COP21 in Paris by representatives of participating Africa countries and a wide range of financial and technical partners – NEPAD Agency, BMZ and WRI. AFR100 is an African owned and country-led

³ Evaluation terms of reference

⁴ Evaluation terms of reference

⁵ AFR100 Implementation: Monitoring/Tracking Progress System and Land Accelerator project proposal

⁶ *ibid*

initiative to restore 100 million hectares of deforested and degraded landscapes across Africa by 2030. The initiative connects participating Africa countries with technical and financial support to scale up restoration on the ground and capture associated benefits.⁷

AFR100 provides a platform for: 1) coordinating and strengthening FLR activities across the continent; 2) enhancing knowledge exchange and cross-learning amongst AFR100 Partner Countries and between AFR100 Technical and Financial Partners; and 3) Amplifying the impact of FLR activities by encouraging stakeholders to work together in order to realise large-scale FLR in Africa.⁸

The AFR100 contribute to several continental and international objectives which include the UN Decade of Ecosystem Resources (2021-2030) of which AFR100 is an official partner, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Africa Union Agenda 2063, Bonn Challenge, New York Declaration on Forests, Pan African Action Agenda on Ecosystem Restoration for Increased Resilience, and Paris Climate Agreement.

AFR100 contributes to the objectives of these platforms through countries' Nationally Determined Constitutions of hectares to be restored. The AFR100 target was to restore 100 million hectares but as at 2025, the countries have pledged about 129 million hectares.⁹

The AFR100 initiative has a lean and agile governance structure whose purpose is to catalyse efforts and provide support where needed. The AFR100 partnership comprises of a Secretariat housed at the African Union Development Agency-New Partnership for Africa's Development (AUDA-NEPAD) and its function include deepening engagements and networking with AFR100 countries, technical and financial partners, regional economic communities (RECs) and restoration partners; coordinating and managing day-to-day activities of AFR100 initiative; monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of AFR100 implementation; mobilising resources; and convening technical and high level conferences and meetings.¹⁰

Between 2015-2018, AFR100 was at a mobilisation phase focusing on awareness raising and outreach to mobilise African countries to commit to forest landscape restoration by pledging the number of hectares to be restored by 2030; motivate international, regional and national organisations and institutions to join as technical and financial partners; raise worldwide awareness of FLR and the AFR100 initiative. By 2019, 30 partner countries had joined AFR100 and this number increased to 34 by 2023. 33 technical partners and 12 financial partners also formed part of AFR100 while an estimated US\$1 billion in development finance and US\$481 million had been committed by private sector by 2019.

From 2019, it was apparent that AFR100 needed greater collaboration and support from private sector and development agencies, and strengthening of the secretariat in

⁷ Ibid

⁸ Ibid

⁹ Ibid

¹⁰ Evaluation terms of reference

order to translate the restoration pledges into ground action. It is against this background that Sida intervention (contribution number 14594) was designed to support implementation of the AFR100. The intervention supported two streams of work: AFR100 implementation monitoring/tracking progress system; and AFR100 land accelerator programmes focusing on empowering women and youth entrepreneurs. The expected outputs under each stream of work were as follows:¹¹

Work stream	Outputs
Workstream 1: AFR100 implementation monitoring/tracking progress system	1. An extensive database of institutions/entities working on or supporting AFR100 implementation in Africa 2. An effective and user-friendly data collection tool, to collect information on progress of AFR100 implementation in participating countries 3. List of 5-7 selected countries piloting the data collection tool 4. Detailed data set on status of the implementation of AFR100 implementation activities in pilot countries 5. Analysis of quality and data collection feasibility 6. AFR100 implementation progress tracking framework 7. Data set on status of AFR100 implementation activities 8. Report on state of restoration in Africa
Workstream 2: AFR100 Land Accelerator Programme	1. Women and youth restoration entrepreneurs are empowered and their readiness to participate in restoration entrepreneurship opportunities increased 2. Entrepreneurs have gained new skills on how to position their businesses in order to attract new finances and investment 3. A transfer of skills and knowledge facilitated from experts to participating women and youth 4. Entrepreneurs are part of networks that shares knowledge and expertise

The Sida intervention is implemented by AUDA-NEPAD, which is mandated by the African Union to host the secretariat of AFR100, in partnership with World Resource Institute (WRI). WRI provides technical advice to AUDA-NEPAD and also leads the technical aspects of the Land Acceleratory workstream. The secretariat is supported by a Management Team comprising of technical and financial partners and partner countries, which plays both oversight and advisory roles.¹²

The implementation period for the Sida intervention was initially from December 2020 to November 2021. However, the COVID-19 pandemic related restrictions slowed down the pace of implementation and planned modalities. Sida provided

¹¹ Ibid

¹² Evaluation terms of reference

AUDA-NEPAD a no-cost extension up to 30th June 2022 to fully implement all intervention activities. Following successful implementation, Sida further granted AUDA-NEPAD an extension upto May 2023 to utilise the fund balance of US\$161,642 to conduct the AFR100 monitoring and FLR registry workshop in March 2023.¹³

The total budget approved for the intervention is SEK 20 million (twenty million Swedish Kronor). In March 2021, following a proposal by AUDA-NEPAD and discussions with WRI, WRI took over the implementation of the Land Accelerator's technical component. Consequently, a separate agreement was signed with WRI (Sida Contribution No. 15117), and SEK 6,530,247 was deducted from the agreement with AUDA-NEPAD and reallocated to WRI. A second phase of the contribution started in June 2023 and will run until mid-2026.¹⁴

Scope of the evaluation

The evaluation covered the Sida intervention phase 1 period December 1st, 2020 to May 2023. The evaluation assessed the intervention activities implemented and the results achieved up to end of May 2023 since project inception. Specifically, the evaluation covered activities and results under two workstreams: Workstream 1: AFR100 Implementation Progress Tracking System and Workstream 2: Land Accelerator Programme- Empowering Women and Youth Restoration Entrepreneurs.

1.3 EVALUATION CRITERIA AND QUESTIONS

The evaluation criteria and questions that guided this evaluation are outlined below. The evaluation questions as presented were reviewed and refined, in consultation with AUDA-NEPAD and Sida during the inception phase of the evaluation. Changes proposed to the evaluation questions at inception stage were approved by Sida.

Evaluation criteria	Evaluation questions
Relevance: Response to Needs and Policies	EQ 1.1 To what extent do the intervention objectives and design respond to the needs, policies, and priorities at continental, national, and partner/institution levels? How relevant is the project's theory of change (ToC)?
	EQ 1.2 Has the project tracked and documented successes and challenges that could be used to inform other projects and subsequent Sida funded projects?
Coherence: Relation to	EQ 2.1 What is the level of collaboration and networking among partners, communities, and other relevant stakeholders to create synergy?

¹³ AUDA-NEPAD, 2023. Final technical report on Sida support to AUDA-NEPAD Africa Landscapes Restoration Initiative (AFR100) 1st December 2020 to 31st May 2023

¹⁴ Ibid

context and similar Interventions	EQ 2.2 What are the key avenues for information sharing and feedback mechanisms? Are there any gaps, and how can these be improved?
Effectiveness: Delivery and perception of Benefit	EQ 3.1. How has the programme been beneficial to all beneficiaries including women, men, vulnerable groups? And what factors contributed positively or negatively to the achievement of project results?
	EQ 3.2 To what extent has the project contributed to improving partners' capacity, skills, and experience that promote community resilience in their country context?
	EQ 3.3 To what extent has the project strengthened continental and national linkages and coalitions for advocating forest landscape restoration?
Efficiency: Achievement of outputs and objectives	EQ 4.1 To what extent has the intervention delivered results in an economic and timely manner?
	EQ 4.2 How effective were the project monitoring and evaluation systems/practices (e.g., collection, organization, analysis, and use of baseline/project implementation data to inform decisions)?
	EQ 4.3 Are there other monitoring systems that can be leveraged such as FAO's forest inventory?
	EQ 4.4 What was the quality of day-to-day project management, including work plan implementation, budgetary controls, risk management, and governance structures? Were these adequate and fit for purpose?
	EQ 4.5 How efficient are the project implementation strategies?
Sustainability and impact: Signs of Sustainability and impact	EQ 5.1 To what extent do project results show signs of sustainability beyond the project's conclusion and the end of funding?

1.4 STRUCTURE OF THE REPORT

The evaluation report is structured into 5 sections. Section 1 details the background, purpose, objectives, and the evaluation object and scope; and section 2 provides a summary of the evaluation methodology and its limitations. The findings of the evaluation are presented in section 3, conclusions in section 4 and recommendations in section 5. The annex section provides detailed information relevant to various sections of the evaluation.

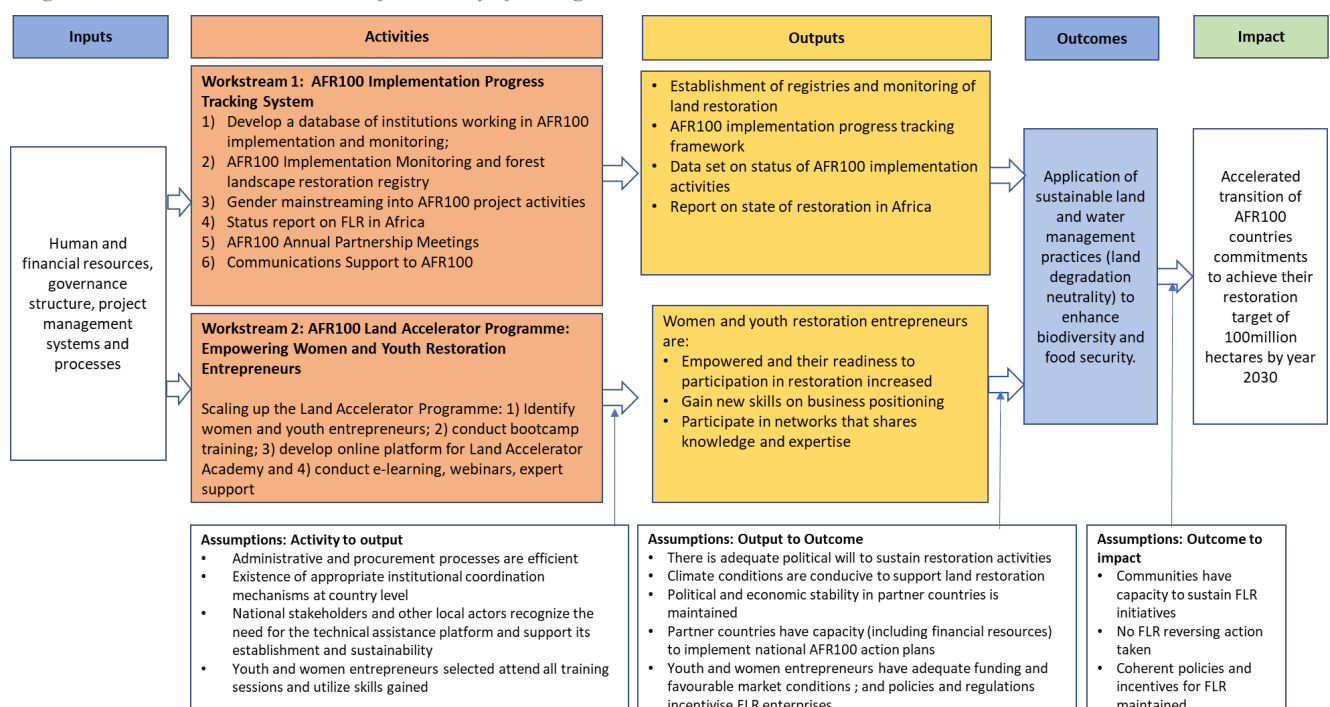
2 Methodology

2.1 OVERALL APPROACH

The evaluation applied the following methodological approaches:

Theory-based approach which involved an analysis of the causal link between Sida intervention activities and outputs and the extent of contribution of the outputs to outcomes. This approach relied on the Sida intervention theory of change (ToC) developed by the Evaluation Team (ET) in consultation with AUDA-NEPAD and WRI during the inception phase, as shown in figure 1 below. The ToC shows the pathway from the activities under the two workstreams of the Sida intervention to the expected outputs and the intended contribution of the outputs to the outcomes. The ToC was probed through data collection methods including document review, key informant interviews and entrepreneurs' survey to assess the relevance of the ToC and effectiveness of the Sida intervention to the extent allowed by available data.

Figure 1. Reconstructed AFR100 Project Theory of Change



Mixed methods approach was used to collect both qualitative and quantitative data from multiple data sources (key documents, interviews and survey) to allow for data triangulation and ensure findings are evidence based.

Utilisation focused approach was used to enhance utilisation of the evaluation recommendations by the primary users. The ET engaged the primary users (Sida, and

AUDA-NEPAD and WRI) at the inception phase of the evaluation in reviewing the evaluation questions, identifying key data sources and in developing the ToC. These stakeholders also participated as key informants during data collection and provided input into the draft evaluation report to shape the evaluation recommendations.

An evaluation matrix: This matrix was developed at the inception stage of the evaluation which guided the data collection, data analysis and reporting phases of the evaluation. The evaluation matrix outlined the evaluation indicators, data collection methods and data sources for all evaluation questions (See annex 2).

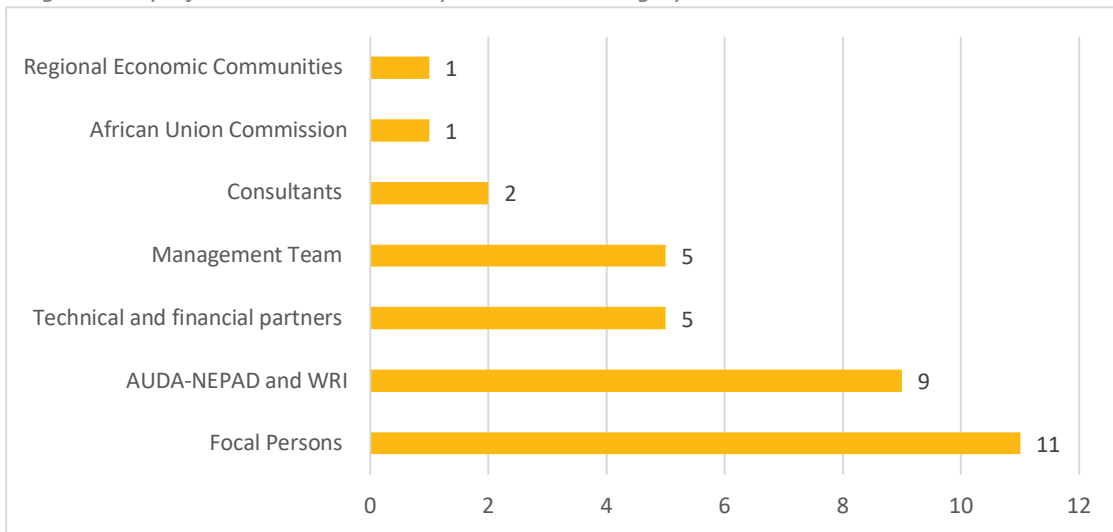
2.2 METHODS AND TOOLS FOR DATA COLLECTION

Data collection methods were guided by the overall methodological approach outlined above and the detailed data collection methods and sources defined in the evaluation matrix.

Documents review: The evaluation team reviewed documents relevant to each evaluation question as identified in the evaluation matrix. The documents reviewed included 1) the overarching global and continental landscape restoration commitments and frameworks; 2) AFR100 project documents including the project proposal, work plans, progress reports, and financial data; 3) project outputs and Information products such as the FLR database, FLR monitoring framework and tool, APM and capacity building reports, State of FLR in Africa report, youth and women entrepreneurs selection documentation; and 4) project governance structure and project management documentation including the governance manual and minutes of the management team meetings.

