Strategy of the
research-to-action programme

Reversing Environmental Degradation in Africa and Asia (REDAA)

Updated May 2024

REVERSING ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION
REDAA
IN AFRICA AND ASIA

About the REDAA programme
Reversing Environmental Degradation in Africa and Asia (REDAA) is a programme that supports research, innovation and action across sub-Saharan Africa and South and Southeast Asia for locally led restoration. For more information about the programme, contact: enquiries@redaa.org

www.redaa.org

@REDAAprogramme

@REDAA-programme

REDAA is funded by UK International Development from the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and managed by the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED).

UK International Development
Partnership | Progress | Prosperity

iied International Institute for Environment and Development

Cover photo: A farmer in Malawi checks her maize crop. Credit: 2016CIAT/NeilPalmer

REDAA publications may be shared and republished in accordance with the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International Public License (CC BY-NC-ND 4.0). Under the terms of this licence, anyone can copy, distribute and display the material, providing that they credit the original source and don't use it for commercial purposes or make derivatives. Different licences may apply to some illustrative elements, in which instance the licence will be displayed alongside. REDAA is happy to discuss any aspect of further usage.

Contents

Summary 1

Strategy 2

Rationale: the imperative for REDAA, and its role 2
REDAA's theory of change 4
Types of initiative that REDAA supports 6
Countries and environments in which REDAA supports initiatives 8
Types of organisations and partnerships that REDAA supports 9
REDAA grant calls and grant management 10
Communications, engagement and technical support — the REDAA Community 12
Monitoring, evaluation and learning 14
Governance and programme management 15

Annexes 16

Annex 1: Developing and adapting this strategy — scoping, set-up and shaping of REDAA 16
Annex 2: Eligible countries for REDAA-supported initiatives 21
Annex 3: Ecologies and landscapes highlighted in REDAA scoping work 23
Annex 4: Key terms used by the REDAA programme 25

Summary

This is the strategy of the research-to-action programme *Reversing Environmental Degradation in Africa and Asia (REDAA).* REDAA aims to catalyse locally led research, innovation and action on environmental restoration in sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and Southeast Asia. The UK Government's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) funds the programme.

This is the second iteration of the strategy (dated May 2024). Like the first version (June 2023), it has been co-developed by teams from FCDO and the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), and experts from institutions in sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and Southeast Asia. It has been developed with the aim of optimising REDAA's contribution by closely collaborating with other related initiatives, and drawing on new scoping studies, new findings from consultations and lessons from experience to date.

REDAA anticipates achieving three outputs between 2023 and 2029:

1. Evidence on key ecosystems and actionable information to improve restoration and management
2. Innovative and appropriate technical approaches and tools for environment management, conservation and restoration, and
3. Capacity and institutional arrangements that are 'nature positive', benefit local livelihoods and tackle climate change

REDAA awards grants to locally led research-to-action initiatives. Lead grant-holders are organisations with effective systems for supporting Indigenous Peoples and local communities to improve their evidence, tools, civic space and governance powers in sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia or Southeast Asia. All initiatives address gender equality and social inclusion, climate resilience and action for nature, and each is focused on one or more of the following main thematic priorities:

1. Local research and capability for research
2. Resource and land use assessments
3. Business models
4. Financing mechanisms
5. Inclusive governance systems

REDAA aims to support initiatives that optimise the potential and avoid the pitfalls of new technologies — telecommunications and artificial intelligence in particular — where relevant, in pursuing these priorities.

Competitive grant calls are made at least once per year. The first call for proposals in 2023 led to 21 grant agreements for projects running over two to four years, with budgets between £200,000 and £500,000, starting in March 2024. In its second grant call, REDAA invites proposals for substantial programmes of locally led, multi-locational research-to-action for restoration in specified subregions and environments in sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and Southeast Asia. Up to nine grants of between £1,000,000 and £1,500,000 are expected to be awarded for programmes running for four years starting in February 2025. Subsequent grant calls will also include smaller Catalytic Grants.

REDAA also organises technical support to grantees, including mutual support among grantees, through facilitation of a community of practice. This 'REDAA Community' aims to enable learning, spread use of evidence and tools, build and strengthen networks, and support capability development and influencing opportunities. Learning events on topics prioritised by the grantees are organised, and knowledge products are produced. The REDAA Community welcomes partners from other relevant programmes to share evidence and tools in thematic events, thus spreading and deepening the impact of locally led research-to-action restoration initiatives.

Through co-development of strategy, and through the strategy's emphasis on supporting local research, local leadership, inclusive decision making and equitable partnership in action, the REDAA programme expects to continue exploring and putting into practice its contribution to justice and decolonisation.

IIED provides the Scientific and Management Unit (SMU) for REDAA. The SMU organises or conducts scoping studies, manages grant calls and the resulting grant agreements, facilitates the REDAA Community, and provides reporting, engagement and communications for REDAA. The programme is governed by the REDAA Steering Committee, which FCDO chairs. REDAA is advised by an Independent Technical Advisory Panel (ITAP), whose functions include review of REDAA grant proposals.

Feedback on this strategy is welcome. The strategy will be further adapted during the course of the programme's implementation.

Strategy

Rationale: the imperative for REDAA, and its role

There is a pressing need for REDAA. Environmental degradation worsens the living conditions of millions of the poorest people across Africa and Asia, and poses a severe threat to the natural ecosystems that support economic sectors such as agriculture, tourism, forestry and fishing. Climate change exacerbates some causes of environmental degradation and, in a vicious cycle, degradation then reduces nature's moderating effects on climate change and its impacts, which include droughts, floods and extreme weather. People who are already socially and economically marginalised are hit hardest. Yet, where their rights to organise and to manage natural resources are secure, Indigenous Peoples and local communities have proven their huge potential to enable nature and people to thrive together in a changing climate.

This imperative, and the potential to do things better, is clear in the evidence FCDO recognised in 2021 in approving support for development of REDAA. The evidence was further explored, referenced and prioritised by a range of scoping studies and consultations in developing the programme. It has been used, along with evidence generated through the experience of the programme to date, in co-designing and adapting this strategy (see Annex 1: Developing and adapting this strategy and Annex 4: Key terms used by the REDAA programme).

Crucially, local stakeholders — those who have particular interests in enabling nature and people to thrive together — do not have good access to such evidence. They also lack the

means and opportunities to use it to secure their rights and to improve decisions on natural resource and ecosystems use for sustainable development. REDAA aims to change this. It will deliver grant, technical and capacity-building support to well-targeted research-to-action initiatives, led primarily by local institutions, in ways that generate highly cost-effective impact.

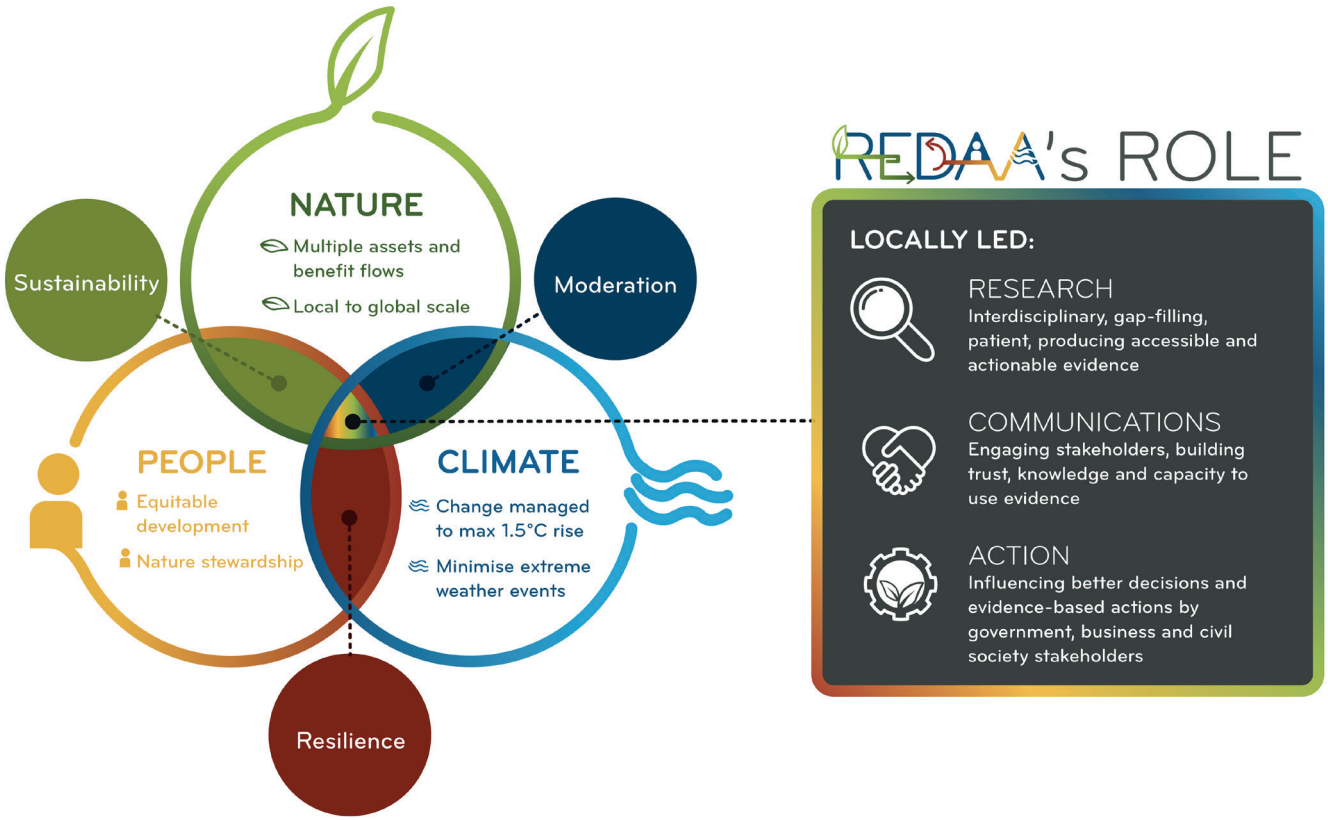
The evidence suggests that where locally led research is most useful and effective, it is interdisciplinary; it focuses on filling gaps, not duplicating previous work; it takes a patient approach; and it produces accessible and actionable evidence. Making evidence actionable requires communications work that engages stakeholders, fosters trust, builds knowledge and also builds local capacity to use the evidence. Such work can then influence better decisions and evidence-based actions by government, business and civil society.

