



A week on the Great Green Wall

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 6-10 November 2023

K4GGWA Report

A media release on the event is also publicly available



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Cover Photo: Participants pose with the 'Week on the Great Green Wall' banner
Photo by Eyob Getahun/CIFOR-ICRAF

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Acronyms

AAD	Action Against Desertification
AfDB	African Development Bank
API	Application Programming Interfaces
AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
CBD	Convention on Biodiversity
CBO	Community Based Organization
CORAF	West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research
CIFOR-ICRAF	Centre for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry
COP	Conference of Parties
CRGE	Climate Resilience Green Economy
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
CSO	Civil Society Organization
EIB	European Investment Bank
D.E.A.L	(Africa Open) Data on Environment, Agriculture, and Land
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
ESG	Environmental and Social Governance
FMNR	Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GGW	Great Green Wall
GLF	Global Landscapes Forum
GLI	Green Legacy Initiative
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IRD	Institute of Research for Sustainable Development
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
K4GGWA	Knowledge for Great Green Wall Action
LDN	Land Degradation Neutrality

LDSF	Land Degradation Surveillance Framework
MP	Member of Parliament
NAGGW	National Agencies of the Great Green Wall
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
OSS	Observatoire du Sahara et du Sahel
PAGGW	Pan-African Agency of the Great Green Wall
SLM	Sustainable Land Management
SURRAGWA	Scaling-Up Resilience in Africa's Great Green Wall
TFP	Technical and Financial Partners
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
WFP	World Food Programme

A Week on the Great Green Wall – Overview

The African Union Commission hosted the event «A Week on the Great Green Wall» in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 6–10 November 2023. The event brought together key stakeholders and partners supporting the Great Green Wall (GGW) initiative to facilitate dialogue and enhance synergies among regional programmes. The meeting included the African Union Commission (AUC), the European Union (EU), the Pan-African Agency of the Great Green Wall (PAGGW), CIFOR-ICRAF, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), GGW Technical and Financial Partners (TFPs) and civil society organizations.

The event facilitated dialogue between key stakeholders and partners supporting the GGW initiative to enhance synergies, discuss the GGW's progress and participate in a series of

workshops and information sessions. The week also included the 8th Regional Steering Committee meeting for the GGW initiative, during which a draft of the Continental GGW new framework strategy was presented.

Significantly, the week marked the launch of the Knowledge for Great Green Wall Action (K4GGWA), a programme led by CIFOR-ICRAF and the FAO. K4GGWA aims to empower key stakeholders to enhance their knowledge management and sharing mechanisms, develop learning and data platforms, foster dialogue at national and regional levels, and fund innovations. It also aims to strengthen policies and institutions and enhance the capacities of national and regional GGW agencies.

The AUC, the EU, CIFOR-ICRAF and the FAO facilitated the week-long event.

The Great Green Wall – Background

The GGW is an initiative launched by the African Union in 2007 to combat desertification in the Sahel region south of the Sahara Desert and the Horn of Africa. Initially, the focus was on planting a continuous line of trees spanning nearly 8,000 kilometers from Senegal to Djibouti, with the aim of halting the southward expansion of the Sahara. However, the initiative faced criticism for neglecting broader livelihood issues and lacking effective monitoring of tree planting efforts.

In response to these concerns, the Pan-African Agency of the Great Green Wall (PAGGW) was established in 2010, along with GGW agencies or focal points set up in the 11 Sahel countries. The GGW has since transformed from a tree planting project into a comprehensive rural development programme. While strategic tree planting remains a key component, the initiative now has broader objectives. These include restoring 100 million hectares of degraded land, creating 10 million jobs in rural areas, and sequestering 250 million tons of carbon by 2030.

The GGW received significant support from world leaders during the 2021 One Planet Summit, leading to the launch of the Great Green Wall Accelerator, which aims to facilitate collaboration among donors and stakeholders. The Accelerator focuses on coordinating, monitoring, and measuring the impact of actions taken under the GGW initiative.

The overall purpose of the GGW is to transform the lives of people in the Sahel region by creating a mosaic of green and productive landscapes. It addresses challenges like climate change, population pressure, and unsustainable resource use, which have caused severe droughts, food insecurity, and the shrinking of Lake Chad. The initiative works to restore degraded land, create employment opportunities, and mitigate climate change through carbon sequestration. Overall, the GGW is a long-term initiative striving to combat desertification, improve livelihoods, and promote sustainable development across the Sahel region.



Day 1

Figure 1. Welcoming marks delivered by the AUC representative, the Director General of Ethiopian Forestry Development, the EU Delegation's Head of Cooperation with the AU, the FAO Assistant Director General and Africa Regional Representative, and CIFOR-ICRAF's Director for Africa

Source: Eyob Gitahun/CIFOR-ICRAF

Welcome and official launch of the Knowledge for Great Green Wall Action (K4GGWA)

Day one - Session one

Presented by CIFOR-ICRAF and FAO.

Session moderated by Mieke Bourne and Moctar Sacande

For the official launching ceremony, welcoming remarks were addressed to the participants by the representative of the African Union Commissioner (AUC), the Director General of Ethiopian Forestry Development, the Head of Cooperation of the EU Delegation to the AU, The Assistant Director General and Africa Regional Representative for Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the CIFOR-ICRAF Director for Africa:

Mr Jolly Wasambo, representative of the African Union Commissioner

Mr Wasambo welcomed the distinguished delegates and participants to the AUC. He highlighted that the important gathering was not only a celebration of a new knowledge action initiative but also an affirmation of everyone's commitment to addressing pressing environmental and socioeconomic challenges confronting landscapes in Africa.

Mr Wasambo reminded participants that the GGW was conceived as an AU-led movement with an ambition to restore 100 million hectares of degraded land by 2030 across Africa. He highlighted that the GGW's aim of restoring landscapes, enhancing food security, creating jobs and building a green future was a testament to African resilience and ingenuity. In this context, it was appropriate to highlight the Pan-African Agency of the GGW (PAGGW's) contribution to the initiative's success and its support in coordinating and fostering investment across 11 countries, with the prospect for further expansion.

Mr Wasambo also applauded the transformative journey of the GGW, highlighting PAGGW's collaboration with the UNCCD in adopting the Accelerator strategy during the 2021 One Planet Summit. He emphasized that their efforts have been crucial in uniting TFPs towards a shared vision.

Turning to Knowledge for Great Green Wall Action (K4GGWA), Mr Wasambo said its support to the PAGGW will empower GGW stakeholders by enhancing knowledge management and sharing,

developing learning and data platforms, fostering dialogue, funding innovations and strengthening policies and institutions.

Mr Wasambo concluded by thanking the European Union (EU) for its financial backing and commitment under the One Planet Summit pledge and commending FAO and CIFOR-ICRAF for building on past GGW programmes. Mr Wasambo outlined AUC's continent-wide strategy for the GGW, focusing on the drylands, drawing insights from the PAGGW and seeking to harmonize multiple frameworks regarding climate change and disaster risk reduction. Finally, he called for urgent support to resource the GGW unit in the AU.

H.E. Ato Kebede Yimam, Director General of Ethiopian Forestry Development and representative of the Government of Ethiopia

His Excellency, Mr Yimam, welcomed participants to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and acknowledged the efforts of the PAGGW, countries, donors and communities in supporting the pioneering pan-African environmental initiative. He noted, however, that the GGW has coordination, capacity and knowledge gaps in planning, implementing and monitoring interventions and welcomed the launch of K4GGA. Mr Yimam foresees K4GGWA playing a role in tailoring actions to the local context, enhancing the capacity of forests to provide timber, fuel, livelihoods and environmental services.

He further noted that deforestation, climate change, population pressure and unsustainable natural resource use present interrelated challenges to the developing world, particularly in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa. The Government of Ethiopia is dealing with such issues through a range of policies and actions aimed at restoring forests and landscapes, such as the Climate Resilience Green Economy and the Green Legacy Initiative.

According to Mr Yimam, Ethiopia's target of restoring 22 million hectares of land by 2030 was the continent's most ambitious. Many of the challenges Ethiopia faces in achieving this goal are common to countries in the Horn of Africa and the Sahel, requiring stakeholders to join hands and combine resources to reach common goals.

In his closing remarks, he highlighted the importance of knowledge sharing, capacity building and learning from good practices, such as those offered by previous programmes like Regreening Africa and, starting today, the K4GGWA programme.

In conclusion, Mr Yimam expressed appreciation to the EU for their financial support before officially launching the week's programme.

Mr Thomas Huyghebaert, Head of Cooperation of the European Union Delegation to the African Union

Mr Huyghebaert acknowledged the event's distinguished speakers, guests and participants, saying the EU was honored by their presence at the K4GGWA launch. He highlighted that K4WGGA adds a vital component to the EU's multiple investments in the GGW, building on the importance of understanding local context, as demonstrated in previous EU-GGW collaboration, such as Regreening Africa with CIFOR-ICRAF and Action Against Desertification with the FAO.

Mr Huyghebaert said K4WGGA will strengthen the GGW initiative through various activities. In particular, it will increase the data and information surrounding the implementation of the GGW by building a knowledge base of what is happening now and in the future — knowledge that will help identify solutions as challenges emerge. K4WGGA will also help mobilize stakeholders into action by disseminating evidence, fostering dialogue, and enabling improved, targeted interventions that support the PAGGW, assist the Accelerator team and integrate the GGW strategy into national and local policies and investment. Mr Huyghebaert also noted the potential synergies K4WGGA would bring by increasing the number of technical and political connections and exchanges among and between GGW-invested governments and constituents, enhancing operational efficiencies and supporting collaboration at all stakeholder levels.

The EU delegate brought his address to an end by describing the K4GGWA as having the potential to make a major contribution to a better future for populations in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa. Mr Huyghebaert concluded by expressing his gratitude to the African Union for hosting GGW week and extending his appreciation to the governments of Ethiopia and Nigeria, PAGGW, CIFOR-ICRAF, FAO and UNCCD.

Dr Abebe Haile-Gabriel, Assistant Director General and FAO Regional Representative for Africa

Dr Haile-Gabriele joined the event virtually and expressed his gratitude to the Ethiopian government for supporting the GGW week and

the launch of the K4GGWA. He also thanked the PAGGW, the African Union, and CIFOR-ICRAF for their significant roles. Dr Haile-Gabriele reminded participants that the GGW is a transformative initiative contributing significantly to 15 of the 17 SDGs for countries in Africa's arid and semi-arid areas.

He outlined that since 2007, the FAO has remained steadfast in supporting the GGW initiative to address a range of interconnected challenges, including climate change, desertification, biodiversity loss, food and water security, energy scarcity, poverty, and inclusive rural development.

In discussing the GGW, Dr Haile-Gabriele drew attention to the FAO's [Action Against Desertification Programme](#), noting how the initiative supported by the EU and the Government of Turkey had restored 100,000 hectares of degraded farmland in 10 countries through planting native tree species. He also noted that the FAO had partnered with stakeholders to produce the groundbreaking report, [Africa Open D.E.A.L](#) (Data on Environment, Agriculture, and Land), an invaluable collection and analysis of data by experts from Africa.

Dr Haile-Gabriele commended the K4GGWA's potential to provide continuity, completion, and complementarity with other interventions, such as an FAO USD 250 million funding proposal to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to scale up GGW resilience. He further noted that the FAO-UNEP led United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration offers a framework to intensify efforts in scaling up land restoration, enhancing partnerships, monitoring progress, and supporting countries in accessing more climate finance.