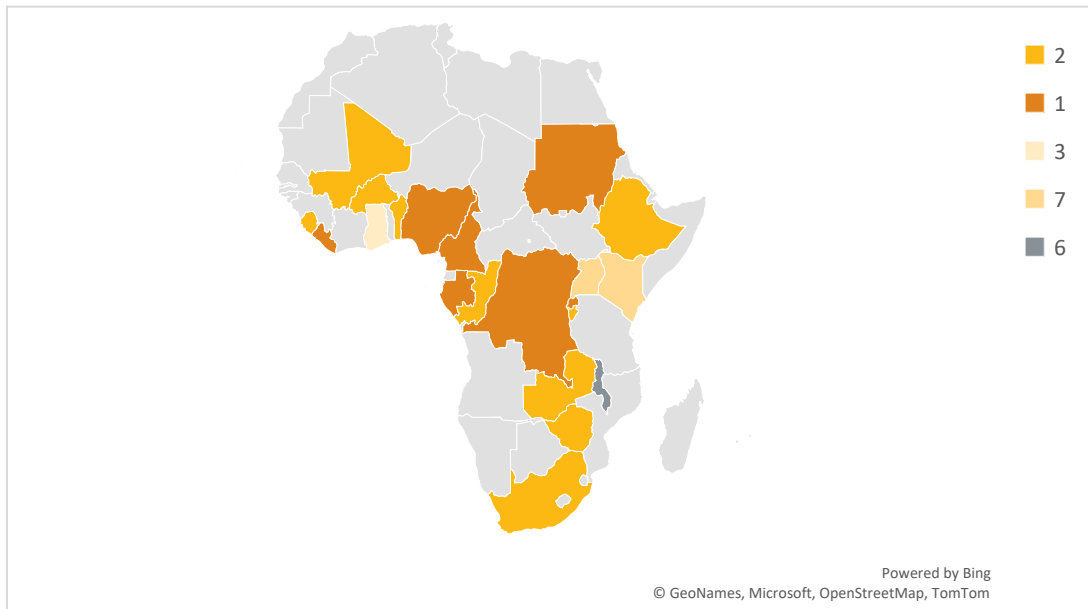
Key informant interviews: Based on a long list of project stakeholders provided by AUDA-NEPAD, the evaluation team identified key informants for this evaluation. Key Informants were purposively selected to ensure all evaluation questions can be answered. The stakeholders Included AUDA-NEPAD and WRI as intervention implementers, African Union Commission, regional economic communities, focal persons from member states, consultants and technical and financial partners. Out of the 50 selected key informants, 68% (34) were interviewed while the rest did not respond to the request for interview. The figure below shows the key informants interviewed by stakeholder category.

Figure 2: Key informants interviewed by stakeholder category



Online survey: An online survey was undertaken to collect information from the youth and women entrepreneurs selected under workstream 2. AUDA-NEPAD and WRI provided a list of all 182 entrepreneurs supported and their e-mail addresses which were used to administer the survey electronically. 32% of the entrepreneurs trained from 2020 to 2023 responded to the survey. Among those who responded to the survey, 28% were female and 72% were male. Respondents were spread across 21 countries as shown in the map below.

Figure 3: Number of respondents to the entrepreneurs' survey by country



2.3 PROCESS OF ANALYSIS AND DEVELOPING CONCLUSIONS

The data collected was analysed using qualitative and quantitative analysis techniques. Descriptive quantitative data analysis method was used to analyse the entrepreneurs' survey data by establishing frequencies to analyse the survey responses. Qualitative data from key informant interviews and documents review was analysed using iterative qualitative data analysis which involved categorising data according to the stakeholder type and data source to identify emerging themes and patterns for each evaluation question. The intervention ToC was applied to assess relevance evaluation question through analysing whether the intervention design had a clear pathway to change, was aligned to the mandates and roles of key implementers (AUDA-NEPAD, WRI and Countries) and had the right assumptions. The ToC was also applied to assess the effectiveness evaluation question by assessing whether activities achieved intended outputs and outputs contributed to the outcomes, and whether the assumptions held true. Further, data from all sources was triangulated to establish evidence for the emerging themes (findings) and also minimise analytical bias.

The Evaluation Team synthesised the evaluation findings to make evidence-based judgements that answer the dimensions of analysis outlined in the evaluation matrix and overall evaluation objectives. The evaluation report presents the findings of the evaluation, conclusions emerging from the findings and recommendations based on the conclusions.

2.4 ETHICS AND PARTICIPATION

The evaluation adhered to internationally recognised principles for good conduct. The evaluation was conducted in line with Cowater's Ethical Guidelines, which encompasses the organisation's approach to human rights, labour conditions, the environment, anti-corruption and bribery, and the ethical values according to which their staff and consultants are expected to conduct their work. The Evaluation Team also adhered to Cowater's Safeguarding Policy, which provides an outline of the organisation's approach, practice, and commitment to "ensuring a comprehensively safe environment for all people that the organisation engages with".

As such, the ET was sensitive to gender, beliefs, manners, and customs of all stakeholders, and undertook the evaluation with integrity and honesty and ensure the inclusiveness of views. Furthermore, the conduct of the evaluation team ensured that the rights participants, including the anonymity and confidentiality of individual informants and online survey respondents was protected. Anonymity was protected throughout by ensuring that data is aggregated and triangulated, thus ensuring individual responses cannot be traced.

2.5 LIMITATIONS

Limitation	Mitigation measure
Relying on key informants with a direct stake in the project and the evaluation was likely to create a bias in evaluation findings	The Evaluation Team triangulated data from documents and other stakeholders not directly involved in implementation to inform evaluation findings
Intervention output and outcome indicators with targets were not defined and this affected the assessment of the intervention's outputs and the contribution to outcomes. Intervention reports were mainly focused on activity implementation.	The Evaluation Team assessed project outputs through triangulating information from reports, key informant interviews and the entrepreneurs' survey. However, the ET could not conclusively assess the contribution of the intervention to outcomes and downstream community level effect.
Low response rate to the survey and respondents were from 20 out of the 34 AFR100 partner countries may skew the results to those that have a positive view of the land accelerator programme	The Evaluation Team mitigated this likely bias by triangulating the data with Land Accelerator reports and pre and post training survey reports as well as key informant feedback.

3 Findings

EQ 1.1 To what extent do the intervention objectives and design respond to the needs, policies, and priorities at continental, national, and partner/institution levels? How relevant is the project's theory of change?

Finding 1.1a: The Sida intervention was catalytic by design and facilitated AFR100 initiative shift from mobilisation to implementation, tracking of FLR commitments, establishment of networking and collaboration, creating synergies among FLR programmes and building capacity. Through these actions, the Sida intervention was responsive to the continental policy priorities and needs as spelt out in Agenda 2063, country priorities and needs as well the needs and policies of technical and financial partners.

The first phase of AFR100 initiative was dedicated to mobilisation of partner countries to commit to the forest landscape restoration (FLR) and pledge targeted hectares to be restored by 2030, with 30 partner countries joining the initiative by 2018. However, in order to make progress towards the achievement of the pledged hectares, there was a need to transition the initiative to implementation stage; and this required greater collaboration among stakeholders,¹⁵ strengthening implementation capacity of the AFR100 secretariat to monitor and report on FLR actions in the continent, strengthening capacity of AFR100 countries to mainstream restorations opportunities into national mechanisms, establishing linkages and enhancing coordination of on-going restoration activities as well as knowledge management, dissemination and cross learning.¹⁶ The Sida intervention design and objectives responded to these needs. It was designed to establish a FLR monitoring or tracking system to enable countries and the continent assess progress towards 2030 target, identify gaps and challenges to be addressed along the way, and supporting the private sector as a key player in scaling up FLR at community level. The two areas of support were designed to offer a practical solution to transitioning AFR100 from mobilisation to implementation.¹⁷

The intervention objectives of improving sustainable land and water management practices; and enhancing biodiversity and food security were designed contribute to the Africa Union (AU) agenda 2063, aspiration 1 goal 7 on environment, water and

15 Stakeholders included partner countries, technical and financial partners and private sector

16 AFR100 Implementation: Monitoring/ Tracking Progress System and Land Accelerator Project proposal

17 Interviews with the AUDA-NEPAD and WRI staff, Sida staff and review of AFR100 Implementation: Monitoring/ Tracking Progress System and Land Accelerator Project proposal

sanitation and natural ecosystem regeneration at continental level. The Sida intervention was designed to contribute to this continental level policy priority through supporting networking and collaboration of AFR100 partner countries at continental level and documentation of the successes of the AFR100 and reporting to AU periodically.¹⁸

Although countries were implementing FLR activities prior to the launch of AFR100 initiative, there was a need to collaborate and network among countries and between countries and technical and financial partners to learn and mobilise resources, have a monitoring framework and tool to measure progress towards the pledged hectares and built capacity to better coordinate FLR efforts. Translation of AU policies and commitments into implementation at country level also requires coordination and linkages from continental to country level.¹⁹ The Sida intervention was designed to support these types of activities to facilitate implementation of AFR100. The intervention activities included networking and collaboration of stakeholders including countries, capacity building and establishing of FLR implementation approaches that links and mainstreams actions and solutions agreed to at continental level to country level implementation.²⁰

The Sida intervention design was also responsive to technical and financial partners' needs. First, the intervention was well aligned with Sida's Africa strategy on climate change and environment.²¹ Besides the Sida support, other development and financial partners²² also invested in coordination, monitoring, capacity building and reporting on AFR100 initiative as well as FLR programmes at country level. The Sida intervention catalytic by design linking partner countries with the financial and technical partners to mobilise resources, and providing a platform to share information and build synergies between programmes supported by the partners geared towards achievement of AFR100 targets.²³

Finding 1.1b: The Sida intervention theory of change was well defined from activity to contribution to outcome and from continental to national level but was less clear on how the intervention could achieve results at community level under workstream 1. The ToC was also aligned with the mandates AUDA-NEPAD and WRI, and partner countries

¹⁸ Interviews with AUDA-NEPAD AFR100 secretariat, WRI staff and AUC officials

¹⁹ Interview with Sida staff, AUC official and development partners

²⁰ AUDA-NEPAD AFR100 secretariat staff, Country Focal Persons and review of the AFR100 Implementation: Monitoring/ Tracking Progress System and Land Accelerator Project proposal

²¹ Interview with Sida official

²² There are a large number of development and financial partners of AFR100 but to name a few working closely with the initiative: Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), WRI, World Wildlife Fund (WWF), World Bank, Conservation International (CI), and Global EverGreening Alliance

²³ Interviews with Sida and technical and financial partners; and review of Annual Partnership Meeting reports

The Sida intervention ToC had a clear pathway to change especially from continental to national level: IF a relevant and robust FLR monitoring framework and tools are developed, adopted and used by countries, and related capacities were enhanced, THEN FLR programmes and restoration targets will be tracked, documents and reported, and gaps and challenges addressed; and IF networking and collaboration platforms are established and information shared by all stakeholders including partner countries, THEN synergies will be created among FLR programmes, resources mobilised and innovative FLR approaches developed. IF the Sida intervention built youth and women entrepreneurs' capacity to enhance their investor readiness, THEN there will be increased investment in bankable FLR projects. ULTIMATELY, the Sida intervention will then contribute to sustainable land and water management practices and enhance biodiversity and food security.²⁴

However, the ToC was less clear on how the intervention could contribute to change at community level given the activities supported. For instance, it was expected that IF participating Member States, through their ministries of environment, actively represented by the Focal Points at national level, utilizes the knowledge gained from Sida intervention to design FLR projects and programmes for the respective communities for rural development, THEN the impact could trickle down to communities. However, within the project, there were corresponding activities to support Focal Points utilize knowledge or develop community projects.²⁵

The ToC was aligned with Sida's engagement with continental institutions such as AU which focuses on translation of continental policies into implementation through the established institutional mechanism that recognise the sovereignty of countries. The ToC is also aligned with the AUDA-NEPAD mandate of coordinating the translation of AU policies and commitments into development initiatives through coordinating actions of Member States while Member States have the mandate to integrate these actions in national plans and programmes and to cascade implementation to community level. AFR100 pathway to change was in line with this mandate and approach of AUDA-NEPAD.²⁶

The assumptions underlying the realisation of this pathway to change were also relevant. These included sustainable political will, sustained political and economic stability, adequate capacity among partner countries to implement national AFR100 roadmaps, and climate conditions remain conducive to support restoration.²⁷ The

24 Reconstructed Sida Intervention ToC and Interviews with AUDA-NEPAD Staff, WRI Staff and Country Focal Persons

25 Interviews with focal persons and technical and financial partners

26 Interviews with AUDA-NEPAD Staff, WRI Staff, Country Focal Persons, and technical and financial partners

27 Reconstructed ToC in consultation with AUDA-NEPAD and WRI and interviews with focal persons and technical and financial partners

extent to which this ToC was realised and the assumptions held true during implementation is assessed in EQ3.1.

EQ 1.2 Has the project tracked and documented successes and challenges that could be used to inform other projects and subsequent Sida funded projects?

Finding 1.2a: AFR100 success and challenges were documented and shared with stakeholders through the AFR100 database, State of AFR100 report and the AFR100 monitoring platform; but the documentation was not always complete and the use of the data was not evident

The project supported various approaches and tools used to document the AFR100 successes and challenges. One of the approaches supported was the establishment of a database of FLR projects and programmes among partner countries to establish who is doing what, where and with what source of funds and what type of restoration being undertaken. This database was shared with partner countries and other stakeholders and was expected to be updated annually, which was one through the AFR100 monitoring platform.²⁸

The State of AFR100 report completed in 2022 also documented the successes and challenges of AFR100 initiative and was disseminated to stakeholders during the Annual Partnership Meeting (APM). This report, the first of its kind, provided a comprehensive account of the restoration activities against country commitments, progress in implementation of AFR100 initiative focusing on issues such as technical monitoring, financial and investments mobilisation, roles of various partners and challenges and solutions to improve the initiative.²⁹

Documentation of AFR100 initiative is also done through the monitoring platform for Africa Forest Landscape Restoration which is a web-based platform where countries upload data on projects in their countries and also have access to a variety of restoration monitoring tools from which they can choose the tool relevant to their needs to monitor progress. The platform is equipped with a dashboard that displays country data, success stories and challenges.³⁰ The documentation is also done through the AFR100 website.³¹ Although this is an important step towards systematic documentation of AFR100 initiative, the data on the platform is not always complete and some focal persons indicated that they request for assistance from AUDA-NEPAD to fill in data. This data is accessible to AFR100 stakeholders but there is no

28 AFR100 database; interviews with AUDA-NEPAD and WRI staff

29 AUDA-NEPAD, (2022) The State of AFR100: The progress of forest landscape restoration by implementing partners; and interviews with AUDA-NEPAD, WRI, Focal Persons and Technical partners

30 <https://geospatial.nepad.org/portal/apps/sites/monitoring-afr100-forest-landscape-restoration-portal>

31 WWW.AFR100.org

evidence on how it has been used.³²In addition, Partner countries were trained on the establishment of AFR100 national registries to document restoration efforts to inform strategic policies on forest land restoration and drive investment opportunities but the registries were not established by end of phase 1 of this intervention. This promises to be another key avenue for documentation of AFR100 progress.³³

EQ 2.1 What is the level of collaboration and networking among partners, communities, and other relevant stakeholders to create synergy?

Finding 2.1a: Collaboration and networking platform at continental level is established but lack a vision and long-term plan and is under-resourced; at regional level networking and collaboration mechanism is in place but not functioning while at country level networking and collaboration platforms varies from country to country determined by capacity, resource availability, political stability and timeframe in which the country joined AFR100 and participation in trainings and knowledge sharing. Mechanism for networking at community level, under AFR100, is not yet established.

At continental level, the Annual Partnership Meeting (APM), as a collaboration and networking mechanism is well established. During the Sida intervention phase 1, two APMs were held in June 2022 and June/July 2023. This meeting takes place once a year and brings together Member States and technical and financial partners. Partners share information and learn from what other countries are doing, what progress was made in AFR100 initiative, the challenges the initiative is facing; and what solutions are sought.³⁴

With regard to synergy and opportunities for resources mobilisation arising from networking, anecdotal evidence of a few countries starting discussions and negotiations with donors for funding during the APM meeting was cited. Another example is the promotion of grasslands restoration concept through the APM and learning of lessons from Great Green Wall initiative.³⁵

The APM has potential to be impactful in promoting learning and enhancing synergies among partners. However, not all countries attend these meetings and for those that attend, there is no preparation a head of the meeting to gather information and lessons to be shared during the APM. Partners attend to contribute to the APM bringing in their perspectives and self-reflection on issues. The funding for this meeting is sourced from various partners while countries are not putting resources to it, raising the issue of its sustainability as a networking and collaboration platform.³⁶ Moreover, although AUDA-NEPAD consults with the Management Team to decide on the theme and agenda for each meeting, there is no long-term vision or plan built

³² Interviews with focal persons, AUDA-NEPAD staff and WRI staff

³³ Final technical report for Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) Support to the AUDA-NEPAD Africa Forest Landscapes Restoration Initiative (AFR100) 1 December 2020 to 31st May 2023

³⁴ Documents review and key informant interviews

³⁵ Interviews with focal persons and development partners

³⁶ Interviews with focal persons and development partners

around the APMs. The frequency of APMs (which is once a year) is also inadequate for enhancing synergies and there are few opportunities for partners to connect in between the APMs creating a long period of silence.³⁷

Regional coordinators were established as part of AFR100 implementation structure to facilitate networking and collaboration at regional level but they are not working well. Regional coordinators were selected from one of the countries in each region- Nigeria for West Africa, Tanzania for East Africa, Madagascar for Southern Africa and Cameroon for Central Africa. However, of these, the West Africa region does hold meetings (virtually) to review their progress in FLR and address emerging challenges.³⁸

At country level, focal persons are expected to establish the National Platforms which harmonise and integrate various interventions on FLR to ensure synergy and avoid duplication. However, the establishment of these platforms varies from country to country determined mainly by the capacity, availability of financial resources, political stability and the timeframe in which the country joined AFR100 initiative. It also depends on the participation of the country in AFR100 initiative activities. Overall, the platforms have been established in a few countries - Senegal, Niger, Nigeria, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan and Malawi.³⁹ These platforms bring together stakeholders directly and indirectly involved in FLR from all relevant ministries, non-state actors and development partners.⁴⁰ However, countries that lack such platforms indicated that they have challenges in collecting information on all FLR programmes in the country and validating the data received.⁴¹

Networks and collaboration at community level is limited across all the countries. According to the focal persons, this is attributed to lack of financial resources and capacity of the focal point person given that the focal points comprise one person with no complementary or support staff. Despite this gap, focal persons, technical partners and AUDA-NEPAD was of the view that communities are involved in FLR activities, as they were even before the AFR100 launch, but the mechanisms to network and collaborate at local level are lacking.

