

WORLD VISION'S ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND FMNR INITIATIVE ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE AND RESTORING HOPE

Executive Summary

This position paper highlights the urgent need to address climate change and its impact on Africa, particularly in relation to agriculture, livelihoods, and biodiversity. It emphasizes the vulnerability of African countries to climate disruption and the **inadequate financial support** received for adaptation efforts.

This paper underscores the importance of biodiversity and ecosystem services in ensuring resilient food systems, sustainable agriculture, and overall well-being. It also highlights the **global restoration** by emphasizing **nature-based solutions** and the ambitious 30x30 target for conserving land (30%) and sea (30%) by 2030.

World Vision's environmental sustainability and climate action initiatives are presented, focusing on their commitment to promoting a healthy and sustainable environment for every child. The organization's approaches, such as Regreening Communities and **Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR)**, are highlighted as effective strategies for environmental restoration, poverty alleviation, and climate change mitigation.

The significant impact of FMNR, pioneered by Tony Rinaudo, is showcased, including its success in regenerating millions of trees and lifting millions out of extreme poverty. The Soddo Forestry FMNR Project in Ethiopia is highlighted as a notable example of FMNR's positive outcomes, including **carbon sequestration** and revenue generation for local community development.

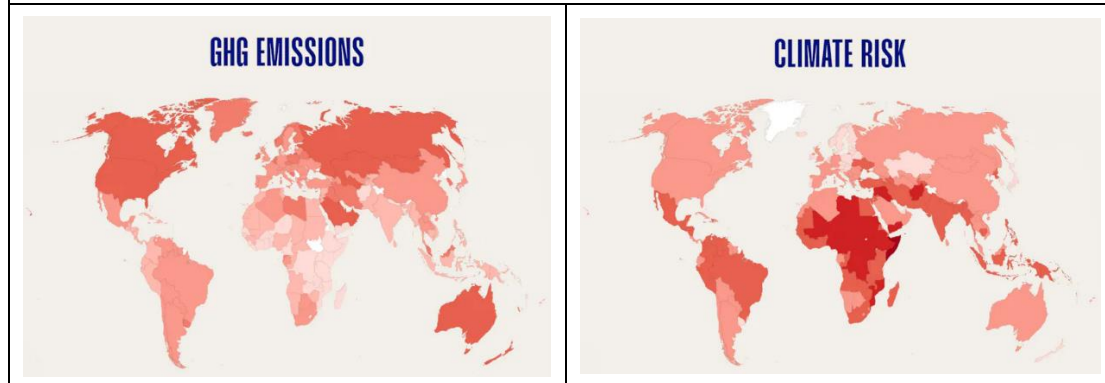
Tony Rinaudo's achievements, including receiving the Right Livelihood Award in 2018, and the recognition and awards received by FMNR are mentioned, underscoring their contribution to environmental sustainability and climate action. Tony's current role as Principal Climate Action Advisor at World Vision Australia is also noted, highlighting his continued commitment to addressing climate change.

Overall, this paper emphasizes the **importance of collaborative efforts, partnerships**, and nature-based solutions in **tackling climate change, restoring degraded lands** by achieving the target of **one billion hectares** of degraded land by **2030 (COP15)**, and **restoring hope** for a sustainable future.

Loss and Damage in Africa due to Climate Change

Climatic factors strongly impact Africa's agriculture, the continent's key economic activity. Agriculture employs two-thirds of Africa's workforce and contributes significantly to each country's 20-60% GDP.¹ Despite being a minor carbon polluter, Africa suffers greatly from climate disruption and is on the frontline of the crisis. The continent's vulnerability to climate change extremes, such as droughts, floods, and cyclones, poses a severe threat to food security, health, economies, and ecosystems. Lives and livelihoods in Africa are already being disrupted by climate shocks. Unfortunately, Africa has contributed the least to global emissions and climate change while receiving the lowest financial support for climate change adaptation.²

Despite their lower contributions to global greenhouse gas emissions, African countries are amongst the most vulnerable to climate change.³



Livelihoods and Resilience

Climate change worsens human livelihoods and food insecurity in the region. In 30 African countries, 57% of people have experienced food shortages at least once, with 18% facing frequent scarcity (Afrobarometer, April 2023). The unpredictable climate, particularly in East Africa, has led to droughts affecting over 40 million people and 13 million children, resulting in reduced agricultural yields and the loss of 9.2 million livestock.⁴

The world's poorest countries bear the brunt of climate hazards and extreme weather events. According to the World Bank, sub-Saharan Africa faces the greatest adaptation costs relative to its gross domestic product (GDP). This is attributed to lower GDPs and increased costs for adapting water resources due to shifting precipitation patterns.⁵

