

**STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN FOR
COMMITMENT BASED INITIATIVE CBI 6: LOCALLY MANAGED ECOSYSTEMS
'PROMOTE LOCALLY AND COMMUNITY LED RESTORATION, CONSERVATION
AND USE OF ECOSYSTEMS IN AFRICA'**

A. TRANSFORMATIVE STRATEGY

1. Overview

Ecosystems degradation, has emerged as a primary concern for policy makers in Sub-Saharan Africa. Degradation can significantly reduce the ecosystems capacity to produce food, ecosystems services and sustain rural livelihoods. Expansion onto marginal lands has already taken place in many areas, and the subsequent degradation and inherent low productivity of the marginal lands is likely to pose a threat to feeding a fast-growing population over the coming few decades. If ecosystems degradation is not adequately addressed, it is likely to jeopardize future food security and other ecosystems services for more people in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Key sub-Saharan ecosystems covered under this commitment are including, but not exclusively limited to the following: Drylands, Mountains, Marine and wetlands and Rainforests. Most countries under the above ecosystems are amongst the poorest in the world; they face a growing population, an increased demand for food products, climate change associated risks such as drought and floods, poor soils and poor management practices that constantly expose them to land degradation. In such zones, an increasing demand for food products and ecosystem services has put an enormous pressure on natural ecosystems leading to their degradation, consequently affecting livelihood of the inhabiting communities.

Land restoration initiatives have figured on the agenda of several global initiatives for many decades. However, for an approach to be successful, it would need to be adapted to local context and operate at the local level, putting local communities at the center of the process. Living in unfavourable conditions, communities adapted and developed an extensive knowledge of their environment, built through several generations interacting with the same ecosystem and witnessing its alterations throughout the years. They have developed their own adaptation strategies based on their traditional ecological knowledge and their perceptions, subsequently

reaching an efficient approach. Therefore, understanding communities' perceptions of the drivers of ecosystems degradation, and their indigenous knowledge on both degradation and restoration processes are preliminary steps towards building an inclusive approach that promotes sustainable ecosystems restoration by the communities. Moreover, participatory decision-making and management at community level is key for ecosystems sustainability. The initiative will equip local communities, IPs and other marginalised groups in ecosystems, with the tools they need to accurately understand land degradation dynamics to influence policies and interventions, and to reverse land degradation across those ecosystems through interventions that promote their restoration, conservation and use.

The initiative top-priorities would include the following key topics:

- Identify drivers of degradation of ecosystems in Sub-Saharan Africa, including existing local knowledge from local communities and IPs on the restoration and conservation practices of ecosystems,
- Empower local, indigenous communities and other marginalised land users' groups, engage them, and uplift their capacities to be the championing voice in the restoration, conservation and use in territorial and ecosystems management,
- Document the best practices based on indigenous local knowledge and science-based evidence, for upscaling the restoration, conservation of ecosystems; and
- Identify youth, women and indigenous groups for programs on LME (Locally Managed Ecosystems) and build capacities to upscale best practices to other groups in various target ecosystems.

This will allow other ILC members, donors and policymakers to fine-tune the design of subsequent programs whose goal is to transform the livelihoods and resilience of Africa poorest smallholder farm families, including Indigenous Peoples. This initiative's ambition is thus to be more than an intervention that will benefit thousands of families. It is to be a useful, actionable proof-of-concept that leaves donors and policymakers with the confidence that investing in these approaches is likely to be the most cost-effective rural development tool at their disposal for the benefit of local communities, youth and women, and Indigenous Peoples.

2. The Goal and expected outcomes

The initiative goal is to realize a people-centred approach that recognizes and promotes the role of traditional knowledge of local communities and indigenous peoples (IPs) for the restoration, conservation and sustainable use of ecosystems in Sub-Saharan Africa. This would be achieved through building a community of best-practices to influence policies and existing institutional frameworks towards a local and sustainable management of ecosystems.