EQ 2.2 What are the key avenues for information sharing and feedback mechanisms? Are there any gaps, and how can these be improved?

Finding 2.2a: Avenues for information sharing information among AFR100 are in place but the overall communication strategy is outdated and there is a gap in the feedback mechanism

The main avenue sharing information on AFR100 is the AFR100 website: <https://afr100.org/>. Countries upload information on this website on their projects,

37 Interviews with focal persons and development partners

38 Interviews with focal persons

39 Interviews with focal persons and technical and financial partners; and a review of the State of AFR100: The progress of forest landscape restoration by implementing partners report

40 Interviews with focal persons and technical and financial partners; and a review of the State of AFR100: The progress of forest landscape restoration by implementing partners report

41 Focal point persons

latest news and events, success stories from communities and key documents including survey reports, strategies, policies among others. Information on existence of the website and how to use it was disseminated to stakeholders during the APMs.⁴²

Information on AFR100 is also shared during conferences held at continental and global level where AUDA-NEPAD and countries organise side events. This includes the global conferences on climate change and FLR held in 2021 and 2022. For instance, in May 2023, AUDA-NEPAD in partnership with World Wildlife Fund and Commonwealth Secretariat held AFR100 initiative side event during the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) conference of parties CP15 in Cote d'Ivoire to share information on the progress made in forest landscape restoration.⁴³ Other side events were held the margins of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC - COP 28) in Dubai in 20223 and COP29 in Azerbaijan in 2024 which focuses on information sharing, and to attract additional funding to support AFR100 project implementation in Africa.⁴⁴ However, there are no clear follow-up actions following these events.⁴⁵

AUDA-NEPAD has taken steps to improve the capacity by developing AFR100 communication strategy but this is for 2019;⁴⁶ assigning a communication officer to support implementation of communication activities; and train country communication officers. AUDA-NEPAD also assists countries with technical expertise or support in communication, links them to media and collaborates with Radio Netherlands Training Centre to build capacity of the country communication officers. AUDA-NEPAD also shares a communication package with countries including a logo and guidelines to brand and standardise communication.⁴⁷ However, some of the key activities in the communication plan have not been operationalised including the use of social media including x (twitter) and LinkedIn, facebook, Instagram; use of multimedia including videos, graphics and photography. In addition, mechanisms for receiving feedback from various audiences have not been established.⁴⁸

EQ 3.1 How has the programme been beneficial to all beneficiaries including women, men, vulnerable groups? And what factors contributed positively or negatively to the achievement of project results?

This section presents findings on the assessment of the effectiveness of the Sida intervention through applying the theory of change and its assumptions. The focus is

42 Interviews with AUDA-NEPAD and WRI and focal persons

43 AUDA-NEPAD Africa Forest Landscapes Restoration Initiative (AFR100) 1 December 2020 to 31st May 2023; and interviews with AUDA-NEPAD

44 AUDA-NEPAD staff

45 The evaluation team could not find information on the follow up actions from these events and how these events fed into the AFR100 initiative

46 AFR100 Communication Strategy, 2019

47 Interviews with AUDA-NEPAD, focal persons and development partners

48 Interview with AUDA-NEPAD and focal persons

on assessing whether the activities and outputs achieved contributed to the intended outcome. A monitoring framework with output indicators and targets for the Sida intervention was not developed and therefore the evaluation is unable to quantify the output and outcome results and to make a judgement on the intervention's performance. However, the evaluation assessed the qualitative achievements of the intervention.

Workstream 1: AFR100 Implementation Monitoring and Tracking system

Finding 3.1a: The outputs for workstream 1 were largely achieved but there was limited time for the outputs to be utilised in order to fully benefit countries while the benefits from these outputs for communities including men and women were minimal given that networking and collaboration mechanisms and monitoring at community level had not been operationalised

The key achievements of the Sida intervention under this workstream were as follows:

FLR database: A database of the FLR projects and programmes being implemented in the AFR100 partner countries. A total of 189 projects and programmes were identified including their location, type of organisation, type of restoration being undertaken, beneficiaries and duration. This database provided a mapping of the FLR initiatives in the 19 countries⁴⁹ at a point in time. The intention was to have the data used to identify gaps in FLR efforts and guide policy and programming decisions. However, there is no data to show whether and how the database was used.⁵⁰

Development of AFR100 monitoring system: A monitoring system with indicators and a data collection tool for AFR100 was developed through technical support and participation of countries and technical partners. The system was designed to address gaps in the existing FLR data collection and monitoring tools. The system comprised a monitoring framework detailing and defining indicators, data collection tools including earth observation tools to track FLR, and a monitoring platform where countries input data on FLR activities.⁵¹ Focal persons were trained on the use of this tool AFR100 monitoring platform. Some partners view the monitoring tool as having too many indicators, some with no sustainable data sources and requiring huge financial resources to collect data while other stakeholders view the tool as appropriate and covering all aspects of AFR100 initiative. Due to this concern, there are five mandatory indicators for countries to report on while the rest are optional.⁵² The

49 Benin, Cameroon, Chad, DRC, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia.

50 Review of the database and interviews with AUDA-NEPAD, WRI and Focal Persons

51 <https://geospatial.nepad.org/portal/apps/sites/#/monitoring-afr100-forest-landscape-restoration-portal>

52 AUDA-NEPAD, 2023. The AFR100 Monitoring Framework

intended outcome of establishing this system was to track progress towards achievement of FLR pledges made countries and the benefits of restoration efforts on communities. However, the process of establishing the system ended in June 2022 leaving a short period for countries to operationalise the system before phase of the intervention ended.⁵³ In addition, in 2023, focal point persons and FLR implementing institutions were trained in the establishment of on establishment of national FLR registries but with little time left to develop these registries in phase 1 of the intervention.⁵⁴

State of FLR report: The development of the “State of Forest Landscape Restoration in Africa, 2015-2020” report was a key output of the Sida intervention which provide a comprehensive snapshot of the progress towards FLR targets. Some of the assessment recommendations were implemented. These include the engaging development of an integrated monitoring and evaluation framework and database with clearly defined indicators, and placing young people and women at the centre of LFR efforts. However other recommendations were not followed up during the phase 1 of the Sida support, key ones being integrating FLR in national programming and budgeting system; engaging private sector and non-traditional sources of financing to fund FLR and AFR100 implementation; enhancing stakeholder coordination at national levels and improving coordination of FLR by local communities, civil society and private sector as well as research institutions; and enhancing partner coordination at national level in AFR100 implementation and reporting.⁵⁵

Gender mainstreaming: Mainstreaming of gender in the AFR100 initiative: AUDA-NEPAD on consultation with focal persons and technical partners developed the AFR100 Gender Action Plan in 2021⁵⁶ to guide the mainstreaming of gender in FLR 100 initiative. The plan was disseminated during the APM7 and countries encouraged to integrate it in their national programmes. However, a follow up to ensure the plan is adopted and implemented could not accomplished in phase 1 of the intervention.

Given these achievements, the benefits of the Sida intervention to partner countries were in the establishment of the monitoring and tracking system which provided countries with tools to use for monitoring FLR and a platform for reporting country data. This monitoring system is likely to contribute to tracking AFR100 progress, and identifying gaps in their FLR coverage and types of FLR being undertaken to direct

53 AUDA-NEPAD Africa Forest Landscapes Restoration Initiative (AFR100) 1 December 2020 to 31st May 2023 report; and interviews with AUDA-NEPAD, WRI, Focal Persons and Technical Partners

54 Interview with focal persons, AUDA-NEPAD and review of AUDA-NEPAD Africa Forest Landscapes Restoration Initiative (AFR100) 1 December 2020 to 31st May 2023 report

55 State of AFR100: The progress of forest landscape restoration by implementing partners report; and interviews with AUDA-NEPAD, consultants, focal persons and technical partners

56 AUDA-NEPAD (2021) Gender Action Plan

resources.⁵⁷ Given that during phase 1 of the intervention, collaboration and networking as well as monitoring at community level was not achieved, the benefits to men and women and vulnerable groups was minimal⁵⁸

Workstream 2: Land accelerator programme

Finding 3.1b: Youth and women entrepreneurs were offered relevant training, the training had positive effect on their businesses but they faced challenges in utilising the skills to expand their contributions to FLR such as inadequate financial resources and support from government. The number of entrepreneurs trained was also too small to make a difference in FLR.

This workstream involved the selection of youth and women entrepreneurs in FLR for capacity building and providing them with grants to expand their businesses. The workstream aimed at enabling entrepreneurs to be investor ready and to develop bankable projects that could attract investors. In 2021, 1300 applications were received out of which 100 entrepreneurs from 27 countries were selected for training, 22% being women. Of the 100, 85 successfully completed the training programme. The top 15, 42% being women, attended a physical bootcamp training and were awarded US\$5000. In 2022, 100 entrepreneurs were selected for training; comprising 53 youth and 29 women.⁵⁹ The training comprised a three months exclusive weekly training; three months of access to online sessions for start-ups, weekly office hours with mentors, weekly networking sessions with peers to share knowledge and a booth camp for selected top entrepreneurs.⁶⁰

A survey of the entrepreneurs found that the majority found the training programme extremely useful and useful. There no significant difference between the female and male entrepreneurs in the rating of usefulness of the training programme. This implies that the training programme was relevant to the training needs of the entrepreneurs. Figure 4 below shows the extent to which entrepreneurs found the specific topics of the training useful.

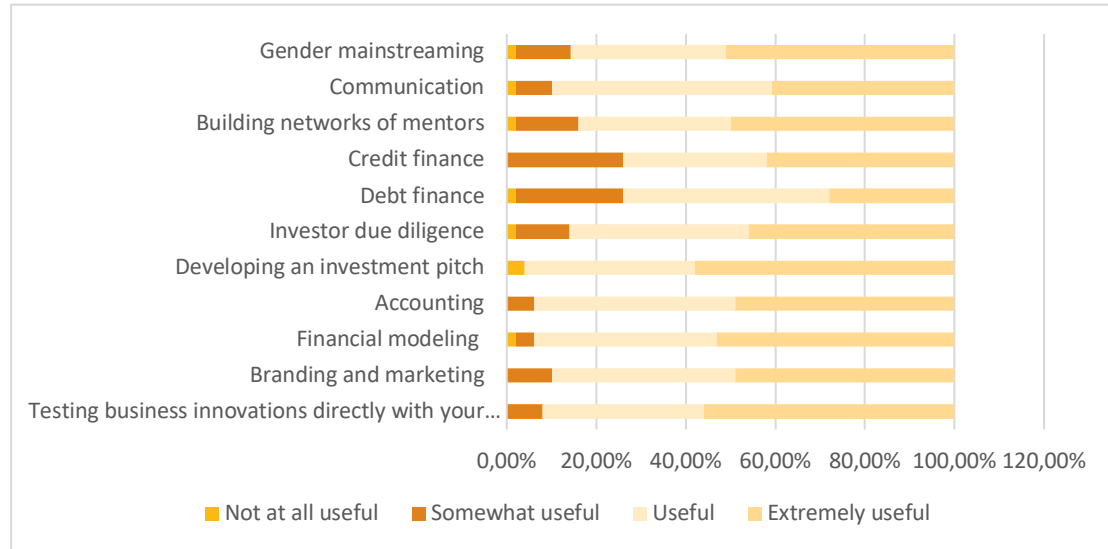
57 Interviews with AUDA-NEPAD, WRI, Focal Persons and technical partners

58 AUDA-NEPAD Africa Forest Landscapes Restoration Initiative (AFR100) 1 December 2020 to 31st May 2023 report and interviews with focal persons

59 WRI, AFR100 Implementation: Monitoring/Tracking Progress System and Land Accelerator report

60 Interviews with AUDA-NEPAD and WRI staff

Figure 4: Since undertaking the training programme, how would you rate the usefulness of the following topics to your business?



Source: Youth and women entrepreneurs survey

Further, the entrepreneurs surveyed provided positive ratings of the impact or effect the training has had on their businesses. The major effects include an increase in number of employees due to expansion of their businesses, improvement in financial management and debt financing. Overall, the survey results show that the training has improved the entrepreneurs' businesses.⁶¹ Figure 5 below shows the effect the training had on the entrepreneurs.

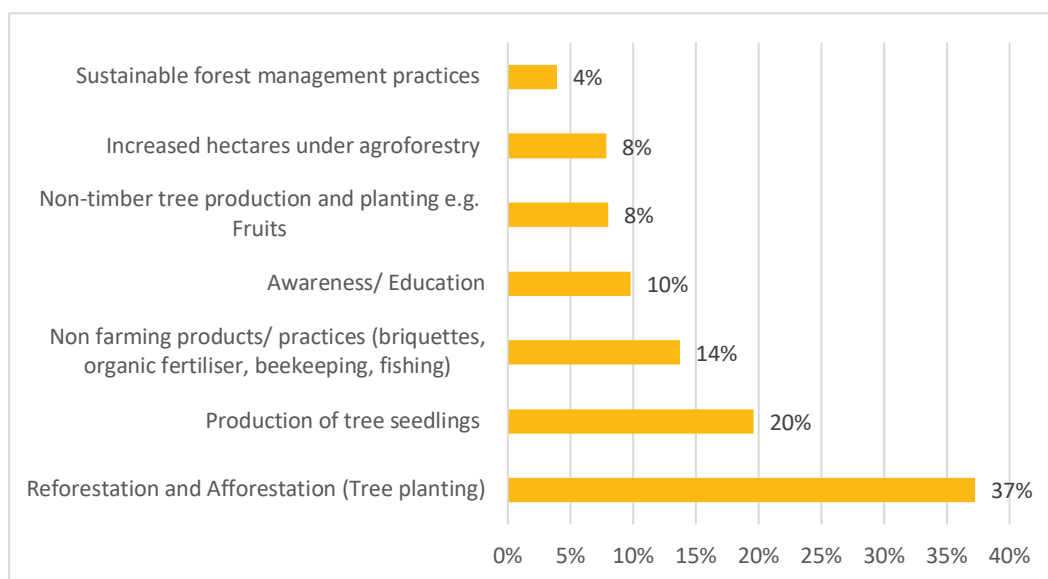
Figure 5 How would you rate the impact/effect of the training on the following aspects of your business?



Source: Youth and women entrepreneurs survey

The training offered to youth and women entrepreneurs to a large extent enabled them to contribute to forest and land restoration (figure 6). The survey data shows that most entrepreneurs contributed to deforestation and forestation efforts through tree planting, production of seedlings sold or supplied to communities while others engaged in non-farming businesses which contribute to land restoration. Other areas of contribution included 6 increasing awareness of communities on land restoration, production of non-timber seedlings as well as supporting agroforestry through supplying appropriate seedlings.

Figure 6: How has your business contributed to forest and land restoration efforts in your country?

