



SUMMARY BRIEF

Examining solutions to accelerating impact in the Great Green Wall Initiative.

A summary of participant feedback, Virtual Event Series: 25 October, 24 November 2022.

Background

To advance a transformational approach and in support of the Great Green Wall (GGW) Initiative, the GGW Accelerator and the Pan African Agency of the Great Green Wall (PAAGGW), the One CGIAR ClimBeR Initiative, the Alliance of Bioversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture, along with CIFOR-ICRAF, have undertaken a study in four countries (Senegal, Mali, Ethiopia and Sudan) and hosted a series of virtual events across a wide range of stakeholders to generate knowledge to understand key barriers to and potential solutions for accelerating impacts for the GGW.

This brief summarises key findings from the second virtual event, which presented successful case studies with an emphasis on ‘bridging the divide’ for restoration in terms of institutional relationships, science and information across scales, and scaling nature-inspired practices.



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Bridging the divide for restoration



Bolstering inter-institutional relationships

FOSTERING SHARED EVIDENCE AND EXPERIENCES

A case study of Regreening Africa emphasised the importance of **science, practice and policy working together**, and of sharing real achievements related to interventions. Regreening Africa's success comes from the project's unique approach of working across policy, practice and science. The project recognises that evidence comes from different sources and, to enable this, has designed **a unique stakeholder engagement process** that includes Joint Reflective Learning Missions.

BUILDING ADVOCACY CAPACITIES

A key recommendation is the critical importance of translating laws and policies into local languages so that more people can understand them, as well as:

- The need for a **simple advocacy plan** in Mali, Senegal and Burkina Faso;
- **Regulatory mechanisms to govern ANR** and governance policies and the need for a network of partners/stakeholders; and
- **Legal frameworks that clearly define the status of farm trees**, how they can be exploited, and how the profits can be shared regarding the use of these trees.

PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT

Given the positive private sector investment in East African countries, the technical capacities of local communities are increasing at a faster rate. However, West Africa has a lower return on investments and a lower rate of private sector involvement. Two key barriers to effective public-private partnerships to foster impact in the GGW include the **lack of integration of many GGW initiatives into private sector budgets** and that many GGW initiatives have **not developed business models**. Increased PPP is needed to help boost the sustainability of GGWI and to do so, increased technical capacities of actors involved in the GGW must be ensured, including training on budgets and developing effective business models.

WORKING GROUP REFLECTIONS:

A key solution reflected among the working group that focused on bolstering institutional relationships was the need for **coalitions to be developed between projects, programmes, and partners**, as well as enhanced collaboration to avoid the duplication of work and efficientise resource management. Linked to this, there needs to be an increased effort towards **leveraging collaboration with private sector and international organisations**. At the institutional and partnership levels, one of the root causes of the dispersion of efforts is the profound lack of knowledge that actors and partners have of each other.

QUESTION

“Recommend one innovation or transformative action to be put in place at regional or national scale to accelerate and scale up GGW Impact”

PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

- Common policies
- Regional policies
- Reform of policies
- Political awareness of the importance of the GGWI

- Awareness creation
- Coalitions
- Integration
- Synergy
- More coordination, harmony with other initiatives

- Good governance
- Partnerships
- Networks

- Assisted natural regeneration
- Agroforestry

- Exchange between countries
- Share experience and pilot small projects
- Increase capacity building and connect within others successful experiences in the countries



Science into information across scales

SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS THINKING

Operating within a **socio-ecological framework** that recognises that we are all part of one system, allows us to more easily identify opportunities for change within and across systems.

FORESIGHT ANALYSIS

Foresight analysis enables stakeholders to become **comfortable with complexity** and uncertainty, work with creativity and agility, and consider transformative pathways. It is also key in **developing shared understanding**, shared vision, shared scenarios, and a shared transformative roadmap with a diverse group of stakeholders. **Evidence and uncertainty can be brought together using foresight analysis** to explore alternative futures in a participatory process and to identify preferred futures for planning.

INTEGRATING CITIZEN SCIENCE INTO SCIENTIFIC DATA

The importance of **participatory approaches and citizen science** was highlighted, using information and communications technology to build an evidence base around restoration projects and to transform previously paper-based tools to apps that are easily accessible. Using apps to collect data not only enables farming communities on the ground to be involved in the data collection, monitoring and evaluation process, but also enables project managers and other stakeholders to **access data on restoration practices in real time**. Stakeholders can create better interventions using tools such as the **Regreening Africa Dashboard** which captures all the data collected by the Regreening Africa App.

WORKING GROUP REFLECTIONS:

When considering science and information across different scales, it is very important to **localise the findings of project work** – including translation into local languages. There needs to be increased investment in making science and information more accessible. **Foresight analysis** was identified as a valuable tool and associated capacity development needs to be supported and upscaled.



Scaling nature-inspired landscape practices

PARTICIPATORY AND REGENERATIVE MANAGEMENT

For scaling up nature-inspired restoration practices, an opportunity was taken to focus on practices beyond tree planting, such as **participatory and regenerative grazing management** and **farmer managed or assisted natural regeneration of trees**. Lessons were shared from communities in Tanzania that have come together to manage grazing lands through integrating participatory rangeland management. This is a process that helps to build capacity as land managers and strengthen policy, while conserving and improving natural landscapes and grazing practices, and has proven to be very successful in East Africa. ILRI is working on an approach to scale up participatory rangeland management in West Africa, particularly in Senegal and Mali.

STAKEHOLDER COORDINATION

Discussions across the presented success cases reinforced the message that processes and practices that promote massive restoration will require **coordination among a wide range of stakeholders and sectors at different scales**. It will be critical to ensure that financial mechanisms support the necessary partnership building processes, evidence-based decision-making processes, the integration across the science-practice-policy interface and coordinated and robust knowledge sharing approaches, and a sustained commitment to land restoration actors who can make a difference on the ground.

WORKING GROUP REFLECTIONS:

When it comes to scaling nature-inspired landscape approaches, one of the main issues is the sustainability of these projects, largely owing to the issue of **sustainable financing**. With results of nature-based solutions often slow, project financing timelines tend to fall short of the timeframe required to achieve results. Trying to secure funding for a project where the results are not immediate is therefore challenging. A possible solution to this is **contextualising the strategy** to these projects, and **creating projects that are self-financing**.

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ClimBeR

ClimBeR seeks to address challenges to adaptation by small-holder farmers through science and innovation aimed at transforming the climate adaptation capacity of food, land, and water systems, working closely with partners at the local, national, regional, and global levels. ClimBeR focuses on generating knowledge to unlock public and private finance, foster climate- and peace-sensitive policies and backstop the Great Green Wall Initiative (GGWI), Africa's flagship programme to address climate change and desertification.



<https://www.cgiar.org/research/publication/initiative-overview-climber-building-systemic-resilience-against-climate-variability-and-extremes/>



ClimBeR: Building Systemic Resilience Against Climate Variability and Extremes

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