¹ <https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/africa-resources/>

² <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2021/10/five-finance-climate-adaptation-africa-falls-short/>

³ <https://africa.climate-mobility.org/stories/climate-justice>

⁴ <https://www.wvi.org/publications/annual-report/east-africa-annual-report-2023>

⁵ <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2021/10/five-finance-climate-adaptation-africa-falls-short/>

quality of life for all. Recognizing its significance, biodiversity and ecosystem services have gained increasing recognition on international agendas, playing a crucial role in food security, nutrition, rural and coastal livelihoods, human well-being, and sustainable development.⁸

Restoration & Nature-based Solutions

COP28 in Dubai recognizes the importance of sustainable land management in preventing biodiversity loss. A key objective is to scale up finance and investments for climate and nature, promoting co-benefits through nature-based solutions and equitable access to finance. At the conference, global leaders are discussing the ambitious 30x30 target of conserving 30% of the Earth's land and sea by 2030. This target serves as a linchpin for biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation, offering a comprehensive approach to environmental sustainability. The framework also aims to generate at least 10 GtCO₂e per year through nature-based contributions to global climate mitigation efforts.⁹

World Environment Day on 5 June 2024 will emphasize land restoration, desertification, and drought resilience, recognizing that land degradation is a critical environmental issue linked to climate change.¹⁰ Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP, highlights that over half of Africa's productive lands are degraded, with climate change compounding the issue. Restoration efforts offer significant benefits to communities, including support for smallholder farmers and increased household incomes. Recognizing the advantages of ecosystem restoration, expanding regreening practices to more lands can initiate a nature renaissance.

World Vision's Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action

At World Vision, we strive for every child's right to a healthy and sustainable environment. Our environmental stewardship and climate action work tackle the causes and effects of climate change, benefiting children's development. Our approaches include Climate Smart Agriculture, Regreening Communities, Circular Economy, and Green Jobs creation.¹¹ Through initiatives like Regreening Communities, we restore the environment, integrate disaster risk reduction, and promote sustainable agri-food systems. We empower children and youth to advocate for

⁸ <https://www.fao.org/3/cb8338en/cb8338en.pdf>

⁹ <https://www.cop28.com/en/thought-leadership/The-30x30-Biodiversity-Goal-at-COP28>

¹⁰ <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/statements/world-environment-day-2024-accelerating-land-restoration-drought>

¹¹ <https://www.wvi.org/our-work/climate-change>

climate action through initiatives like Citizen Voice and Action and participation in international events like COP.¹²



FMNR & Tony Rinaudo

Our Regreening Communities Project tackles climate change and natural resource exploitation through participatory environmental restoration. Communities select tailored solutions, including scaling up indigenous restoration practices, strengthening government partnerships, and implementing Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR).

FMNR, a community-led nature-based solution, reverses degradation, alleviates poverty and hunger, and addresses climate change through tree and shrub regeneration. Impact: 1 million children, 2 billion trees regenerated (World Vision East Africa region's 2023 annual report). The EU-funded Regreening Africa initiative, with World Vision implementing FMNR as a key technique, is recognized as a UN new World Restoration Flagship in 2024.¹⁴

World Vision is leading a global movement, partnering with businesses, governments, institutions, and individuals to promote FNNR which regenerates degraded land, targeting of one billion hectares of degraded land by 2030 (COP15), addressing carbon dioxide removal, preventing species loss, and lifting millions out of extreme poverty, restoring hope. FMNR has revealed that many degraded lands still have viable root systems underground, capable of regeneration, environmental healing, and climate change mitigation.

FMNR, pioneered by Tony Rinaudo, has been successfully implemented for over 40

¹² <https://www.wvi.org/nomin-cop28-docuseries>

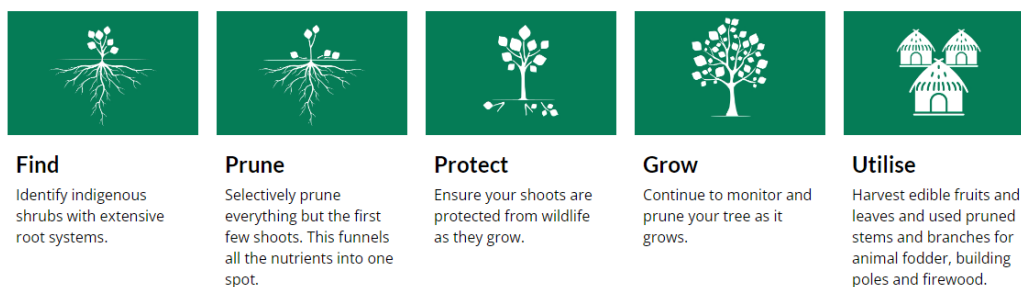
¹³ <https://www.wvi.org/stories/journey-cop28-nomin-advocates-childrens-voices-climate-action>