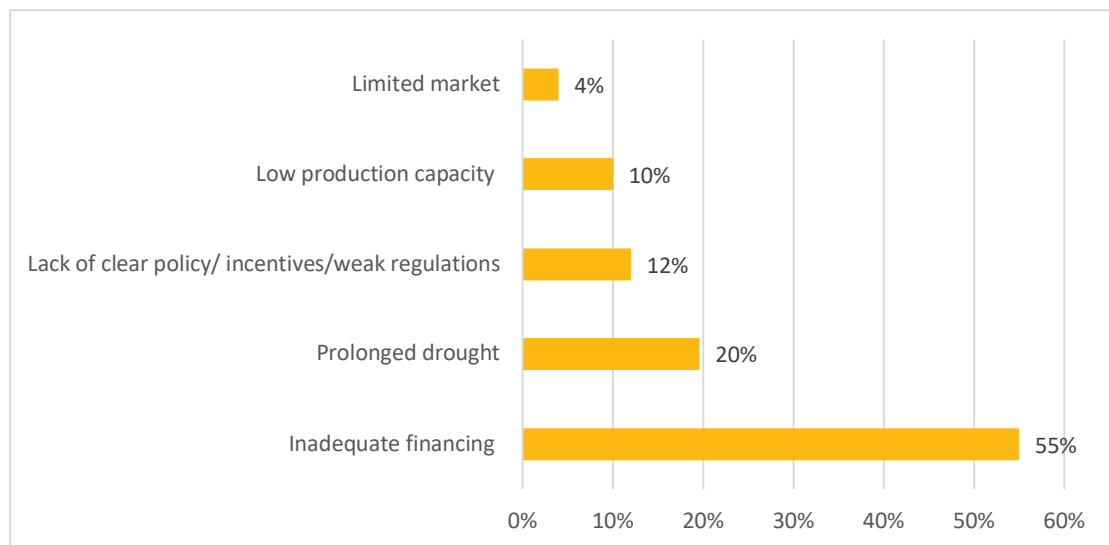


Source: Youth and women entrepreneurs survey

However, the entrepreneurs who attended the FLR training faced various challenges in expanding their businesses which limited their contribution to forest landscape restoration. The common challenge was inadequate funding. Despite the training focusing on building entrepreneurs' skills to attain investor readiness, most of the cited inadequate financing and inability to access capital whether credit or grants as a major obstacle in expanding their businesses. This is attributed to investors not showing interest in LFR related businesses partly due to limited understanding of such projects. Other challenges include prolonged droughts affecting production of seedlings and overall restoration efforts, unclear policies and regulations as well as lack of incentives from government.⁶²

62 Youth and women entrepreneurs survey; interviews with AUDA-NEPAD and WRI

Figure 7: What challenges is your business facing in contributing to forest and land restoration efforts in your country?



The role of private sector in scaling up and sustaining FLR is recognised under the AFR100 initiative.⁶³ However, the survey of entrepreneurs trained under the Land Accelerator component shows that interaction with government is low, with only 38% of those surveyed indicating that they had received any form of support from government. Government support included technical support such as extension services in agronomic practices, forest management and disease control and management; provision of security especially around forest areas; provision of key inputs – seeds, fertilizer and equipment such as machinery and greenhouse facilities; and land certification giving legal ownership to communities. However, those who did not receive any support from government (62%) cited lack of interest and interaction from government.⁶⁴

The low interaction with government is also reflected in high proportion of entrepreneurs (56%) who indicated that they don't report to government on their activities partly because they have no contacts with government, there are no regulations to report, no resources for reporting as well as they don't know where to report. Most of those who report (44%) do so because they receive support from government and work closely with the ministries of forestry, environment or agriculture.⁶⁵

63 AFR100 Implementation: Monitoring/ Tracking Progress System and Land Accelerator Project proposal; and interviews with focal persons, AUDA-NEPAD, WRI and technical and financial partners

64 Youth and women entrepreneurs survey results

65 Youth and women entrepreneurs survey results

There are clear benefits for the youth and women entrepreneurs who were trained through the Land Accelerator programme. However, the number trained under each cohort is too small (10%) of the applicants and very few are trained from each country. As a result, the outcomes are dispersed thinly and it will take a long period to establish a significant number of empowered entrepreneurs in each country. The grant amount provided is also small to adequately expand the businesses. Although the entrepreneurs were expected to pitch their business ideas to investors and raise additional funding, this did not materialise because potential investors themselves were not sensitised on the viability of FLR projects.⁶⁶

EQ 3.2 To what extent has the project contributed to improving partners' capacity, skills, and experience that promote community resilience in their country context?

Finding 3.2a: The Sida intervention improved partners capacity in FLR monitoring, resource mobilisation and gender mainstreaming but the use of these skills to promote community resilience was minimal

Focal persons' capacity was strengthened in FLR monitoring and development of restoration registries, gender mainstreaming as well as resource mobilisation. Capacity building was integrated in the APMs and dedicated training workshops were also held. The focal persons were expected to utilise the capacity to improve FLR monitoring to identify progress and gaps and to direct resources to areas of priority. Given that forest landscape restoration takes place at community level, the monitoring was expected to provide evidence to inform FLR programmes supporting communities.⁶⁷

However, the Sida intervention had limitations in ensuring capacities and skills gained by focal persons lead to promote community resilience. The trained focal persons had limited time (under phase 1) to utilise the skills gained as some of the training took place in 2022 and 2023; and focal persons also had limited resources to effectively utilise the skills. Countries or other partners were expected to support focal persons undertake their roles but this was not the case in most countries. As a result, the contribution of the capacity and skills gained through the Sida intervention to promote community resilience was minimal.⁶⁸

EQ 3.3 To what extent has the project strengthened continental and national linkages and coalitions for advocating forest landscape restoration?

66 Interviews with AUDA-NEPAD and WRI and Youth and women entrepreneurs' survey

67 Interviews with AUDA-NEPAD, WRI, technical and financial partners; and review of the final technical project reports for AUDA-NEPAD and WRI

68 Interviews with AUDA-NEPAD, WRI, technical and financial partners

Finding 3.3a: The Sida intervention support to continental and national linkages and coalitions did not work as well as envisaged due to weak linkage between country and continental linkages and weak functional of national platforms due to inadequate resources, weak monitoring of FLR and focal persons capacity gaps

The Sida intervention supported the AFR100 stakeholders to convene at continental level to review progress, share good practices, reach consensus on the monitoring framework and tools, build capacity as well as agree on actions to address key FLR issues. The stakeholders convened during the APMs because a key continental platform for advocating and keeping momentum on AFR100 implementation and to a large extent it served this role despite the shortcomings identified under EQ2.1⁶⁹ At national level, the National Platforms (NPs) were expected to be established to bring together multi-sectoral stakeholders to review country progress in FLR, identify gaps and integrate AFR100 roadmap in national programmes among other roles. However, as indicated in EQ2.1, the NPs have been set in a few countries and these platforms are inadequately funded to undertake their roles effectively. The monitoring framework for FLR has been adopted by countries but as found in EQ3.1, this framework has not been fully implemented partly due to lack of capacity and resources for the focal points. Therefore, countries face limitations in collecting data that could inform advocacy.⁷⁰ Due to these limitations, the continental and national linkages and coalitions have not worked as well as envisaged.

EQ 4.1 To what extent has the intervention delivered results in an economic and timely manner?

Finding 4.1a: Timeliness in the delivery of the outputs for the Sida intervention phase 1 was affected by COVID-19 pandemic but the pace of implementation improved afterwards, with activities being implemented as planned

The Grant Agreement between Sweden and AUDA- NEPAD regarding AFR100, Sida contribution No 14594, was signed on 4 December 2020 and was valid till 31 May 2022. However, because of COVID-19 pandemic related restrictions, AUDA-NEPAD could not implement the activities as planned and requested a no-cost extension to the grant activity period to 30 June 2022. A further extension was offered by Sida to extend the project to May 2023 to allow AUDA-NEPAD to utilise a balance of funds remaining as at December 2022.⁷¹

The review of the project proposal, extension agreements and the technical project reports shows that after the COVID-19 pandemic, the project was delivered in a

⁶⁹ AIDA-NEPAD, WRI, Focal Persons, Technical and Financial Partners

⁷⁰ The Status of AFR100 report and interviews with focal persons and technical and international partners.

⁷¹ Final Technical Report_SIDA Project Design Phase Oct 2022-Mar 2023 (Sida Contribution No 16121) and the Final Technical Report 1 Dec 2020 - 31 May 2023. Sida contribution No. 16121 was for AFR100 Phase II – Inception and is thus on phase I.

timely manner. All activities were implemented by close of the project in May 2023. This can be attributed to the on-boarding of WRI to lead the land accelerator component and having a dedicated secretariat for AFR100 at AUDA-NEPAD, as well as timely disbursement of funds by Sida.⁷²

4.1b: AUDA-NEPAD and WRI utilised both human and financial resources to deliver project outputs

AUDA-NEPAD and WRI has an adequate number of human resources with the right mix of expertise to implement the project. This includes 4 full time staff and 18 part time staff. The four full time staff were responsible for the core project management activities while the 18 experts from WRI provided technical advice to AUDA-NEPAD and led the technical implementation of the land accelerator component as per WRI role.

Table 1: Number Human resources managing and implementing the project

Organisation	Full time staff	Part time	Type of expertise
AUDA-NEPAD	3	0	Management, technical, communication
WRI	1	18	Technical experts

Source: Project audit reports

The expenditure rate for the project was high, a reflection of the absorptive capacity of AUDA-NEPAD and WRI (see table 2 below). It is also in line with the progress in activity implementation which shows that all project activities were implemented by project closure.⁷³

Table 2: Sida intervention budget vs expenditure

Budget line	Budget	Expenditure	% of expenditure
AUDA-Nepad	1,574,662	1,380,379	88 %
WRI	710,650	657,808	93 %

Source: Project audit reports

72 Interviews with WRI, AUDA-NEPAD

73 Project audit reports

Finding 4.1c: The implementation approaches for the Sida intervention are appropriate and in line with AUDA-NEPAD and WRI mandate and expertise but the approaches for reaching and creating community resilience were not well defined

The implementation approach for Sida intervention for AFR100 initiative was aligned to the mandates of AUDA-NEPAD and countries. At continental level, stakeholders were convened through the APMs to reach consensus on issues such as the monitoring framework and agree on strategic actions. The regional coordinators were put in place to hold regional stakeholder meetings to review regional progress and address region specific issues. Focal points at country level cascaded the actions and tools developed at continental and regional levels to country level and were responsible for integrating these into national programmes. Focal persons were expected to establish national platforms to bring together country stakeholders to harmonise programmes, review progress and make strategic decisions.⁷⁴

This approach was appropriate for the implementation of the AFR100 but it faced challenges. As indicated in EQ2.1, APMs lack a long term plan and vision and preparation for the APMs (from country level) and follow up on agreed actions was not adequate. Country Focal Points were individuals and not an office adequately staffed and funded to implement AFR100 initiative. Focal persons also have other work or responsibilities are not dedicated to this initiative. The National Platforms were not established in all countries and this gap made it difficult for focal points to monitor and report on AFR100 and to integrate AFR100 initiative into national programmes. The major gap in this approach was the lack of a mechanism in which the intervention could impact community level activities and resilience.⁷⁵ The approach to reaching communities varies from country to country but was largely affected due to capacity needs and unavailability of adequate resources.⁷⁶

EQ 4.2 How effective were the project monitoring and evaluation systems/practices (e.g., collection, organization, analysis, and use of baseline/project implementation data to inform decisions)?

Finding 4.2a: The Sida intervention lacked a monitoring plan with output and outcome indicators and targets against which performance could be assessed

The Sida intervention design did not have a monitoring plan with indicators and targets. Monitoring was integrated in the project proposal. However, even within the proposal, the indicators and targets of the intervention are not laid out, making it difficult to assess the results of the intervention. The project was tracked at activity level and the reports sent out to Sida were activity based (or described activities implemented) and no data on outputs and outcomes is provided because they lacked a monitoring framework.⁷⁷

⁷⁴ Review of the Sida intervention project proposal and progress reports; and interviews with AUDA-NEPAD, WRI, focal persons and technical and financial partners

⁷⁵ Interviews with AUDA-NEPAD, WRI, focal persons and technical and financial partners

⁷⁶ AUDA-NEPAD staff

⁷⁷ Interview with AUDA-NEPAD and review of the project proposal and reports

EQ 4.3 What was the quality of day-to-day project management, including work plan implementation, budgetary controls, risk management, and governance structures? Were these adequate and fit for purpose?

Findings 4.3a: The planning, implementation and reporting systems of the AFR100 secretariat and procurement, financial and risk management support provided by AUDA-NEPAD ensured quality day-to-day management of the project

The Sida intervention was managed on a day-to-day basis by the secretariat hosted by AUDA-NEPAD. The secretariat comprised of four fulltime staff and supported by a Management Team (MT). The four staff included the project manager, technical officer, communication and advocacy officer and programme assistant. WRI supported the secretariat in the implementation of the Land Accelerator component and provided advice on technical FLR matters.⁷⁸ The secretariat was in charge of activity planning, implementation, procurement and financial management, project monitoring and reporting. The secretariat was fit for purpose for phase 1 project activities given that it had the core competencies required for the project management in-house and also from WRI.

The project was managed in accordance with good practices in project management. The Secretariat developed quarterly workplans which guided implementation of the project. It held quarterly progress review meetings and one-on-one meetings between staff. It also prepared annual progress and financial reports which were submitted to Sida.⁷⁹ The secretariat work plans were reviewed by the Management Team which played oversight and advisory roles. Monthly virtual meetings were also held with the management team to address any emerging issues.⁸⁰

The secretariat relies on the AUDA-NEPAD organisational procurement, financial management and risk management systems including internal audit. The audit reports show that AUDA-NEPAD had a sound financial management system able to produce financial reports that met Sida requirements. However, procurement of consultants took long and tended to delay the start of some of the activities. In addition, once procurement activities have been approved, there is limited flexibility to accommodate changes, and change needs another round of approval. Nevertheless, the support provided by the AUDA-NEPAD support function contribute to the quality of the day-to-day management of the project.⁸¹

EQ 5.1 To what extent do project results show signs of sustainability beyond the project's conclusion and the end of funding?

Finding 5.1a: Measures for sustainability Sida intervention results are not yet in place; but integration of the monitoring framework and tools, registries,

78 Review of AUDA-NEPAD and WRI budgets and expenditure reports, AFR100 Partners Manual: Principles, Governance, and Core Processes

79 Interviews with AUDA-NEPAD and WRI. However, workplans and quarterly review meeting minutes were not provided to the ET

80 AFR100 Management Team Meeting Minutes of 30 November 2022; and minutes of the management team for November 2022 meeting; interviews with AUDA-NEPAD and WRI.

81 Interviews with AUDA-NEPAD and WRI staff and review of audit reports

technical assistance platform, AFR100 roadmap and Gender Action Plan into national programmes could enhance sustainability at regional, country and community levels in the long-run. Similarly, measures for sustaining the land accelerator programme such as raising funds from investors have not worked but there is potential to sustain the programme through partnership with other financial partners.

Specific measures to enhance sustainability of the Sida intervention results have not been integrated into national programmes. These include the integration of the country AFR100 country roadmaps, AFR100 monitoring tools, establishment of National Platforms and the gender action plan. Countries are at different levels of adopting these measures with some being more advanced than others. Most countries have not dedicated domestic financial resources to adopt these measures; the focal points capacity remains low and most of these tools were completed towards the end of phase 1 of the intervention leaving countries with a short period to adopt these measures.⁸²

Although the partner countries demonstrated political will by pledging the hectares to be restored and committing to AFR100 initiative, this has not been followed with countries committing financial resources to coordinate the AFR100 initiative. This, in part, limits the sustainability of the Sida intervention results.

Sustainability of the land accelerator component is likely to be achieved through partnership with other funding sources given that this component requires significant increase in funding to be sustained. For instance, WRI has mobilised funds through TerraFund, a new mechanism to finance community led projects and enterprises that restore land in Africa. The programme can also be sustained through entrepreneurs raising funds from investors but so far this has not been successful due to reasons discussed under EQ3.1.⁸³

82 Interviews with focal persons, technical and financial institutions and WRI and AUDA-NEPAD

83 WRI technical progress report, youth and women entrepreneurs survey and interviews with WRI and AUDA)-NEPAD staff

4 Conclusions

The conclusions based on a synthesis of the evaluation findings are as follows:

Conclusion 1: The Sida intervention design and its ToC were relevant to the AU, Partner Countries and technical and financial partners' needs, policies and priorities but implementation challenges such as inadequate capacity of focal points, inadequate funding for some activities and limited domestic resources among others hinders the intervention from realising its objectives

The sida intervention design and ToC were well defined and were responsive to the need to transition AFR100 from mobilisation to implementation phase through establishing networks, linkages, sharing information, building capacity, establishing monitoring tools and advocating for AFR100 initiative implementation. The gap in the ToC was the unclear pathway to reaching communities. However, key assumptions for the ToC did not hold true, thus hindering the achievement of some of its results. For instance, the political will was not followed with governments dedicating domestic funds to the initiative; focal points capacity remained weak; and linkages between countries and continental level structure (the APM) did not work well partly because national platforms were not established in most countries.