Locally led research-to-action can thus drive three beneficial interactions between nature, people and climate:

- **Sustainability** – whereby nature benefits, and does not limit, people's wellbeing, and people protect, and don't degrade, nature while taking climate concerns into their thinking and planning
- **Moderation** – whereby people support the crucial role that nature has in moderating weather locally and storing carbon globally, breaking the vicious cycle of nature loss and climate change, and
- **Resilience** – in which a stable climate enables resilient livelihoods and economies, reducing climate change vulnerability and associated conflict.

Figure 1 represents this strategic framing of REDAA.

Figure 1. REDAA's role: supporting locally led research-to-action for nature and people thriving together in a changing climate



REDAA's theory of change

REDAA's theory of change explains how the actions the programme takes or supports are expected to lead to specific changes. These changes are intended to address the **problem** described above — that stakeholders don't have enough evidence, don't have adequate access to what further evidence already exists, and don't have the means and opportunities to use such evidence to improve decisions on natural resource and ecosystems use for sustainable development.

The programme is planned with some explicit managed **risks**. It also involves **assumptions** about how REDAA complements actions taken by stakeholders, and about how the actions it supports will be adopted, adapted and sustained by institutions' policies and practices.

This strategy is itself one of the key **inputs** to REDAA. Other key inputs are the programme's management systems (covering how grants and technical support will be delivered and how the knowledge produced will be spread) and the established capacities of grantees and other organisations engaging or partnering with REDAA. The final key input is funding to support those management systems, and to support or better utilise grantees' and partners' capacities.

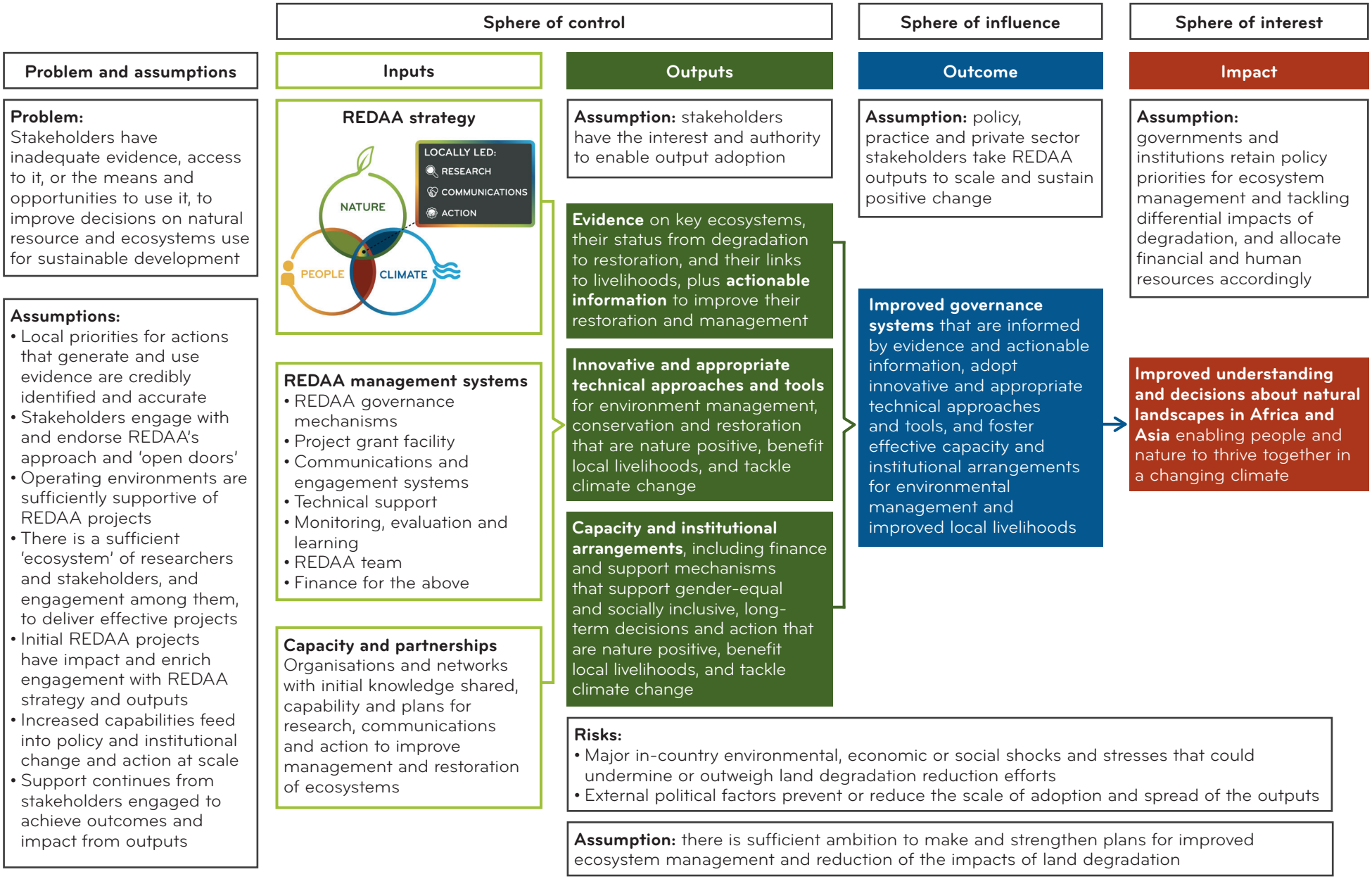
With these inputs, and with the assumption that stakeholders have sufficient interest and authority to use REDAA's resources well, the programme anticipates delivering three **outputs** between 2023 and 2029:

1. Evidence on key ecosystems and actionable information to improve their restoration and management
2. Innovative and appropriate technical approaches and tools for environment management, conservation and restoration, and
3. Capacity and institutional arrangements that are nature positive, benefit local livelihoods and tackle climate change.

If these outputs are successfully delivered, and with the additional assumption that stakeholders are able to take outputs to scale (something that is beyond REDAA's sole control), then the programme will achieve the **outcome** of improved governance systems. And if such positive change can then be sustained, REDAA will achieve deep **impact** via improved understanding of environments in Africa and Asia that enables people and nature to thrive together. REDAA's theory of change is represented in Figure 2.

This theory of change is further developed — with indicators of impacts, outcome and outputs; with milestones, targets and sources of verification; and with further specified assumptions — in the programme's logical framework (which can be viewed here). Both the theory of change and the more detailed logical framework continue to be used and adapted as programme monitoring and management tools.

Figure 2. REDAA's theory of change



Types of initiative that REDAA supports

The types of initiative that REDAA supports have been identified in the co-design and adaptation process described in Annex 1: Developing and adapting this strategy.

REDAA supports **locally led research-to-action initiatives**, where the main partner is a non-profit organisation with effective systems for supporting Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' efforts to improve their evidence, tools, civic space and governance powers**.**

Locally led initiatives engage residents in their design and implementation, and local leadership is strongly involved. Such initiatives are likely to employ and empower women and youth, and will show concrete benefits for local communities, emphasising those most often marginalised. They are also likely to invest in further developing local leadership strength.