The commitment aims to identify and offer community-based solutions to problems of ecosystems degradation, access and ownership of restored ecosystems. Improving access and availability of productive ecosystems will enhance livelihood options to the poorest communities and IPs of Africa. The initiative proposes to bring together many national, regional and ILC members and other partners to empower and influence local communities and indigenous peoples engaging them and uplifting their capacities to be the championing voice in ecosystems agroforests restoration and conservation in sub-Saharan African countries. The commitment will identify youth and women groups participating in the ecosystems restoration programs in sub-Saharan African countries. Such groups would be provided with the knowledge they need to better manage and local control of ecosystems for their enhanced restoration/management.

The platform is building on indigenous knowledge and understandings to enhance changes in wider policy, practice and stakeholder capacity for ecosystems management through access and ownership rights changes and best practices/guidelines to achieve environmental sustainability. Local communities and IPs will have their skills improved, through capacity building, to evaluate land degradation and able to disseminate good practices for ecosystems restoration. The platform would stimulate changes through the promotion of gender equality and empowering women and girls and IPs usufruct right to restored ecosystems. Such strategies involving local communities and IPs would lead to more sustainable and viable livelihoods, accessible ecosystems and improved food and nutritional security, generating income and other ecosystem services (ESs), and increased climate resilience.

The main changes/outcomes, the platform seeks to contribute to are:

- More resilient and sustainable ecosystems based on participative management translate into improved livelihoods for local communities and Indigenous Peoples,

- Sustainable territorial and ecosystems management (conducive) policies and approaches, including documented best practices shared with members and adopted in target ecosystems, and
- Strong partnerships between members/partners and an established community of practices based ecosystems restoration and conservation actions for an initiative advocacy plan for engagements with governments, donors and other stakeholders on youth, women and IPs land rights,

3. Stakeholders analysis

Actors/Stakeholders relevant to this commitment include International Land Coalition (ILC) members, including World Agroforestry (ICRAF) leading the initiative, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Local and grassroots organisations including local communities and IPs, governments, private sector economic/financial actors in the development.

Peoples and institutions that will be directly and positively affected by the programme include the poorest and most vulnerable local communities and IPs, targeting mostly women, youth and other vulnerable groups with target ecosystems. Such communities would be the final beneficiaries of the initiative, and national/development policy makers and policy implementers all benefiting from solid evidence generated by the changes in policies and sustainable management of target ecosystems. Rural populations, local communities and IPs, who live in the target ecosystems of Sub-Saharan Africa are the main users of the land across the target countries, where large-scale commercial farming is still a rarity. They are the most severely affected by land degradation and desertification and, indeed, such communities are the main actors and beneficiaries of this programme.

Within this large group of local communities and IPs, two sets of stakeholders stand out. The first are women, and the second are the youth. In Africa women constitute about half of smallholder farmers and should be consulted and participate in the key decisions regarding ecosystems management, including their restoration. Such communities would play a critical role, e.g. in agroforestry-based value chains, yet they suffer from a vast range of discriminatory practices. Youth, used here to represent a range of socially differentiated groups of young people in those communities, are numerous and need secure livelihood options. Working with women

and youth is therefore expected to achieve many mutually reinforcing objectives, including better livelihoods, sustainable ecosystems and more equitable access to resources. ILC members, partners and NGOs, national/regional and international organisations working in partnership with local communities and IPs can play a vital role in the restoration of ecosystems, land and tree rights access within the ecosystems. Moreover, such entities may help in the transformation and marketing of tree crops of the ecosystems, thereby driving the development of value chains enhancing communities' livelihoods and indeed inclusive agricultural and environmental growth.

High-level decision-makers and administrators of partner countries, where ecosystems would be targeted, will become sensitized. They will not just focus on the severe economic consequences of ecosystems degradation but gain confidence in their ability to positively influence rural development at scale through indigenous local knowledge of communities, but also through validated data and scientific information from solid evidence generated by changes in policies and management of ecosystems. Influencing country level policy processes will be done in collaboration with National Focal Points of local ILC members and NGOs.