Conclusion 2: Mechanisms and tools for documenting AFR100 successes and challenges are in place but the use of the data or the documentation is not evident

Through Sida support, a database of FLR projects and programmes was established, the monitoring framework and data collection tools were developed, a AFR100 monitoring platform was set up and the restoration registry was also designed. The gap is in the use of these tools to effectively monitor AFR100 partly due to lack of financial resources and the short period countries had to adopt the tools. The data being collected is also not always complete.

Conclusion 3: Collaboration and networking was higher at continental level and weakened as one progresses downstream to community level.

Networking and collaboration was fairly well established at continental level through the APMs. However, the APMs lacked a long-term plan and vision and its agreed actions are not well followed up. On the other hand, the networking and collaboration at country level (through national platforms) has not been established in all countries while no such mechanisms have been established at community level (through the AFR100 initiative). The gap in networking and collaboration at community and country levels to some extent affect the effectiveness of networking at continental level.

Conclusion 4: The avenues for information sharing are in place but they are not guided by a clear communication plan

AFR100 has in place avenues for information sharing including the AFR100 website and various meetings including APMs. However, the communication plan guiding information sharing was developed in 2019 at start of the AFR100 implementation phase. Currently, information sharing is more event or issue based and is not strategic and there are no objective and measurable results set.

Conclusion 5: The Sida intervention activities were implemented and expected outputs achieved. However, the outputs have not been well utilised to contribute to outcomes partly due to the short period of phase 1

The Sida intervention achieved most of the outputs for both workstreams as outlined in EQ3.1. However, the short period of implementation did not allow countries to adopt and utilise the outputs. Some of the assumptions also did not hold true hindering the utilisation of the outputs such as domestic resources being dedicated to the programme as well as capacity of focal persons being improved.

Conclusion 6: Continental and national linkages and coalitions functioning faced limitations due to funding and capacity

The linkages and coalitions for advocacy did not function well at all levels due to lack of funds and the inability of most countries to establish national platforms. Regional coordinators who were facilitate dialogue in different regions did not function effectively also due to lack of resources. In addition, data that could inform advocacy efforts was fragmented as each country was using its own monitoring tool but this situation is changing following the adoption of the AFR100 monitoring tool

Conclusion 7: Lack of monitoring plan hampered the assessment of the project performance

A monitoring plan was not developed for the Sida intervention and, as such, the intervention lacked output and outcome project indicators and targets. The focus of monitoring and reporting was more on activities rather than results.

5 Recommendations

The proposed recommendations based on the conclusions of the evaluation as follows:

Recommendations No.	Recommendation
Recommendation 1	Review the intervention design and ToC to define a clear pathway to reaching or impacting on communities
Recommendation 2	In collaboration with countries and technical and financial partners, establish a knowledge management and learning component of the AFR100 and Improve data analysis and knowledge generation to enable various audiences use the data collected through the AFR100 monitoring system.
Recommendation 3	Strengthen collaboration and networking at all levels though developing a long-term plan covering all levels of AFR100 implementation and with clear goal and outcomes
Recommendation 4	Develop or update the communication strategy to include a clear goal and objectives and measurable results as well as pitching the strategy at strategic communication.
Recommendation 5	Advocate to countries to dedicate resources and support further capacity building to enable countries adopt and use key outputs of phase 1 such as monitoring framework, restoration registries and the gender action plan
Recommendation 6	Strengthen linkages by setting up and resourcing the national platforms and build advocacy capacity of focal points
Recommendation 7	Train countries to mainstreaming outcomes of the phase1 to their national FLR operational model to ensure effective application of the approaches at the community level
Recommendation 8	Develop and implement a monitoring plan/framework for the project
Recommendation 9	Integrate tools into national programmes, advocate for domestic resources Develop partnerships with other financial partners to sustain land accelerator programme

ANNEXES

Annex 1: Terms of Reference

Terms of Reference for the Mid-Term Evaluation of the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100) - Phase I Date: August 2024

1. General information

1.1 Introduction

In 2020, AUDA-NEPAD and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) signed a Financing Agreement (FA) to support the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100) in transitioning from commitments and pledges to actual implementation. This intervention aligns with the Swedish Strategy for regional development cooperation in sub-Saharan Africa (2016–2021). Specifically, it contributes to Support Area 1 of the strategy: enhancing the environment, promoting the sustainable use of natural resources, reducing climate impact, and strengthening resilience to environmental impacts, climate change, and natural disasters.

Additionally, this contribution aligns with the Swedish government's decision in October 2020 to allocate an extra 100 million Swedish Krona (MSEK) to improve the capacity for sustainable biodiversity management in Africa.

The AFR100 initiative addresses the severe degradation of African forests and landscapes, which are under significant pressure. According to the Global Landscapes Forum, Africa loses approximately 2.8 million hectares of forests annually, and about 50 million hectares of land are affected by degradation.

The additional funding aims to support an integrated approach that connects biodiversity on land and sea, sustainable management and use of natural resources, ecosystems, and adapting to a changing climate to achieve sustainable global development. The contribution to the Africa Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100) responds to the Swedish government's decision to scale up its contribution to sustainable biodiversity management in Africa.

1.2 Evaluation object: Intervention to be evaluated

The evaluation object is AFR100 2020 African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (Contribution 14594). AFR100 is an ambitious commitment made by African Heads of State to restore 100 million hectares of deforested and degraded landscapes across Africa by 2030. AFR100 contributes to the Bonn Challenge, the African Resilient Landscapes Initiative (ARLI), the African Union Agenda 2063, and the Sustainable Development Goals.

AFR100 aims to halt biodiversity degradation on the continent by providing a platform for:

- 1. Coordinating and Streamlining Forest Landscapes Restoration (FLR) Activities:** Ensuring FLR activities are harmonized across the continent.
- 2. Enhancing Knowledge Exchanges and Cross-Learning:** Facilitating knowledge sharing among AFR100 partner countries and between AFR100 technical and financial partners.

3. **Amplifying FLR Impact:** Encouraging stakeholders to collaborate to achieve large-scale FLR in Africa.

The Swedish contribution to AFR100 focused on two main work areas:

1. **AFR100 Implementation Progress Tracking System**
2. **AFR100 Land Accelerator Programme**

The intervention is implemented by the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), which is mandated by the African Union to host the secretariat of AFR100 and serves as the agreement partner. By this point, 30 African countries had committed to restoring 126 million hectares of land. AFR100 successfully mobilized technical and financial partners, including the World Resources Institute (WRI), the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) among others.

The total budget approved for the intervention is SEK 20 million (twenty million Swedish Kronor).

In March 2021, following a proposal by AUDA-NEPAD and discussions with WRI, it was agreed that WRI would take over the implementation of the Land Accelerator's technical component. Consequently, a separate agreement was signed with WRI, and SEK 6,530,247 was deducted from the agreement with AUDA-NEPAD and reallocated to WRI. A second phase of the contribution has started in June 2023 and will run until mid 2026.

1.3 Evaluation rationale

Initially, no evaluation was planned for the AFR100 2020 initiative due to its one-year duration. However, a no-cost extension was granted due to delays due to the combined impact of COVID-19 and other unforeseen circumstances, necessitating the involvement of the World Resources Institute to implement part of the work plan. With the start of the second phase in June 2023, it became important to evaluate the work implemented during the first phase of the project.

2. The assignment

2.1 Evaluation purpose: Intended use and intended users

This evaluation pertains to Phase I of the AFR100 contribution, supported by Sida and implemented by AUDA-NEPAD and WRI, covering the period from December 2020 to May 2023. The primary purpose of this evaluation is to provide evidence-based input for discussions between Sida, WRI, and the AUDA-NEPAD on programme implementation and achievements and activities integration/outreach with other donors and actors.

Objectives

Assess Progress and Learnings:

- Assist AUDA-NEPAD, WRI, and Sida in evaluating the progress of programme implementation and achievements and the interaction between the different actors.
- Identify successful strategies and areas needing improvement.

Inform Future Decisions:

- Utilize the evaluation findings to guide decisions on enhancing project implementation, including Phase II of the AFR100 contribution.

Strategic Assessment for Sida:

- Enable Sida to assess the progress of their portfolio in sustainably managing biodiversity in Africa.
- Provide insights into possible future collaboration with other actors.
- Provide insights to inform strategic decision-making.

Intended Users

The primary users of this evaluation include:

- AUDA-NEPAD
- WRI
- Sida's Unit for Regional Development Cooperation in Africa
- Other partners involved in the intervention (AFR100 Management team) – Results will be presented to the AFR100 management team.

The evaluation is designed to cater to the needs of these intended users. Tenderers must elaborate in their proposals on how they will ensure the evaluation process meets these needs.

Stakeholder Engagement

Other stakeholders, such as financial and technical partners of AFR100, should be kept informed about the evaluation. During the inception phase, the evaluator and the users will agree on the responsibility for keeping these stakeholders informed.

This structured approach aims to foster collaboration and ensure that the evaluation findings are practical and beneficial for all parties involved.

2.2 Evaluation scope

The evaluation scope covers the period from December 1, 2020, to May 31, 2023. It will review the project work conducted within the framework of the current Sida-funded project and collaboration with other forest landscape monitoring programmes, focusing on what has been implemented and the results achieved up to the end of May 2023 since the project's inception. AFR100 is a partnership between more than 30 African countries committed to restoring 100 million hectares of degraded land by 2030.

2.3 Evaluation objective: Criteria and questions

In addition to the project requirements, the evaluation shall put into consideration the evaluation criteria endorsed by OECD-DAC guidelines (relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, and impact). The questions listed below will be discussed and refined with the consultants during the inception stage of the consultancy. The evaluation should draw conclusions on:

Relevance: Response to Needs and Policies

- To what extent do the intervention objectives and design respond to the needs, policies, and priorities at continental, national, and partner/institution levels? How relevant is the project's theory of change?
- Has the project tracked and documented successes and challenges that could be used to inform other projects and subsequent Sida funded projects?

Coherence: Relation to Context and Similar Interventions

- What is the level of collaboration and networking among partners, communities, and other relevant stakeholders to create synergy?
- What are the key avenues for information sharing and feedback mechanisms? Are there any gaps, and how can these be improved?

Effectiveness: Delivery and Perception of Benefits

- To what extent have planned project benefits been delivered and received, as perceived by all key beneficiaries (including men, women, and specific vulnerable groups)?
- To what extent has the project contributed to improving partners' capacity, skills, and experience that promote community resilience in their country context?
- To what extent has the project strengthened continental and national linkages and coalitions for advocating forest landscape restoration?
- What factors contributed positively or negatively to the achievement of project results?

Efficiency: Achievement of Outputs and Objectives

- To what extent has the intervention delivered results in an economic and timely manner?
- How effective were the project monitoring and evaluation systems/practices (e.g., collection, organization, analysis, and use of baseline/project implementation data to inform decisions)?
- Are there other monitoring systems that can be leveraged such as FAO's forest inventory?
- What was the quality of day-to-day project management, including work plan implementation, budgetary controls, risk management, and governance structures? Were these adequate and fit for purpose?
- How efficient are the project implementation strategies? How efficiently are the different funding sources used. Does the project provide value for money?

Sustainability: Signs of Sustainability

- To what extent do project results show signs of sustainability beyond the project's conclusion and the end of funding?

2.4 Evaluation approach and methods

It is expected that the evaluator describes and justifies an appropriate evaluation approach/methodology and methods for data collection in the tender. The evaluation design, methodology and methods for data collection and analysis are expected to be fully developed and presented in the inception report. Given the situation with Covid-19, innovative and flexible approaches/methodologies and methods for remote data collection should be suggested when appropriate and the risk of doing harm managed.

The evaluator is to suggest an approach/methodology that provides credible answers (evidence) to the evaluation questions. Limitations to the chosen approach/methodology and methods shall be made explicit by the evaluator and the consequences of these limitations discussed in the tender. The evaluator shall to the extent possible, present mitigation measures to address them.

A *gender-responsive* approach/methodology, methods, tools and data analysis techniques should be used⁸⁴.

Sida's approach to evaluation is *utilization-focused*, which means the evaluator should facilitate the *entire evaluation process* with careful consideration of how everything that is done will affect the use of the evaluation. It is therefore expected that the evaluators, in their tender, present i) how intended users are to participate in and contribute to the evaluation process and ii) methodology and methods for data collection that create space for reflection, discussion and learning between the intended users of the evaluation.

In cases where sensitive or confidential issues are to be addressed in the evaluation, evaluators should ensure an evaluation design that do not put informants and stakeholders at risk during the data collection phase or the dissemination phase.

2.5 Organisation of evaluation management

This evaluation is commissioned by Sida Regional Development Cooperation in Africa. The intended user(s) is/are AUDA-NEPAD and WRI. The intended users of the evaluation form a steering group, which has contributed to and agreed on the ToR for this evaluation. The steering group is a decision-making body. It will approve the inception report and the final report of the evaluation. The steering group will participate in the start-up meeting of the evaluation, as well as in the debriefing/validation workshop where preliminary findings and conclusions are discussed.

2.6 Evaluation quality

All Sida's evaluations shall conform to OECD/DAC's Quality Standards for Development Evaluation⁸⁵. The evaluators shall use the Sida OECD/DAC Glossary of Key Terms in Evaluation⁸⁶ and the OECD/DAC Better Criteria for Better Evaluation⁸⁷. The evaluators shall specify how quality assurance will be handled by them during the evaluation process.

2.7 Time schedule and deliverables

The assignment is foreseen to start with an inception phase and be initiated no later than October 14, 2024. The Inception Report, where the consultant describes the course of action for carrying out the review, shall be presented to AUDA NEPAD, WRI and for Sida for revision and approval no later than November 4, 2024 (in 3 weeks). The inception report shall place particular emphasis on the methodology and the results to be achieved.

The review shall start around the November 22, 2024, after comments on the inception report have been received and incorporated. The review shall be conducted within a time frame of

⁸⁴ See for example UNEG United Nations Evaluation Group (2014) Integrating Human Rights and Gender Equality in Evaluations <http://uneval.org/document/detail/1616>

⁸⁵ OECD/DAC (2010) Quality Standards for Development Evaluation.

⁸⁶ Sida OECD/DAC (2014) Glossary of Key Terms in Evaluation and Results Based Management.

⁸⁷ OECD/DAC (2019) Better Criteria for Better Evaluation: Revised Evaluation Criteria Definitions and Principles for Use.

about 5 weeks. Before the elaboration of the full Report, the Team shall organize a workshop for debriefing and validation

A draft report shall be submitted no later than 31st of January, 2025. The consultant will then allow for about two weeks for comments and corrections of any errors from partners. The Final Report shall be submitted no later than two weeks after the date when the consultant has received the above comments. The Final version of the Review Report shall be delivered no later than 28th of February, 2025. And a final seminar organized by end of February.

The Final Report shall be minimum 25 pages and maximum 30 pages focusing on findings and recommendations, excluding annexes. In addition, it shall contain an executive summary of maximum 5 pages. The report shall be written in English and submitted via e-mail. The report shall have been professionally proof-read and edited before being sent.

The consultants shall be responsible for organizing meetings with relevant stakeholders. AUDA-NEPAD and WRI will assist the consultant with contact details to key interviewees. The consultants shall be responsible for all travel arrangements, such as booking of tickets and hotels.

AUDA-NEPAD and WRI will provide the necessary documentation.

The Consultant shall immediately inform Sida should unforeseen circumstances prevent the evaluator from pursuing the evaluation as planned. Any other questions or queries with respect to the Assignment may also be put to beza.berhanu@gov.se.

Deliverables	Participants	Deadlines
1. Start-up meeting/s (Virtual)	Evaluators, AUDA-NEPAD WRI, Sida	Tentative Week of October 14, 2024
2. Draft inception report		Tentative November 4, 2024 (3 weeks)
3. Inception meeting (virtual)	Evaluators, AUDA-NEPAD WRI, Sida	Tentative Week of November 11, 2024
4. Comments from intended users to evaluators (alternatively these may be sent to evaluators ahead of the inception meeting)		Tentative November 22, 2024
5. Data collection, analysis, report writing and quality assurance	Evaluators	Tentative December 28, 2024 (5 weeks)
6. Debriefing/validation workshop (meeting)	Evaluators, AUDA-NEPAD WRI, Sida	Tentative Week of January 6, 2024
7. Draft evaluation report		Tentative January 31, 2024 (3 weeks)

8. Comments from intended users to evaluators		Tentative February 12, 2025
9. Final evaluation report		Tentative February 28, 2025
10. Seminar	Evaluators, AUDA-NEPAD WRI, Sida	Tentative Week of March 3, 2025

The inception report will form the basis for the continued evaluation process and shall be approved by Sida before the evaluation proceeds to implementation. The inception report should be written in English and cover evaluability issues and interpretations of evaluation questions, present the evaluation approach/methodology *including how a utilization-focused and gender-responsive approach will be ensured*, methods for data collection and analysis as well as the full evaluation design, including an *evaluation matrix* and a *stakeholder mapping/analysis*. A clear distinction between the evaluation approach/methodology and methods for data collection shall be made. All limitations to the methodology and methods shall be made explicit and the consequences of these limitations discussed.