The FAO Regional Representative for Africa concluded by reaffirming the FAO's commitment to partnering with all stakeholders to achieve the GGW's ambitious targets in the next decade.

Dr Peter Minang, Director for Africa, CIFOR-ICRAF

Dr Minang commenced by expressing the enormous honor CIFOR-ICRAF felt in co-leading the new K4GGWA programme alongside FAO and building on a history of strong and close participation with a range of partners, organizations and donor agencies. Working with GGW partner countries and Ethiopia was a further demonstration of CIFOR-ICRAF's collaborative approach.

Dr Minang's discussion of K4GGWA first drew on CIFOR-ICRAF's experience in co-leading the [Regreening Africa Program](#) in Kenya, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Somalia, Mali, Niger, Senegal, and Ghana for the past five years. Its ability to restore 350,000 hectares of degraded land and improve the well-being of 600,000 households was a testament to working closely with communities and programme partners, such as the Catholic Relief Services, Care, World Vision, Oxfam, and Sahel Eco.

Dr Minang said the initiative's success and eventual shortlisting as a United Nations Decade Global Restoration Flagship demonstrated the role of research, science, knowledge and innovation in delivering sustainable development outcomes. He noted that this approach would be fundamental to K4GGWA, with CIFOR-ICRAF implementing and building on its extensive toolset and expertise in land health and ecological restoration practices. These include its Land [Degradation Surveillance Framework](#) (LDSF) and its [Regreening App](#), a simple tool that assists local land users in applying and monitoring restoration activities.

Before closing, Dr Minang drew attention to the impressive number of tree replating activities across Africa. However, he recommended that these practices strive for greater ecological sustainability, noting that planting the right trees in the right places will ensure better long-term outcomes.

Dr Minang concluded by emphasizing that tree and landscape restoration activities will only succeed if they deliver economically and environmentally sustainable outcomes, provide long-term impact, and consider existing local knowledge and sociocultural norms.

Presentation of K4GGWA programme components

Day one - Session two

Session two of the opening day of the 'Programme for a Great Green Wall Week' in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, provided an opportunity for CIFOR-ICRAF and the FAO to host an interactive presentation of the newly launched Knowledge for Great Green Wall Action (K4GGWA) and its key components.

Knowledge for Great Green Wall for Action – Background

The GGW was launched in 2007 as a massive tree planting project to create a green belt across the drylands from Senegal to Djibouti. PAGGW was established in 2010 to oversee the initiative, coordinate stakeholders, secure funding, and track progress. However, an evaluation in 2020 found that the project had made little progress, and the approaches used were too simple to make a significant impact. Additionally, political support was deemed insufficient. The Great Green Wall Accelerator and K4GGWA respond to these challenges.

Accelerator

At the One Planet Summit in 2021, the GGW initiative was revitalized, and international donors pledged significant funding. The Great Green Wall Accelerator was launched, transforming the project into a comprehensive rural development effort aimed at improving the lives of millions of people in the Sahel and Horn of Africa by creating green and productive landscapes. The PAGGW continues to coordinate the initiative, aiming to accelerate its implementation, enhance resource mobilization, and improve coordination among all actors to measure the impact of their actions. The Accelerator strategy defines a broad common strategic framework for action structured around six objectives.

Objectives:

- 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

K4WGGA programme

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 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 EU projects funded at the 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 actor
- scaling sustainable land management approaches adapted to both pastoral and cropping systems (including communal and state lands) that fit the local context
- 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

Objectives

To ensure continuity, coordination, and complementarity with other interventions, the programme is funded by the EU and implemented by CIFOR-ICRAF and FAO. It hopes to enable sustainable land management for improved livelihoods and to accelerate progress towards GGW objectives through:

- Enhanced uptake and effectiveness of sustainable land management, land restoration and integrated landscape management practices
- Improved land health and vegetation monitoring and intervention targeting
- Enhanced policy and institutional enabling environment for sustainable management and livelihoods

Figure 2 provides an overview of the relationships and interdependencies between the programme’s activities.

Countries of focus

K4GGWA will focus on the 11 country members of the PAGGW: Mauritania, Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria, Chad, Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Djibouti.

Focusing on PAGGW members, CIFOR-ICRAF and FAO can directly support coordinated efforts across the region to stop desertification and improve land management. Working together with existing initiatives will avoid duplicating efforts and make the most of available resources to tackle the region’s most pressing challenges.

Complementary focus

K4GGWA will also explore ways to assist a further seven countries implementing GGW-related activities with EU support, comprising Cameroon, Ghana, Benin, Cape Verde, The Gambia, South Sudan and Somalia.

Programme activities

CIFOR-ICRAF and the FAO have developed a comprehensive work plan of activities for achieving the K4GGWA’s goals. The plan focuses on sustainable land management, land restoration, and

integrated landscape management practices, with a particular emphasis on the involvement of CIFOR-ICRAF and the FAO in implementing these activities.

Activities for year 1 – 2023-2024

K4GGWA activities in 2024 will focus on a range of activities related to knowledge and learning, monitoring and analysis, support and engagement, and innovations and involvement, including the following:

- Map and analyse contextual learning needs and gaps of key stakeholders to deliver on GGW ambitions
- Organize knowledge events in collaboration with PAGGW
- Support regular cross-learning events and dialogue between GGW actors
- Prepare state of land and vegetation maps and knowledge products
- Build the monitoring capacities of GGW bodies and stakeholders
- Strengthen and support the outreach and visibility of GGW players
- Analyse legal frameworks and policy reform scenarios
- Deliver on-demand support for targeted engagement in policy, business, and advocacy
- Invest in innovation and acceleration
- Bolster partner and stakeholder evidence-based planning and policymaking

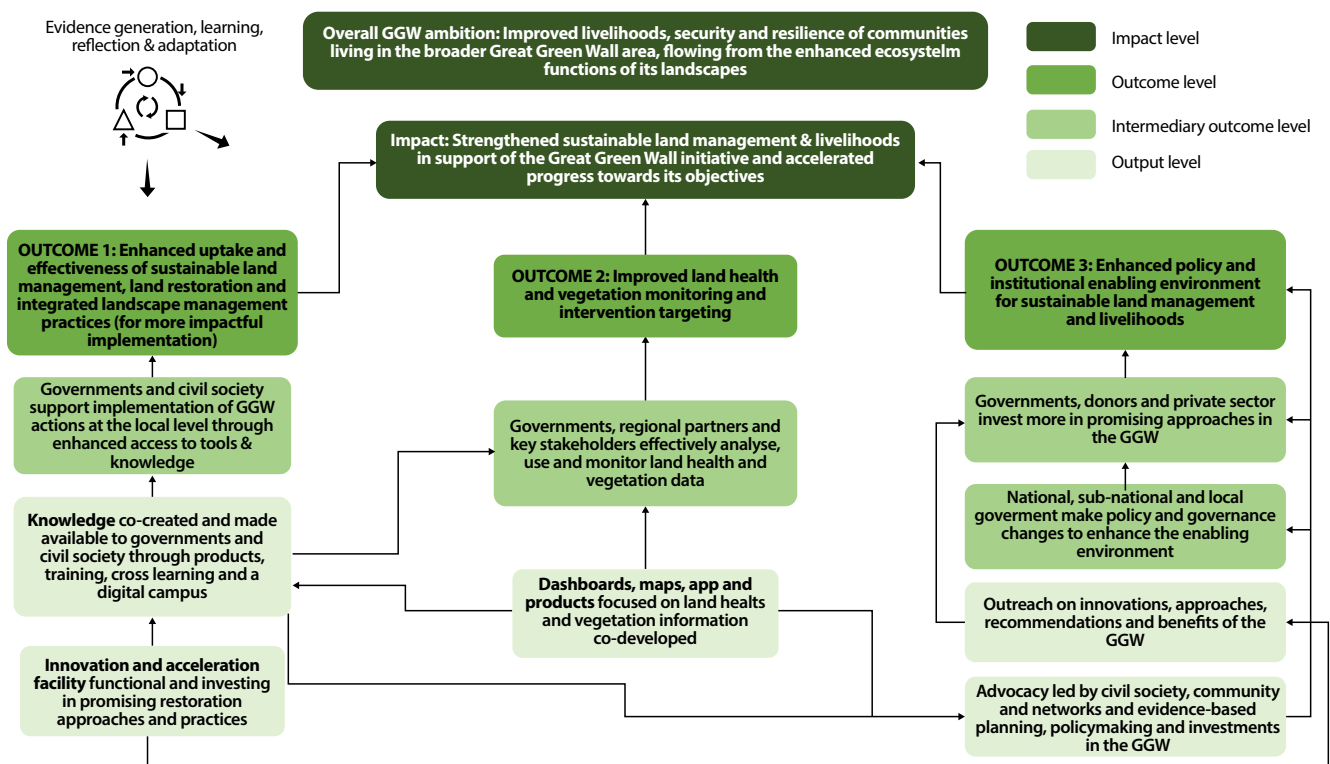


Figure 2. Theory of change for achieving K4GWAA objectives

Source: K4GGWA project document

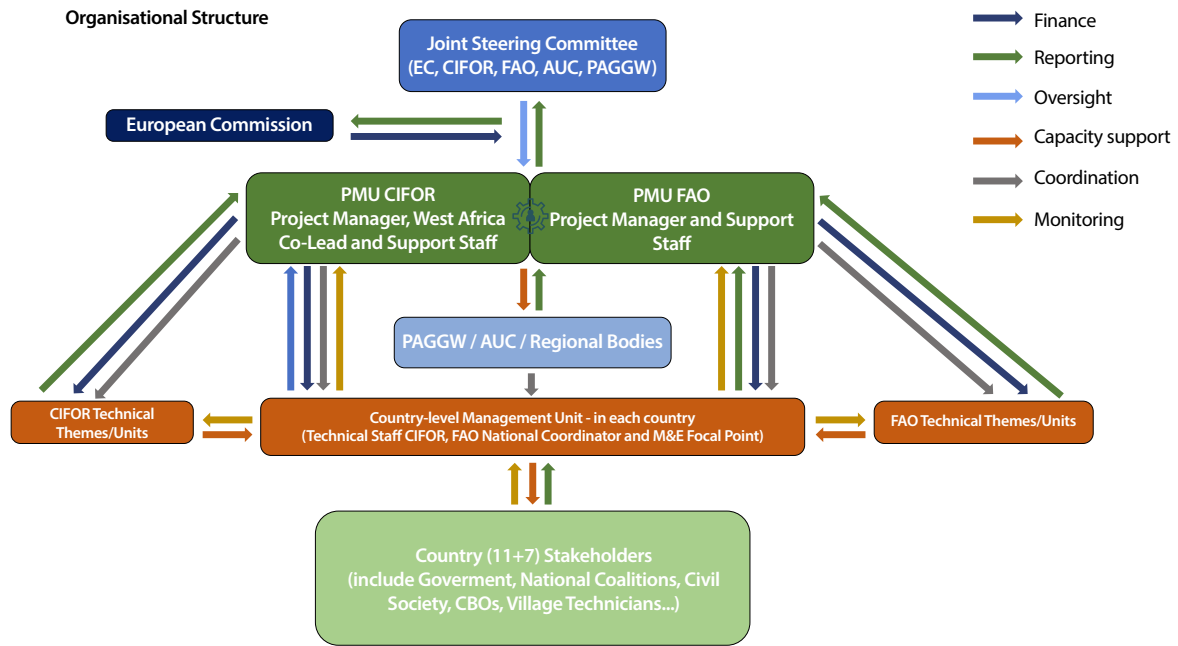


Figure 3. K4GGWA organizational structure, sourced from the project document

Source: K4GGWA project document

Reflections on K4GGWA from the European Union

Following the presentation of K4GGWA's objectives, activities and structure, representatives of the programme's sponsors were invited to share their hopes, expectations and advice for the new, innovative initiative.

