



Coalition Roadmap 2021

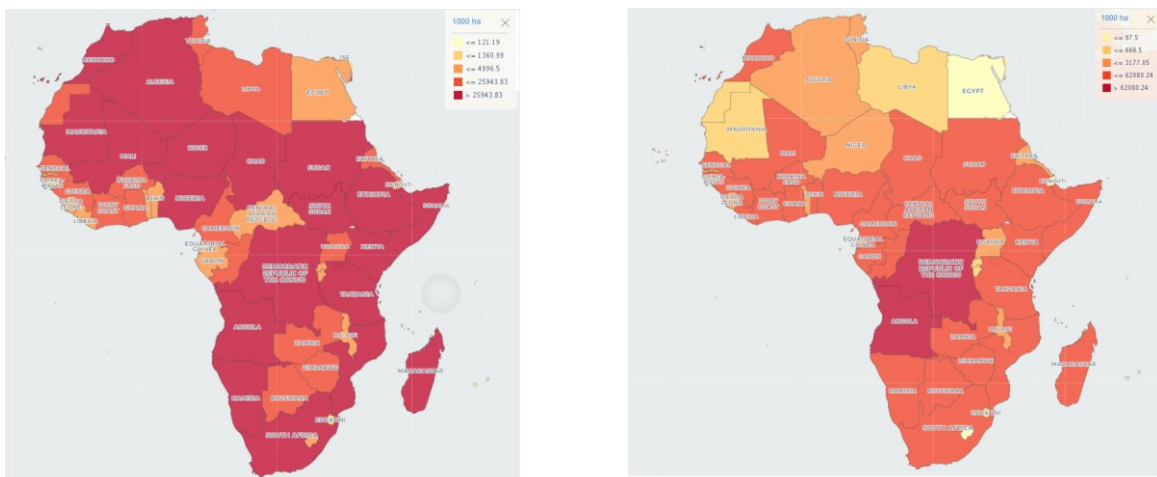
Agriculture, Food and Reforestation

Co-pilots: ICLEI Africa, Regions de France, AVSF, Eating City, Let's Food Cities, ROPPA, REFACC

This 2021/2022 roadmap aims to stimulate a dynamic logic on the way to the next [Climate Chance - Africa Summit](#) where the new targets can be presented as well as concrete examples (in annex) that can influence the revision of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) scheduled for COP26 in November.

I – WHERE ARE WE NOW?

Africa has the fastest growing population in the world, which puts increasing pressure on land resources. In this context, a sustainable balance in land use for agriculture and forests is crucial. In addition to these challenges, there are the risks of climate change, which have already been observed, as well as the great potential for mitigation in the land use sector, and the fact that agriculture is the main means of livelihood in many countries in Africa.



Area of agricultural (left) and forest (right) land by country.¹

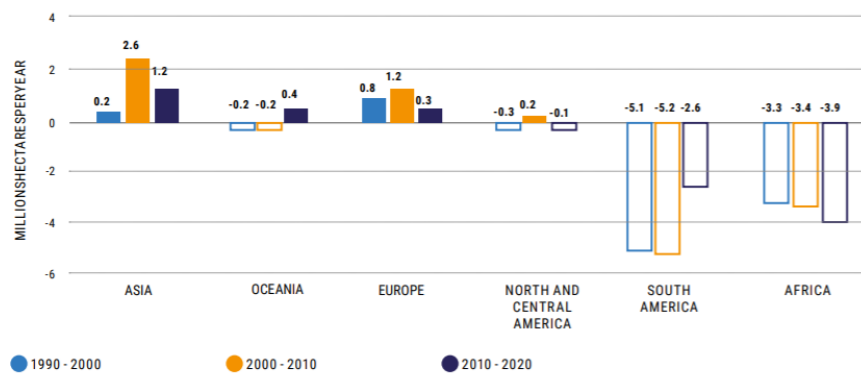
The coalition also recognises, as outlined in its previous roadmap, that agriculture and land use issues are complex and touch on aspects of food security, land rights and gender. In addition, as highlighted in the coalition's 2019 workshop, involving local people, engaging the private sector, promoting innovation and biodiversity also remain priority areas.