Research-to-action involves both rigorous research and the uptake of research findings in order to bring about change. It is likely to include the use of research findings in training or improving the capability of people to make positive changes and the use of research findings in developing tools and approaches to improve or influence policy and institutional decision making and practice.

Research is designed to improve the evidence base on key ecosystems and livelihoods that depend on them, and on how to move from degraded to restored ecosystems. It will pay attention to ecological concerns and also to social, political and economic issues. Applied research approaches will often be the most useful — focusing on specific practical problems. Research approaches will be scientific, involving clear research questions and/or hypotheses and systematic observation. These approaches will be rigorous, involving design, methods and conclusions that are explicit, public, replicable and open to critique, and that minimise bias.

Methods may be quantitative, qualitative or participatory. They often need to be diverse to explore different stakeholders' perspectives and issues of gender equality and social inclusion, and potentially to uncover challenging structural features of power and politics. Research may have been largely conducted prior to the start of a REDAA-supported initiative or may be a central part of the initiative.

Integrated activities for nature, climate and people should be planned in REDAA-supported initiatives. In tackling specific challenges with climate change, nature loss and human wellbeing, REDAA-supported initiatives should aim for improvements that can be directly achieved for:

- Nature — in terms of protection, restoration, regeneration and/or sustainable management of specified landscapes or their components.
- Climate — in terms of mitigation and/or adaptation for specified people, economies, sectors or infrastructure.
- People — in terms of improvement to livelihoods, wellbeing, poverty status, rights and inclusion.

An integrated approach will identify synergies and trade-offs that can be expected between the benefits for people, nature and climate and how they will be managed. Achieving one type of benefit for nature may bring specific benefits for climate and/or people, for

example, while another benefit for nature might come at the expense of people's immediate livelihoods. Where such trade-offs are identified, REDAA-supported initiatives should plan for handling them in scientifically valid, ethical and policy-relevant ways.

Gender equality and social inclusion improvements, achieved through specific planned activities, are a key requirement in REDAA-supported initiatives. Gender equality is about addressing inequalities and transforming the distribution of opportunities, choices and resources available to girls, women and non-binary individuals, regardless of their age, so that they have the power to shape their own lives.

Social inclusion is the process of improving the terms on which individuals and groups take part in society, the ability and opportunity to take part in society, and the dignity of people disadvantaged and historically excluded from decision making and spheres of influence on the basis of their identity. People rarely fall into a single group and will experience context-specific advantage and disadvantage based on a combination of two or more signifiers of identity including gender, ethnicity, caste, age, religion, sexuality, disability status, refugee and migrant status, and income. If due consideration is not given to social differences, initiatives could unintentionally exacerbate inequalities, reinforce barriers or cause harm to already disadvantaged groups.

REDAA-supported initiatives should therefore consider how they will 'do no harm' and how they will actively contribute to promoting equality between persons of different identity characteristics, with activities that can deliver equitable net benefits for all. Consideration should be given to the prevailing gender and social norms, the (formal, informal and traditional) structures upholding them, and how specific activities can improve different groups' division of labour, access to and control of resources, and ability to participate in decision making.

Thematic priorities identified in the co-design and adaptation of this strategy should also be incorporated into the objectives and activities of initiatives supported by REDAA. Initiatives will address one or more of the following thematic priorities:

1. **Local research and capability for research**. Evidence generation that is locally led, including evidence on local and traditional knowledge, and local research capability, research networks and appropriate data systems that make data useful locally and or install locally generated evidence in national or regional information systems.
2. **Resource and land use assessments**. Integrated multi-objective participatory natural resource and land use assessments and decision support tools. These might include scenarios and spatial analyses that incorporate biophysical, social, political and economic data and information.
3. **Business models**. Productive business models, based on ecosystem goods and services, that are sustainable, equitable and climate resilient, developed by non-profit organisations, potentially with co-development from enterprise partners. Initiatives might emphasise training and development of organisational systems, product development and quality assurance, risk management, or development of enterprise associations.
4. **Financing mechanisms**. Finance mechanisms and finance flows that are direct, patient and long term in support of local nature stewardship and restoration. Initiatives might include research-to-action that helps improve local saving and loan practices, transparent accounting systems, connections to financial institutions or ways to redesign financial rules.

5. **Inclusive governance systems**. Improving the tenure security and resource rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and improving interdisciplinary, cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder decision making and governance of nature stewardship and restoration. Initiatives might focus on improving access to information and to citizen participation in law and policy decision or reform processes, or supporting local legal literacy training or the negotiation processes of local groups with government or the private sector.

REDAA also aims to support initiatives that optimise the potential and avoid the pitfalls of new **technologies** — **telecommunications and artificial intelligence in particular** — where relevant, in pursuing the above priorities.

REDAA grant calls (see subsection below on REDAA grant calls and grant management) invite proposals for initiatives that address one or more of the thematic priorities. Each grant call may put a particular emphasis on a different subset of the above five priorities as the programme learns from experience and aims to achieve an appropriate balance of types of initiative supported.

Countries and environments in which REDAA supports initiatives

The REDAA programme supports initiatives in sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and Southeast Asia. The countries where initiatives may be supported are listed in Annex 2. Initiatives may operate in more than one country. Each REDAA grant call may specify a different subset of subregions or countries in which REDAA-supported initiatives should focus their activities as the programme learns from experience and aims to achieve its strategic coverage of countries across the supported initiatives.

Scoping work has highlighted how narrowly defining particular ecologies and landscapes for REDAA interventions presents potential pitfalls. Many analyses of 'hotspots', or areas in need of urgent interventions, draw from biophysical data only, overlooking key social, political and economic datasets. Meanwhile, analyses that ignore local perspectives often perpetuate myths and misconceptions about the nature of, and responsibility for, environmental degradation; or indeed the potential and appropriate actions for restoration.

Furthermore, different stakeholders can have varying but equally legitimate perceptions and priorities when it comes to defining 'hotspots'. And needs and opportunities can change as local, national, regional, political and economic contexts shift. Too narrow a focus would also downplay valuable interventions that transcend ecologies and landscapes (for example, those tackling transboundary drivers of environmental degradation).

Therefore, rather than prescribe a list of specific landscapes where it will support initiatives, REDAA encourages proposals to demonstrate a strong rationale for their location and for the approach and scale of their operation.

Environments in which REDAA-supported initiatives should focus are all quite broadly defined (see Annex 4: Key terms used by the REDAA programme): peatlands and other terrestrial wetlands, mangroves, coastal lands, rivers, forests, farm-forest landscapes, drylands, uplands and mountains, and urban and peri-urban areas. In focusing on activity within these environments initiatives may need to engage with the connections to

other environments, such as urban–rural dynamics, that degrade or restore landscapes or ecosystems.

As with thematic priorities, subregions and countries, each REDAA grant call may put a particular emphasis on a different subset of these environments as the programme learns from experience and aims to achieve an appropriate balance of environments covered across all initiatives supported. Exclusion of environments from particular grant calls does not necessarily mean they will be excluded from other grant calls.

Scoping studies and consultations undertaken to prepare this strategy identified ecologies and landscapes that could benefit from REDAA interventions (see Annex 3: Ecologies and landscapes highlighted in REDAA scoping work). Potential grantees may wish to consider these, but should not be limited to them.

Types of organisations and partnerships that REDAA supports

REDAA offers grants and, in some cases, technical support, to **organisations that already have proven and effective systems for supporting the actions of Indigenous Peoples and local communities**. This includes those organisations of Indigenous Peoples and local communities who themselves have such effective systems.

Put simply, REDAA aims to 'support the supporters' of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. This focus recognises that time and resources are needed to build trust and support effective capacity among small local organisations. There are many effective organisational systems and processes in sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and Southeast Asia that already support smaller local groups. REDAA aims to support further development of the efficiency, equity and reach of these systems and processes.

Organisations leading REDAA-supported initiatives will mostly be based in sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and Southeast Asia. A minority of lead organisations based outside these regions may be selected for REDAA support where they provide a strong rationale for their base and demonstrate strong partnerships with locally led organisations.

Organisations leading REDAA interventions will be able to demonstrate that they are:

- **Non-profit organisations**, which may be non-governmental organisations, research institutions or community-based organisations that are legally registered in the countries in which they operate.
- **Experienced** in the kind of work they propose to undertake.
- **Financially sound** or, in the case of some organisations receiving Catalytic Grants (see subsection on REDAA grant calls and grant management), having clear plans showing how funding could enable them to become financially sound.
- **Staffed with the appropriate technical and financial capacity** and expertise to manage and implement initiatives successfully and deliver technical and financial reporting.