Bernard Crabbé, the Head of the EU's environment mainstreaming and circular economy sector and Niclas Gottmann, EU Policy Officer for land and environment, provided several critical insights for CIFOR-ICRAF, the FAO and all GGW stakeholders.

They emphasized the critical role the GGW plays in combating land degradation, acknowledging the need for sustained efforts to ensure long-term impact.

The launch of the new Knowledge for Great Green Wall Action (K4GGWA) programme was presented as a key step towards achieving this goal. K4GGWA was described as a comprehensive programme that brings together diverse stakeholders,

including scientists, farmers, NGOs, and government agencies. This collaborative approach was emphasized as a significant strength within the EU's portfolio of programmes.

Building on the significant existing efforts in land restoration, K4GGWA aims to provide a platform for knowledge exchange and collaboration. Importantly, the programme recognizes the need for context-specific practices and ongoing policy discussions. K4GGWA will also equip stakeholders with tools to measure collective impact, build technical capacity, tailor monitoring techniques and strengthen policy engagement.

The speakers stressed the importance of K4GGWA as a platform for fostering joint approaches to restoration work and sharing local knowledge. They highlighted the programme's potential to promote engagement between governments, civil society organizations (CSOs), community NGOs, and other stakeholders. The launch event was positioned as a crucial step in building trust and fostering strong working relationships to ensure the programme's success.

Interactive session on K4GGWA

For K4GGWA to succeed, CIFOR-ICRAF, the FAO, and the EU needed to do more than merely describe the programme's components. To ensure effective implementation and long-term impact, they need to engage stakeholders actively. Accordingly, an interactive session was held with a range of key GGW players, including, among others, SOS Sahel, PAGGW, GGW country agencies, forestry departments, CSOs and donors such as the African Development Bank.

These stakeholders bring a wealth of experience to K4GGWA. Fostering an interactive discussion with such a diverse group would generate feedback, encourage buy-in, identify potential partners, and facilitate knowledge exchange — all essential ingredients for the K4GGWA programme's success.

Introductions and expectations

Before launching the interactive sessions, facilitators asked stakeholders to outline their expectations, both for the discussion and broadly for the week ahead. Their responses can be grouped under four headings.

Collaboration and engagement, working together, joint actions and commitments, partnerships, fostering and strengthening networks, clear processes, understanding partner aspirations, broadening the partnership beyond current organizations, the role of communities, current GGW structure and delivery system and how partners contribute, all partners working together towards a common vision, network of GGW champions, exchanges for better synergy.

Learning and knowledge, including on agroforestry based on field experience of Regreening Africa, local experience informing actions, a roadmap on collaboration around knowledge management (EU, FAO, IFAD, OSS, CIFOR-ICRAF, UNEP), overall GGW initiatives and their successes and challenges and sharing of

ideas and strategies from countries, bringing in Indigenous knowledge, clarity on definitions like regreening and ecosystem restoration.

Upscaling impact through enhancing activities in GGW countries, pledging of financial support, how improved policy development and institutions can enhance implementation, fast-tracking outcomes and resource mobilization, including from the private sector.

Clear K4GGWA roadmap, including steps and concrete actions, how it will work in specific countries, concrete outcomes, how partners will engage in K4GGWA, and understanding the organizational structure.

Once the facilitators and the participants had a shared and clear understanding of each other's informational needs and expectations, the interactive sessions commenced. The sessions examined the programme's three key components through the lens of technical capacity and learning, innovation, land and vegetation monitoring and enabling policy and institutional environments.

The K4GGWA programme components

Each component team presented an interactive poster session to five groups — including a Francophone group — explaining their approach and plans for eliciting participant feedback and recommendations. The presentations and feedback are summarized below.

Component 1: Enhanced uptake and effectiveness of sustainable land management, land restoration and integrated landscape management practices.

Presentations during this session highlighted the work focus and approach for implementation under this component. The range of collaborator

types, expectations, communication channels and anticipated outcomes were shared to enable participants to obtain a broad overview of the proposed work. Key activity areas and deliverables organized under seven interlinked outputs were highlighted, as shown in Figure 4 below.

Participant feedback on all Component 1 activity areas, except activity 1.2 on the Innovation Facility.

Indigenous and local knowledge systems

Participants emphasized incorporating Indigenous and local knowledge systems into the hub, particularly in light of changing climatic conditions. This approach ensures that traditional insights are preserved and utilized effectively.

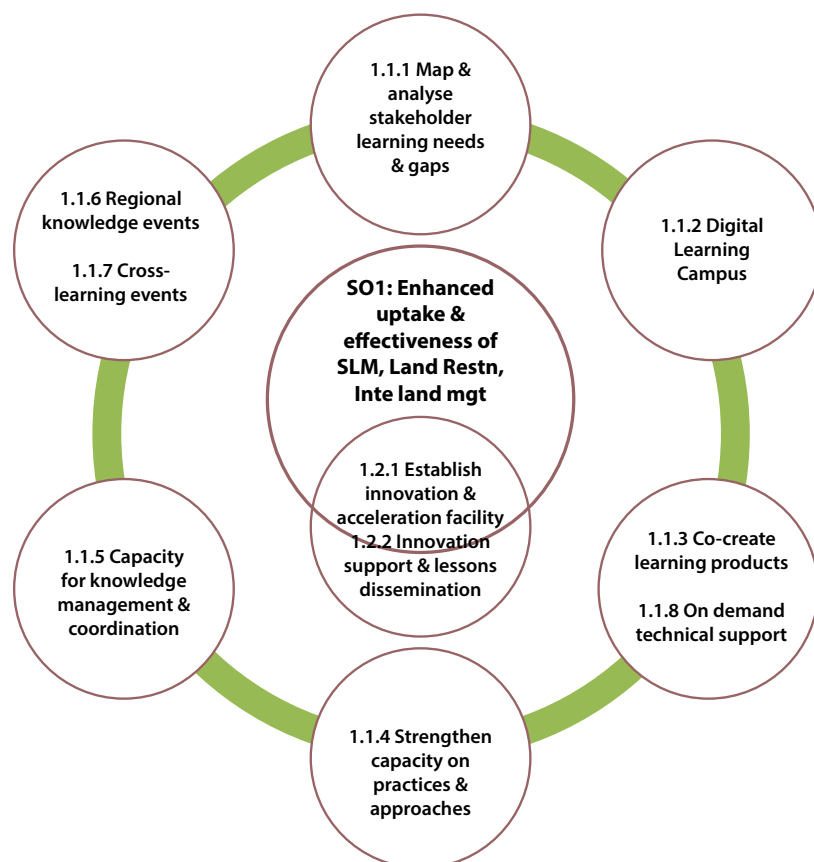


Figure 4. K4GGWA activities and deliverables for enhanced SLM uptake

Note: Component 1: Major activity areas planned for implementation with strong links and feedback with the innovation and resource mobilization work.

Source: K4GGWA poster

Scale is key

Participants also noted the significance of scale and the need to clearly define what constitutes a 'landscape' to facilitate accurate comparisons and cross-learning, aiding in understanding and applying lessons across contexts.

Synergies with existing GGW structures

Synergies and integration with existing GGW structures, processes, and systems were vital. Managers should integrate Component 1 with current knowledge systems, ensuring thorough mapping and stocktaking to avoid duplication. A significant need exists to strengthen coordination and coalitions, not yet reflected in the activities. Collaborators should engage with other donors, like the United States Agency for International Development and the World Bank, to align the captured learning with their interests in resilience, food security, and water projects and to integrate sustainable land management (SLM) into their programmes.

How to deliver learning products

The delivery of learning products was another focus. Case studies were highlighted as an excellent method to capture landscape-level realities across countries and regions. The programme should document success stories and case studies to provide tangible examples of successful interventions.

Digital learning

Regarding the GLF Digital Campus, participants suggested building on and connecting to the Regreening App. The programme should explore embedding these tools within existing institutions like the GGW and ensure the development process includes collaboration. Clearly defining the target audience for these digital tools is essential.

Further research

Mapping, analysis, and assessing needs and capacities were also discussed. Participants recommended leveraging knowledge and practices from outside Africa, such as those from China, and extending exchange visits beyond Africa. It is important to consider both process skills and competencies, not just technical skills, while understanding the internal and external drivers of landscape change.

Impact tracking

Participants also suggested that the programme should reach actors involved in these processes and strengthen capacities in resource mobilization and the economic viability of restoration efforts. Different planning systems should be considered in the mapping, analysis, and needs assessment. Additionally, linking SLM with resilient food systems is critical for the project's success.

Activity area 1.2: The K4GGWA Innovation Facility

The presentation of the Innovation Facility began with a discussion of its operating principles, including their support for promoting innovative GGW initiatives through a network of field agents tasked with identifying potential innovators. The facility will also run competitions to select promising initiatives for approval by a panel of experts. Presenters and participants also examined how facility beneficiaries will receive support through cash grants, training, consultancies and mentoring. A key facility emphasis is long-term collaboration through the Green African Drylands Innovation Hub, offering common instruments and approaches to communication and evaluation. Full details are available in the [Innovation Facility brochure](#) and are summarized in Figure 5.

Interactive discussions also examined the Innovation Facility's main objectives and guiding principles. Participants agreed that the GGW can only be realized fully through the involvement of the people who live in these areas, as they are the ones who manage the land. Finding, encouraging and supporting the most entrepreneurial, energetic, and imaginative innovators in these areas is what the Innovation Facility will do.