A specific time and work plan, including number of hours/working days for each team member, for the remainder of the evaluation should be presented. The time plan shall allow space for reflection and learning between the intended users of the evaluation.

The final report shall be written in English and be professionally proof read. The final report should have clear structure and follow the layout format of Sida's template for decentralised evaluations (see Annex C). The executive summary should be maximum 5 pages.

The report shall clearly and in detail describe the evaluation approach/methodology and methods for data collection and analysis and make a clear distinction between the two. The report shall describe how the utilization-focused approach has been implemented i.e. how intended users have participated in and contributed to the evaluation process and how methodology and methods for data collection have created space for reflection, discussion and learning between the intended users. Furthermore, the gender-responsive approach shall be described and reflected in the findings, conclusions and recommendations along with other identified and relevant cross-cutting issues. Limitations to the methodology and methods and the consequences of these limitations for findings and conclusions shall be described.

Evaluation shall look into the project's theory of change. Conclusions should be substantiated by findings and analysis. Evaluation questions shall be clearly stated and answered in the executive summary and in the conclusions. Recommendations and lessons learned should flow logically from conclusions and be specific, directed to relevant intended users and categorised as a short-term, medium-term and long-term.

The report should be no more than 30 pages excluding annexes. In addition, it shall contain an executive summary of maximum 5 pages. If the methods section is extensive, it could be placed in an annex to the report. Annexes shall always include the Terms of Reference, the Inception Report, the stakeholder mapping/analysis and the Evaluation Matrix. Lists of key informants/interviewees shall only include personal data if deemed relevant (i.e. when it is contributing to the credibility of the evaluation) based on a case based assessment by the

evaluator and the commissioning unit/embassy. The inclusion of personal data in the report must always be based on a written consent.

The evaluator shall adhere to the Sida OECD/DAC Glossary of Key Terms in Evaluation⁸⁸.

The evaluator shall, upon approval by Sida/Embassy of the final report, insert the report into Sida's template for decentralised evaluations (see Annex C) and submit it to Nordic Morning (in pdf-format) for publication and release in the Sida publication database. The order is placed by sending the approved report to Nordic Morning (sida@atta45.se), with a copy to the responsible Sida Programme Officer as well as Sida's Evaluation Unit (evaluation@sida.se). Write "Sida decentralised evaluations" in the email subject field. The following information must always be included in the order to Nordic Morning:

1. The name of the consulting company.
2. The full evaluation title.
3. The invoice reference "ZZ980601".
4. Type of allocation: "sakanslag".
5. Type of order: "digital publicering/publikationsdatabas".

⁸⁸ Sida OECD/DAC (2014) Glossary of Key Terms in Evaluation and Results Based Management.

Annex 2: Evaluation Matrix

Evaluation criteria	Evaluation questions	Indicators	Data collection instruments	Sources of information
Relevance: Response to Needs and Policies	EQ 1.1 To what extent do the intervention objectives and design respond to the needs, policies, and priorities at continental, national, and partner/institution levels? How relevant is the project's theory of change?	- Continental, national, partners and institutional policies and priorities the intervention responded to - Alignment of AFR100 project ToC to continental and country needs and priorities for landscape restoration	Desk review of documents Key informant interviews guides Youth and women entrepreneurs survey	Documents: Continental documentation on land restoration including the Africa Resilient Landscape Initiative and African Union Agenda 2063; country and partner/ institutions priorities; and AFR100 project proposal and work plans among others Key informants: AUDA-NEPAD, WRI, Africa Union Commission and RECs, country focal persons, technical and financial partners, youth ambassadors, and consultants Online survey of youth and women entrepreneurs
	EQ 1.2 Has the project tracked and documented successes and challenges that could be used to inform other projects and subsequent Sida funded projects?	- Evidence of documented project success and challenges - Comprehensiveness of the documented project successes and challenges	Desk review of documents Key informant interviews	Documents: Workplan and progress reports Key informants: AUDA-NEPAD, WRI, Africa Union Commission, RECs, country focal persons, technical and financial partners

Coherence: Relation to context and similar Interventions	EQ 2.1 What is the level of collaboration and networking among partners, communities, and other relevant stakeholders to create synergy?	• Evidence of collaboration and networking mechanisms established • Evidence of how the mechanisms were utilised to create synergy (information shared, action agreed on, coordination in planning, avoiding duplication etc) • Examples of collaboration at community level	Desk review of documents Key informant interviews	Documents: Reports and minutes of collaboration and networking meetings, other information exchanged between and among stakeholders Key informants: AUDA-NEPAD, WRI, Africa Union Commission, RECs, country focal persons, technical and financial partners, youth ambassadors, private sector and consultants.
	EQ 2.2 What are the key avenues for information sharing and feedback mechanisms? Are there any gaps, and how can these be improved?	• Avenues for information sharing and feedback mechanisms established • Evidence of how these mechanisms were utilised • Evidence of any gaps in information sharing	Desk review of documents Key informant interviews Online survey	Documents: Progress reports, documentation on information shared; documentation on the information and feedback exchange mechanism Key informants: AUDA-NEPAD, WRI, Africa Union Commission, RECs, country focal persons, technical and financial partners, youth ambassadors, private sector and consultants.
Effectiveness: Delivery and perception of Benefit	EQ 3.1 How has the programme been beneficial to all beneficiaries including women, men, vulnerable groups? And what factors	• Evidence of planned benefits (outputs) delivered and how the outputs were utilised • Factors contributing to or hindering achievement of project results	Desk review of documents Key informant interviews	Documents: Project proposal, results framework, work plan, progress reports, information products of the project

	contributed positively or negatively to the achievement of project results?		Youth and women entrepreneurs survey	Key informants: AUDA-NEPAD, WRI, country focal persons Online survey of youth and women entrepreneurs
	EQ 3.2 To what extent has the project contributed to improving partners' capacity, skills, and experience that promote community resilience in their country context?	- Interventions undertaken to improve partner's capacity, skills and experience - Evidence on how the partners have utilised the capacity to promote community resilience	Desk review of documents Key informant interviews	Documents: State of FLR report, country level monitoring reports Key informants: AUDA-NEPAD, WRI, and country focal persons
	EQ 3.3 To what extent has the project strengthened continental and national linkages and coalitions for advocating forest landscape restoration?	- Interventions undertaken to strengthen continental and national linkages and coalition established for advocacy - Evidence that functioning of the linkages and coalitions has improved as a result of the project	Desk review of documents Key informant interviews	Documents: Project work plan, project progress reports, reports and records of linkage and coalition activities/events Key informants: AUDA-NEPAD, WRI, African Union Commission, RECs, country focal persons, technical and financial partners, youth ambassadors, consultants
Efficiency: Achievement of outputs and objectives	EQ 4.1 To what extent has the intervention delivered results in an economic and timely manner?	Evidence on: - Timeliness in activity implementation and achievement of outputs - Appropriateness of implementation approaches vis a vis cost and outputs achieved	Desk review of documents Key informant interviews	Documents: Work plan, project progress reports, budgets and expenditure reports Key informants: AUDA-NEPAD, WRI, country focal persons

		(e.g. use of consultants, meetings etc as modes of delivery) • Expenditure vs project budget/disbursed funds • Adequacy and utilisation of human resources		
	EQ 4.2 How effective were the project monitoring and evaluation systems/practices (e.g., collection, organization, analysis, and use of baseline/project implementation data to inform decisions)?	Evidence on: • M&E system put in place for the project and how well it was used • Availability of data for project indicators • Analysis and use of data for decision making • Opportunities to leverage any other monitoring system for FLR	Desk review of documents Key informant interviews	Documents: M&E plan and monitoring (programmatic) data Key informants: AUDA-NEPAD, WRI, country focal persons
	EQ 4.3 Are there other monitoring systems that can be leveraged such as FAO's forest inventory?			
	EQ 4.4 What was the quality of day-to-day project management, including work plan implementation, budgetary controls, risk management, and governance structures? Were these adequate and fit for purpose?	• Appropriateness of project governance structure and how well it functioned • Appropriateness of project management systems in place and how well these functions (covering work plan implementation, budget controls, risk management etc)	Desk review of documents Key informant interviews	Documents: Project governance structure membership, terms of reference and minutes of meetings; project secretariat staffing, guidelines and procedures Key informants: AUDA-NEPAD, WRI, country focal persons

	EQ 4.5 How efficient are the project implementation strategies?	• Appropriateness of project implementation strategies • Timeliness in implementation	Key informant interviews	Key informants: AUDA-NEPAD, WRI, country focal persons
Sustainability: Signs of sustainability	EQ 5.1 To what extent do project results show signs of sustainability beyond the project's conclusion and the end of funding?	• Sustainability measures integrated into the project design and implementation • Other factors likely to contribute to sustainability of project outcomes	Desk review of documents Key informant interviews Youth and women entrepreneurs survey	Documents: FLR status report, and country monitoring reports Key informants: AUDA-NEPAD, WRI, AUC, RECs, country focal persons, technical and financial partners, private sector, consultants, youth ambassadors Online survey of youth and women entrepreneurs

Annex 3: Data collection tools

Key informant interview guide: Project implementers (AUDA-NEPAD and WRI)

Introduction

- How long have you worked on the AFR100 project and what is your role?

Relevance

- What continental policies and priorities is the project responding to at continental level?
- How adequate is the project framework (activities and outputs) in responding to these policies and priorities?
- How appropriate is the design of the project in achieving results at country level? and at community level? How appropriate is the intervention logic of the project (from continental and regional activities to having an effect at community level) in achieving results?
- To what extent are the factors influencing achievement of results been realised/managed? i.e political will for the project, climate conditions, political and economic stability, capacity of countries including financial resources.
- What system is in place to track project activities, challenges and outputs? And how well is this working? To what extent has the documentation of project results been shared and used to inform/influence other projects?

Coherence

- How are you collaborating and networking with other partners (technical, financial, countries, RECs etc)? What synergies have been created through the collaboration? How has this collaboration contributed to achievement of project results? What challenges are you facing in collaboration and networking with partners?
- How are you sharing information and receiving feedback from partners? how useful is the information shared? Give examples of how the information has been used. What are the gaps in information sharing and feedback?

Effectiveness

- What are the key benefits of the project to key beneficiaries? How have the beneficiary institutions, groups etc utilised the project results? any challenges in utilising project results?
- How have countries utilised the project to make progress in achieving the determined contributions? How is the project contributing to building community resilience? Please give examples.
- What specific continental and national linkages have been strengthened with the support of the project? Please give examples. What are the challenges in strengthening linkages?
- What factors contributed to achievement of project results? what factors have hindered the project from achieving its results? (what factors are influencing project success negatively or positively?)

Efficiency

- What factors facilitated timely implementation of project activities? What accounts for delay in implementation of the project including the reasons for no-cost extension?
- What monitoring system is in place? How well has it worked in collecting data for project indicators? How is the monitoring data used for decision-making? Please give examples of decisions made.
- How well are the project management and governance structures and systems working? What are the challenges? How did this influence achievement of project results? (work planning, implementation, procurement, financial management, risk management, oversight etc)
- Are the project implementation modalities/ strategies the most appropriate in optimising project resources? What are the pros and cons of the implementation strategies? Are there alternative strategies for delivering the project?

Sustainability and early impact

- What sustainability measures have been integrated into the project design and implementation? How well are they working and what are the challenges and gaps?
- To what extent are the project results likely to be sustainable? And why? (what factors are likely to influence sustainability of project results?)

Key informant interview guide: Focal persons and partners countries**Introduction**

- How long have you worked on the AFR100 project and what is your role?

Relevance

- What national policies and priorities is the project responding?
- How adequate is the project framework (activities and outputs) in responding to these policies and priorities?
- How appropriate is the design of the project in achieving results at country level? and at community level? How appropriate is the intervention logic of the project (from continental and regional activities to having an effect at community level) in achieving results?
- To what extent are the factors influencing achievement of results been realised/managed? i.e political will for the project, climate conditions, political and economic stability, capacity of countries including financial resources.
- What system is in place to track project activities, challenges and outputs? And how well is this working? To what extent has the documentation of project results been shared and used to inform/influence other projects?

Coherence

- How are you collaborating and networking with other partners (technical, financial, countries, RECs AU etc)? What synergies have been created with other projects? How has this collaboration contributed to achievement of project results? What challenges are you facing in collaboration and networking with partners?

- How are you sharing information and receiving feedback from other countries and partners? how useful is the information shared? Give examples of how the information has been used. What are the gaps in information sharing and feedback?

Effectiveness

- What are the key benefits of the project? How have the beneficiary institutions, groups etc utilised the project results? Any challenges in utilising project results?
- Specifically, what have been the benefits of the project to men, women and vulnerable populations? How have these benefits been delivered?
- How has your country utilised the project to make progress in achieving the determined contributions? How is the project contributing to building community resilience? Please give examples.
- What specific continental and national linkages have been strengthened with the support of the project? Please give examples. What are the challenges in strengthening linkages?
- What factors contributed to achievement of project results? what factors have hindered the project from achieving its results? (what factors are influencing project success negatively or positively?)

Efficiency

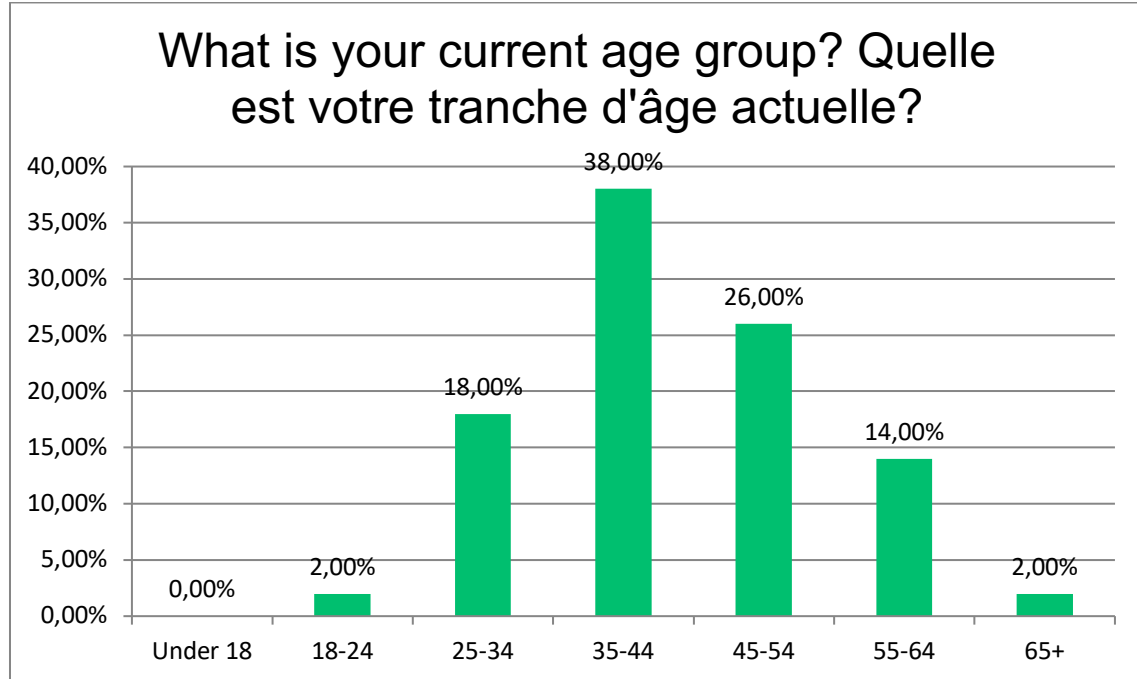
- What factors facilitated timely implementation of project activities? What accounts for delay in implementation of the project including the reasons for no-cost extension?
- How is the project monitoring data used for decision-making? Please give examples of decisions made.
- How well are the project management and governance structures and systems working? What are the challenges? How did this influence achievement of project results? (work planning, implementation, procurement, financial management, risk management, oversight etc)
- Are the project implementation modalities/ strategies the most appropriate in optimising project resources? What are the pros and cons of the implementation strategies? Are there alternative strategies for delivering the project?

