

1.1 TRANSFORMING LINEA (SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA) SYSTEMS

LINEA: Linking, nurturing, expanding and accelerating just landscape transformations for nature and people in sub-Saharan Africa

1.1.1 THE TRANSFORMATION SYSTEM

Many (current paradigm) transformational processes are already in play in the region. While these have brought benefits to some, they are very unevenly distributed. Moreover, this development pattern is based on a mainstream growth paradigm that, as elsewhere on the planet, has **failed to address deep-set patterns of poverty and inequality**, has accelerated risks to the continent's **soils, biodiversity and ecosystems**, and resulted in increasing levels of food **insecurity**. Global climate heating is now accelerating and deepening these risks. While rapid growth stimulated by the commodity boom of the '00s and early '10s has brought benefits to some, there is a continuing net capital flight from the subcontinent, estimated at \$50bn annually and greater than all forms of aid and foreign private investment added together.

Hidden behind these mainstream dynamics lie the 'long tails' of the many initiatives that are pointing toward a different kind of transformation, one that is aligned with the SDGs and is deeply embedded at the intersections of economic, social, gender, environmental and climate justice. However, these 'seedbed' efforts fall short of what is needed to result in the 'great transformation' now required. Issues include:

- *Lack of recognition of these efforts:* Many of these efforts remain hidden, with their stories untold. This is often because the focus is on component efforts, rather than on the bigger transformational story to which these are contributing.
- *Fragmentation of efforts:* Without a picture of the bigger transformational story, individual actors or consortia work in a fragmented way, duplicating effort and often competing for resources.
- *Siloed efforts:* Often allied with fragmentation of efforts, many efforts remain siloed, rather than working systemically on key interconnections and feedback loops. This is gradually changing, through the adoption of systemic, 'nexus' and 'integrated' approaches. Furthermore, while local communities may see things in joined up ways, public sector administration and private sector investment tend to be less effective in this regard.
- *Scale and complexity:* Transformation requires dealing with scales and complexities that people typically find intimidating. Indeed, transformation requires an unusual breadth and depth of capacity that is difficult to manage.

- *Inadequate or inappropriate investments:* Transformation requires investment in a unique combination of deep systems approaches – of financing, capacity building, research, evaluation, narrative framing, governance, co-innovation and learning – which are themselves transformational rather than ‘business-as-usual’. However, investment is often made using business-as-usual approaches, in the erroneous belief that these will then lead to transformation.

LINEA – as its name suggests – has been developed to address these issues through identifying, linking, nurturing, expanding, accelerating and magnifying seedbed initiatives at key leverage points on the subcontinent, and by connecting these into a powerful transformations system across the region. Furthermore, by linking this regional transformations system with the Forum’s deep systems working groups, appropriate investment in deep systems approaches is accelerated.

1.1.2 ACTION GOALS

Broad Goals

The LINEA Affiliated ST aims to co-steward the emergence of a powerful **landscapes transformations system** that shifts the inter-relationship of nature and people in sub-Saharan Africa to one that is flourishing, inclusive and just.

Three Year Goals

1. Gather intelligence about the diverse landscapes transformations initiatives, networks and existing systems to understand their dynamics, structures, and development issues, and the different kinds of opportunities in sub-Saharan Africa;
2. Create a powerful ST that includes participation of diverse sub-Saharan Africa landscapes transformations enablers and initiatives working towards the ST goals, including affiliated groups in:
 - a. Zambia,
 - b. Malawi,
 - c. Serengeti to Mkomazi transboundary landscape (Kenya and Tanzania),
 - d. Ruvuma transboundary landscape (Tanzania and Mozambique), and
 - e. the Sahel.
3. To support actions to advance development of sub-Saharan Africa transformations systems and infrastructure, including in the five landscapes above;
4. Work with the Forum and its parts to (1) access other STs’ expertise, and (2) provide vehicles for other STs to develop their work in sub-Saharan Africa; and

5. Advance leading transforming sub-Saharan Africa landscapes knowledge and practice.

1.1.3 BUDGETED ACTIVITIES

Line Allocations Summary

Core Funding Request – Total: €1,285K

- Steward Team Years 1-3: €375K
- Seeing and convening Nature-Based Solutions in sub-Saharan Africa: €150K
- Seeing and convening Years 1-2 Ruvuma and/or Serengeti to Mkomazi: €160K
- Seeing and convening Years 1-2 Malawi and Zambia: €370K
- Seeing and connecting Year 1 Sahel: €140K

Year 1 RALIs

- Development of a regional transformative learning platform: €30K
- Initiating and responding to high level political leadership opportunities: €60K

Revenue Generation Potential

In the short term for some work, we anticipate donor co-financing from UNDP, DFID and/or USAID. In the medium term, there is significant potential to attract investment from partners, including governments and private sector investors in agriculture, forestry and mining in the region and internationally.