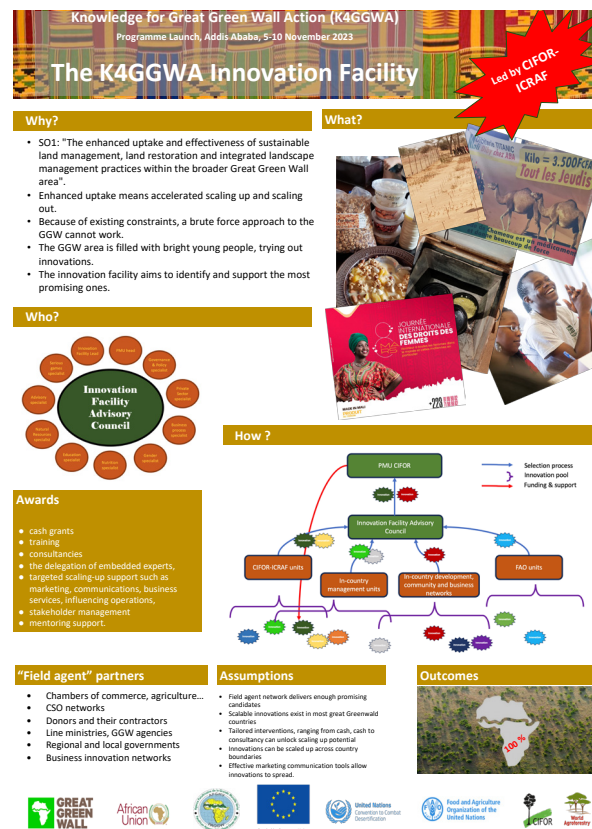


Figure 5. Poster outlining the Innovation Facility's operational principles

Source: Innovation Facility poster

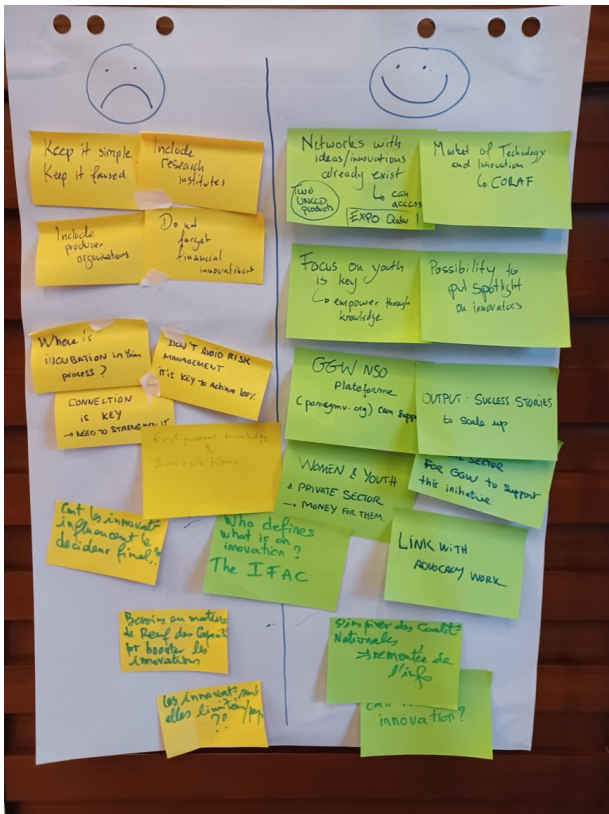


Figure 6. Post-it notes synthesizing participant feedback
Source: K4GGWA team/CIFOR-ICRAF

During the interactive discussions, volunteers captured comments using post-its, as shown in Figure 6.

Participant feedback and recommendations on activity area 1.2 - the Innovation Facility

Definitions

Several participants focused on defining the scope and boundary conditions for the innovations that the facility could support. Others emphasized the need to establish a threshold for what constitutes “innovation,” suggesting the development of criteria to ensure proposals meet a minimum innovative quality.

Selection criteria for innovators

Regarding selection criteria, participants suggested several refinements. They recommended ‘keeping it simple’ as a guiding principle, ensuring the process is objective and avoids overly complex procedures. The facility should also integrate basic environmental, equity, and gender conditions into the innovation selection criteria. A discussion followed on how to ensure these standards are respected, given that the facility targets immature innovations that may not yet have sophisticated administrative processes for accurate ESG reporting.

Integration and coordination with existing networks

Additionally, understanding the needs of the rural populations that K4GGWA aims to serve was deemed essential. Integration and coordination with other networks were highlighted as critical for the facility’s success. Several institutions offered to help connect the facility with networks of innovators, rural development actors, and restoration agents. Suggestions included building on existing networks and initiatives, such as the UNCCD Accelerator, which has networks of innovators and entrepreneurs. Potential innovation partners were identified through desert-based renewable energy non-profit DESERTEC¹ and the West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF). Both organizations share technologies and ideas across countries and implement an annual technology and innovation market.

Participants also recommended that the Innovation Facility should collaborate with existing networks like the IFAD and GEF and coordinate with research institutes and producer organizations. The WFP, for instance, suggested an incubation facility for young entrepreneurs, citing their support for Hello Tractor, which has 6,000 staff across West Africa.

Involving GGW National Coalitions as networking partners and submitters of innovation candidates was also suggested, along with partnering with platforms like SOS Sahel and the Alliance for the Great Green Wall. The importance of focusing on financial innovation tools was noted, with DESERTEC linking to a network of 1,000 registered youth. In terms of marketing and communications, the UNCCD Accelerator was invited to develop a proposal for the UNCCD pavilion at Qatar Expo 24, emphasizing that the facility’s greatest benefit to innovators would be boosting their visibility.

Scaling up ideas

Scaling up ideas was discussed extensively, with seven key considerations identified:

1. putting scaling up on the government agenda
2. developing farmer-to-farmer networks
3. boosting incentive pathways for restoration with a market orientation
4. building a popular movement to match the vast area of restoration
5. delivering sufficient quality germplasm
6. quantifying lessons and practices
7. providing support through extension work.

¹ DESERTEC is a non-profit foundation that focuses on the production of renewable energy in desert regions

Crucially, scaling up efforts requires adequate resources. Engaging farmers was highlighted as a key issue, with suggestions including improving tree tenure, enhancing targeting through farmers championing change, assisting with selecting the right trees and understanding their comparative advantages, and promoting intercropping to overcome the “valley of death.”

Component 2: Improved land health and vegetation monitoring and intervention targeting.

Facilitators introduced participants to Component 2 through a simple graphic outlining the component’s activities and outputs, as seen in Figure 6. The presentation section for Component 2 also included informative details about the earlier-mentioned *Regreening App* and the *Land Degradation Surveillance Framework*. An active poster session successfully clarified Component 2’s many moving parts for participants, including the many strong linkages between activities and outputs.

Participant feedback on all Component 2 activity areas

Activity 2.1.1. Prepare annual state of land (use change, health, incl. trends in climate) and vegetation maps, and knowledge products.

Participants expressed strong interest in activity 2.1.1, particularly the potential for its outputs to provide useful assessments of land change over time. Similar interest was shown in learning about the LDSF and using remote sensing and mapping to enhance GGW efforts. Also explored were the ways in which developing maps and products can feed into Activity 2.1.2., strengthening capacity, and 2.1.3, establishing web-based interfaces.

Activity 2.1.2 Strengthen the capacity of regional and national GGW bodies and stakeholders.

Discussants agreed that the GGW requires many levels of capacity development. Examples cited included better skills in analysing data, harnessing various platforms for interpreting maps and visualizing data, and using tools like the *Regreening App*.

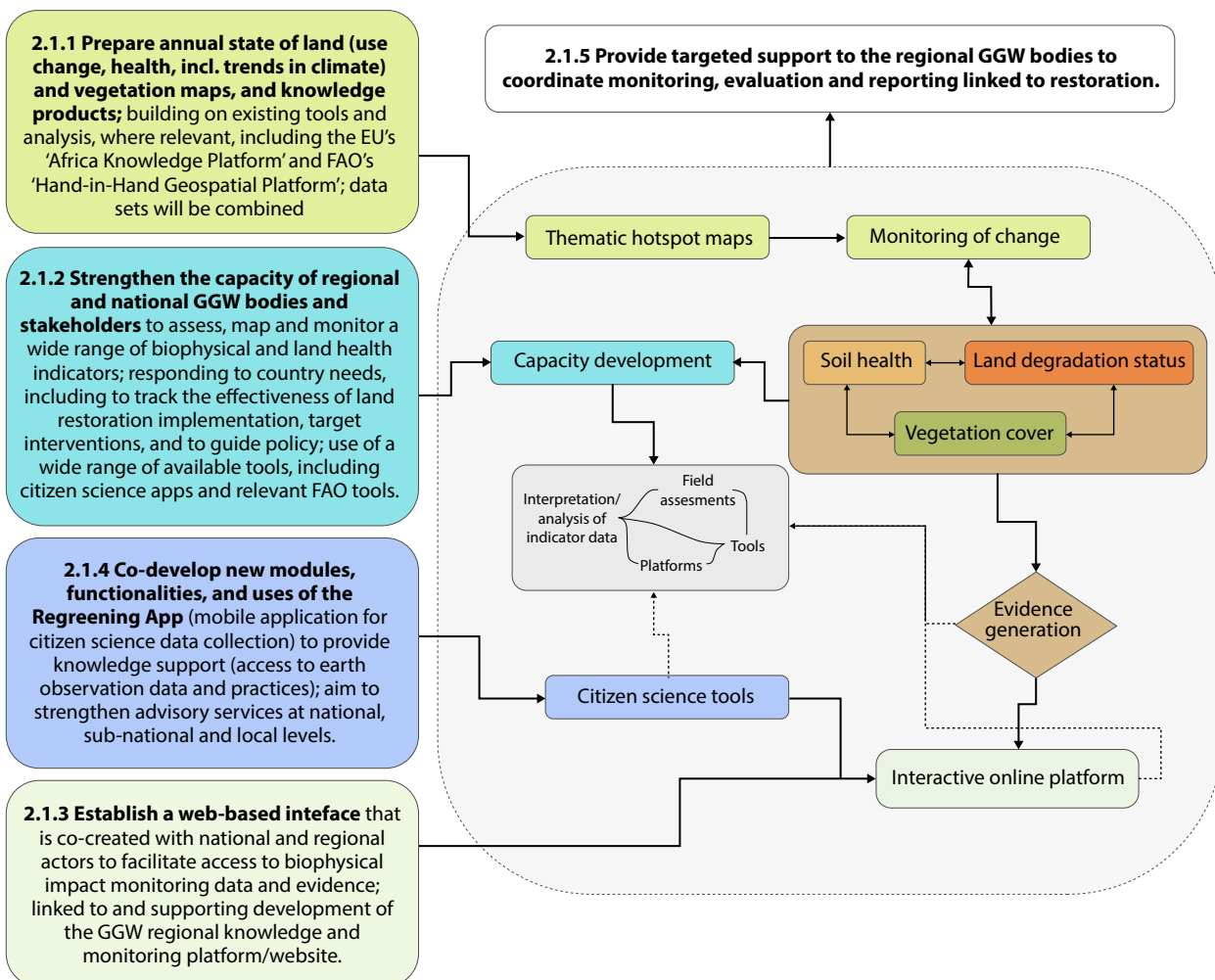


Figure 7. Overview of Component 2 activities and outputs
Source: Developed during the workshop

Activity 2.1.3 Establish a web-based interface.

Participants noted that many similar platforms exist or are under development and asked how the K4GGWA platform differed and what added value it offered. K4GGWA presenters said their versions do not duplicate existing platforms but rather focus on where there are gaps. Also, the indicator maps and analysis developed through the platform will be available through Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) for use by other platforms and tools.

Activity 2.1.4 Co-develop new modules, functionalities, and uses of the Regreening App.

Of all of Component 2's activities, the Regreening App generated the most interest, with participants asking questions about the tool's previous use and in what contexts, such as farming, development projects, and extension activities, among others. Others asked about its data capabilities and Distributed Resource Scheduler functionality. One participant suggested the app include Indigenous knowledge, such as traditional land management practice practices. A common sentiment across all groups was the app's potential for providing feedback, such as recommendations on appropriate land management practices and tree species selection. CIFOR-ICRAF is striving to include this functionality, although it presents challenges in packaging such information and returning it to users.

Component 3: Enhanced policy and institutional enabling environment for sustainable management and livelihoods.

The presentation and discussion of Component 3 considered the three key aspects of improving the policy and institutional framework to support sustainable land management and livelihoods in the GGW area: policymaking, advocacy and outreach. Through these three core activities, Component 2 will foster cross-sectoral collaboration, stakeholder engagement, and the adoption of inclusive policies.

On policy

Influencing policy effectively first requires determining which policies to prioritize. Identifying common policy issues across all GGW countries can be challenging due to each country's unique context. A crucial question is whether K4GGWA should advocate for new policies or focus on implementing existing ones. Ensuring coherence between policy and practice at both national and local levels is vital. Despite the existence of policies, they are often not enforced or well-known at the grassroots level.