¹⁴ <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/press-release/nature-staging-comeback-un-recognizes-seven-world-restoration>

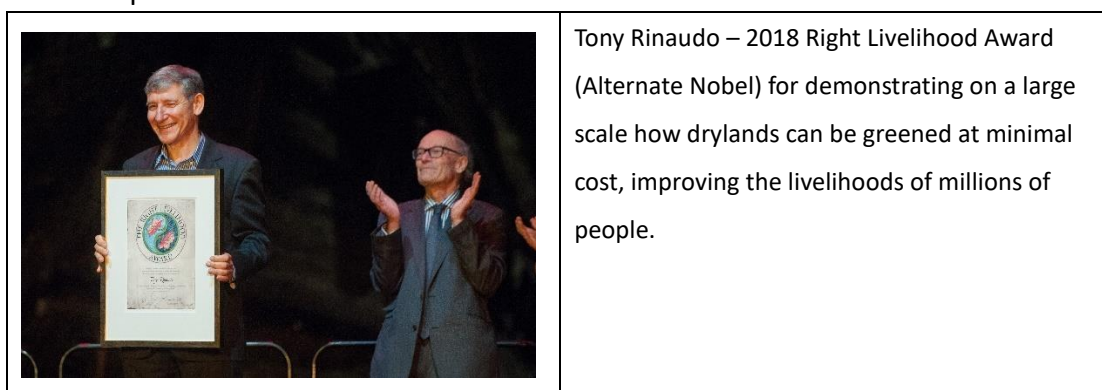
years across 27 countries in Africa and Asia. This model has uplifted millions of children and families from poverty, regenerated vast hectares of land, and even generated carbon revenue in some projects. One example is the Soddo Forestry FMNR Project in Ethiopia. Since 2006, the project has protected and established over 1.2 million trees, restoring degraded native forests across 503 hectares in the highlands of Soddo. This effort has resulted in the sequestration of an estimated 189,027 tCO₂e, mitigating climate change while enhancing soil fertility and reducing erosion in the region. In 2013, the Soddo Forestry FMNR Project became the first afforestation and reforestation initiative to receive Gold Standard Certification. The trading of certificates has enabled revenue generation for communities, incentivizing the protection of their natural assets and promoting sustainable practices.¹⁵

How FMNR works

FMNR is an age-old way to regrow trees from stumps with living roots through careful pruning and protection. Combined with other land restoration techniques, FMNR is far more effective than planting trees.



Tony Rinaudo, renowned for his work, received the Right Livelihood Award in 2018.¹⁶ FMNR has also received prestigious accolades, such as the UN's Land for Life Award in 2013 and the UN SDG's Good Practice Award in 2020.¹⁷ Currently, Tony serves as the Principal Climate Action Advisor at World Vision Australia.



¹⁵ <https://fmnrhub.com.au/projects/soddo-forestry-project/>

¹⁶ <https://rightlivelihood.org/the-change-makers/find-a-laureate/tony-rinaudo/>

¹⁷ <https://fmnrhub.com.au/awards/>

Based on the position paper, the 5 bullet points for sharing with Dream Impact's ESG Innovation Lab will be as follows:

- African countries face the disproportionate impact of climate change, jeopardizing agriculture, livelihoods, and biodiversity, while receiving inadequate financial support for adaptation efforts.
- World Vision's environmental sustainability initiatives prioritize creating a healthy and sustainable environment for every child, employing strategies like Regreening Communities and Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) for environmental restoration, poverty alleviation, and biodiversity conservation. FMNR is also recognized as the key implementation for the UN new World Restoration Flagship in 2024.
- FMNR, pioneered by Tony Rinaudo, has successfully regenerated millions of trees and lifted millions out of extreme poverty, exemplified by the Soddo Forestry FMNR Project in Ethiopia, which promotes carbon sequestration, revenue generation for local communities, and biodiversity restoration.
- Collaboration, partnerships, and nature-based solutions are emphasized as crucial elements in combating climate change, restoring degraded lands, preserving biodiversity, and fostering a sustainable future.
- The importance of biodiversity is recognized as a central component in World Vision's environmental sustainability initiatives, as it plays a vital role in ecosystem health, resilience, and the well-being of communities, like food security and livelihoods.