



Landscape Restoration Evidence Series

JOINT REFLECTIVE LEARNING MISSIONS: A novel approach to annual monitoring and adaptive learning

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How the Join Reflective Learning Missions (JRLM) works



Reflective learning in a large research for development project

By 2022, Regreening Africa aims to improve aims to improve smallholder farmers' livelihoods, food security and resilience to climate change by restoring ecosystems, particularly through agroforestry. Funded by the European Union, this five-year project seeks to reserve land degradation among 500,000 households and across 1 million hectares in Sub-Saharan Africa. The project is focused on eight countries including Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Niger, Rwanda, Somaliland/Puntland and Senegal.

Regreening Africa has two core aims. The first seeks to scale-up evergreen agriculture using locally appropriate, agroforestry techniques, such as farmer-managed natural regeneration and tree planting. The second core aim of the programme focuses on strategic decision making for scaling. This entails working across the eight countries to collect and apply evidence in multi-stakeholder engagement and policy processes. Through these engagement processes and technical advisory, the programme aims to equip the countries with the surveillance and analytical tools for land degradation that support strategic decision-making and monitoring.

Given the complex nature of the programme, a robust engagement process was designed in order to adapt the annual planning cycles according to first-hand experiences and evidence.



The SHARED decision hub works within Regreening Africa to strengthen the linkages across science, practice and policy. The SHARED component focuses on relationships, tailored engagement and breaks down the complexity within the programme to sequence these engagements and access to evidence to technically backstop both the implementation learning and policy entry points.

Joint reflection and learning missions were designed using the SHARED method. The result was an innovative monitoring, reflection and co-learning opportunity between all project partners, across the eight countries.



Practitioners, farmers, scientists, and decision makers work together through structured engagement processes to interrogate and reflect upon evidence and experience to plan for greater impact.

JRLMs leverage the strength of dynamic and collaborative teams that come together to collect on-the-ground data and analyse it reflectively. The uniquely designed JRLMs provided the opportunity for World Agroforestry (ICRAF) scientists, project managers, implementing NGOs, National Oversight Coordination Committee (NOCC) members, and farmers to jointly query and learn from one another's evidence and experience, build on project momentum and consider revising the scaling strategies.

The process of the JRLM

Field Visits

Structured interaction among farmers, local authorities, development practitioners, national government, scientists in farmers fields.

Interrogation of interactive evidence wall

- Field progress, challenges and opportunities.
- Citizen science from Regreening Africa App.
- Land health data.

Reflections on implementation, scaling and leveraging

Designing amendments to technical support, implementation, outreach and communications, and capacity building based on evidence interrogation.

Policy influencing

Using tools such as outcome mapping to clearly articulate target stakeholders for change, process for engagement and messaging.



Goals of the JRLM

- **Creating a neutral space.** Provides a space to jointly and honestly reflect on challenges, mistakes, innovations and bring together implementation and scientific findings and perceptions.
- **Structuring dialogue for deeper understanding.** Uses facilitation to understand the overall system, unpack themes, trends, behaviours and implications.
- **Monitoring that makes a difference.** Allows for the rapid reflection and incorporation of evidence and experience for course correction and adaptive planning processes
- **Strengthened relationships and enhanced interaction.**

Contact

Mieke Bourne
Regreening Africa Programme Manager
m.bourne@cgiar.org



Further resources

regreeningafrica.org
[JRLMs Blogs](#)

This evidence series was developed by researchers and practitioners spearheading the new Landscape Restoration TPP, with support from GLF www.globallandscapesforum.org



Landscape Restoration
Transformative Partnership
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