1.1.3.1 YEAR 1 DETAILS

Year 1 will analyse the subcontinent and particular sub-regions, where there are already working relationships with transformations-oriented communities. This will continue into Year 2. In Year 1, there will also be two modest RALIs.

1.1.3.1.1 YEAR 1: SEEING, CONNECTING

Mapping Nature Based Solutions across the subcontinent: €150,000

The Climate Action initiative being championed by the UN Secretary General aims to deliver up to 33% of greenhouse gas reductions by the year 2030 through ‘Nature-Based Solutions (NBS). This is a globally prioritised push for activities aimed at conserving and restoring global biomass, soils and oceans that sequester carbon and methane. The Forum is

currently negotiating a role in the NBS transformation process, although this initiative is proving difficult to progress (see issue-based budget line on 'Forests and carbon'/NBS).

Under LINEA, we plan to develop a stream of activity that would meet (and ideally complement) the above, through the exploration of a sub-Saharan African perspective on prioritisation of NBS. This activity will consist of mapping the potential of NBS across the subcontinent and developing a framework for prioritising those activities which can deliver both regional and local development transformational benefits *and* global carbon benefits. The mapping process will be convened by the LINEA regional ST and will engage additional experts who can make a significant contribution. This prioritisation process will also emphasise the justice dimension of an NBS approach across the subcontinent, with a primary focus on China-Africa resource flows within the global commodities system and how these might be made more equitable, in terms of the allocation of benefits. It is essentially a process of 'decolonising' resource rents consistent with the manifesto developed at the Port Elizabeth conference in May 2018.

This will produce a well-researched report on leverage points across the subcontinent that can deliver a transformative and equitable new deal for nature and people across the subcontinent, as well as globally prioritised NBS.

Transforming degrading or degraded landscapes in Malawi and Zambia: €370,000

Malawi and Zambia offer early entry points for LINEA's transformational work, building on the initial work undertaken in these two countries to date. An iterative process is already underway of identifying potential stewards, nurturing, connecting conversations, and positioning transformational narratives. In Malawi, where LINEA activity is most advanced, a systemic, multi-level, multi-stakeholder transformational narrative and design process around a 'new deal' for women and youth in landscape promotion and restoration is emerging at the intersection of resilience building (restorative agriculture, household and catchment resilience, and a convivial conservation economy), UN campaigns for 'Nature Based Solutions' (NBS) and a 'New Deal for Nature and People' (NDNP), and longer-term seedbed histories within Malawi of anti-corruption politics, community-driven development and gender justice. A six-month multi-sector, multi-stakeholder transformational design charrette is being convened, involving entrepreneurs, leaders and innovators from the civil society, private sector, government, donor, and higher education sectors, and supported by a influencing and campaigning process to encourage an enabling rather than constraining political context. A seedbed histories evaluation will be undertaken in parallel. Together these will frame a collaborative design process in Year two to facilitate agreement on a high transformation-value, multi-stakeholder initiative including several complementary multi-stakeholder components, each with appropriate financing

arrangements and transformational business opportunities, where appropriate. Given the ‘new deal’ framing, it is vital that these contribute to ‘new economy’ practices and systems, connecting with and learning from regional initiatives (at the moment, mainly in South Africa, Kenya and Uganda) that are already working on this.

Transforming iconic and vital landscapes in Kenya, Tanzania and Mozambique: €160,000

Two landscapes – the Ruvuma transboundary landscape and/or the Serengeti to Mkomazi transboundary landscape – have been selected because they remain relatively intact, have high international biodiversity and iconic value, and their promotion addresses both NBS and potential NDNP solutions. Engagement to date has been with WWF (UK/ Tanzania), the PAMS Foundation and the Oak Foundation, and has indicated the value of moving to the next stage. A seedbed learning histories mapping and connecting process will be undertaken to explore the potential for a systemic, multi-level, multi-stakeholder transformational infrastructure, governance, design and financing approach to radical action and learning in one or both of these landscapes. This will be used as the basis for the co-development of a proposal with the Oak Foundation as a component within their emerging, trust-based, collaborative and transformational philanthropic-funding model for conservation.