Integrating the GGW initiative into national sectoral policies and fostering shared institutional frameworks is necessary for effective implementation. Building synergies among science, policy, and practice interfaces will help achieve desired outcomes. Additionally, providing seed funding for pilot studies can facilitate the scaling up of successful initiatives.

On advocacy

Participants in the interactive discussion agreed that it is essential to establish pathways for high-level advocacy and policy influence at the regional level. Particularly important is engaging members of parliament responsible for national budgets, providing them with evidence, and involving notable GGW champions. Even more important is securing the highly influential buy-in of presidents, prime ministers, and vice presidents. Participants also underlined that mobilizing internal funds for land restoration often hinges on influencing decision makers using advocacy founded on strong and relatable evidence.

According to several participants, advocacy for holistic interventions that support food security, sustainability and sovereignty should first identify the various constraining policies in different food systems. Discussants also noted that advocacy activities must be gender aware as women are critical to land restoration activities. These advocacy approaches should also embrace the role of national coalitions in GGW-related initiatives.

Outreach

Participants discussing the outreach aspect of Component 3 noted its importance in shaping partnerships. Such outreach and awareness building requires thinking broadly, involving not just governments but a spectrum of public and private sector actors. Coordination among these actors is also key and requires effective synergies across a range of platforms.

Attendees suggested building on existing PAGGW mechanisms and platforms, such as those already available for women and youth, leveraging them to strengthen GGW agencies, and exploiting their outreach potential to enhance local level awareness of the GGW. Regarding outreach materials and communication approaches, participants discussed regularly disseminating policy briefs, using international UN days as outreach springboards and attending high-level events such as the annual COP.

Knowledge for Great Green Wall Action (K4GGWA)

SO3: Enhanced Policy and Institutional Enabling Environment for Sustainable Management and Livelihoods within the broader Great Green Wall area

Focus:

- Policy support to improve the institutional, governance, and awareness dimensions of the GGW
- Advocacy and stakeholder engagement with evidence
- Outreach and dissemination to mobilize broader support for the GGW

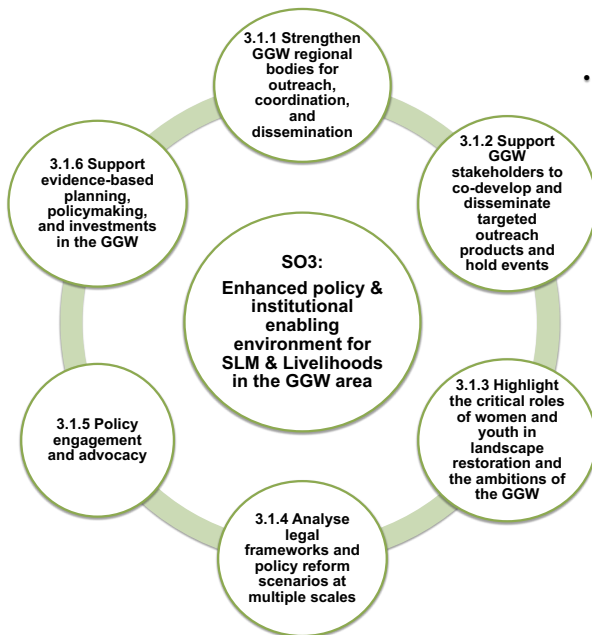


Approach:

- The Stakeholder Approach to Risk-Informed and Evidence-Based Decision-making (SHARED)
- Multi stakeholder and cross-sectoral facilitation to foster dialogue and learning
- Scientific research and evidence production for advocacy, and support to policy shifts

Activities & Deliverable areas:

Lead Implementers: CIFOR-ICRAF & FAO



Communication channels:

- GGW focal points
- Projects / initiatives
- Workshops
- Briefs / scientific publications
- Media broadcasts

Collaborators & Target Groups

- GGW regional and national structures and stakeholders
- National, sub-national & local entities
- NGO's, civil society & community associations
- Academic institutions
- Traditional authorities

Assumptions

Producing robust evidence on policy contexts would help tailor pertinent outreach and advocacy materials, that can inform decision-makers and support meaningful policy change in the GGW area

Outcomes

Constraining policy are shifted; stakeholders' capacities are reinforced for advocacy; and greater outreach has raised awareness and the status of the GGW initiative



Figure 8. The poster for K4GGWA strategic objective three (SO3)
Source: K4GGWA team



Figure 9. Participants discussing the policy and institutional enabling environment

Source: K4GGWA team/CIFOR-ICRAF



Figure 10. Discussing the K4GGWA innovation support facility

Source: K4GGWA team/CIFOR-ICRAF

Regional Programmes' Dialogue

Day one – Session three

Day one of 'A Week on the Great Green Wall' concluded with the "Regional Programmes Dialogue," a convening of institutions and agencies to support the PAGGW through enhanced communication, new synergies between key actors and greater clarity of roles and tasks among stakeholders.

Moderated by the Scientific and Technical Director for PAGGW, Zougoulou Mahamat Abakar, the dialogue included presentations from a range of institutions, as indicated in Table 1.

UNEP - Adamou Bouhari (online)

The UNEP representative provided a brief overview of his agency's programmes and their possible synergies and complementarities with the GGW initiative.

In 2020, UNEP recognized the many challenges presented by accessing and managing monitoring data. Currently, UNEP is assisting with data analysis

and programme submission to Nigeria and Ethiopia under the Global Environment Facility. Mr. Bouhari emphasized that GGW actions should stem from the African Development Bank (AfDB) supported, PAGGW implemented institutional audit. This audit covers the technical aspects of the GGW initiative and any potential weaknesses. He also highlighted the importance of incorporating conclusions from the Dakar meeting regarding the Regional Steering Committee established by the African Union in 2021 to ensure synergies and complementarity across initiatives.

FAO - Moctar Sacande

Mr Sacande delivered a presentation on the achievements of [Action Against Desertification \(AAD\)](#), a project that began in 2014. The project's initial four years of support were renewed in recognition of its important work. The programme followed support from the FAO, including developing national strategies and concrete actions for implementing the GGW in 2012.

Table 1. Agencies and speakers represented at the Regional Programmes' Dialogue

No	Institution / Programme	Panelist
01	FAO/SURRAGWA	Moctar Sacande Program Coordinator
02	WFP/PAM/Programme Résilience	Mr Hameed Nuru, Director WFP's African Union office
03	IFAD/ FIDA Programme GGW Umbrella	Maxime Thibon Program Coordinator
04	PAGGW/ APGMV Programme Appui à la transition et Programme	Marcelin Sanou Head of Monitoring and Evaluation
05	PAGGW/ APGMV/ Programme Intégrateur Multi Etat GMV	Sakhoudia Thiam Head of Research and Development
06	UNEP/ PNUE-FEM8	Adamou Bouhari Program Coordinator
07	UNDP/ PNUD	Clotilde Goeman Climate Change Adaptation Programme Officer
08	AFR 100/Programme	Mamadou Diakité Program Coordinator
09	OSS	Fatou MAR Program Coordinator
10	Birdlife International (Programme GMV Biodiversité)	Jean Baptiste Desfontaines Director country office

The six original countries supported by the project have been extended to eight, with a collective focus on restoring 100 million hectares by 2030, sustainably managing non-timber forest products and strengthening GGW institutions. PAGGW oversees the latter component in collaboration with regional level agencies.

WFP - Mr Hameed Nuru

Mr. Nuru presented a short video, now available online, summarizing key points about the World Food Programme's (WFP) efforts in Africa.

The WFP is present in 46 of the 55 countries in Africa, with four regional bureaus on the continent. Last year, the WFP invested four billion dollars in these regions. In the Sahel, where integrated resilience projects focus on the environment, food systems, and food security, WFP reached 3.2 million people in 3,200 villages through food aid, cash transfers, vouchers, and livelihood strategies.

The video emphasized the importance of strengthening the capacity of government partners and securing political buy-in from high-level officials, such as presidents, vice presidents, and prime ministers, especially for transboundary projects like the GGW.

The WFP has made significant strides in ecosystem restoration by rehabilitating 280,000 hectares of degraded arable land and 27,500 hectares of forest land. These achievements have been made possible through collaboration with partner organizations, government agencies, and local communities.

For water access, the WFP linked 3,162 villages with water sources by constructing ponds, dams, and boreholes. Additionally, it trained 32,176 community champions across 572 community based projects in the Sahel region, reaching 164,000 households, 95 percent of which are headed by women.

The WFP has also supported 1,388 smallholder farmer organizations by building 701 community-owned grain stores for post-harvest storage. These initiatives have created 2.7 million jobs for youth, women, and other groups.

Learning networks have been developed for evidence, data, and knowledge sharing. The WFP has supported GGW regional and international workshops and continues to engage in advocacy at both national and international levels. Through the One United Nations approach, WFP collaborates with other UN agencies like IFAD, FAO, and UNCCD in its integrated resilience projects.

Key lessons learned from these interventions include the need to focus on smallholder farmers for long-term success, enhancing the capacity of local communities to enable community-owned and led projects, and emphasizing quality technical standards in data collection and monitoring. Establishing research hubs and training centers to bridge the gap between research and grassroots implementation is also crucial. Generating evidence is integral to shifting mindsets and policy, requiring effective presentation to decision makers. WFP is committed to supporting these efforts as a partner.

IFAD - Maxime Thibon

Mr Thibon spoke about the importance of effective knowledge management in dealing with capacity issues in projects. Noting that IFAD plans to launch a new programme in 2024 focused on knowledge management, innovation, monitoring and evaluation, he emphasized the importance of coordinating with K4GGWA to avoid duplication of efforts. Mr Thibon further noted that tighter coordination with all partners would ensure efficient use of allocated funds and greater coordination of knowledge to respond to needs effectively.

UNDP - Clotilde Goeman (online presentation)

Ms Goeman spoke of UNDP's USD 170 million GGW regional support programme for 2023-2028, covering seven GGW countries. The programme focuses on restoring landscapes to improve ecosystem services, food systems, rural economies and resilience to climate change in rural communities in the Sahel. It particularly targets women and youth, who are central to the programme's implementation. Its key components include enhancing ecosystem resilience through sustainable, integrated land and water resource management and reinforcing the green economy and rural livelihoods by promoting diverse value chains and business development.

The programme aims to scale up partnerships, innovative knowledge and techniques, capacity building, and institutional leadership for resilient landscape and climate actions. Partnerships are crucial to the programme, especially during the fundraising phase. Key partners include regional offices of international organizations, national and local level organizations, CSOs and appropriate public and private sector players.

This programme also enables and strengthens collaboration between the UNDP branches. The

UNDP has various initiatives that support countries and rural communities to access funds for climate adaptation and climate insurance.

OSS - Fatou Mar (online presentation)

According to Ms Mar, *Observatoire du Sahara et du Sahel* (OSS) and its partners implement various programmes in the GGW area, mobilizing resources for water management, climate adaptation, tools for early warning, monitoring and evaluation and tools for decision-making. Ms Mar emphasized the need for a harmonized approach to collecting data to monitor and evaluate GGW investments effectively. To ensure that the resources being invested reach directly the beneficiaries on the ground. Critical are technical coordination and synergies among the projects' implementing organizations to ensure that the achievements benefit them all. Under the supervision of the AU, the PAGGW, OSS, the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), UNCCD, and the GGW Accelerator have signed a memorandum of understanding to work together for sustainable fundraising and to support countries with bankable projects and a harmonized monitoring and evaluation framework.

