

Knowledge for Great Green Wall Action

K4GGWA

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Background

The drylands of the Sahel and the Horn of Africa face a tough combination of biophysical, anthropogenic and social challenges. In fact, they are now among the world's most severely degraded and desertified regions. Simultaneously, around 135 million people in these regions depend directly on land resources, mainly for subsistence agriculture to support their food security. The needs to manage land sustainably, restore and rehabilitate it, and avoid further degradation are therefore vital to foster secure livelihoods for the regions' communities.

Conceived in 2007 as a tree planting initiative destined to plant a green belt 8,000 km long and 15 km wide across the drylands from Senegal to Djibouti, the Great Green Wall (GGW) is the most prominent, large-scale, African-led response to the challenges of degradation in the Sahel and Horn of Africa. An evaluation of progress conducted in 2020

indicated that success had been scarce, while approaches employed were deemed too simplistic to foster impact, and political support for the initiative was regarded as insufficient.

In 2021, at the One Planet Summit, the initiative experienced a revival. Together with significant pledges of resources from international donors, the Great Green Wall Accelerator was launched, converting the original initiative into a comprehensive rural development effort aiming to transform the lives of millions of people in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa by supporting mosaics of green and productive landscapes across the countries of both regions. Coordinated through the Pan-African Agency of the Great Green Wall (PAGGW), it aims to accelerate GGW implementation, enhance resource mobilization, and help all actors to better coordinate, monitor and measure the impact of their actions. The *Accelerator strategy* defines a broad common strategic framework for action, structured around six objectives:¹

Objectives of the Great Green Wall Accelerator (by 2030)

- Restore **100 million hectares** of degraded land.
- Create **10 million jobs** in rural areas.
- Sequester **250 million tons** of carbon.
- Improve food security for **20 million people**.
- Support the millions of people living in communities across the Sahel.
- Provide **10 million smallholder farmers** with access to agricultural technologies resilient to climate change.

K4GGWA Knowledge 4 Action

The **Knowledge for Great Green Wall Action (K4GGWA)** programme is a *direct response* to the issues identified in the GGW evaluation of 2020.



OVERALL IMPACT

The **enablement of sustainable land management² and livelihoods** in support of the Great Green Wall initiative and the **acceleration of progress towards its objectives³**.

¹ <https://thegreatgreenwall.org/about-great-green-wall>

² Sustainable land management (SLM) was defined by the UN 1992 Rio Earth Summit as "the use of land resources, including soils, water, animals and plants, for the production of goods to meet changing human needs, while simultaneously ensuring the long-term productive potential of these resources and the maintenance of their environmental functions." Degradation of water, soil and vegetation, as well as the emission of greenhouse gases (GHGs) that contribute to climate change, can all be addressed by SLM practices that simultaneously conserve natural resources, reduce emissions and store carbon.

³ As mentioned in the Great Green Wall Accelerator framework.



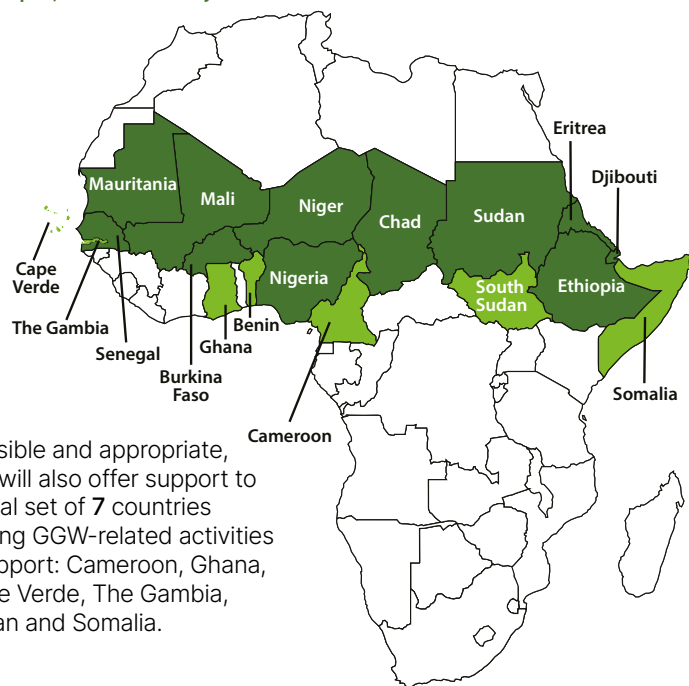
K4GGWA will empower key GGW stakeholders to enhance their **knowledge management** and **sharing mechanisms, develop learning and data platforms, foster dialogue at national and regional levels** and fund **innovations**, as well as to **strengthen policies and institutions** and **enhance the capacities of national and regional GGW agencies**. It will also act as a crucial regional backbone to the many GGW-relevant European Union projects funded at national level.

It is specifically designed to *enable the Great Green Wall Accelerator Framework* by:

- strengthening the knowledge base to inform GGW action;
- addressing the drivers of land degradation, including socioeconomic (e.g., gender, business, security) and ecological factors;
- improving GGW-relevant interventions and monitoring the activities of key actors;
- scaling sustainable land management approaches adapted to both pastoral and cropping systems (including communal and state lands) that fit local contexts;
- developing the right enabling environment by tackling governance issues and policy environments that build on the use of evidence to develop and implement effective interventions at scale.

Knowledge on the map

K4GGWA will focus primarily on the 11 PAGGW member countries: Mauritania, Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria, Chad, Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Djibouti.



Where possible and appropriate, this action will also offer support to an additional set of 7 countries implementing GGW-related activities with EU support: Cameroon, Ghana, Benin, Cape Verde, The Gambia, South Sudan and Somalia.

OBJECTIVES



Enhanced uptake and effectiveness of sustainable land management, land restoration and integrated landscape management practices within the broader Great Green Wall area.

Focusing on improving regional, national and subnational actors' capacities to share lessons learned, co-develop and access learning products, and engage stakeholders in practice-based learning trajectories;



Improved land health and vegetation monitoring and intervention targeting within the broader Great Green Wall area.

Focusing primarily on the development and application of frameworks/tools for monitoring changes in land health (including land degradation status and vegetation compositions) that result from land restoration interventions implemented under the GGW more effectively;



Enhanced policy and institutional enabling environment for sustainable management and livelihoods within the broader Great Green Wall area.

Addressing gaps highlighted in the GGW status report from 2020, with a particular emphasis on the need to improve its institutional, governance, advocacy and awareness dimensions.

Alignment

K4GGWA will work with a range of relevant regional stakeholders, including the African Union Commission, Pan-African Agency of the Great Green Wall (PAGGW), national and sub-national governments, non-governmental and civil society organizations, the private sector and European Union delegations.

K4GGWA is aligned with the EU-AU Global Gateway Investment Package (GGIP) Great Green Wall Flagship. It is also aligned with the African Union's Agenda 2063, and supports partner countries in achieving their 'Land Degradation Neutrality' targets under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and commitments made under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD). It will respond to priorities identified by regional institutions and

their member countries in the Great Green Wall Accelerator framework and its 10-Year Priority Investment Plan. It will also connect to other relevant initiatives, such as the African Union-led African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100). **K4GGWA** will contribute to a wide array of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), *in particular*:



Donors and implementing partners

K4GGWA is funded by the European Union and implemented by CIFOR-ICRAF and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

CIFOR-ICRAF

The Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF) harnesses the power of trees, forests and agroforestry landscapes to address the most pressing global challenges of our time – biodiversity loss, climate change, food security, livelihoods and inequity. CIFOR and ICRAF are CGIAR Research Centers.