The private sector is key: connecting local communities, IPs and other ecosystems users equitably to value chains brings income, investment, and management knowledge to rural areas. Tree products ranging from timber and firewood to fruits and honey are all locally commercially valuable, and sometimes feed national/regional or even international commodity markets that are largely ignored. The programme will identify promising value chains in its areas of interventions and boost them by engaging with the companies active in them, particularly micro, small and medium-sized enterprises. Other opportunities for investments in timber or fuel wood trees, either intercropped in cropping systems, or through farm woodlots with sequential agroforestry into the ecosystems. Appropriate private investment funds targeting agroforestry investments, especially those further supporting and strengthening the role and rights of women and youth, who often play a leading role in agroforestry-based value chains, would be part of the key partners for this initiative.

Other donor and development agencies and partners, including development banks, are also struggling with the need to identify interventions that combine a high probability of success with as low a unit cost as possible. By carefully documenting economic, social and environmental trends in the commitment areas, ensuring they are solidly and conclusively analysed including

the indigenous local knowledge from communities and IPs, this initiative will give many other essential keys to unlock the overall transformative potential of ecosystems approaches.

4. Platform composition

World Agroforestry (ICRAF) is leading, and based on the new International Land Coalition (ILC) operating model, the initiative brought together many national, regional/geographic coverage and ILC members and other partners to empower and influence local communities and government institutions in various ecosystems agroforests for their restoration and conservation in sub-Saharan African countries including: Burkina Faso, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, RDC, Senegal, Togo and Zimbabwe. A list of key target institutions, taking into consideration expertise, regional and ecosystems balance is given under Table 1.

Table 1. Key participating institutions at the commencement of the programme

Institution mentioned into the CBI document	Country
1. Réseau des Organisations Paysannes et des Producteurs de l’Afrique de l’Ouest	Burkina Faso
2. Initiative Prospective Agricole et Rurale (IPAR)	Senegal
3. Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF)	Togo
4. Union pour l’Emancipation de la Femme Autochtone (UEFA)	Congo RDC
5. Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association (KWCA)	Kenya
6. Zimbabwe Regional Environment Organisation (ZERO)	Zimbabwe
7. Sahel ECO (Mali)	Mali
8. World Vision Ethiopia (WVE)	Ethiopia
9. Mbororo Social and Cultural Development Association (MBOSCUDA)	Cameroun
10. Programme Intégré pour le Développement du Peuple Pygmée au Kivu (PIDP)	Congo RDC

Key members herewith defined in Table 1, established as a Working Group (WG), and have appointed the Host Organisation, the Facilitator and the organisations members of the Steering Committee for the initial 3 years of the Strategy. The WG has also defined the vision and key issues of the Strategy. Moreover, the Group defined the Thematic Areas of the platform. Other key members would, including donors, be contacted in Year 1 and beyond for a strong and viable platform.

The thematic areas assigned to the platform include the following ecosystems, but not exclusively the following: Drylands, Mountains, Marine and wetlands and Rainforests. Geographic coverage of such key ecosystems would be assessed during year 1 of this strategy.

Table 2 shows a list of non-exhaustive key members and donors to be contacted, mostly in Year-one of the strategy (refer to the Action Plan), for their adherence to the platform. Such members would help the platform financially and technical advice. The platform will target alliances in the crossroads between agriculture, environmental conservation and forestry and as such will complement the support to agriculture and food/nutritional security in partner various ecosystems where they are engaged. By helping at the policy level, and additional funding for prioritized field action, it is expected to help address key policy and regulatory constraints and signpost concrete pathways to scale-up ecosystems restoration.