Birdlife International - Jean Baptiste Desfontaines (online presentation)

The GGW area is very rich in biodiversity with varied ecosystems. However, these sanctuaries for biodiversity are threatened due to environmental changes related to natural, anthropic and climatic factors. Flooded plains were reduced by 40 percent as well as the population of birds from 1960-2000. Important bird populations migrate between the Sahel region and Europe, thus showing the necessity for conservation actions globally because a conservation action in the Sahel region can positively impact biodiversity on other continents. Agricultural lands are expanding by 2 percent annually without negatively impacting land cover or wildlife or leading to overgrazing. There is an urgent need for concerted actions to better protect the health of ecosystems and their role in conserving biodiversity. Birdlife is implementing various projects in the GGW area through land restoration actions, home gardens, tree planting, dune stabilization and poultry. Has a memorandum of understanding with PAGGW, aiming to integrate and monitor biodiversity in the GGW area and interventions. Regional collaboration could integrate biodiversity into key interventions of the GGW, harmonize ecosystem monitoring and evaluation, apply biodiversity data to public decision-making, build capacity, raise

awareness of environmental sustainability and strengthen collaboration across all interventions.

AFR100 - Mamadou Diakité (online presentation)

Mr Diakité commenced with an overview of the AFR100 Programme, mentioning that it was initiated in 2015 by the AU to support the GGW and has restored 10 million hectares of land. AFR-100 also aims to restore 100 million hectares of degraded ecosystems by 2030. Thirty-four countries have joined the initiative and have the potential to restore 129 million hectares of degraded land. AFR-100 comprises several pillars, such as mobilizing high-level political engagement through Heads of State, creating a robust, interoperable monitoring system and implementing impactful communication, advocacy, and outreach. Another pillar relates to mobilizing national internal resources through an AFR-100 fund set up in collaboration with the FAO. We also have important support from the Swedish cooperation. The speaker noted that the private sector is also being mobilized, as indicated by the Bezos Earth Fund's contribution of USD 20 million and another 100 million after the Glasgow summit. Synergy was also noted as important as AFR-100 represents two African Union initiatives and launched the GGW initiative in southern Africa. The organization also recruits and trains 120 eco-entrepreneurs and start-ups per year.

PAGGW - Marcelin Sanou

Mr Sanou's presentation focused on the role of indicators in PAGGW's operations, explaining that each indicator is designed specifically for the country according to local needs. Examples of these indicators include:

- productivity and income generation
- the number of production and processing units supported
- quantity of carbon sequestered
- number of water points established
- and the number of integrated agricultural farms supported

Additional indicators are the number of employment opportunities created in value chains, the quantity of carbon sequestered, the number of beneficiaries reached, and the number of water points established. Mr Sanou pointed out that global maps are being drawn up for each country to assess vegetation coverage from 2016 to 2020 based on satellite images. Mr Sanou closed his address with a pictorial representation of GGW intervention zones in five countries.

PAGGW - Sakhouidia Thiam

Dr Thiam started his presentation by recalling the consensus among workshop participants regarding the negative impacts of climate change and land degradation. These impacts include migration and conflict around the Sahel, two of many challenges requiring more synergies and complementarity among GGW actors.

According to Dr Thiam, many GGW activities need greater coherence and convergence, with some still not officially recognized by ministries or even GGW agencies in some countries.

PAGGW is trying to resolve this in partnership with UNDP through a multi-state integrator programme focusing on the following key components:

- restoration of degraded lands, climate change, development of renewable energy
- socioeconomic development and regional transformation Sahelians in Rural Poles of Production and Sustainable Development
- institutional support for GGW Structures

Proper implementation of the program would enable recovering and restoring degraded lands, strengthening the control and integrated management of water and energy resources and promoting the development of agro-sylvo-pastoral value chains. Additionally, it would strengthen populations' capacities for adaptation and resilience to climatic changes and improve basic social infrastructure to fight poverty.

Dr Thiam concluded with an invitation to donors to attend a program roundtable later in 2024.

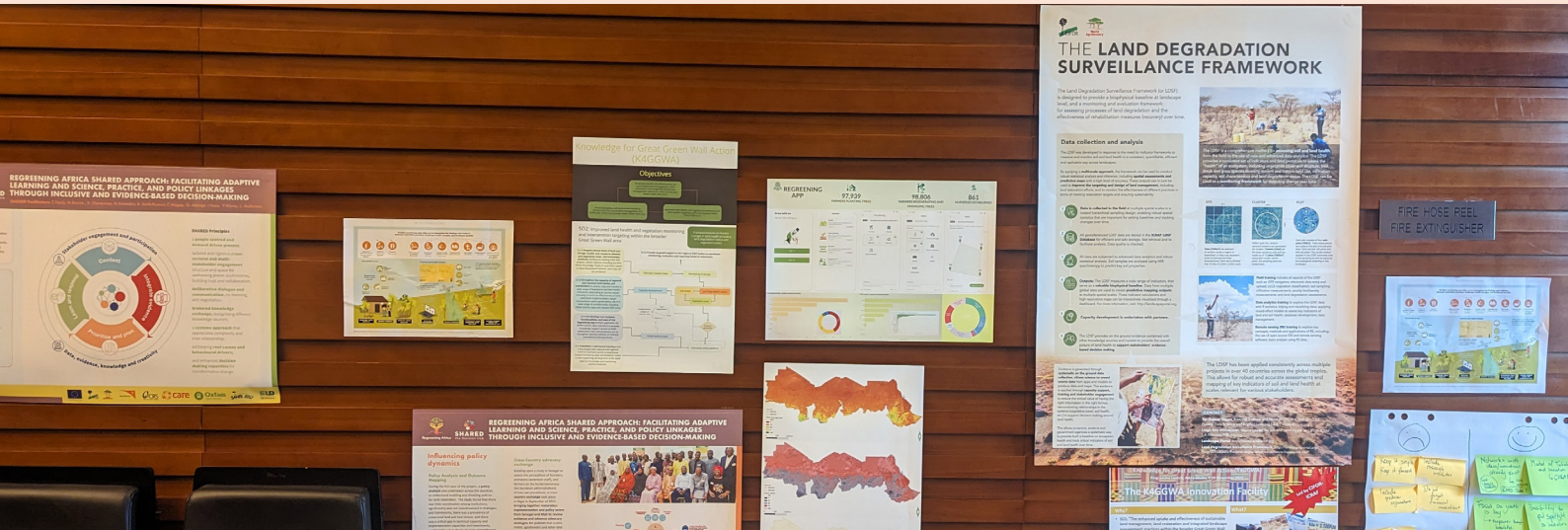


Figure 11. Posters presented on land health and citizen science data collection under component 2
Source: K4GGWA team/CIFOR-ICRAF

Day 2

Day two of 'A Week on the Great Green Wall' provided an opportunity for key stakeholders and partners supporting the GGW to participate in a series of sessions to enable a dialogue between regional programmes, enhance communication

flow and build synergies. The meeting included directors of national agencies, the Pan-African Agency, regional and international Technical and Financial Partners (TFPs), the AU Commission, NGOs and Civil society support groups.

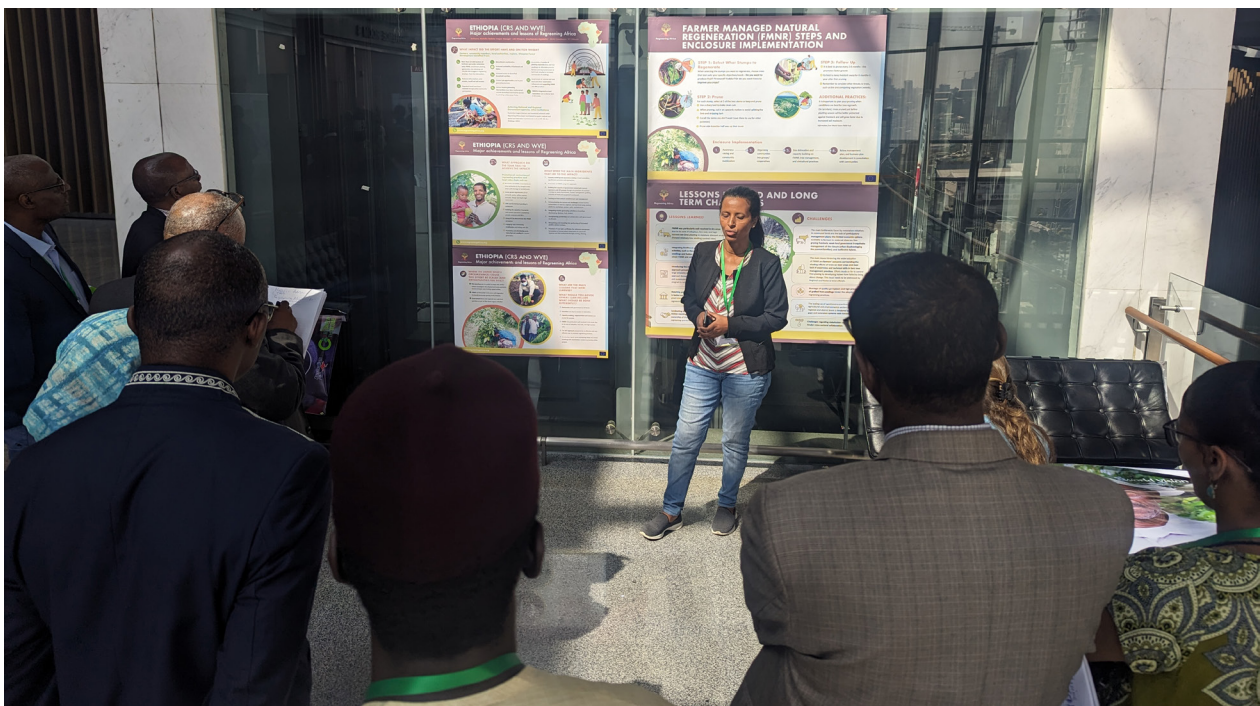


Figure 12. Practices from Regreening Africa in Ethiopia presented by CRS and World Vision.
Source: K4GGWA team/CIFOR-ICRAF

Cross-learning

Day two – Session one

Led by CIFOR-ICRAF

Cross-learning session I – Practices and approaches

The first of the three learning sessions examined the GGW through the experience of **Regreening Africa**. Led by CIFOR-ICRAF, the internationally-supported initiative is successfully restoring ecosystems, rehabilitating degraded land and improving livelihoods. Its success is founded on sustainable land management practices, policy advocacy, gender transformative approaches, multistakeholder partnerships and research in development.

The session commenced with groups of participants rotating between presentations and poster displays, learning about and discussing Regreening Africa's approach and its potential for informing K4GGWA. Key issues discussed included scaling up land and reforestation efforts, partnership-based interventions, knowledge sharing and the importance of bridging the gap between research institutions, communities, government and civil society.