Sustainability and early impact

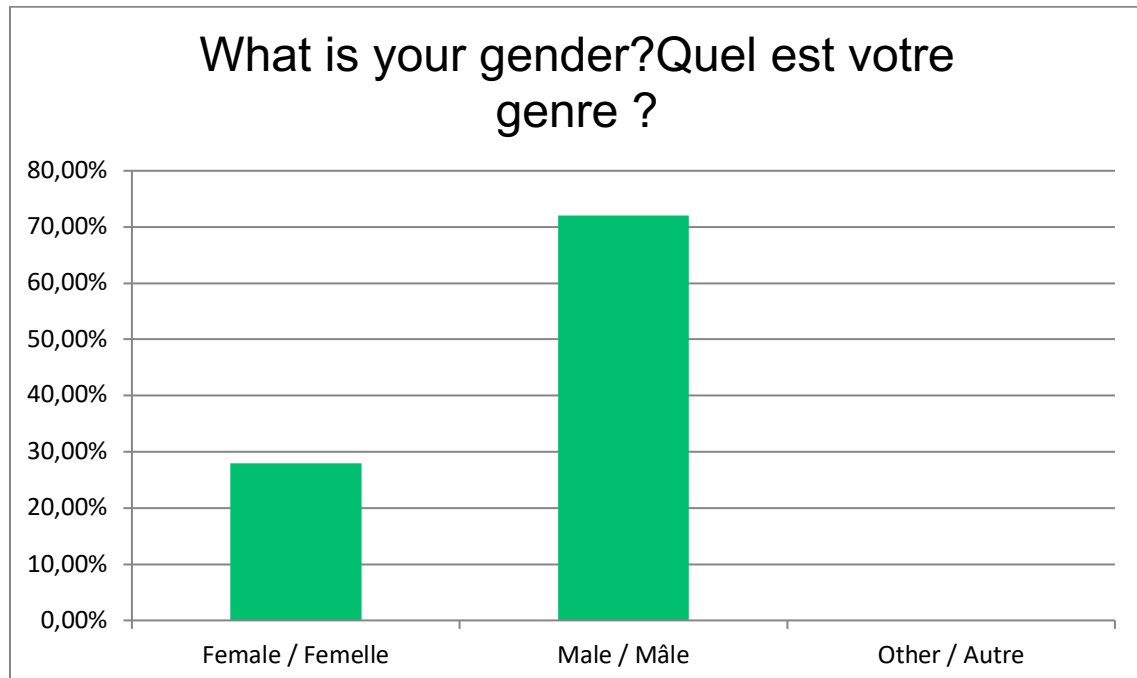
- What sustainability measures have been integrated into the project design and implementation? How well are they working and what are the challenges and gaps?
- To what extent are the project results likely to be sustainable? And why? (what factors are likely to influence sustainability of project results?)

Annex 4: Entrepreneurs' survey results

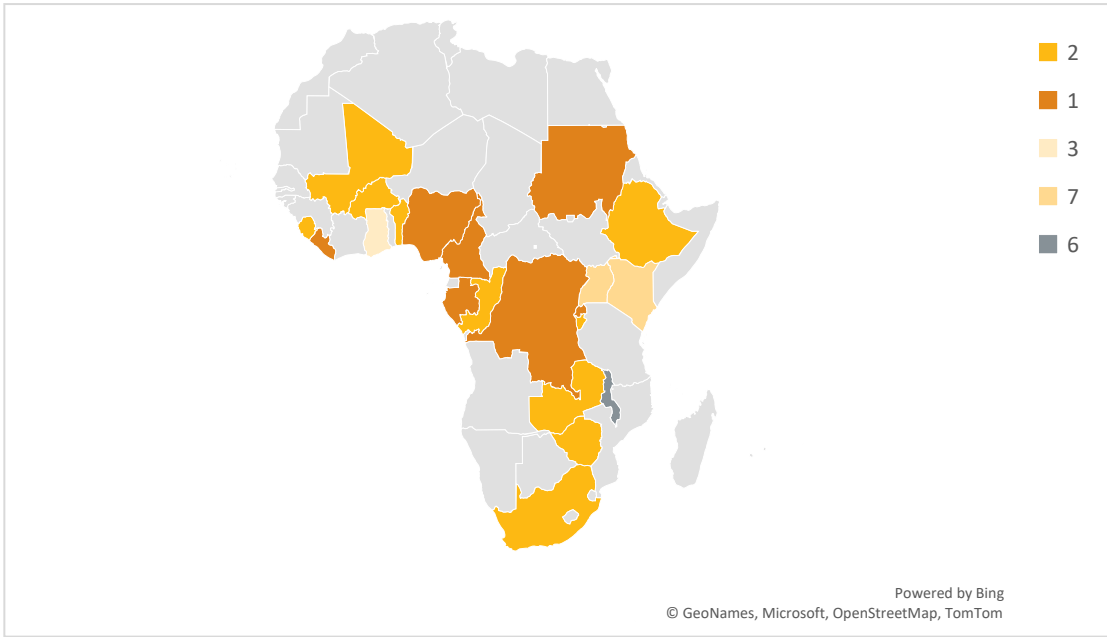
What is your current age group? Quelle est votre tranche d'âge actuelle?



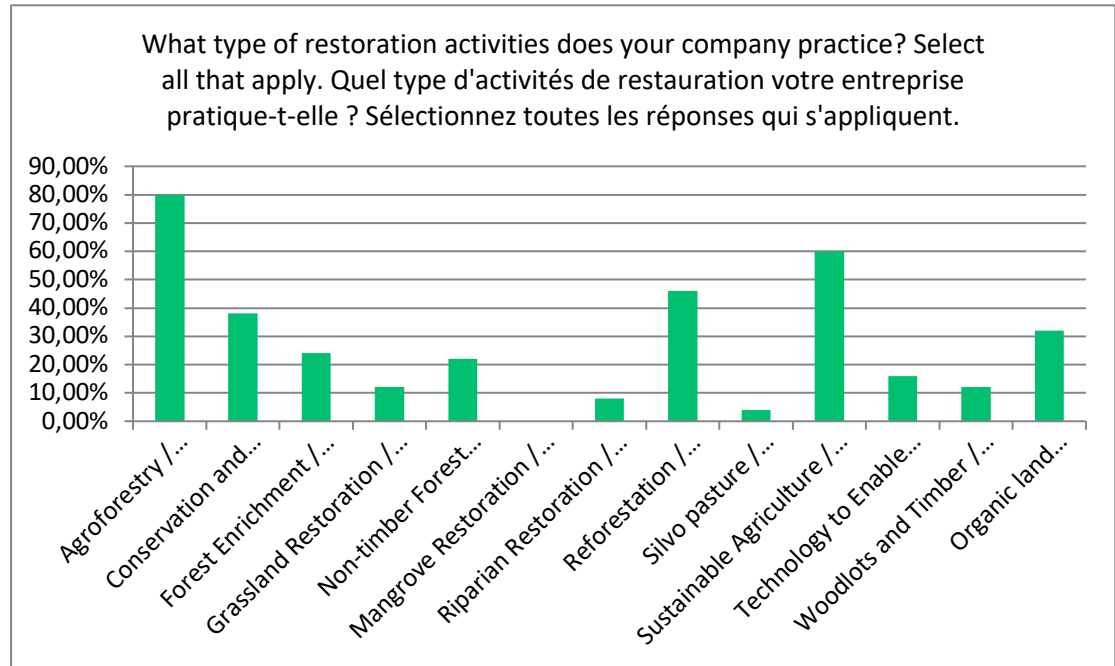
What is your gender? Quel est votre genre ?



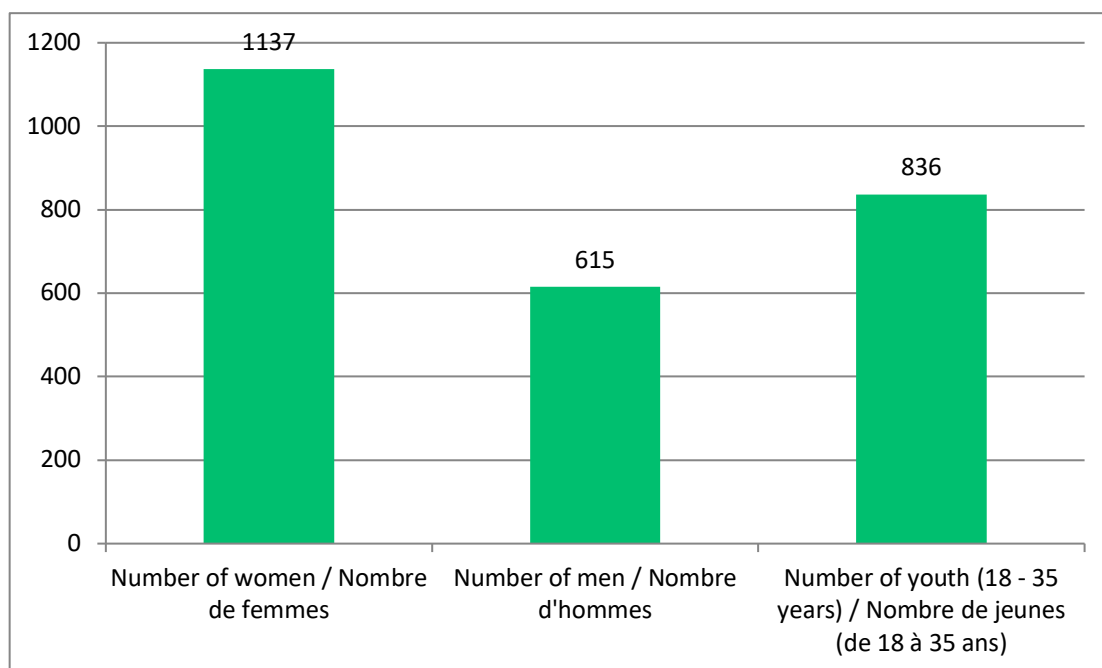
Number of respondents to the entrepreneurs' survey by country



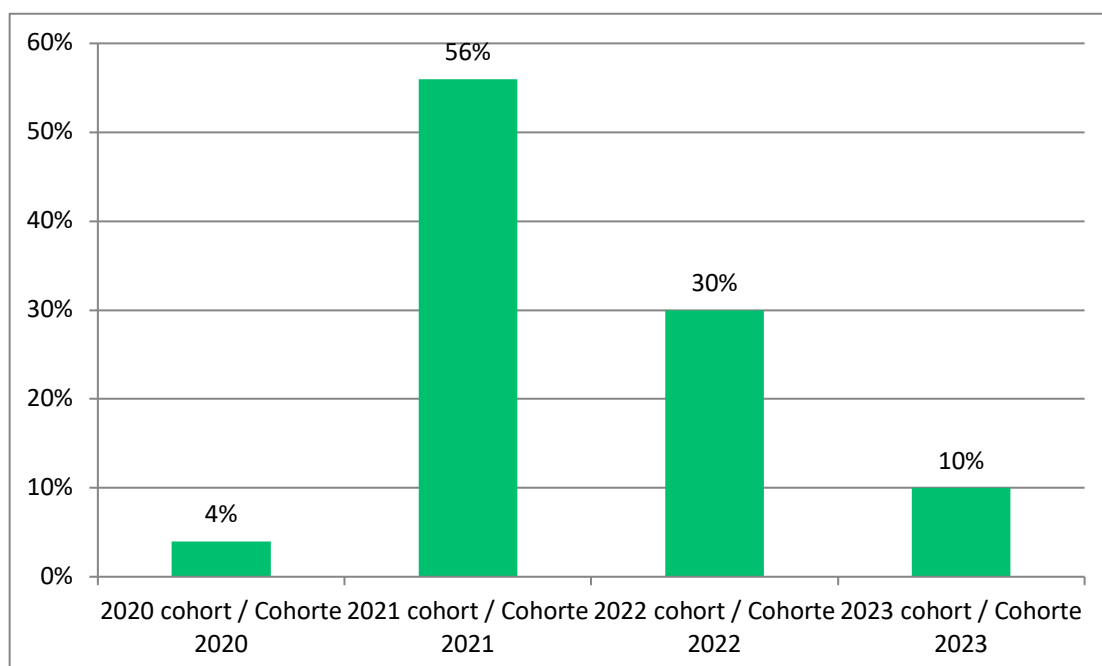
What type of restoration activities does your company practice? Select all that apply.
Quel type d'activités de restauration votre entreprise pratique-t-elle ? Sélectionnez toutes les réponses qui s'appliquent



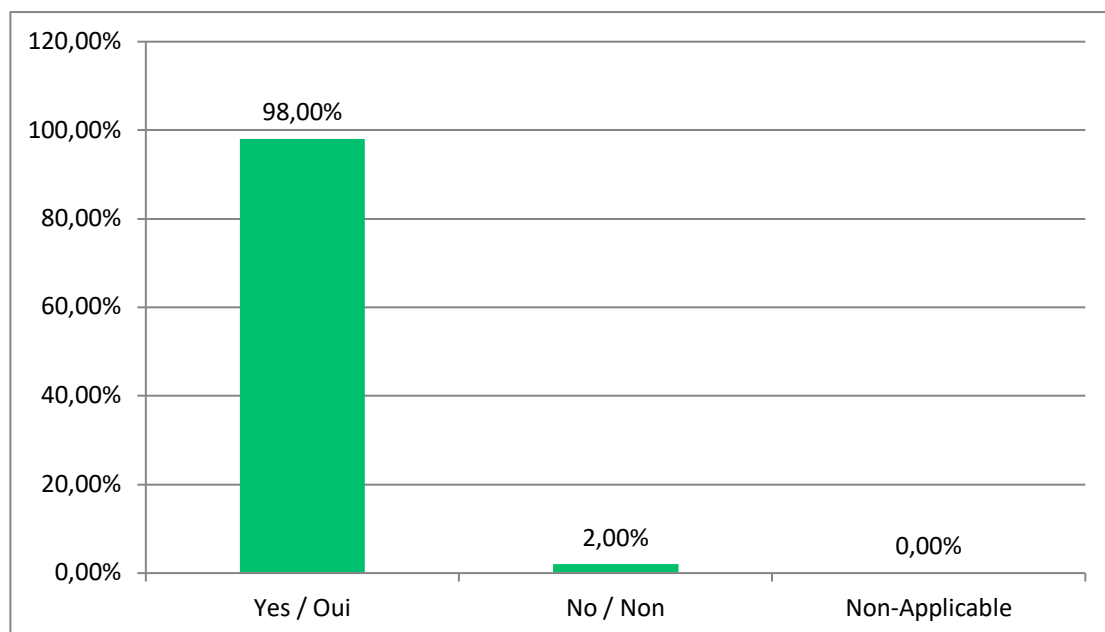
What is the approximate total number of persons involved in your supply chain?
Quel est le nombre total approximatif de personnes impliquées dans votre chaîne d'approvisionnement ?



In which year of the land accelerator training programme did you participate? En quelle année du programme de formation d'accélérateur foncier avez-vous participé?

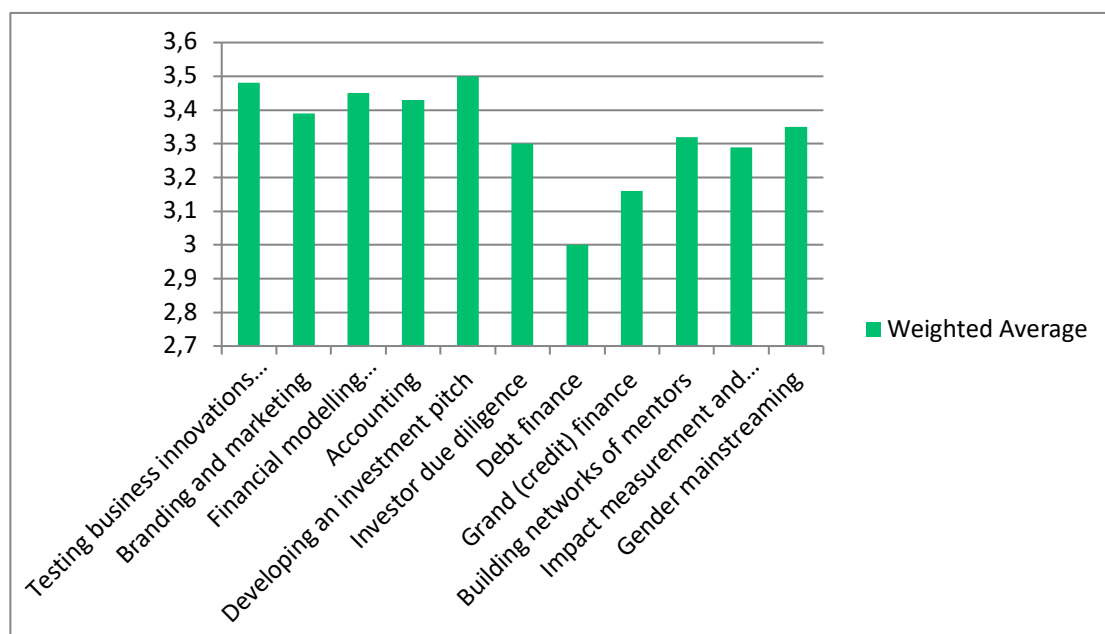


Did you complete the training programme? Avez-vous terminé le programme de formation?