Table 2. Key Alliances to be contacted in Y1 for adherence to the programme

Institution mentioned into the CBI document	Country
1. International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)	Global
2. Resource Conflict Institute (RECONCILE)	Global
3. UNCCD	Global
4. IFAD	Global
5. UNEP	Global
6. Natural Justice	Global
7. FAO	Global
8. World Bank (WB)	Global
9. African Union (AU)	Pan-African
10. African Development Bank (AfDB)	Pan-African
11. NEPAD/AFR100	(AU) Regional
12. Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI)	Global
13. REPALEAC	Regional
14. ROPPA	Regional
15. Slow Food	Global
16. UN Human Rights	Global
17. IUCN	Global
18. WWF	Global
19. Indigenous and Conserved Communities Areas (ICCA/APAC)	Global
20. Landmark	Global
21. World Resources Initiative (WRI)	Global

5. Synergies:

The initiative will build alliances with CSO, national, regional and global institutions promoting enhanced productivity and sustainability of various ecosystems in Sub-Saharan Africa, enhanced livelihood of rural poor populations and those advancing the rights of women, youth and Indigenous Peoples and land and resource rights access rights. As part of ILC Coalition, the

platform will work closely with National Engagement Strategies (NES) and Commitment Based Initiatives (CBIs) promoting agrarian reforms, increased tenure rights for communities and IPs, community forests, women and youth, IPs other marginal groups rights.

Within the coalition, the platform will work more closely with NES Tanzania on rangelands, securing women's land rights and lands for communities and pastoralists. The initiative would be also interested and make alliances with CBI2 (Strong Small-Scale Farming systems) led by 'Reseau des Organisations Paysannes et de Producteurs de l'Afrique de l'Ouest' (ROPPA) on farmers' access to land resources for the challenges of food supply; CBI3 (Diverse Tenure Systems) on Rangelands with Resource Conflict Institute (RECONCILE) making rangelands secure and accessible to communities and IPs; CBI4 (Equal Land Rights for Women) promoting women's land rights in Africa along with Women in law and Development (WiLDAF) and Oxfam and the 'Plateforme Regionale des Organisations Paysannes d'Afrique Centrale' (PROPAC); CBI5 (Secure Territorial Rights for Indigenous Peoples) along with Ogiek Peoples Development (OPDP) working on rights of IPs groups across Africa.

This program will contribute to and complements various initiative working on the restoration and sustainable management of ecosystems across Africa and at global efforts. To avoid duplication of activities and for building on existing experiences at all levels of the implementation of this program, efforts will be deployed in participating, physically or virtually, in various planning meetings and dialoguing with members and allies working in the same areas; and refer to various related documents. Such institutions would be invited in the initiative's meetings and share with key documents and reports.

Regionally and globally, the platform will contribute to the Great Green Wall of the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative of the African Union by supporting restoring drylands and SLM by local communities. Moreover, ILC is supporting the three Rio Conventions: The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) adopted in 1992 at the "Earth Summit" in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. This program will contribute to the implementation of these three Conventions, and the UNCCD and the CBD and its Strategic Plan for Biodiversity by addressing the links between climate change and ecosystems, forests, combating desertification, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable land use and land

management for food production. The role of healthy soils in addressing climate change and ensuring food security was a major focus of the 21st Conference of the Parties on climate change in Paris. The Parties (197 countries) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) identified the land sector that covers agriculture and forestry in their Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC). This initiative will therefore contribute to the implementation of the Nationally Determined Contributions of participating countries through various ecosystems.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes the importance of the conservation and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems (Goal 15) and of reversing land degradation and achieving Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) by the year 2030 (target 15.3). The objective of LDN is to ensure that the productive land resources we depend on for ecosystem services (water, food, rainfall, etc.) remain at least stable or are being regenerated. Two joint actions need to be taken to make land degradation neutrality happen: avoid further land degradation and recover already degraded land – key target for this initiative. These two actions are at the heart of this platform.

About Goal 4 in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls (and youth), the initiative seeks to promote inclusion and non-discrimination. It will do so by paying close attention to the role and rights of women and youth in relation to land use and the benefits derived from ecosystems; it will actively engage women and youth's organisations; and it will strengthen women and youth's role in production systems and value chains. Moreover, local communities, IPs and other marginalised groups will be at the centre of the gender concerns. More parties will be contacted to support the initiative.