Figure 13. Regreening Africa's value chain approach
Source: K4GGWA team/CIFOR-ICRAF

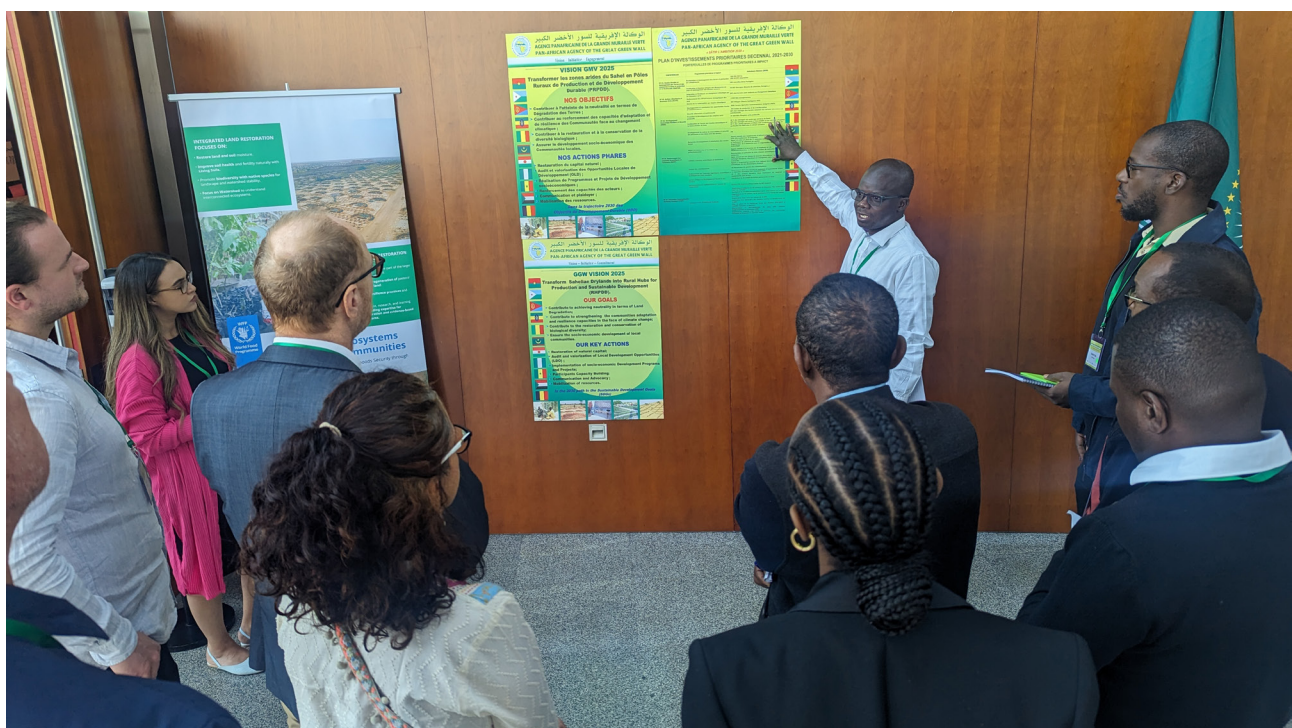


Figure 14. Presentation from the PAGGW
Source: K4GGWA team/CIFOR-ICRAF

Regreening Africa value chain poster session:

Presenters used posters to explain how a Regreening Africa project in Ethiopia is reviving landscapes through a tree-based value chain approach. They explained the process of identifying value chain opportunities through site baselines, installing capacity and contributing through collaborative national forums. Critical to the regreening work in Ethiopia was ensuring interventions used local resources controlled by local actors, ensuring greater local buy-in. Presenters also emphasized the importance of actor mapping, citing the project's experience with shea value chains and identifying key players at the farm, landscape, national and international levels, including women producer cooperatives. They also presented indicators of the range of actors operating at the various levels, with each requiring tailored intervention strategies. The session generated a range of exchanges, including questions and feedback, as summarized in the following:

- Given that some of the value chain options developed under Regreening Africa are in subhumid areas, should K4GGWA support value chains in more dryland areas?
- Considering the lengthy period tree-based enterprises require, should strategies look at climate smart practices and diversify options, including crop choices? For example, including fodder businesses as part of farmer managed natural regeneration.
- How will K4GGWA support value chains through private sector linkages?
- Are there ways to make quality seeds available to all actors interested in developing value chains?
- Restoration efforts need to focus on native species and avoid exotics like eucalyptus. This means finding ways to counter the high demand for such species due to their value as a cash crop.

Following the poster presentation, groups discussed the actions necessary to scale promising and successful interventions, as summarized in the following:

Group 1

Group one emphasized the importance of facilitating government engagement and policy integration in scaling up. Participants also noted that implementing national level advocacy through a range of champions and actors is a key pillar in delivering larger scale land restoration. At a practical level, it is important to ensure the availability of quality seeds for planting.

Enhancing learning through peer-farmer networks, utilizing government extension services, and providing clear reporting and evaluation to secure funding were also highlighted as crucial steps. Additionally, developing market-led approaches and private sector value chains, along with broadly and clearly communicating all success stories, were identified as essential components for scaling interventions effectively.

Group 2

Group 2 covered a broad range of issues, which can be organized according to six thematic areas.

Advocacy and communication: Participants noted that support for outreach work is essential to promoting large scale restoration initiatives. This should involve mainstreaming key GGW policy work across national agencies for more cohesive action, institutionalizing advocacy platforms and incorporating restoration experience into formal and informal training.

Community engagement and ownership: The group agreed that successful restoration requires developing community ownership, which in turn requires understanding community needs. Enhancing farmer-to-farmer exchanges can also build community support along with integrating successful restoration stories into local planning processes. Integrating Indigenous and local knowledge with modern science also fosters community engagement.

Knowledge generation and sharing: Developing case studies of effective activities provides valuable insights for replication was noted by the group. The group also suggested that centralizing data capture and annual syntheses can lead to more comprehensive knowledge bases. Additionally, identifying and repackaging key insights from existing areas makes information more accessible and usable.

Financial support and resource mobilization: The group noted that mobilizing financial resources is an ongoing challenge. This can be assisted by developing innovative budget mechanisms for national rather than sustainability-constrained project models. The group also encouraged actors mobilizing large scale funding to avoid using oversimplified models.

Implementation and delivery: Several participants discussed how conducting pilots can identify successful approaches and refine techniques. Others noted that restoration often first requires strengthening and supporting existing structures and social processes.

Group 3

Group 3 participants agreed that the first step to scaling up restoration is identifying proven practices and creating a clear picture of what works. This information can then be integrated into local and national development plans and help ensure restoration becomes a standard strategy.

Participants also noted the importance of empowerment, such as building community capacity in implementing sustainable actions. Simplifying complex research into clear, practical information is also important for bridging the gap between scientists and farmers, facilitating ground-level adoption of restoration actions.

Group 3 also said incentives can encourage broader participation, which is essential for scaling up. For example, creating value chains around restored products offers farmers benefits like better market access and higher profits, motivating them to embrace restoration practices.

Cross-learning session II - Enabling policies and institutions

Day two – Session two

Led by CIFOR-ICRAF

In cross-learning session II, participants examined how enabling policies and institutions can catalyse the GGW's implementation and the positive outcomes it will deliver for landscapes, ecosystems, biodiversity, people, livelihoods and community well-being. This means having government policies that support the GGW, like clear land rights, financial incentives for tree planting and community assistance initiatives. Strong institutions are also critical, such as forestry departments, CSOs, regional agencies and research institutions. Institutions with expertise in anti-corruption measures are crucial for efficient implementation and community involvement.

The sessions commenced with each participant writing down the policy or regulatory issues in their country that require urgent attention to ensure sustainable land management and the realization of the GGW. Their written responses were numerous and wide-ranging, as indicated in the following:

Country policy challenges

Creating an enabling policy environment involves addressing land tenure, policy, and ownership rights over tree resources to encourage farmer participation in land restoration. It also requires

resolving unequal access to land to remove disadvantages faced by smallholder farmers, herders, and others, including women, on a regional level. Additionally, developing policies, guidelines, and regulations regarding payment for ecosystem services, such as in Ethiopia, is essential for supporting sustainable land management.

Policy integration involves incorporating GGW objectives into existing policies and practices regarding SLM and NDCs. It also requires integrating these objectives into national economic and social development documents and planning across all GGW countries. This integration can help ensure cohesive planning and implementation of GGW goals within the existing frameworks of these countries.

Policy alignment across sectors is essential for successful land restoration. This involves developing sectoral policies for forestry, agriculture, livestock, environment, and water and aligning these policies more effectively. Ensuring all relevant sectors work cohesively can help land restoration efforts achieve better environmental and economic outcomes.

The lack of policy implementation can be addressed by legislating local government authority to enforce national forest law and by supporting and scaling participatory forest management, as demonstrated in Ethiopia. Empowering local governments is crucial for effective forest management and the sustainable use of forest resources.

Inclusivity and stakeholder participation are critical components for the success of the GGW. This involves developing mechanisms to enhance community interest, building a sense of ownership of the GGW, involving the private sector, and addressing the challenges in operationalizing coalitions.

Implementation of the decentralization land governance law requires addressing the lack of fiscal support and training for local government. Ensuring local authorities are adequately funded and trained is crucial for effective land governance and the successful execution of decentralized policies.

Sectoral synergy and coordination between intervening GGW parties involve resolving the misalignment between the GGW's mission and other sectors and ministries, as seen in Djibouti and Mauritania. Ensuring alignment is crucial for maximizing the impact of efforts across various sectors.

National land use policy and land ownership must ensure that policies and laws address the needs of vulnerable groups across all countries. This will help countries promote more equitable and inclusive land use practices, ensuring that the benefits of land resources are accessible to all segments of the population.

Following the exercise of writing down and discussing policy and regulatory issues, participants worked in groups to examine policy, advocacy and community ownership, as summarized in the following:

Group 1 - Policy issues at the regional level and how to solve them

Summary

Regional level policy issues can be addressed by integrating GGW objectives into existing policy frameworks, such as the NDCs, land degradation, and neutrality. It is also important to change the current narrative that presents the GGW as merely a line of trees, shifting it to a cross-sectoral mosaic of productive land, rural development, and food systems. Using national

coalitions to bring in other sectors and actors can further enhance the effectiveness of the GGW initiatives.

Comments

Group 1 made several observations about the challenges of regional policies. Though policies exist, participants argued that they need concrete guidelines for effective implementation. They also highlighted a policy gap in trans-national resource sharing, stressing the importance of intergovernmental cooperation for greater influence at the AU level. Participants emphasized the need for countries to align their GGW commitments with their NDCs, the Biodiversity Convention, and their UNCCD Land Degradation Neutrality objectives.

Many group members agreed that the absence of widespread attention to the GGW was due to a “tree-wall” narrative that overlooks other sectors and prevents them from accessing national budgets and donor support. A wide range of subjects, such as pastoralism, energy, agriculture, climate change, and finance, need to be covered in the rewritten narrative.