¹ [FAO](#), 2018



- The state of deforestation and progress on the Great Green Wall project

FIGURE 2
ANNUAL RATE OF FOREST AREA CHANGE, BY DECADE AND BY REGION 1990-2020
Source: FAO, 2020



LAND USE

According to the 2020 Sector-based Report released by the Climate Chance Observatory², deforestation has continued to devastate Africa's forests, which have lost the most forest area over the last decade, mainly in Eastern and Southern Africa, where the rate of deforestation has increased from 1.35 Mha/year in the 1990s to 1.91 Mha/year in the last decade.

That said, the **Great Green Wall** project is especially important for the region and particularly for this sector given the scope of the ambition of this tree planting project. Indeed, the project plans to green the Sahelian strip from Senegal to Eritrea, i.e. 154 million hectares over 7,000 km in length and 15 km in width, across 11 countries. The activities implemented within the framework of the Great Green Wall have the general objective of **increasing resilience to climate change and supporting agricultural production** and therefore often go beyond the strict definition of reforestation. The development of agroforestry practices, windbreaks, the production of seedlings and plants, the development of irrigation systems, watershed management, the construction of wells and terraces, and the fixing of dunes are all examples of activities contributing to the Great Green Wall. Despite the ambition, the achievement of the objectives is rather slow. It should be noted that the initial objectives of this Great Green Wall (2007) have only been partially achieved. Indeed, in 2020, only 4 Mha - or 4% of the target - have been restored in the Great Green Wall area (mainly in Ethiopia, Niger, and Eritrea).

- Access to finance for project leaders in the agriculture sector

According to Climate Funds Update³ data, the largest funds operating in Sub-Saharan Africa are the Green Climate Fund (\$1,326 million) followed by the Least Developed Countries Fund (\$783 million), the Clean Technology Fund (\$496 million) and the Adaptation Fund (\$264 million). It is important to note that approximately 43% of the allocated funds are dedicated to adaptation in the region, i.e. US\$2,127 million. The other sectors receiving funds are mitigation (general) and REDD mitigation.

² Global Synthesis Report on Sector-based climate action, Climate Chance Observatory <https://www.climate-chance.org/en/comprehend/global-synthesis-report-on-climate-action-by-sector/>

³ Funds operating in Sub-Saharan Africa <https://climatefundsupdate.org/data-dashboard/regions/>

This coalition is co-piloted by ICLEI Africa, Regions de France, AVSF, Eating City, Let's Food Cities, ROPPA, REFACC



- Agroecology and nature-based solutions for agriculture in Africa

As already recalled in the founding text of the Agriculture and Food coalition, it is equally necessary in the African context to promote the development of sustainable agricultural and agri-food models such as agroecology and sustainable aquaculture, which are less fossil fuel and input intensive (unlike the industrialized and intensive type of agriculture which is particularly energy intensive for mechanization, fertilizers, and pesticides), while improving soil fertility and carbon storage.

According to the IUCN, Nature-based Solutions (NBS) are *"actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural or modified ecosystems, that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits"*⁴. It is thus clear that NbS can be used in the agriculture, food, and reforestation sector and especially in agricultural production. As cited in a February 2021 FAO report with The Nature Conservancy⁵, NbS can provide three main benefits in the agriculture sector:

- Resilient food production (Strengthening farmers against weather extremes such as floods, droughts etc.). Diversification of production)
- Climate change mitigation (reducing carbon emissions in the food sector by reducing deforestation, and restoring ecosystems)
- Nature and biodiversity enhancement (strengthening natural habitats and biodiversity, improving water quality etc.

II – WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO?