6. Theory of change (ToC) and milestones.

Increasing demand for food products and ecosystem services has put an enormous pressure on various ecosystems leading to their degradation, consequently affecting livelihood of the inhabiting communities and Indigenous Peoples. A successful ecosystems restoration initiative needs to be adapted to local context and operate at the local level, putting local communities at the center of the process.

Understanding farmers perceptions of the drivers of land degradation, and their local knowledge on both degradation and restoration processes are preliminary steps towards building an inclusive approach that promotes sustainable ecosystems restoration by the rural and local communities. Moreover, participatory decision-making and management at community level is key for ecosystems sustainability. Therefore the ‘Locally Managed Ecosystems’ commitment will focus on to enhance livelihoods, food and nutritional security, and resilience to climate change, and to restore ecosystem services for local communities and IPs through ecosystems sustainable restoration, conservation and use. The Action Plan and the Monitoring and Evaluation of this strategy gives details of milestones/outputs to be achieved during the 3-year plan.

Connect

Locally-Managed Ecosystems will create and connect stakeholders’ platforms to dialogue, share and build together the Terms of Reference on Locally Managed Ecosystems (LME) for key target ecosystems namely: Drylands, Rainforests, Marine and Wetlands, Mountains. The initiative will map out activities conducted to various ecosystems and contexts to identify priorities to be linked and complement actions of other ILC NES, CBI and other national, regional and global institutions contributing to the restoration and conservation of ecosystems in Africa. For a wide spread land restoration benefiting to local communities and IPs, this CBI will connect all interested alliances and partners putting efforts together for a change in mindset of stakeholders, as a people centered LME. Therefore, the platform would become an agenda of all members and being integrated within appropriate and conducive policies and programs in target ecosystems.

Mobilise

For a transformative impact, this initiative will develop a global land restoration strategy and policies enabling a sustainable natural resources management, implying all land users and communities. The platform will conduct the following key activities to enable the establishment of evidence-based of successes in the restoration and conservation of ecosystems; and policy changes for the management of various ecosystems in Africa:

- Stakeholder mapping, analysis and gender considerations; and then contacting and contracting new members, partners and donors working on issues regarding the restoration and conservation of ecosystems for the implementation of the Strategy,
- Conduct identification, analysis, mapping and characterising target ecosystems, including local communities conserved areas in various contexts, and have them linked to global databases (e.g. Land Mark, ICRAF, WWF, WRI etc),
- Conduct a scoping study for mapping, identifying and documenting land degradation dynamics including drivers of land degradation, best land restoration practices, communities' local knowledge and skills, dimensions and indicators in target ecosystems, using baseline, and trend data for policy decision making and for monitoring the achievement of target ecosystems,
- Create/develop on-line databases on best practices on the restorations and conservation of ecosystems and have them linked to ILC database.
- Develop/Establish a community of practice informed by existing best practices, based on communities' indigenous/local knowledge, best land restoration practices identified and discussed/validated and disseminated in publications, manuals, toolkits, policy briefs and guidelines for training different stakeholders including women, youth and IPs on the best restoration and conservation of ecosystems,
- Understand countries' policy and regulatory frameworks are more conducive to the scaling-up of the best practices for the restoration and conservation of target ecosystems,
- Capacity building on agroforests, landscapes and sustainable land management practices empowering partners' and community institutions to analyse, document and disseminate evidence on women/youth land rights would target agribusiness actors including women, youth, women and IPs, and conduct multi-stakeholders' forums on gender issues along land-based investments.

The results developed, and lessons learnt through the platform will be used to strengthen the capacities of members through more trainings of stakeholders and further plans to advocate for women's rights, youth and IPs and raise awareness.