The lead organisation will be responsible for submitting a proposal to the programme, conducting appropriate due diligence on subgrantees and other partners, managing agreements with them, and managing and delivering the grant including the finance, reporting and governance. Partners will be the lead organisation in terms of proposal application, initiative management and reporting.

Partners of the lead organisation may be other non-profit organisations, private sector organisations and governmental organisations. Partnerships with these organisations may be encouraged or required in the structure of initiatives proposed for support under particular REDAA grant calls.

Private sector organisations, businesses or business associations may be subgranted (or contracted via a consultancy agreement) to undertake specific planned actions for the initiative, provided this partnership can demonstrate value for money.

Government, intergovernmental and United Nations agencies are not eligible to receive funding from REDAA. However, these agencies may be key partners in an initiative, and REDAA encourages in-kind partnership where relevant.

REDAA will aim to support **lead organisations and partnerships pursuing research-to-action initiatives that**:

- **Engage multiple disciplines and diverse local voices**
- **Are youth led** or have strong youth engagement components
- Explore and address **intersectional inequities and power imbalances**
- **Scale up locally developed tools and approaches** with strong potential for benefiting people and nature
- Establish approaches for **multi-stakeholder dialogues** that create safe space for debate and negotiation on tackling degradation and planning restoration actions, and
- Strive for **equitable partnership** where partner organisations are involved.

REDAA also aims to support and facilitate intra- and cross-regional learning such that lead and partner organisations can learn from each other, and from other relevant partnerships and initiatives under way (see subsection below on Communications, engagement and technical support — the REDAA Community).

REDAA grant calls and grant management

REDAA launches periodic calls for proposals from eligible organisations (see subsection above on Types of organisations and partnerships that REDAA supports). Five competitive grant calls are currently planned over the course of the programme. REDAA's Scientific and Management Unit (SMU) manages this grant facility (see subsection below on Governance and programme management).

REDAA uses an online grants application platform (the flexigrant platform, hosted by IIED) where organisations can submit concept notes, full proposals and supporting information. Flexigrant also facilitates communication between the SMU and successful grantees by providing a mechanism for managing initiatives and submitting reports.

The REDAA grants application platform and guidance on how to use it can be found on the REDAA website. The SMU hosts online webinars to present key points about REDAA grant calls and to answer potential applicants' questions. These are recorded and made available on the website.

REDAA offers one of three types of grant in each grant call. Subject matter requirements and eligibility requirements for applications are announced in each grant call, and detailed guidance in making applications is available on the REDAA website:

- **Catalytic Grants**. These relatively small-scale grants help organisations take up opportunities arising from existing evidence, tools or resources. They might lead to improved decision making using a tool, or further design and development of an innovation, or they might develop more effective organisational power. Catalytic Grants last for 6 to 12 months, and their budget is between £50,000 and £100,000. REDAA currently plans to issue two calls for Catalytic Grants, the first in late 2024. Each grant round will fund between 6 and 12 proposals. The application process will require a single-stage proposal.
- **Project Grants**. These are medium-scale grants in REDAA terms, for running a locally led research-to-action project over two to four years with a budget of between £200,000 and £500,000. REDAA launched its first grant call — for Project Grant applications — in June 2023, and 21 grant agreements were initiated in March 2024. Information about this first cohort of REDAA-supported initiatives is on the REDAA website. A further call for Project Grant applications to REDAA is anticipated and will follow the same two-stage proposal process: stage one will require concept notes, followed by stage two requiring full proposals.
- **Programme Grants**. These are large-scale grants in REDAA terms, for running a substantial programme of locally led research-to-action over four years with a budget of between £1,000,000 and £1,500,000. REDAA is launching a call for Programme Grant applications in May 2024 and will support up to nine initiatives.

Proposal review and assessment. Concept notes and proposals, once submitted in response to a call, undergo four review stages:

- **Eligibility screening**. The SMU screens concept notes and proposals. This process confirms that the application was received by the deadline, that the proposal and lead organisation are eligible for REDAA funding, and that the application form has been completed properly. Ineligible, incomplete or late proposals are rejected at this stage.
- **Panel review**. Eligible concept notes and proposals are forwarded to review by members of REDAA's Independent Technical Advisory Panel (ITAP) and external reviewers (see Governance and programme management). The SMU allocates each proposal to three reviewers, who each independently comment on and score the proposal on the basis of predefined scoring criteria. These reviews are completed within the flexigrant online platform. The SMU compiles the concept notes and proposals, and the scores and comments, for the ITAP to consider and make recommendations to the Steering Committee.
- **Steering Committee review**. The compiled concept notes and proposals, the scores and comments on them from the panel review, and the recommendations from the ITAP are shared with REDAA's Steering Committee (see Governance and programme management) for final review, discussion and decision. The Steering Committee also considers the appropriate spread and balance of the portfolio of REDAA grants when selecting which concept notes to take further, and when making funding decisions on full proposals.
- **Due diligence checks**. Before issuing grant agreements, the SMU conducts due diligence checks on lead organisations of successful proposals. These ensure that the organisation has appropriate systems and processes in place to manage the grant and comply with funder terms and conditions. In some cases, this may highlight the need for additional support from the SMU to the lead organisation to make small adjustments.

The lead organisation may be asked to put in place certain policies or processes before a grant is issued, or during the project's inception period.

The SMU aims to share feedback with unsuccessful organisations at each of the review stages so that it is clear why their proposal has not been selected.

Grant management. Grantees of all grant sizes will be expected to manage their initiatives appropriately and to comply with the funder's terms and conditions, which will be available on the REDAA website. Lead organisations should ensure a suitable team is resourced to manage the project, including for management and due diligence of downstream partners.

Grantees need to report regularly on progress, expenditure and risk. Reporting is done via the flexigrant online platform, on dates that are stipulated in the grant agreement. More information is made available to grantees in the **REDAA Programme Operations Manual**.

Communications, engagement and technical support — the REDAA Community

High quality communication and engagement are critical for REDAA — among and between grantees, organisations leading and partnering in REDAA-supported initiatives, the SMU, and others who can help the REDAA programme and/or are drawn to REDAA's knowledge and impact. The SMU aims to **promote the programme** — creating and raising REDAA's profile, explaining what it is trying to achieve, promoting its grant calls, keeping all those interested informed on progress and learning, and exploring further support for partners and for achieving a greater scale of impact for the programme. To facilitate this, the REDAA website hosts communications and learning products as the programme's online knowledge management hub. It also connects to other websites that host useful resources.

The REDAA Community is facilitated by the SMU — fostering communication, engagement and technical support where it is needed — with four main **objectives:**

1. **Enable learning.** REDAA sets up learning opportunities based on the needs and requests of lead and partner organisations in REDAA-supported initiatives. Through such learning opportunities, knowledge can be shared about effective ways of working, inspiring breakthroughs and innovations, and communications tactics for research uptake as well as setbacks and challenges that provide lessons for the future.
2. **Spread use of evidence and tools.** REDAA highlights and shares with other practitioners and decision makers innovative tools, approaches and lessons learned from the programme.
3. **Support capability development and influencing opportunities.** REDAA supports particular opportunities, identified with lead organisations and partners in REDAA-supported initiatives, to develop key organisational capabilities or engage with decision makers in government, the private sector and research institutions where needed.
4. **Build and strengthen networks.** REDAA fosters a peer-to-peer learning network among its grantees and helps expand grantees' existing networks to facilitate knowledge sharing and collaboration, and nurture new long-term partnerships.

This community of practice encourages engagement from: lead and partner organisations in REDAA-supported initiatives; those interested in possible future REDAA grant calls; those who are or have been involved in REDAA scoping studies, demonstrator projects or other collaboration initiatives (see Annex 1: Developing and adapting this strategy); and others interested in REDAA learning and events to inform their work in locally led research-to-action restoration initiatives. Some of the organisations involved in the REDAA Community have rich experience and skills which can benefit others in the Community. The SMU will work with these organisations to identify and support activities which fit technical support supply and demand within the REDAA Community.

The SMU thus takes two complementary approaches to developing the REDAA Community:

Facilitating mutual support among REDAA-supported organisations

- **Virtual learning events — facilitating two events each year.** A survey in 2024 among the first cohort of REDAA-supported initiatives of their needs and capacity identified the three learning topics of most interest as follows:
  - Managing trade-offs between poverty alleviation and environmental restoration
  - Incorporating gender equality and social inclusion in initiative design and implementation to drive transformative change, and
  - Designing and delivering effective initiative communication strategies to optimise impacts.

