

Landscape Restoration Evidence Series

MONITORING RESTORATION - THE REGREENING AFRICA APP



04

Enabling local stakeholders to monitor restoration

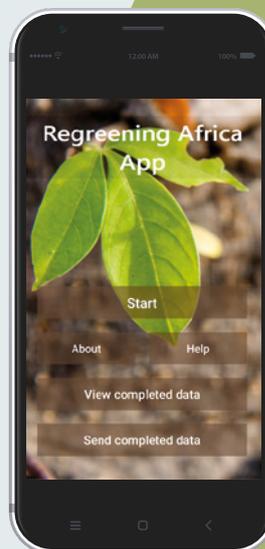
The Regreening Africa is a free, mobile-based App that is bringing farmers, government and project partners in Africa the science of monitoring land restoration. Designed and developed by World Agroforestry (ICRAF) under the Regreening Africa project, the user-friendly App seeks to accelerate the project's target to regreen one million hectares of degraded land and restore 500,000 household livelihoods across eight countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

Providing enabling platforms for farmers and other key stakeholders to share their knowledge and be a part of the solution, is paramount for land restoration. This App helps to do just that. The App links land restoration activities implemented by farmers to large global initiatives, providing evidence that can positively inform these efforts, while simultaneously assessing their effectiveness on the ground. With the App, data, evidence and advanced analytics can be combined with stakeholder engagement and citizen-science data collection.



The engagement of local stakeholders is a vital, yet often forgotten, part of the puzzle to develop effective land restoration efforts that can contribute to sustainable livelihoods and stability.

While most countries in Africa have numerous restoration projects underway, monitoring and reporting remains a major challenge. More critically, the knowledge and expertise of local stakeholders are left out of the proposed solutions. The disconnect between large global agendas on land degradation and restoration, and robust evidence built up over years around initiatives owned and driven by local stakeholders is a major challenge today.

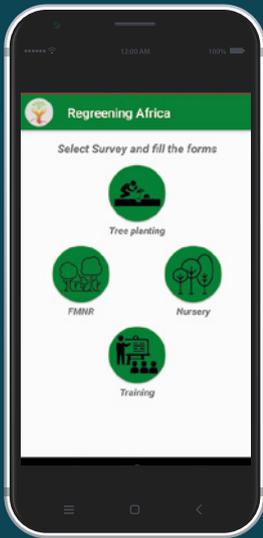


What exactly does the App do?

The overall aim is to help farmers, government agents and project officers to easily collect data on key indicators of land restoration.

The Regreening App fills the critical gap by involving stakeholders to provide evidence on where restoration is happening, especially through tree planting and Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR), the methods used and the beneficiaries.





To do this, the Regreening Africa App includes four modules that collectively focus on tree planting, nursery establishment, FMNR and training.

These modules help to organize an extensive range of data including:

- The number and types of trees planted by farmers on their farms;
- The plant survival rate over time;
- Location of tree nurseries and the tree species they stock;
- Management practices in farmer-managed natural regeneration (FMNR) sites;
- The training offered to farmer groups; and
- The number of women and youth who have benefited from the project.

This simple but effective App was co-designed with ICRAF partners to enable stakeholders to provide real-time monitoring of restoration activities and as well as provide practitioners and farmers science-based evidence. All the data collected through the App is freely and instantly available to data collectors, as well as the public through the Regreening Africa Dashboard.

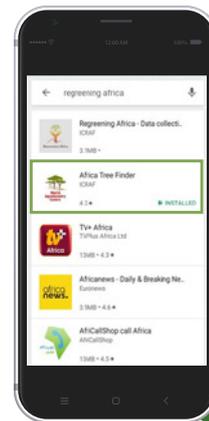


“The beauty about this App is its simplicity. I have used it to record trees on many farms and have been fascinated to see what the data looks like once it is processed.”

- Mohamed Dicko, project officer, Oxfam Mali.

The data and knowledge collected through the App is instantly available to other users and various outputs from the synthesis of the data, including linking the data to information on critical soil and land health indicators, is then shared with the farmers, thereby helping to optimise the design and tracking of land restoration options. Other data that can be collected using the App ranges from number and types of trees planted, tree survival rate over time, location of tree nurseries and the tree species they stock, and training conducted with farmer groups, all of which are critical to the success of land restoration.

The App is currently available in eight countries in Africa, with the scope to expand to other countries in the region, including countries across the Sahel region. Currently offered in English and French, the App has the potential to be translated into different African languages in order enable a greater reach of local communities.



Regreening Africa App is currently available on **Google Play** with a users-guide found on the **Regreening Website**.



Contact

Dr Tor-G. Vågen

Senior Scientist | Head of CIFOR-ICRAF Spatial Data Science and Applied Learning Lab (SPACIAL)

t.vagen@cgiar.org



Further resources

- Farmers regreen Kenya’s drylands with agroforestry and an app**
- A mobile application helps African farmers manage and restore their land**
- Regreening App user guide.pdf**

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