Influence

The initiative will influence national, regional and global policies governing the restoration, conservation and use of ecosystems in the target contexts. Through participatory, sustainable and community led ecosystems management, this initiative will campaign for the transformation, access and tenure of ecosystems/landscapes and the restoration of degraded contexts. The private sector, local communities, youth, women and IPs would benefit from enhanced functions of restored ecosystems. The initiative will have the following key issues:

- Establish data-based evidence through scientific studies for data on good practices on the restoration and conservation of ecosystems for sensitizing/advocacy through meetings, conferences, and policy dialogues with policy makers, national governments and relevant stakeholders at all levels,
- Initiate policy analysis, development and implementation of conducive policies on land rights/tenure, gender and management of ecosystems in different contexts,
- Participate in social networks, and in national, regional and global campaigns targeting sustainable ecosystems through various thematic days such as: IPs, Environment, Biodiversity, Terra Madre, International day for rural women ...; and in side events during COPs, CC, UNCCD, CBD, CGIAR, etc.
- Build capacities of youth, women and IPs on the restoration, conservation and use of ecosystems, and engage such communities on LME programs to upscale best practices to influence/initiate dialogues/hearings with policy makers, pan-African representatives, private actors and women, youth and IPs leaders in attainment of ecosystems women/youth and IPs land rights.

The platform will mobilize a global support and finance of development programs that respect environment and community land rights, targeting sustainable LMEs. Efforts will be deployed to have LMEs to become a key agenda against the changing climate, land rights including tenure and gender (youth, women and IPs).

7. Governance of the Platform.

World Agroforestry (ICRAF) – ICRAF Sahel Office was appointed as the Host of the Coordination of the platform until the end of the current strategy. ICRAF will act as host to the team facilitating the collective action of the diverse members adhering the platform. ICRAF will

implement the program by leading a consortium of ILC members interested with the initiative. ICRAF Sahel Office will ensure the overall management, coordination and technical support to the implementation of the platform, including an office for the Platform Facilitator. The designated Facilitator by the WG, is Dr Antoine Kalinganire of ICRAF.

The facilitator must support the governance and implementation of the platform's strategy and facilitate compliance with international benchmarks. She/He needs to develop a sustainable financial model and supporting and coordinating fundraising efforts by SC members, including liaising with potential donors and drafting of proposals; and taking care of administrative duties, including management of financial agreements, and ensuring that all members have access to relevant administrative information.

The facilitator ensures proper communication flow and knowledge sharing with the initiative (e.g. Mailing list, e-bulletins), and increasing the visibility of process through proper communications strategy and means (e.g. website, logo etc) to increase its inclusiveness and political credibility. She/He needs to establish new strategic alliances with potential partners from civil society, intergovernmental organisations, government and public institutions and international financial partners; and ensure proper linkages with other initiatives and land rights movements to avoid overlaps and work on potential synergies. Regarding the management and coordination of the platform, the facilitator must help with the formulation of the workplan, implementation of activities, organising and reporting meetings, develop and implement an M&S system contributing to the ILC system. The facilitator is accountable to the SC and the platform.

The ICRAF Management Team, led by the Facilitator, will have capacity in management, administrative, contracting and financial reporting systems to provide guidance, coordination, and assistance to participating in ILC members and partner organizations. It will ensure effective and efficient delivery of the project outputs, outcomes, and impacts of high quality and on time. The facilitator will lead the Working Group on Locally Managed Ecosystems in Africa composed of appointed member organizations, and will serve as secretary to the platform Steering Committee. ICRAF must meet some standard minimum capacity requirements (such as appropriate organizational status; legal compliance) in order to receive the grant from ILC.

ICRAF as the Host organisation of the platform is committed to the values and principles of the platform, as well as to the agreed Strategy and Action Plan and is an enabler of the platform and

its strategy. ICRAF needs to have the trust of other Platform members, being seen as an honest organisation that acts with integrity and transparency; and that fulfil government and legislation conditions that allow to play a regional coordinating role, including capacity disbursing and receiving funds from and to other countries.

The WG of the Platform has appointed members of the Steering Committee (SC) as per the Geographic Regions and Thematic Areas representation, ensuring members and gender, women and youth, balance.