  It is currently anticipated that these topics, and others identified through interaction in the REDAA Community, will be the focus of two virtual learning events facilitated by the SMU each year.
- **Tailored capacity-boosting activities — facilitating one or two activities for particular organisations each year.** The SMU will support particular opportunities, identified with lead and partner organisations, to develop key organisational capabilities or to plan for engagement or to engage directly with decision makers in government, the private sector and research institutions. This support could be in the form of online or in-person advice, mentoring, workshops, training, and/or group learning and exchange via a virtual platform.
- **In-person events — facilitating one or two events with each cohort of REDAA-supported initiatives.** In-person learning and/or capacity-boosting events are costly but in cases where they have clear added value compared to online events they can also provide stronger learning opportunities and deeper dives on specific issues, and result in stronger partnerships through which to make further progress. The SMU currently intends to facilitate one or two such events with each cohort of REDAA-supported initiatives and/or to identify external events that offer strategic learning and networking opportunities for grantees and to sponsor grantees to participate in those events.
- **Knowledge products — capturing learning and developing appropriate products.** The SMU will develop a learning summary from each exchange event. The SMU may also develop other communication products around such learning events depending on the interests and capacity of the organisations involved: for example, case studies, updates and features in REDAA newsletters, short 'head-and-shoulders' videos from REDAA Community participants describing issues of learning, challenge or impact, and blogs from those involved in REDAA-supported initiatives.

Sharing wider evidence and tools for locally led research-to-action for restoration

- **Webinars and podcasts on thematic issues — up to four per year.** With the wider pool of those who become involved with the REDAA Community described above, the SMU currently expects to organise up to four webinars and/or podcasts per year to facilitate discussions and sharing of good practices on key issues that can benefit all partners, or on shared knowledge and skills gaps identified through interaction. For example, the survey of the first cohort of REDAA-supported initiatives identified these thematic issues of interest:
  - How to design projects to improve the influence of research on restoration actions at scale? What are some of the good practices?
  - How to better finance locally led restoration? This can cover how to make funding more accessible as well as how to make more funding available (e.g. how climate finance and impact finance can be leveraged; how to leverage market-based mechanisms).
  - Artificial intelligence's role in reversing environmental degradation.
- **Learning products — developed in collaboration with those who generated the learning.** The SMU currently aims to ensure that learning products, in addition to the webinar recordings or podcasts themselves, are developed following one or more of the above webinars or podcasts each year. These can take the form of, for example, short case studies capturing good practices shared or a blog reflecting on different approaches identified.

Monitoring, evaluation and learning

In addition to the facilitation of learning from experience in the REDAA Community, the SMU manages programme-wide monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL). **Periodic surveys** of those involved in the REDAA Community are anticipated to monitor the effectiveness, efficiency and equity of REDAA management practices.

Reporting by REDAA-supported initiatives to the SMU covers progress, absence of progress, problems or opportunities arising, or modifications proposed against their plans, guided by the **REDAA Programme Operations Manual**.

Reporting requirements for REDAA grantees vary depending primarily on grant type. Organisations receiving Catalytic Grants will be expected to identify and map the outcomes emerging from their initiative with qualitative methods and light-touch reporting. Project Grant recipients report in more detail against their planned activities and outputs. Programme grantees will be expected to produce baseline reports, mid-term reviews and final evaluations to capture both qualitative and quantitative data related to social, economic and environmental indicators, using appropriate MEL approaches and methods.

From the reporting by REDAA-supported initiatives, the SMU derives data to track the programme's progress towards its **milestones and targets** on change created or enhanced by use of REDAA-supported evidence, actionable information and tools and by influencing governance systems. The SMU also aims to monitor REDAA's **overall impact** on landscapes and ecologies through a combination of commissioned studies and a programme-wide review.

On the basis of its interactions in the REDAA Community and in managing grant calls and grant agreements, the SMU will review and, with confirmation from the Steering Committee, update the programme's **logical framework** and, if useful, the **theory of change** each year.

Governance and programme management

The REDAA programme adopts a 'distributed' management and governance structure. FCDO is the main financial contributor; however, other funders may join the programme.

REDAA's Governance Plan, available on the REDAA website, sets out the programme's mechanisms and processes of governance and management. It is expected that the Governance Plan and the systems of management will be periodically structurally modified and practically improved on a day-to-day basis in terms of efficiency, equity and effectiveness as the programme learns from experience.

The governance structure of the programme has four main elements:

1. **Steering Committee**. This committee serves as the highest governing body for REDAA, responsible for the programme's overall direction and for ensuring quality of process, results and value for money. The Steering Committee is chaired by FCDO, and its membership includes other selected agencies, two Co-Chairs of the ITAP and the Chair of the SMU.
2. **Independent Technical Advisory Panel (ITAP)**. The ITAP provides strategic and technical advice and guidance to the Steering Committee and the SMU and, where appropriate, to distinct components of the programme. Membership of the ITAP comprises 10 to 12 experts from academic, civil society, government and international institutions. Of these members, two or three are from institutions in each REDAA focal region (sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, Southeast Asia).
3. **Scientific and Management Unit (SMU)**. The International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) has been contracted to provide REDAA's SMU. A dedicated team provides scientific coordination and management for the programme. Day-to-day administration includes facilitation of the REDAA Community, financial monitoring and compliance tasks, grant management and administration, commercial procurement, website management, risk management, due diligence and safeguarding. The SMU is also responsible for overall quality assurance and coherence of results and outputs; for monitoring, evaluation and learning systems; and for synthesising research outcomes and disseminating results and evidence to practitioners, decision makers and the wider public.
4. **REDAA-supported initiatives and REDAA Community**. The REDAA-supported initiatives are governed through their own structures and systems as agreed with the SMU in their grant agreements. This includes management of their downstream partners (subgrantees if they receive REDAA grant funding). Through direct interaction with the SMU and with other organisations in the REDAA Community, organisations involved in REDAA-supported initiatives may develop recommendations for improvements in REDAA's governance and programme management and submit these to the SMU or the ITAP.

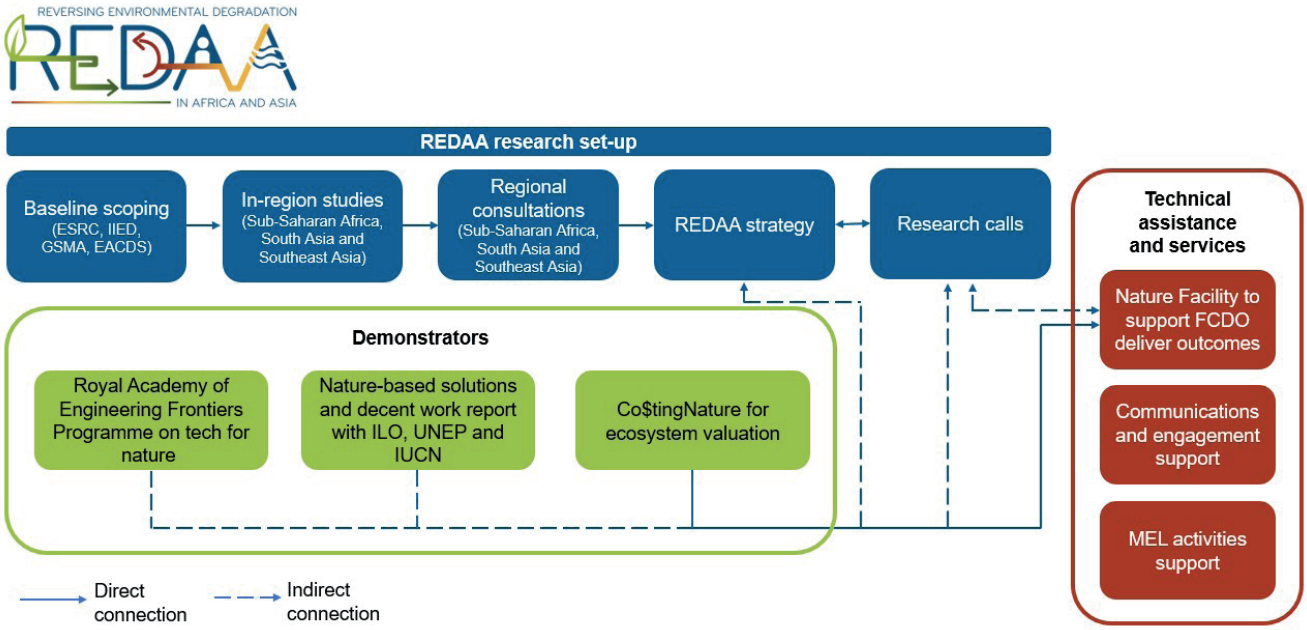
Annexes

Annex 1: Developing and adapting this strategy — scoping, set-up and shaping of REDAA

Main programme development activities to date

Following internal agreement on the strategic case for REDAA, FCDO approved the programme for development in 2021. IIED began work with FCDO to scope and set up the programme in November that year. Figure 3 illustrates the main activities undertaken in the scoping and set-up period.