The last face-to-face workshop to take place was in Accra as part of the second Climate Chance Africa Summit in 2019. Indeed, during this meeting, several key ideas were highlighted by the participants, including

- The importance of **involving local populations in the protection of biodiversity** through agricultural projects that contribute to local economic development
- The importance of **educating local populations** to fight deforestation and land impoverishment
- The importance of **promoting and sharing innovations and involving the private sector** more in biodiversity conservation
- The importance of defining a **legal framework for the protection of biodiversity** in representative bodies of the community and ensuring the application of these laws
- The current transition in agriculture must ensure **food sovereignty and security**
- With 90% of farmers being small-scale producers: challenges **concerning the quality and quantity of production**
- The challenge of **mobilising youth**

⁴ IUCN, <https://www.iucn.org/commissions/commission-ecosystem-management/our-work/nature-based-solutions>

⁵ Nature-based solution in agriculture. The case and pathway for adoption. FAO, The Nature Conservancy. February 2021 <http://www.fao.org/3/cb3141en/CB3141EN.pdf>

This coalition is co-piloted by ICLEI Africa, Regions de France, AVSF, Eating City, Let's Food Cities, ROPPA, REFACC



These ideas are various angles of work that can guide the coalition's action for the year 2021. However, Part III of the roadmap will specify the potential for more concrete action in this year.

At the last workshop organised by the Agriculture Coalition in 2020, members also highlighted the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on the sector. According to the participants of this workshop, we were able to raise the weaknesses of the existing main food supply chains, as they were affected by the closure of borders and the reduction of sales. There was consensus among members on the importance of **direct links between agricultural producers and end consumers as well as local production.**

III – HOW TO GET THERE?

Without a 100% dedicated facilitator for this coalition, the strengthening of its dynamics relies mainly on the **will of its members**. The objectives defined in 2018 have been partially achieved, and we have the virtual opportunity to agree on the next priorities according to the needs of the members.

As such, it is proposed to target two or three actions to be included in the 2021/2022 Roadmap to be realistic and to be able to measure progress.

- **Objective 1: Disseminating information**

Since 2018, a mailing list agriculture-alimentation-reforestation.Af@climate-chance.org was set up to promote exchanges between coalition actors. Climate Chance regularly shares relevant information on agriculture, food and reforestation in Africa. At present, the mailing list counts over 400 members and is mainly run by the Climate Chance team. **Coalition members are strongly encouraged to share any information that could be useful to other members.**

- *A newsletter (monthly or bi-monthly) co-authored by coalition members highlighting recently published good practice from the sector on mapping, funding opportunities, calls for projects, training opportunities, interesting events, etc.*

- **Objective 2: Creating a network of actors**

We propose that coalition members continuously map interesting actors, best practices, high impact, scalable and replicable projects in the Agriculture, food and reforestation sector. Climate Chance could promote these initiatives through its [Cartography for Action](#), the [Climate Library](#), publications in the [Observatory's Synthesis Reports](#) or social media posts on Climate Chance's pages. These projects will also be promoted through our Portal of Action, and more broadly, they will be able to inspire the community of non-state actors that are part of the coalition. To share a project, [simply fill in this form](#).

- **Objective 3: Identifying subgroups of actors**

In order to identify more defined opportunities for collaboration and to bring together as many specialised actors as possible, we would like to form subgroups of actors by specific sub-themes

This coalition is co-piloted by ICLEI Africa, Regions de France, AVSF, Eating City, Let's Food Cities, ROPPA, REFACC



within the coalition. The sub-groups will be able to work on common projects and encourage replication of best practices that work. In a first step, we can define 3 sub-groups:

- Subgroup 1: Local food policies
- Sub-group 2: Green microfinance for sustainable food chains
- Sub-group 3: Protection of woodlands

If you would like to be an active member of a sub-group, please write to us indicating your current activities and the sub-group you would like to contribute to: association@climate-chance.org. Please also contact us if you would like to propose another sub-group.