



IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GREAT GREEN WALL FOR THE SAHARA AND THE SAHEL INITIATIVE



Harmonized Strategy

Rationale, objectives, geographical coverage and principles

Rationale

The Great Green Wall Initiative is an African vision and response to the threats posed by desertification, land degradation, droughts, biodiversity loss, climate change, poverty, food insecurity and migration in Africa.

The Great Green Wall is a metaphor for:

- Developing a mosaic of inclusive interventions for the sustainable management of natural resources
- Identifying long-term solutions to pressing issues linked to desertification, land degradation and drought
- Awareness-raising among development stakeholders, especially policymakers, on the

specificities and urgency of drylands development

- Scaling-up best local practices in environmental management and sustainable development

Objective

The overall goal of the Great Green Wall Initiative is to improve resilience to climate change of human and natural systems in Sahel-Saharan zones through sound ecosystem management and sustainable development of resources, safeguarding of material and immaterial rural heritage and enhancement of the quality of life and livelihoods of communities



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Specific objectives

- Improve living conditions of populations in Africa's drylands, i.e. improve their resilience to climate change and variability and drought, insecurity/trafficking of all kinds
- Improve conditions and health of Africa's dryland ecosystems and their resilience to climate change/variability and drought
- Mobilize resources to implement the Great Green Wall Initiative by setting up efficient partnerships between national and international stakeholders
- Implementation of a better integrated and more global, cross-sectoral planning approach at the landscape level, which clarifies and consolidates links between the various environmental dimensions and sectors of intervention
- Essential involvement of local communities in action planning and implementation
- Inclusion of gender and youth
- Collaboration between the various Initiative stakeholders

Geographical coverage

The Great Green Wall Initiative involves all circum-Saharan countries, including North Africa, the Sahel and the Horn of Africa

Principles

Successful implementation of the Great Green Wall Initiative is based upon a series of factors, including:

- Capitalization and sharing of knowledge based on various experiences conducted as part of dryland management and restoration plans, in particular through South-South cooperation
- Taking into account the existing situation, development of synergies and efficient coordination of interventions. The Great Green Wall Initiative is reflected in various existing and continuing regional and national efforts to improve livelihoods in the area



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Results, impacts and activities

Expected results and impacts

- Better and more diversified livelihoods and income derived from sustainable land management for the benefit of the affected populations
- Affected populations are less vulnerable to climate change and variability and drought - in both socio-economic and ecological terms
- Affected populations are less prone to migration, live in harmony, while peace and security are reinforced
- Land productivity and the goods and services provided by affected ecosystems are improved, thus helping livelihoods to flourish
- Affected ecosystems are less

vulnerable to climate change and variability and to drought

- Sustainable land management and action against desertification and land degradation help preserve biodiversity, a sustainable use of natural resources as well as mitigate the impact of climate change

Flagship activities

- Diversification of activities and creation of rural employment to reduce economic risks by building on the potential of drylands (ecotourism, handicrafts, pastoralism, resistant animal and plant species, development of value chains of agricultural, fishing, wood and non-wood forest products, etc.)

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Results, impacts and activities

- Stakeholders' capacity development at different levels, in particular rural communities and regional and local authorities (planning and implementation of local action reinforcing sustainable use and management of natural resources and productive investment at the landscape level, capacity to respond promptly and efficiently to emergencies and crises, etc.)
- Promotion, extension and actual adoption of sustainable land and water management practices at the landscape level: conservation and sustainable management of water and soils, restoration of degraded lands, use of traditional and innovating technologies, assisted natural regeneration, forest fire prevention and control techniques, sustainable range management, etc.)
- Setting up of rural safety nets and socio-economic structures to help improve people's access to markets and to social and economic services





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Partners

Various categories of stakeholders are involved in the Great Green Wall Initiative

Governmental services (central administration and decentralized services)

Main role: creating an enabling environment for the implementation of the Great Green Wall Initiative by local authorities and grassroots organization

- Consistency of policies and initiatives
- Conditions for effective participation of stakeholders, in particular civil society and grassroots organizations
- Promotion of legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks, including transfer of all necessary expertise to allow local authorities to assume

their role as leading implementing agencies

- Mobilizing resources (financial, material and human) necessary for programme implementation

Local governments (regional and urban or rural municipalities)

Main role: inclusion of Great Green Wall Initiative actions in programmatic development frameworks of regional and local authorities

- Setting up and facilitation of consultation processes (partnership platforms) at the regional or local level
- Promotion of income and employment-generating activities

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Partners

- Contracting authority as part of the implementation of Great Green Wall projects and action plans at the transboundary (intercommunality), regional or local level

Civil society organizations and local communities

Main role : contracting authority as part of the implementation of Great Green Wall projects and action plans at the local level

- Identifying and planning of priority interventions
- Implementation, monitoring-evaluation of programmes and projects
- Reform proposals
- Taking part in policy dialogue
- Promotion of income-generating activities and economic opportunities in rural areas

Technical and financial partners

Main role: accompanying national stakeholders (central, sub-national and local levels) in the Great Green Wall Initiative

- Harmonization of interventions in line with national and local priorities, as defined in national action plans of the Great Green Wall Initiative and in priorities identified by local governments
- Support to formulation and implementation of investment programmes for the Great Green Wall Initiative
- Involvement in identifying the necessary resources for formulation, implementation, as well as monitoring and evaluation of the Initiative
- Providing relevant technical assistance to strengthen systemic, institutional and operational capacities