Figure 3. Main activities undertaken in REDAA scoping and set-up period and the organisations involved



Abbreviations reading from left to right: ESRC — Economic and Social Research Council, UK. IIED — International Institute for Environment and Development. GSMA — Global System for Mobile Communications Association. EACDS — Expert Advisory Call Down Services, a technical advisory service that provides rapid-response, expert support for the development of UK aid programmes. FCDO — the UK Government's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. ILO — International Labour Organization. UNEP — United Nations Environment Programme. IUCN — International Union for Conservation of Nature. MEL — monitoring, evaluation and learning.

Setting-up and starting to implement the programme

The scoping and set-up phases have been followed by the REDAA programme's first year of implementation. In this period the programme team has:

- Undertaken or overseen and published a range of scoping studies
- Verified the imperative for the programme with stakeholders in sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and Southeast Asia
- Facilitated some of these stakeholders to co-design key priorities that the REDAA grant and support programme can address
- Supported and learned from several 'demonstrator' projects
- Built the core foundations for effective management of the programme
- Shaped the REDAA Strategy from all the above

- Launched the first REDAA grant call and initiated agreements with 21 REDAA-supported projects, and
- Shaped and facilitated the early development of the REDAA Community of partners and supporters.

Learning lessons from other related programmes

REDAA's Strategy development learned much from existing and previous programmes of a similar nature. REDAA aims to build directly on the impacts of some programmes, such as Ecosystem Services for Poverty Alleviation.

Among the lessons learned are:

- **Knowledge management**. It is important to consider and plan for REDAA's legacy from the outset. This insight shaped the team's approach to REDAA's website development, which is becoming REDAA's online knowledge management hub and an important focus for the REDAA Community.
- **Active learning**. It is valuable to synthesise findings and lessons from across the REDAA programme throughout its lifetime. This lesson has underpinned the emphasis on good communications and on MEL in all REDAA-supported initiatives. It is the programme's rationale for the REDAA Community's periodic learning events and for strong communications and MEL capacity in the SMU.
- **Working with other initiatives**. In finding REDAA's comparative advantage internationally, the programme will work best alongside, and in communication and collaboration with, existing bodies of work and ongoing programming. This lesson has led the team's approach to positioning REDAA's role and preparing its criteria and guidance for grant calls.

Scoping studies, surveys and co-design workshops

A range of scoping studies were also conducted, and their results influenced strategy development:

1. *The development of innovative landscape management regimes and nature-based solutions* Judith Fisher, Tetra Tech International Development Europe. April 2022
2. *Trade-offs between poverty alleviation and environmental restoration* Charis Enns, Global Development Institute, University of Manchester. March 2022
3. *Low-tech, bottom-up, place-based approaches to addressing environmental degradation* Ebony Holland, International Institute for Environment and Development. April 2022
4. *Intersectional inequalities to consider in action to address environmental degradation* Rebecca Elmhirst, School of Applied Sciences, University of Brighton. April 2022
5. *What is environmental degradation, what are its causes, and how to respond?* Ian Scoones, Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex. August 2022
6. *How research influences government action for nature* Xiaoting Hou-Jones, Steve Bass, James Mayers and Dilys Roe, International Institute for Environment and Development. September 2022
7. *Exploring barriers and incentives to digital solutions in natural resource management* Anna Colquhoun and Leila Guici, GSMA; Xiaoting Hou-Jones, the International Institute for Environment and Development; Varsha Ashok and Kaavya Arakoni, the Busara Center for Behavioural Economics. April 2023

8. *Scoping study of research-to-action priorities for the REDAA Programme: Southeast Asia* Sophie Lewis, David Gritten and Ronnakorn Triraganon, RECOFTC. May 2023
9. *Turning the tide on environmental degradation in South Asia: Scoping study of research-to-action priorities for REDAA* Sunita Chaudhary, Bandana Shakya, Biraj Adhikari, Samuel Thomas, Binaya Pasakhala, Nakul Chettri, Kabir Uddin and Babar Khan, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development. May 2023
10. *Potential priority issues for REDAA in sub-Saharan Africa. A rapid literature review to inform the research-to-action programme REDAA* Francesca Booker, Janine Duffy and Xiaoting Hou-Jones, International Institute for Environment and Development. May 2023
11. *Scoping study of research-to-action priorities for the REDAA programme: Eastern and Southern Africa* Meembo Nchimunya Changula, Dr Ernita van Wyk, Dr Julie Goodness, Kevin Mutia, Jade Sullivan and Zakiyya Atkins, ICLEI Africa (Local Governments for Sustainability — Africa). December 2023
12. *Scoping study of research-to-action priorities for the REDAA programme: Central Africa* Fatima Denton, Bruk Tekie and Ramata Ouedraogo, United Nations University — Institute of Natural Resources Africa. January 2024
13. *Scoping study of research-to-action priorities for the REDAA programme: West Africa* Fatima Denton, Thelma Arko and Gifty Ampomah, United Nations University — Institute of Natural Resources Africa. January 2024

Scoping studies that focused on potential research-to-action priorities for REDAA in sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and Southeast Asia were shared through online surveys involving key experts working at local to region-wide levels in each region. These surveys sought input to refine the potential priorities. Drawing on the scoping papers and the online survey results, the REDAA team co-hosted workshops with experts from each region to further co-design priorities in Southeast Asia, South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. Findings from this co-design work have been incorporated into this strategy. Further scoping studies will be carried out during implementation of the REDAA programme and will inform periodic reviews of the strategy.

Demonstrator projects implemented and learned from

REDAA's set-up phase has supported several demonstrator projects, and this strategy draws on their findings. The projects are:

1. **Piloting technology-enabled approaches to reverse environmental degradation**. REDAA supported several pilot projects that were co-designed by international participants in an online symposium run by the Frontiers Programme of the UK's Royal Academy of Engineering. The focus was on catalysing new research-to-action projects and partnerships to deliver technology-enabled approaches that reverse environmental degradation in Africa and Asia. The REDAA-supported pilots, which have been delivering their results through 2023 and 2024, are:

- *Leveraging technology to foreground nature in the everyday city*, which is designing an app that can help policymakers combine biophysical data on biodiversity loss and climate change impacts with socio-ecological data (i.e. lived experiences of citizens) to make better land use decisions in and around urban areas in Nepal and India.
- *Unlocking the food-water-energy nexus*, which is using digital twins (virtual representations of objects or systems) to manage water, energy and food resources in South Africa and Malaysia.

- *Fish love*, which is co-creating digital tools with fishing villages in Nigeria to build a fairer and more sustainable fishing industry value chain.
- *Digitally-facilitated community-led product guarantee scheme*, which is engaging forest communities in Southeast Asia to inform a digital system helping communities to collaboratively certify sustainable products.

2. **Co$ting Nature — tool development**. AmbioTEK and King's College London developed an innovative spatial policy support tool. It maps nature's contributions to people, the risks people face from nature loss, and the risks human development activity poses to nature. Co$tingNature for Sustainable Development (CN4SD) is a web interface applying multi-scale data to prioritisation of nature investments at the national scale, globally. It also links to Co$tingNatureMAP, which provides subnational prioritisation maps.

The introduction to the CN4SD interface notes that conservation investments can have unintended, and sometimes negative, consequences for local people if their values and needs are not represented in the evidence base for investment. It advises that investments should always be locally led and informed by the local social, political and economic situation. The CN4SD team continue to develop and refine the interface and its data management.

3. **Value chain improvements for food security, incomes, job creation and restoration — Ghana**. Tele-Bere is a forest and farm producer organisation in Northern Ghana which has delivered results, in a landscape with three villages (Gundoog, Yarigabisi and Kunkua), from a completed REDAA research-to-action demonstration project arranged through collaboration with the Forest and Farm Facility co-managed by FAO (the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization), Agricord, IUCN and IIED.

As part of the project, smallholders, after receiving training, adopted sustainable land management practices and reported increased crop yields of up to 50 to 60%. Higher nutrient stores (e.g. soil organic matter, nitrogen, potassium, calcium) were also found in agricultural plots using microbial fertilisers, strongly benefiting the landscapes where applied. Capital investment costs were 65% lower than chemical fertiliser costs, removing significant financial barriers faced by women and youth in engaging in agricultural production.

4. **Organic fertiliser and biopesticides for the empowerment of young people and women in a context of climate change — Togo.** SCOOPS Tibi forest and farm producer organisation in Togo ran this project in a landscape comprising some five villages, also piloting key research-to-action issues that will be followed up by the Forest and Farm Facility.