Mapping and convening for a dynamic Sahel: €120K

The Sahel Initiative rests on the ability to create a dynamic platform that will inspire, motivate and mobilize youth, women, civil society, communities and professional networks across the Sahel to act at a massive scale to improve their lives and ensure a stable and prosperous future for the Sahel. This action will be in response to a new, positive and mobilizing narrative focused on the untapped opportunity that the Sahel represents, and underlining the potential to act, immediately and at scale, to reverse current trends.

The mapping and convening will be the first step in the development of a platform to connect and seek to inspire the target communities across the region, promoting new ideas, sharing information, enabling coordination and reporting stories and results. In an increasingly connected Sahel, the use of social media is increasingly possible. It will build on a rich culture and tradition of storytelling. *This work will be led by Better Nature.*

1.1.3.1.2 YEAR 1: RALIS

Development of a regional transformative learning platform: €30K

The ST with the Transforming Capacity ST and Pegasys Institute will coordinate a regional transformative learning platform, partnering with the Environmental Learning Research Centre (ELRC) at Rhodes University, South Africa. This will enable co-learning across the different LINEA leverage point sub-systems and will also involve linking and co-learning with other landscapes transformations systems within the subcontinent, such as Better Nature in the Sahel, which aims at restoring economic, social and environmental capital across the 13 countries of the Sahel region – a landscape in the early stages of regeneration.

Initiating and responding to high level political leadership opportunities: €60,000

High-level political leadership can be a critical enabling (or constraining) factor in the development of transformations systems. Political leaders in Malawi/ Zambia, Kenya/Tanzania/Mozambique (and the Sahel) meet on a regular basis in the context of African Union and regional bloc (SADC, ECOWAS, EAC) meetings, as well as in East-South axis meetings, such as those convened by China, and in global meetings such as the Climate Action meetings currently being convened by the UN Secretary General in New York (September 2019) and Beijing (September 2020). Influencing leaders through these meetings or through key bilateral relationships represents a further leverage point in the LINEA system. We, therefore, include a budget line set aside to support direct meetings with leaders in-country and/or targeting/ responding to political leadership in South Africa and Nigeria, two countries which can exert high leverage with other African Union leaders.

This should produce opportunities to shift key political narratives and/or to engage in high-level initiatives that are sufficiently aligned with LINEA.

1.1.4 LEADERSHIP

The ST currently comprises:

- Mutizwa Mukute: Social Innovation and Learning (Zimbabwe)
- John Colvin: Emerald Network Ltd (UK)
- Million Belay: MELCA-Ethiopia, Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) and Stockholm Resilience Centre (Sweden)
- Chimwemwe Msukwa: (Malawi)
- Zenda Ofir: Independent (Geneva), Stellenbosch University (South Africa) and Lead Steward, Evaluation for Transformation ST of the SDG Transformations Forum zenda.ofir@gmail.com
- Jon Padgham: START (US)
- Coleen Vogel: Wits University (South Africa) and Future Earth Africa
- Derek Weston: Pegasys Institute (South Africa)

For the immediate future, Mutizwa Mukute and John Colvin will remain in their roles of Councillor and Lead Steward respectively, while discussing with the other Stewards their future roles and others to bring in, specifically with an eye to enhancing the regional diversity of the group.

Strategic implementation partners are the Pegasys Institute, Emerald Network Ltd and the Lilongwe Wildlife Trust, with expected participation from AWARD, Better Nature, Capital Institute, Ecoagriculture Partners, Savory Institute, Wildlife Crime Prevention and others joining as part of community building efforts.

1.1.5 CONNECTIONS WITH OTHER STS

Project connections with other STs are integral to the design of LINEA, which aims to convene expertise from across the seven deep systems domains, by linking and convening stewards who are either (i) already active within LINEA's target landscapes; (ii) active regionally; or (iii) active outside the region, including through relevant deep systems STs. Since the process of convening is non-linear and emergent, we anticipate these connections to become increasingly formalised during Year 1. In Year 1, these connections will include:

- Learning Platform: Transforming Capacity
- Mapping: Transformations Systems Analysis