The steering committee will oversee the overall implementation of the platform, including: providing a strategic direction, approve a POWB and structure of the platform, address emerging issues, endorse the facilitator's report, select a chair of the SG and facilitate and advice linkages to donors. It will be composed of representatives of the main implementing partners/members, including ICRAF. The following organisations have been nominated as part of the Steering Committee representing the nominated Groups:

- **West Africa:** IPAR (Senegal),
- **Central Africa:** MBOSCUDA (Cameroon),
- **East Africa:** KWCA (Kenya),
- **South Africa** (ZERO (Zimbabwe),
- **Indigenous Peoples:** PIDP (RDC),
- **Gender:** WILDAF (Ghana), and
- **Host:** ICRAF Sahel

Moreover, the WG nominated the following thematic focal institutions to be Theme Leaders:

- **Drylands:** Sahel Eco. Members: IPAR, MBOSCUDA, ICRAF, ZERO, KWCA, WVE.
- **Mountains:** World Vision Ethiopia. Members: ICRAF, PIDP
- **Marine/Wetlands:** IPAR. Members: ICRAF, ZERO, Sahel Eco, WVE.
- **Rainforest:** PIDP. Members: IPAR, ICRAF, ZERO, WVE.

The coordinating Group consists of 6 representatives as stated above. These representatives will be named by the member organisations, which have been selected on the Steering Committee.

The Facilitator will act as Secretary to the Committee meetings. The term of office of the Committee members and focal institutions is a period of three years, renewable by one-term

only. The SC meets once, virtually every quarter. The facilitator convenes the meetings and the agenda is a result of a consultation. The SC takes decisions by consensus, if consensus is not reached a consultation of the platform will be needed. The facilitator is responsible for note-taking and ensuring finalised and agreed documents emerging from committee meetings. Finalised documents, including meetings notes, are shared with all platform members.

The responsibilities of the ecosystems lead members will include the development and coordination of a consortium of organizations within the ecosystem who are committed to the accelerated scaling-up of the restoration practices and policies. The lead member will manage its own scaling-up activities, within the framework of the Theory of Change of the ILC (refer to Section # of this strategy), the technical guidance and monitoring of the program, and will pay attention to the exacting Monitoring and Evaluation standards required to deliver the evidence-based insights the program should generate. Each ecosystem's lead will extend grants to other members, local community and IPs-based organizations, and other relevant groups to support activities that contribute to the building of an ecosystems movement based on the successful interventions identified within this program that contribute cost-effectively to the scaling-up process.

An exacting protocol for the selection, award, management and monitoring of small grants will be developed to guide this process. Solid reporting and control lines will be established through a careful cascade of contracts linking the platform with the ecosystem lead with other members and CBOs.

8. Gender:

Women comprise on more than 45% of farm labour in developing countries, whilst owning a tiny fraction of farms. Women are key players in both agricultural, forestry and pastoral production processes. They are the primary natural resource managers, providers of food security, and repositories of knowledge and expertise on indigenous plants, medicines, food and water. And yet, women face discrimination ranging from their poor access to decision-making fora and processes, unfair access to resources, and low priority for extension and support for farms and forests. For that reason, these imbalances as well as the traditional gender norms and roles that underlie them, are determinants of land/ecosystems degradation dynamics.

This initiative scaling-up efforts will pay attention to gender related land use preferences and gender roles in decision-making over land, as well as the structural barriers that reinforce gender based discrimination such as women's equitable access and control over land. Moreover, special attention will be paid to youth, IPs and other marginalised groups. The platform will also ensure the active engagement of women, youth and IPs organisations, as well as other governmental and non-governmental organizations with an interest in, and responsibility for, supporting gender equitable policies and programming policy dialogues and stakeholder platforms efforts. By improving food and nutritional security, access to fuelwood, fruits and other tree products, participation in agroforestry related value-chains, and by increasing resilience, the initiative is very likely to make a significant contribution to improving women's living conditions.

