

Restoring Landscapes in South Africa (ReLISA)

Objectives

ReLISA aims to address the landscape-wide degradation of key biomes – thicket, grasslands and savannah – and make the economic case for restoration. By creating the conditions for a just transition of South Africa’s land-use sector and mobilizing investment, ReLISA seeks to restore degraded priority areas in key biomes and strategic water source areas (SWSAs), while recognizing the socio-cultural, economic and land tenure context. On-the-ground implementation in close consultation with stakeholders (communities, farmers, investors, authorities) will contribute towards adapting to climate change, addressing biodiversity loss, while improving livelihoods of rural communities and commercial farmers.

Activities

This will be achieved through:

- Biophysical/economic assessments as inputs to planning restoration activities,
- leveraging private sector investment through pre-feasibility studies and project development,
- On-the-ground implementation at landscape level for thicket, grassland and savanna biomes, and
- Dissemination and communication.

Outcomes include:

- Restoration incentives and policies aligned with political priorities, economic costs/benefits and distributional impact;
- Enhancement of the MRV system for South Africa’s land-use sector;
- Increased donor and private sector funding;
- Increased resilience against climate change and improved livelihoods through securing hydrological services to downstream/urban populations;
- Restoration models for thicket, grassland and savanna applied at national and international level.

Impacts

This project will inform best-practice approaches for land restoration and sustainable management of landscapes, while recognizing the socio-cultural, economic and land tenure context. The developed methods and metrics to monitor landscape health and the costs/benefits of interventions will be globally applicable. The project will leverage private investment and develop public funding proposals.

Project Details

Political

Partner:

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)

Other Project Partners:

Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), C4EcoSolutions (C4ES), UNIQUE forestry and land use GmbH (UNIQUE)

Implementing Entity/Organisation:

United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment)

Country:

South Africa

Duration:

November 2024 – October 2029

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