Supported by the Laboratory of Botanical and Plant Ecology of the University of Lomé, the baselines for test fields were established, and five farm schools received training to produce organic fertiliser and biopesticides. Production methods employed during this project have made it possible for farm schools to produce organic compost in 21 to 28 days that previously took up to three months, enabling farmers to access sustainable fertiliser and pesticide alternatives. Increased access has reduced dependency on chemical fertilisers and helped protect farmers from price increases associated with chemical fertilisers.

5. **Nature-based solutions and decent work**. REDAA and the SMU also supported and contributed to the ILO's study with IUCN and UNEP, *Decent Work in Nature-based Solutions 2022*. The report was launched in December 2022 at the Convention on Biological

Diversity's 15th Conference of the Parties meeting (CBD COP15), and detailed how investments in nature-based solutions can create decent work in support of a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all.

6. **Sri Lanka wetlands monitoring project.** A strategic partnership was established with Japan International Cooperation Agency Ogata Research Institute (JICA ORI) to review and further develop wetland ecosystem function and valuation models in Sri Lanka. A project lead organisation was selected in 2023, and results are expected in 2024.

Nature Facility for FCDO — an ongoing REDAA initiative

A Nature Facility was designed and a one-year trial period launched in June 2023 as part of the REDAA programme. The Nature Facility helps FCDO staff and partners put nature at the heart of their work. It offers advice on demand from a roster of expertise, delivering technical support on 'nature and people' issues to improve design and implementation of strategy, policy and programming. It also aims to build a core capacity to understand FCDO's commitments on nature and how best to deliver them, and to provide a focal point to share learning. Actions in the trial period have been evaluated, and the Nature Facility is currently expected to operate until 2028.

Developing REDAA programme management

The strategy development process also put a concerted focus on programme management, communications, and monitoring, evaluation and learning. The REDAA theory of change and logical framework were developed iteratively through the scoping and set-up period as findings came in from scoping, co-design and demonstrator project work. They remain living project management tools that will be adapted throughout the REDAA programme.

The REDAA team has also set up the grant facility and programme management systems run by the SMU and established the Steering Committee and the ITAP. Strategic and effective approaches for MEL and communications for REDAA have been developed. Each of these elements of management will continue to be improved and periodically adapted from experience as implementation of the programme proceeds. All key REDAA information in addition to this strategy is available on the REDAA website.

Grant call 1 — Projects

REDAA's first grant call was launched in June 2023 to invite proposals for projects in sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and Southeast Asia that are interdisciplinary, locally led and focused on solutions for ecosystem restoration, enabling people and nature to thrive together in times of climate, resource and fiscal insecurity. All proposals were required to positively address integrated action for nature and climate, and for gender equality and social inclusion, and each was required to focus on one or more of REDAA's thematic priorities (see subsection above on Types of initiative that REDAA supports).

Grant call 1 offered Project Grants of between £200,000 and £500,000 over two to four years. It was a two-stage process: Stage 1 for concept notes; followed by Stage 2 for full proposals. Applicants were provided with guidance on: what kinds of projects can be funded; eligibility and other project requirements; how to submit a Concept Note application; and what the subsequent steps will be in the proposal development, selection and award

process. Concept notes that passed eligibility checks were each reviewed and scored against agreed criteria by three reviewers. Full proposals were requested from those proponents that the REDAA Steering Committee considered to have submitted the best concept notes.

Following review and scoring by three reviewers of each full proposal, the Steering Committee selected 21 projects which, after due diligence checks by the REDAA team and discussions on details between the REDAA team and the lead applicants, began to implement grant agreements in March 2024. Information about each of these 21 REDAA-supported projects can be found on the REDAA website.

Grant call 2 — Programmes

REDAA's second grant call, launched in May 2024, invites proposals for locally led, multi-locational research-to-action restoration programmes in sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and Southeast Asia. Grant call 2 follows a two-stage process like the first grant call. Guidance is offered to applicants covering subject matter requirements, organisational requirements, additional options to consider, and the review and selection process.

Up to nine Programme Grants of between £1,000,000 and £1,500,000 are offered to the best proposals, taking into account the need for a balanced portfolio across geographies, ecosystems and the themes of the call. Grants will fund programmes of up to four years, with implementation of these programmes expected to begin in February 2025.

A summary of the main actions taken in facilitating the REDAA Community and further grant calls can be expected in future iterations of this strategy.

Annex 2: Eligible countries for REDAA-supported initiatives

Implementation activities supported by REDAA grants must take place within one or more eligible countries within the focal region selected (either sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia or Southeast Asia). Eligible countries in each focal region are listed below. **REDAA calls for proposals may specify a more restricted list of eligible countries** for the purposes of balancing the portfolio of initiatives supported by the programme.

REDAA-supported initiatives are expected to be mostly focused on activities in **low income and lower middle income countries** (based on OECD DAC eligibility). Upper middle income countries (UMICs) are eligible; however, proposals for REDAA-supported initiatives working in a UMIC must clearly demonstrate a stronger case for support. This includes operating in areas of high importance for nature and climate and a clear gender equality and social inclusion need.

In addition to the above, proposals for activities in a UMIC must also clearly demonstrate that they will:

- Advance knowledge, evidence and impact in least developed or low income countries, or
- Contribute to a global public good, for example by advancing understanding and/or strengthening the knowledge base related to ecosystem restoration, or
- Contribute to serious and unique advancements on a critical issue as a result of specific circumstances of the UMIC that could not be made elsewhere.

REDAA-eligible countries are as follows:

REDAA eligible countries		
Sub-Saharan Africa	**South Asia**	**Southeast Asia**
Low income countries (ODA classification)		
Angola	Bangladesh	Cambodia
Benin	Nepal	Lao People's Democratic Republic
Burkina Faso		Myanmar
Burundi		Timor-Leste
Central African Republic		
Chad		
Comoros		
Democratic Republic of the Congo		
Djibouti		
Eritrea		
Ethiopia		
Gambia		
Guinea		
Guinea-Bissau		
Lesotho		
Liberia		
Madagascar		
Malawi		
Mali		
Mauritania		
Mozambique		
Niger		
Rwanda		
São Tomé and Príncipe		
Senegal		
Sierra Leone		
South Sudan		
Tanzania		
Togo		
Uganda		
Zambia		

REDAA eligible countries		
Sub-Saharan Africa	**South Asia**	**Southeast Asia**
Lower middle income countries (ODA classification)		
Cabo Verde	Bhutan	Philippines
Cameroon	India*	Viet Nam
Congo	Pakistan	
Côte d'Ivoire	Sri Lanka	
Eswatini		
Ghana		
Kenya		
Nigeria		
Zimbabwe		
Upper middle income countries (ODA classification)		
Botswana	Maldives	Indonesia
Equatorial Guinea		Malaysia
Gabon		Thailand
Mauritius		
Namibia		
South Africa		

** From 2024 REDAA is not able to accept proposals for initiatives led by organisations in India. If activities in India are proposed they should constitute a minor component of an initiative which implements the majority of its activities in one or more other countries in the South Asia region. The costs of the minor component of activities in India in such a regional initiative should make up no more than 25% of the budget.*

Annex 3: Ecologies and landscapes highlighted in REDAA scoping work

REDAA encourages action to protect, conserve, restore and/or manage sustainably terrestrial, freshwater and coastal ecosystems, but does not prescribe a list of specific ecologies or landscapes in which REDAA-supported initiatives should focus their activities. Rather, it encourages proponents of such initiatives to put forward a rationale for their choice of location and operational scale. In making their choices, applicant organisations may wish to consider, but should not be limited to, the ecologies and landscapes identified in work undertaken to prepare and adapt this REDAA Strategy.

The REDAA scoping studies can be found on the REDAA website. For working definitions of some environments, see Annex 4: Key terms used by the REDAA programme.

Sub-Saharan Africa. Scoping studies led by organisations based in sub-Saharan Africa have provided results on each of the four subregions (West, Central, Eastern and Southern Africa), thus informing this strategy. Environments were highlighted in these studies where landscape, biodiversity or ecosystem degradation are occurring, or show potential for restoration, or where ecosystem services provide significant contributions to people.