Therefore, the initiative will work out approaches helping to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, youth and IPs. Capacity-building development of public and private rural advisory services to support the scaling-up process of the best practices to restore, conserve and use of ecosystems and conducive policies; with particular attention to gender responsive approaches that foster intra-household collaboration. The platform seeks to promote inclusion and non-discrimination. It will do so by paying close attention to the role and rights of women, youth and IPs and other marginalised groups in relation to land use and the benefits derived from ecosystems; it will actively engage their organisations; and it will strengthen their role in production systems and value chains.

9. Financial sustainability:

ICRAF and members/partners, especially the founding ILC members (ref. Table 1) will work together for mobilizing resources necessary to reach impact. ICRAF and all members/partners will develop a more aggressive resource mobilization (RM) strategy and contingency plan to fully and sustainably support its vision and mission. The platform will make linkages with strategic alliances listed in Table 2, but mostly WWF, WB, ICCA, UNEP, Slow Food, NEPAD, and IUCN) and strategize for an effective RM approach. The initiative will endeavour to strengthen communications at all levels (ref. Communication strategy) to improve its options for resource mobilization. This will include facilitating the demonstration and documentation of the impact of work to be carried out by the Initiative and the marketing of outputs/outcomes to key donors (ref. to Table 3 for key donors for the initiative).

Table 3. Key donors for ‘Locally Managed Ecosystems)

Institution mentioned into the CBI document	Country
1. African Development Bank (AfDB)	Pan-African
2. IFAD	Global
3. UNEP	Global
4. FAO	Global
5. World Bank (WB)	Global
6. NEPAD - African Union (AU)	Global
7. Tenure Facility	Global
8. Slow Food	Regional/Global
9. Global Environment Facility (GEF)	Global
10. DFID	UK/Global
11. UNEP	Global
12. Green Climate Fund	Global
13. BMZ/GIZ	Germany/Global
14. European Union (EU)	Global
15. USAID	USA/Global
16. AusAID	Australia/Global
17. Evergreen Alliance	Global
18. India South-South	India/Global
19. JICA	Japan/Global

To ensure the sustainability of this activity, ICRAF and members/partners will be encouraged to allocate operational budgets to resources mobilization efforts as separate components in the grant proposals. Such budgets would help hiring part-time resource mobilization experts, getting donors’ intelligence, proposal write-up workshops and visits to donors. The initiative will encourage members/partners to respond to competitive calls for landscapes/ecosystems restoration related proposals. Moreover, the Initiative will build excellent relationships and engagements with key donors in Natural Resources Management with special emphasis on ecosystems restoration.

Financial sustainability in the outcome of the program will be maintained and increased from different sources.

Countries processing target ecosystems will be sensitized to the critical importance of restoration and conservation of ecosystems as a foundation for sustainable land management and they will be have increased their annual budget allocations to the further scaling-up of best

practices to continue restoration process. They will also have been motivated to incorporate the acceleration of the scaling-up process into their negotiations with their donors to generate additional financial resources for the scaling-up process. They will also have been motivated to include this agenda in the development of their loan and grant portfolios with key Development Financing organisations such as the African Development Bank, the World Bank, the Green Climate Fund, and their other multilateral sources of development financing.

ILC members/partners including International and national NGOs working with will have built much greater capacity to sustain the scaling-up of the best practices for the restoration and conservation of ecosystems. They will have made this a pillar of their organizational strategies, and they will build upon this foundation by sourcing new and greater sources of financial support through their internal budgeting processes and by receiving greater amounts of financial support for the initiation and continuation of activities on the ground.

The donor community, will have observed the exceptional cost-effectiveness of supporting the scaling-up of the initiative in addressing their development objectives. They will be motivated to increase their investments in this development sphere to restore degraded ecosystems, increase resilience to climate change, increase economic growth, enhance the welfare of local communities, IPs and other marginalised groups on a large scale, and enhance environmental services. And they will find that the governments are more supportive to including the scaling-up of restoration/conservation practices into discussions of future development priorities. Moreover, the private sector will have been attracted to the increased profit-making possibilities from the products and value chains of the increased productivity of agricultural systems in the target ecosystems. They will be making greater follow-on investments in product aggregation, processing, and marketing of the products from various ecosystems.