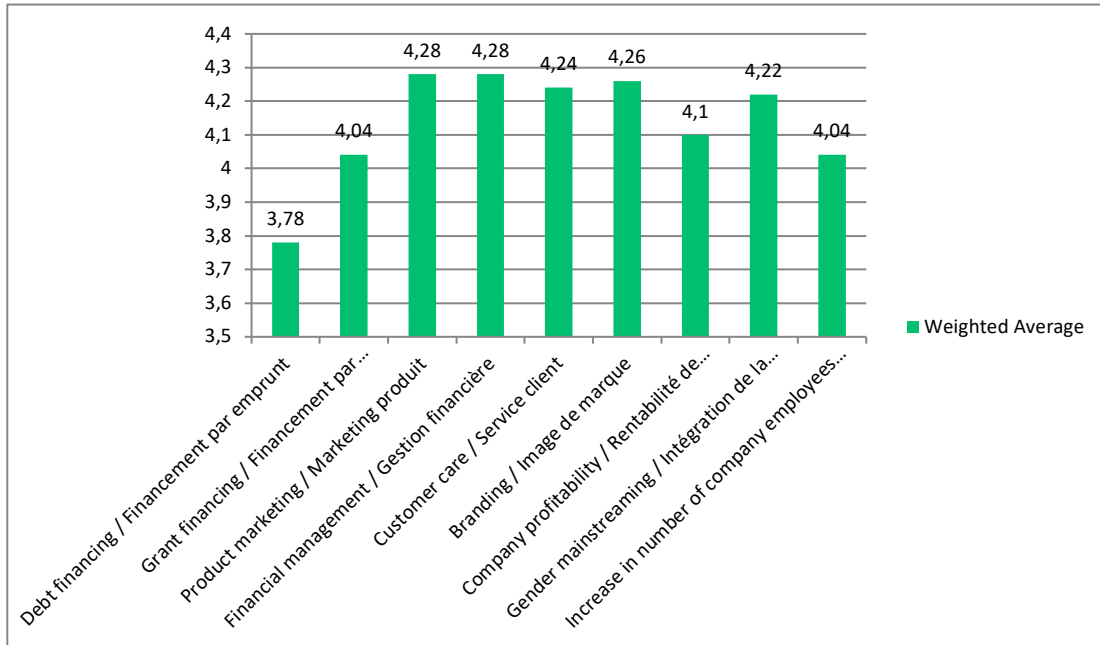


Imøl

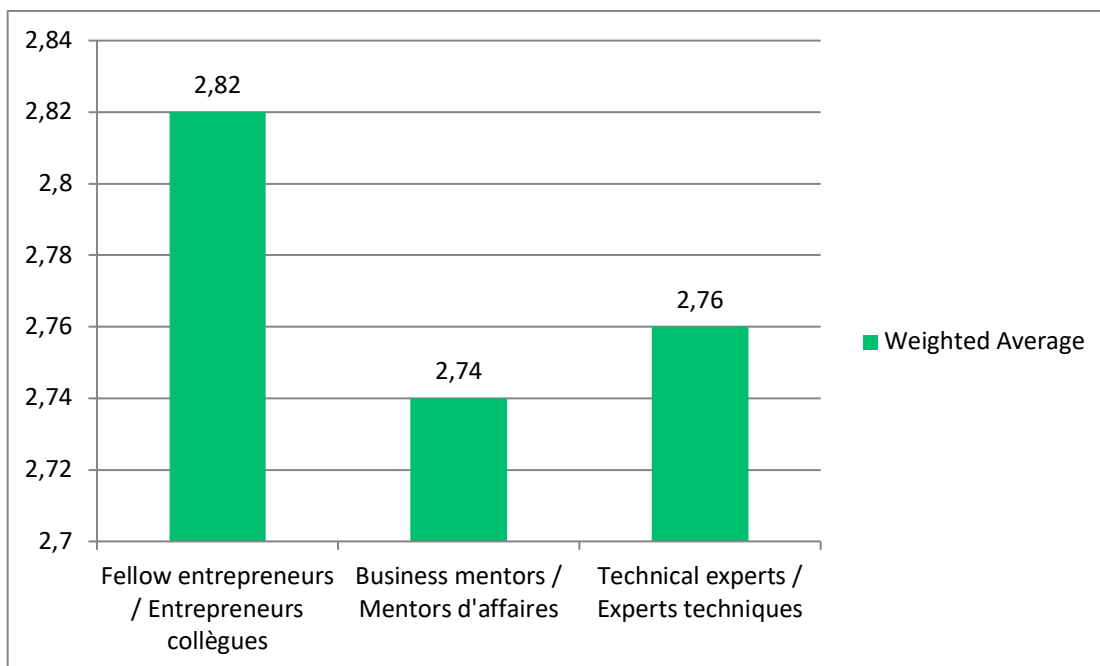
Since undertaking the training programme, how would you rate the usefulness of the following topics to your business?



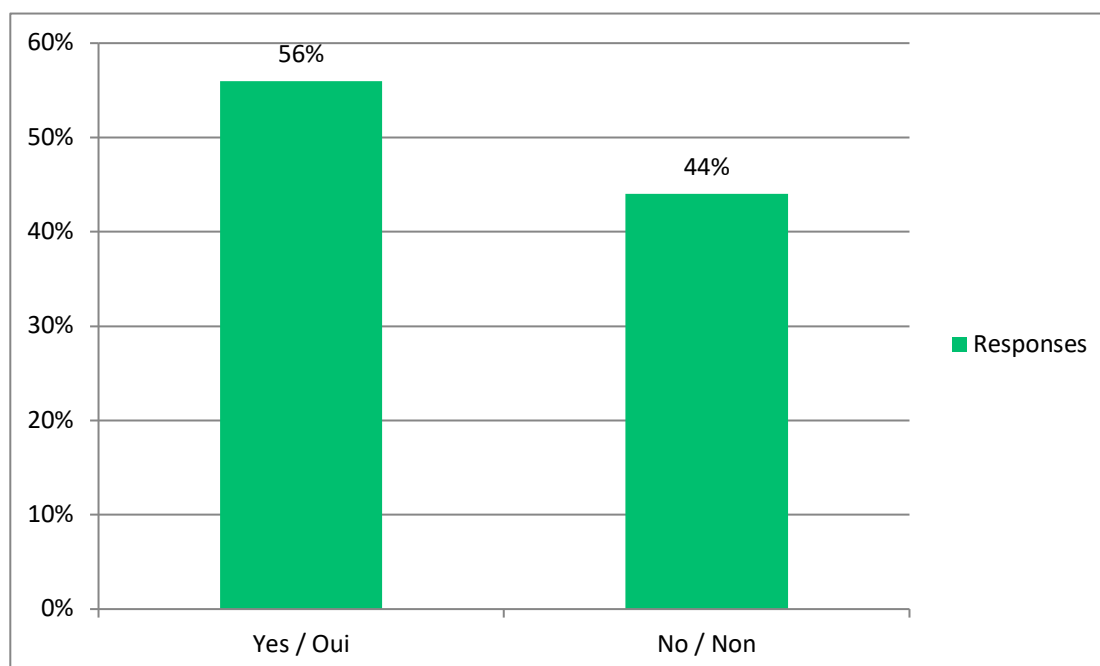
How would you rate the impact/effect of the training on the following aspects of your business? Comment évalueriez-vous l'impact de la formation sur les aspects suivants de votre entreprise ?



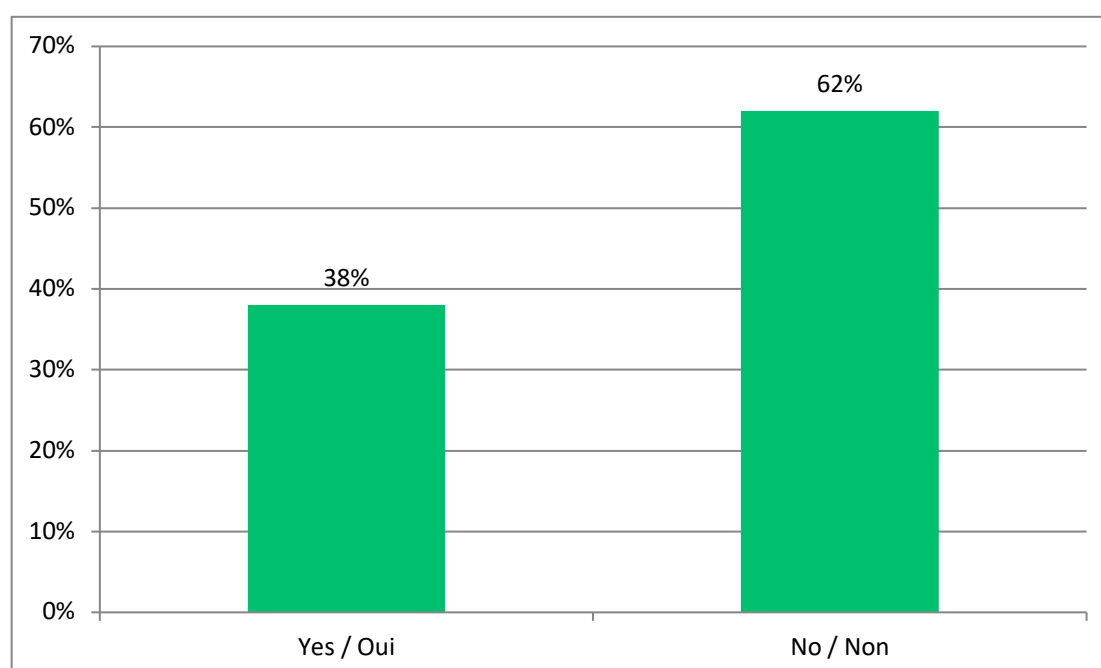
How would you rate the support you received from the following networks in the period after completing the training? Comment évalueriez-vous le soutien que vous avez reçu des réseaux suivants au cours de la période suivant la fin de la formation?



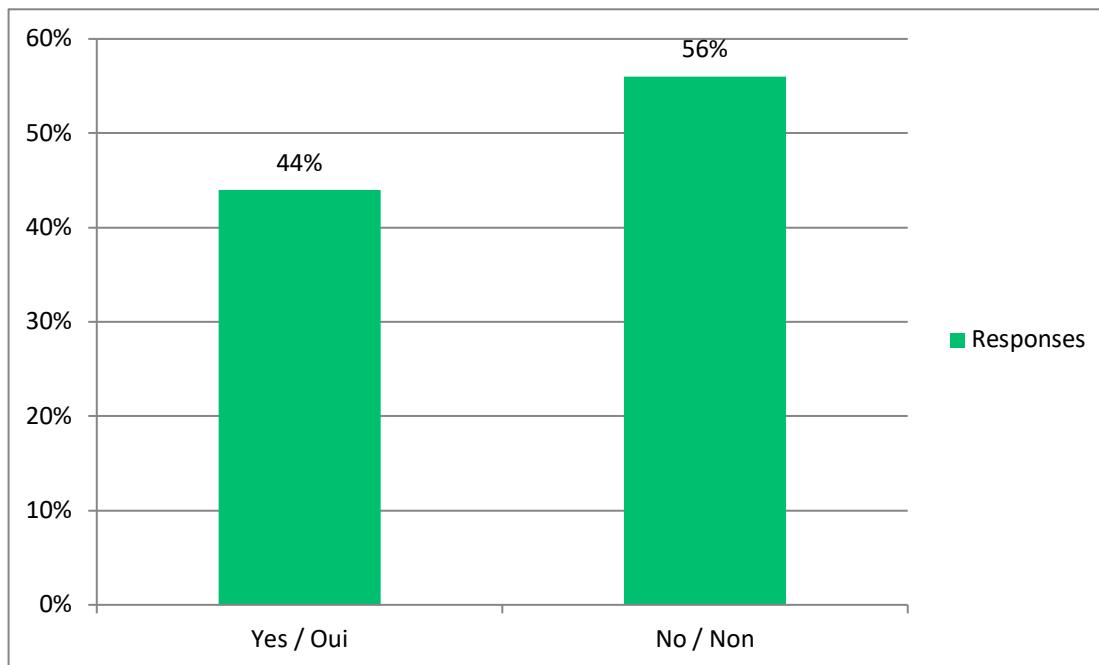
Did you receive a grant from the AFR100 Programme? Avez-vous reçu une subvention du programme AFR100?



Have you received any support from the Government? Avez-vous reçu un soutien du gouvernement?



Do you report your forest and land restoration contributions to any government institution? Déclarez-vous votre contribution à la restauration des forêts et des terres à une institution gouvernementale?



Annex 5: Documentation

AFR100 Implementation: Monitoring/Tracking Progress System and Land Accelerator:
 project proposal
 AFR100 Communication Strategy, February 2019
 AFR100 Management Team meeting minutes, 30th November 2022
 AFR100 Management Team quarterly strategic meeting, 29th August 2023
 AFR100 Management Team meeting minutes, October 2022
 AFR100 Annual Partnership Meeting 7 report
 AFR100 Partners Manual: Principles, Governance, and Core Processes
 AFR100 monitoring framework
 AUDA-NEPAD AFR100 Gender Action plan, April 2021
 AUDA-NEPAD, State of AFR100: The progress of forest landscape restoration by
 implementing partners, 2022
 Audit report for World Resource Institute, March 2022
 Database of the AFR100 technical and financial partners
 Database of AFR100 stakeholders
 Data Collection and Monitoring Tool Platform
 Final Technical Report for Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)
 Support to the AUDA-NEPAD Africa Forest Landscapes Restoration Initiative (AFR100), 1st
 December 2020 to 31st May 2023
 Land accelerator survey learning report, 2023
 Land accelerator applicant guidelines and curriculum overview Africa programme 2023
 Semi annual technical report: Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
 (SIDA) Support to the AUDA-NEPAD Africa Forest Landscapes Restoration
 Initiative (AFR100) 1 December 2020 to 31 May 2021
 Sida Grant activity plan and budget 2021
 World Resource Institute, Final Narrative Report for AFR100 Implementation:
 Monitoring/Tracking Progress System and Land Accelerator, 30 September 2022

Annex 6: List of interviewees

Institution/ country	Position/ role
AUDA-NEPAD	Acting Head Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability
	Project Focal Point
	Gender Mainstreaming into AFR100 projects
	Communication Officer
	Tracking and Monitoring Forest Landscape Restoration
	Senior Manager for WRI's Land Restoration Programs in Africa
	Stakeholder engagement
Tanzania	Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism
Nigeria	Ministry of Environment
Chad	Ministry of the Environment and Fisheries
South Africa	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment
Burkina Faso	Ministry of Environment
Chad	Ministry of the Environment and Fisheries
Madagascar	Ministry of Environment, Ecology , the Sea and Forestry
Togo	Ministry of Environment and Resources Forestières
Cameroon	Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife
Cameroon	Ministry of the Environment, Protection of Nature
Kenya	Kenya Forestry Services
African Union Commission	GGWIS Coordinator
Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) GIZ	Tanzania
Conservation International (CI)	East Africa Managing Director and Kenya Country Lead
International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)	Focal person
The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)	Project Coordinator
ECCAS	Expert en charge de l'Economie Forestière et la Gestion Durable des Forêts
Consultants	Technical Design of Restoration Registry
	Operationalizing AFR100 Monitoring Framework, Registry, and Scoping Study
Management team	GEA (Ever Green Alliance)
	FAO
	WWF
	World Bank



Mid-Term Evaluation of the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100) - Phase I.

Purpose and Use:

This Mid-Term Evaluation of AFR100 Phase I (Dec 2020–May 2023) was commissioned to inform dialogue between Sida, WRI, and AUDA-NEPAD. It assessed implementation progress, identified effective strategies and gaps, and supported Sida's broader strategic decision-making on biodiversity and sustainable land use in Africa.

Conclusion:

The Sida intervention was relevant and helped move AFR100 from mobilisation to implementation. While outputs were delivered, limited time, weak focal point capacity, and insufficient domestic funding hindered outcome-level progress.

Collaboration was stronger at the continental level but lacked structure and sustainability downstream. Monitoring and learning systems were underdeveloped, reducing effectiveness and uptake of results.

Recommendations:

Revise the Theory of Change to clarify the community-level pathway; improve collaboration through a long-term strategy; strengthen national platforms and focal point capacity; enhance data use and knowledge management; update the communication strategy; and integrate tools into national plans while developing partnerships for programme sustainability.

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