The studies noted the wide range of definitions and approaches used to describe such locations, but identified these key environments which could be the focus of activities in REDAA-supported initiatives:

- The Congo Basin: a mosaic of rivers, forests, savannas, swamps and flooded forests that spans six countries (Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon)
- Coastal forests and mangrove ecosystems: coastal forests and mangroves are found in countries on the eastern edge of Africa, including in parts of Somalia, Kenya, Tanzania and Mozambique, and in some countries in West and Central Africa
- The Eastern Afromontane: the mountain chains of Eastern Africa, extending from the Ethiopian mountains, through the East African countries Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and Tanzania, towards Malawi and Mozambique in the south
- Guinean forests of West Africa: the lowland forests of West Africa stretch from Guinea and Sierra Leone eastwards to the Sanaga River in Cameroon. Remnant fragments of Guinean forests are found in Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin and Nigeria
- Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands
- Wetlands, including peatlands, in Central, Southern and Eastern Africa
- Drylands, savanna and grasslands, including the Sahel and in Southern Africa
- Urban and peri-urban environments, particularly those in coastal areas in Southern Africa

South Asia. Expertise from institutions in South Asia used several criteria to identify ecologies and landscape types where REDAA-supported initiatives might be valuable. These criteria were: landscapes containing 'global biodiversity hotspots', '200 global ecoregions' or 'important bird or biodiversity areas'; landscapes and ecologies with significant scale and severity of environmental degradation; landscapes and ecologies vulnerable to climate exposure and change; and areas inhabited by marginalised communities, including tribal and Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

The ecologies and landscapes identified are:

- The Himalaya: the mountain region across Bhutan, India, Nepal and Pakistan
- Western Ghats: the west coast region of India
- Chittagong Hill Tracts in southeastern Bangladesh
- Sundarbans mangroves: spanning the area from the Baleswar River in Bangladesh's division of Khulna to the Hooghly River in India's state of West Bengal
- Atolls in the Maldives
- Mangroves along the coast and the Kelani River Basin in the Colombo district of Sri Lanka
- Peri-urban environments, particularly in coastal areas in the region

Southeast Asia. Expertise from institutions in Southeast Asia used several criteria to identify ecologies and landscape types where REDAA-supported initiatives might be valuable. These criteria were: landscapes or ecologies containing 'key biodiversity areas' or 'important bird and biodiversity areas'; those containing intact or fragmented key habitats, including protected areas; and places where REDAA interventions could benefit vulnerable groups, including Indigenous Peoples, women, youth, migrant workers and landless labourers.

The ecologies and landscapes identified are:

- Inle Lake Wildlife Sanctuary, Myanmar
- Dawna Tenasserim, a transboundary area of Myanmar and Western Thailand
- Nan Province, Thailand
- Nam Poui National Protected Area, Lao People's Democratic Republic
- Tonle Sap, UNESCO World Heritage Site, Cambodia
- Prey Lang and the Eastern Plains Landscape, Cambodia
- Quang Nam and Nghe An Provinces, Viet Nam
- Cagayan Valley Region, the Philippines
- Riau Province, Sumatra, Indonesia
- North Kalimantan Province, Borneo, Indonesia
- South Sulawesi Province, Sulawesi, Indonesia
- Papua Selatan (South Papua), Papua Tengah (Central Papua), Papua Pegunungan (Mountains Papua) and Papua Barat Daya (South-West Papua) Provinces, Indonesia

Annex 4: Key terms used by the REDAA programme

The REDAA team's general understanding of key terms used by the programme is offered below. The key terms are arranged alphabetically in two lists: organisation and management; and environments.

Key terms — organisation and management

Actionable information: policy or practice recommendations or prescriptions produced (in the case of the REDAA programme) by the SMU or by those leading REDAA-supported initiatives.

Baseline: a baseline describes the starting point — a measure of the situation before a project starts — against which progress can be measured or comparisons can be made.

Community of practice: a group of people who share a common concern, a set of problems or an interest in a professional practice and who come together to fulfil both individual and group goals.

Consultant: an individual or an organisation providing a specific service to the project or REDAA programme, with well-defined outputs and other deliverables, in return for a pre-agreed fee. Consultants would not normally own the resulting intellectual property from the work they deliver; rather, this would be owned by the Lead Organisation and typically shared with subgrantees in the consortium.

Gender equality and social inclusion: refers to giving equal access and opportunities to, and removing the barriers of discrimination towards, girls, women, non-binary and other marginalised and vulnerable populations, such as disabled people, Indigenous Peoples, refugees and migrants.

Impact: refers both to the long-term goal that the project expects to contribute to achieving, and to positive and negative, primary and secondary long-term effects produced by the project, directly or indirectly, intended or unintended.

Indigenous Peoples: one definition of Indigenous Peoples, by the World Bank, is 'distinct social, cultural, and ethnic groups whose norms and practices are tied to ancestral lands and natural resources where they live or from the land from which they have been displaced'. However, there is no generally accepted definition of Indigenous Peoples in a global context. Some Indigenous Peoples choose different terms. Further, some national governments do not recognise the term Indigenous Peoples within their legal frameworks.

Intersectional inequalities: refers to the multiple forms of inequality or disadvantage (for example, intersections of race, caste, ethnicity, disability, gender identity, sexual orientation, age and socioeconomic status) that can compound and create obstacles that often are not understood among conventional ways of thinking.

Knowledge and communications products: publicly available written and audiovisual outputs — including reports, journal papers, briefing papers, blogs and videos — produced (in the case of the REDAA programme) by the SMU or by those leading REDAA-supported initiatives.

Lead applicant: this person, on behalf of the lead organisation, takes responsibility for the management and accountability of the project and will be the main contact point for all aspects of project management.

Lead organisation: the organisation that will make an agreement with the REDAA programme and receive a grant, if the proposal is successful, and will be ultimately responsible for delivery and management of the project, including management of any partners and subgrantees.

Local community: a group of people interacting with each other and living in a common location.

Locally led: refers to initiatives that engage residents in their design and implementation, and whose leadership has strong local involvement. They are likely to employ and empower women and youth, and show concrete benefits for local communities.

Milestone: a stage in the desired trajectory from the baseline to the target of a project, against which progress can be assessed and modifications to the project identified.

Outcome: the specific objective of the project. Identifies what will change and who will benefit from project outputs.

Output: the specific, direct deliverables of the project. These will provide the conditions necessary to achieve the outcome.

Partner: an umbrella term to refer to any organisation that the REDAA programme works with, or that REDAA-supported project lead organisations work with, on the basis of equitable partnership.

Research-to-action: aims to generate or supply rigorous scientific research; to improve the demand for the resulting knowledge (for example, by improving incentives, capacity, processes and approaches for using the new evidence); and to better connect the demand

for, and supply of, evidence used to influence key decisions (for example, by fostering better interactions and collaborations between research providers and users).

Subgrantee: a partner organisation that receives REDAA funds through a formal subgrant agreement (with grant terms and conditions) with the lead organisation. Subgrantees normally contribute to the intellectual leadership and strategic direction of the project.

Key terms — environments

Coastal lands: defined as the lands and ecosystems near a coast, including the intertidal zone, and the areas of ground in such locations used by people for purposes such as farming or building.

Drylands: defined by a scarcity of water. Drylands are zones where precipitation is balanced by evaporation from surfaces and by transpiration by plants. The UNEP definition of drylands is here adopted: tropical and temperate areas with an aridity index of less than 0.65.

Environmental degradation: refers to the many human-caused processes that drive decline or loss in biodiversity, ecosystem functions or ecosystem services.

Farm-forest landscape: defined as places where forests and agricultural land use coexist in a mosaic pattern. Agricultural and forest land uses are interspersed and may ebb and flow, with the resulting mosaic changing in space and time in response to many factors including migration, technology adoption and road building.

Forest: the FAO defines forest as land spanning more than 0.5 hectares with trees higher than 5 metres and a canopy cover of more than 10%, or trees able to reach these thresholds in situ. Forest does not include land that is predominantly under agricultural or urban land use.

Landscape: a particular place, its natural resources and all the people connected to it.

Mangroves: mangroves are trees and shrubs found in the intertidal zones of tropical and subtropical coastlines. There are about 70 species, well adapted to these salty environments.

Mountain: mountain environments contain a scattered but diverse array of habitats in which a large range of plants and animals can be found. At higher altitudes harsh environmental conditions generally prevail, and treeless alpine vegetation is supported. Lower slopes commonly host montane forests. Steep hillsides may be terraced by mountain farmers, while further up, pastoral cultures may coax a living from a rangeland ecosystem.

Peatlands: peatlands are terrestrial wetland ecosystems in which waterlogged conditions prevent plant material from fully decomposing. Consequently, the production of organic matter exceeds its decomposition, which results in a net accumulation of peat. Most tropical peatlands are located where rainforest vegetation grows.

Peri-urban: peri-urban environments are zones of transition from rural to urban land uses located between the outer limits of urban centres and the rural environment. The boundaries of peri-urban areas are porous and transitory as people, resources and goods connect and move between rural and urban areas.

Restoration: environmental restoration refers to addressing the challenge of environmental degradation by improving the condition of natural landscapes in ways that enable people and nature to thrive together.

Urban: urban environments are ecological systems located within a city or another densely settled area.

Wetlands: wetland environments experience high amounts of water at the surface, either permanently or for considerable periods in the year. Waterlogging can be by fresh or saline water.