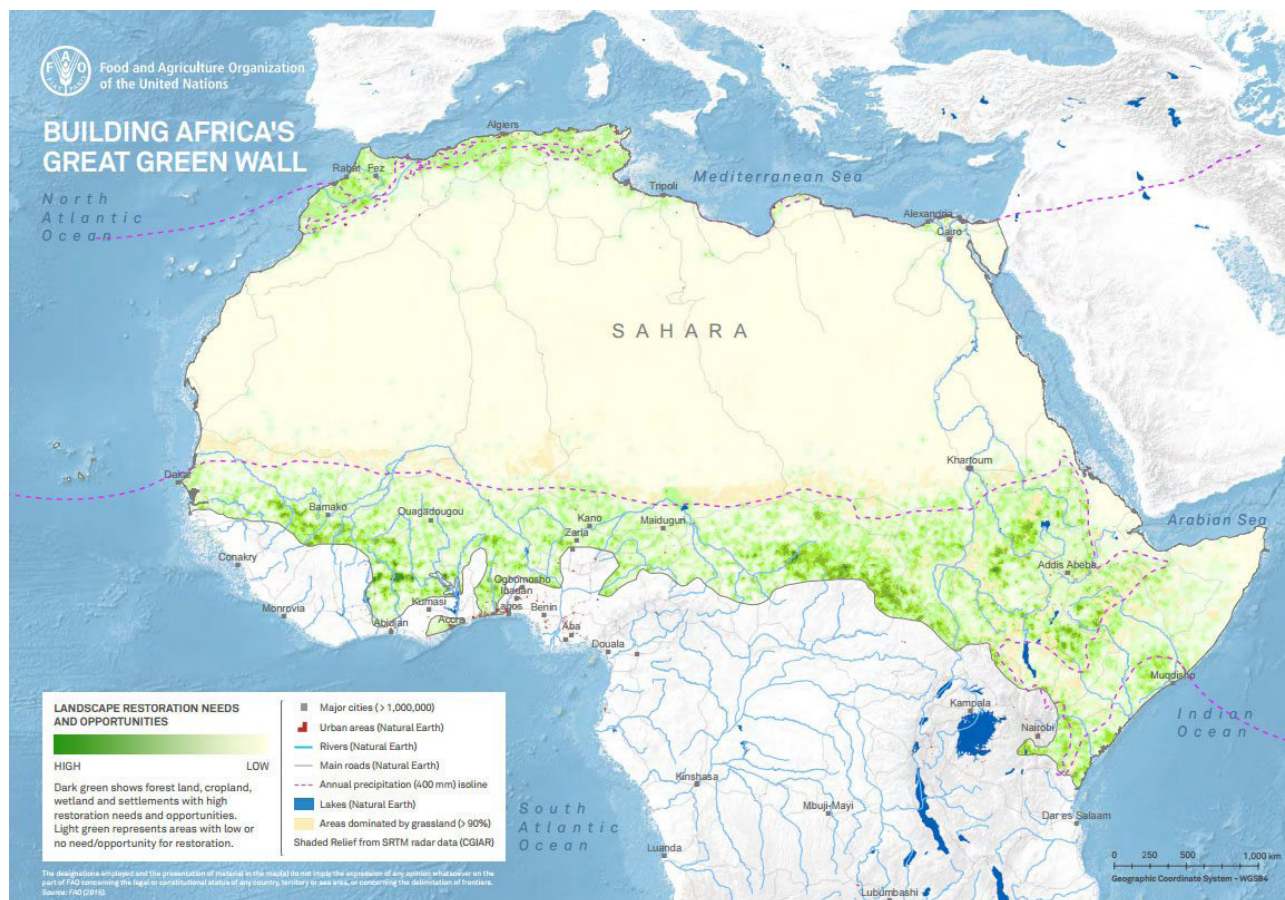


Figure 15. FAO depiction of the Great Green Wall

Source: FAO

Members of the group agreed that a comprehensive approach to the GGW must be developed and a new vision sought. The need for a thorough update to the GGW vision was also emphasized. Although it was first targeted at particular sectors, the vision needs to be shared and expanded in upcoming conversations with other ministries.

Members of the group also reaffirmed the need for sustained funding for new players collaborating in national and regional sectors. They noted the necessity of lobbying to show success at the national level. To demonstrate the regional value of the GGW, all relevant stakeholders and alliances must be involved in the national implementation.

Finally, Group 1 stressed that the GGW should not rely on one ministry but should be multi-sectoral and possibly led by a Head of State. The group also highlighted that the continental response to land degradation and desertification must recognize the need for regional tools to support the GGW initiative.

Group 2 - Advocacy experiences and ingredients for success

Group 2 noted that effective advocacy requires communicating with policymakers precisely and concisely. Tailoring the message to fit each specific community and using the right channels to reach decision makers is essential, as is targeting the right decision makers at the right time with the appropriate information. One participant stressed the importance of humility in fostering connection and collaboration for successful advocacy.

Participants noted that equipping citizens and communities with the capacity to defend their rights and amplify their voices is fundamental to successful outreach. Presenting your strategy at opportune moments, such as during natural disasters, can be particularly impactful, as these events can influence even the staunchest climate deniers. Showcasing tangible successes of national and local governments was also noted.

Participants agreed that having a good understanding of the needs of your target audience is essential when advocating. Managing reputation and credibility is also crucial, as successful advocacy requires money and time. Successful advocates also recognize the importance of providing national leaders with factual information and to assist them in decision-making. Acting as an ally to decision makers by helping them achieve their goals can also strengthen advocacy efforts.

Group 2's discussion also focused on the power of media and digital marketing in targeting audiences

effectively. In a constantly changing digital world, learning, adjusting, and adapting are essential for continued success.

Group 3 - Challenges to community ownership of the GGW and how to address them

The challenges

One significant challenge to community ownership of the GGW is the lack of effective public awareness building, resulting in many communities not understanding the GGW's vision and their potential role in its implementation. Several participants noted that this lack of understanding is compounded by insufficient progress with the GGW due to inadequate funding, which prevents communities from seeing tangible results and building upon them.

Group 3 participants further addressed the question of funding by noting that insufficient financial and technical resources for local and ground-level partners, including CSOs, CBOs, farmers, and pastoral organizations, hindered their ability to contribute to the GGW effectively. Additionally, there is an absence of suitable mechanisms for transferring financial resources to local and ground-level communities, further limiting their capacity to implement GGW initiatives.

Another challenge is the incomplete data needed to measure the effectiveness of different extension approaches used in land restoration. Members of Group 3 said problems with data make it difficult to assess which GGW activities need improving. Furthermore, there is a lack of prioritization in national fund allocations and planning for GGW activities, which undermines the overall support and progress of the initiative.

Participants also discussed the issue of land insecurity, particularly for women and youth. Lack of inclusion regarding land security and tenure prevents equitable participation and benefit-sharing among community members, further challenging GGW's goal of achieving sustainable and just development.

The solutions

According to Group 3, one way to encourage community ownership of GGW activities is to involve them in the design and implementation of projects. Actively engaging communities will help them understand and support GGW initiatives being carried out on their land.

Another crucial solution raised by the group involves building the capacity of local communities to monitor GGW activities. Several participants in the discussion noted that long-term success depends on communities being empowered to hold project implementers accountable. This would not only enhance project transparency but also foster a sense of ownership among community members.

Integrating the vision of the GGW into local policy and development plans is also vital. Group 3 participants discussed how this integration allows for sustainability and greater local government ownership. By embedding GGW objectives within local frameworks, the wall can achieve more lasting and impactful results.

Lastly, the group discussed the potential of capitalizing on climate change adaptation activities to raise awareness among communities about supporting the GGW. Another suggestion was to use adaptation activities to engage local populations and reach out to them about the GGW.

Cross-learning session III - Monitoring

Day two – Session three

Led by CIFOR-ICRAF and PAGGW

The sessions commenced with participants responding to a series of questions via the collaboration app Menti. Participants' answers have been synthesized and summarized for greater coherency.

What is monitoring for you in the context of K4GGWA?

Monitoring for the K4GGWA should involve a comprehensive assessment of the GGW's progress and overall impact. This would begin with evaluating objectives and outputs to ensure alignment with established goals and entail regular assessments of the initiative's performance.

Continuous monitoring and evaluation alongside follow-up assessments are essential for constant improvement. Monitoring how knowledge capture, generation, and sharing are functioning will also be crucial.

Understanding plays a key role in monitoring. It involves deepening stakeholder understanding of factors affecting the initiative and tracking changes in land health. This deeper understanding can then inform strategy refinement and decisions.

Data collection will be central to K4GGWA's success. Detailed data on soil health, income levels, gender

equity, and nutrition should be gathered to provide a comprehensive picture of the project's impact. The scope extends to monitoring soil and ecosystem health, carbon sequestration, and other qualitative and quantitative indicators to assess environmental impacts.

Standardized frameworks and indicators will be critical for K4GGWA. These include defining which specific aspects to measure and how. Ensuring that indicators are meaningful and can be aggregated across different scales will help K4GGWA provide insightful analysis. A harmonized results management framework using standardized indicators and methods will guarantee consistency and reliable data collection. A harmonized framework has been developed for the GGW and is available in [French](#) and [English](#).

Feedback and policy tracking should be integral to K4GGWA, as providing feedback to decision makers and farmers empowers informed choices for improved outcomes. Tracking policy changes is essential to understand their impact on the GGW and adapt strategies accordingly.

In essence, for K4GGWA, monitoring should be a systematic process of collecting and analysing data to measure progress and impact. This continuous process will help ensure the initiative stays on track, with adjustments made to enhance its effectiveness and sustainability.

Overall, it will involve a holistic approach that encompasses measurement, understanding, data collection, standardized frameworks, feedback, and policy tracking – all working together to achieve the initiative's goals.

What does “indicator” mean to you?

In the context of the K4GGWA, an “indicator” should refer to specific, measurable elements for evaluating how effectively various GGW activities are meeting their stated objectives. For K4GGWA, indicators will serve as critical tools that offer objective, verifiable ways to measure success.

Indicators will also provide K4GGWA with tangible evidence in determining if the programme is moving towards its goals. Specific examples of indicators in the K4GGWA programme include measurable parameters such as soil organic carbon as an indicator of soil health, hectares of land restored, and parameters to assess and monitor socioeconomic and biophysical progress.

These indicators provide detailed information on various aspects of the initiative, such as the

reforestation rate and the amount of land under restoration. Simple numbers that act as reliable proxies for more complex realities can also be used, making it easier for K4GGWA to convey its findings.

Additionally, K4GGWA could use contextual indicators to address specific needs unique to individual communities. These indicators help in tailoring the GGW initiative to meet the needs of the affected communities and ensure that the GGW's benefits are effectively and equitably reaching the intended populations. For instance, monitoring if people still need food assistance can provide insights into the socioeconomic impact of specific GGW activities.

In using indicators to measure and understand the programme's progress, K4GGWA can ensure accountability and guide future actions to achieve the desired outcomes. If used effectively by the K4GGWA, indicators will enable actors implementing GGW activities to make informed decisions and adjustments as needed.

The presenter encouraged the participants to consider whether indicators show what we are measuring. For example, rather than considering land health as the indicator itself, we need to consider what elements can be measured that indicate or show changes in land health.

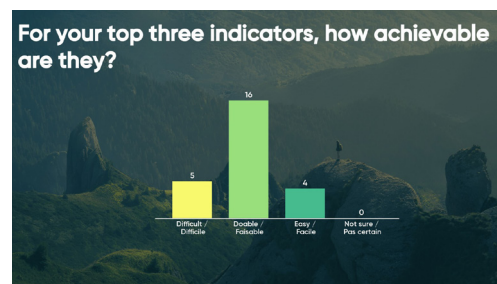
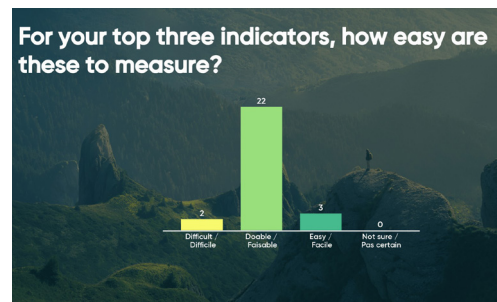
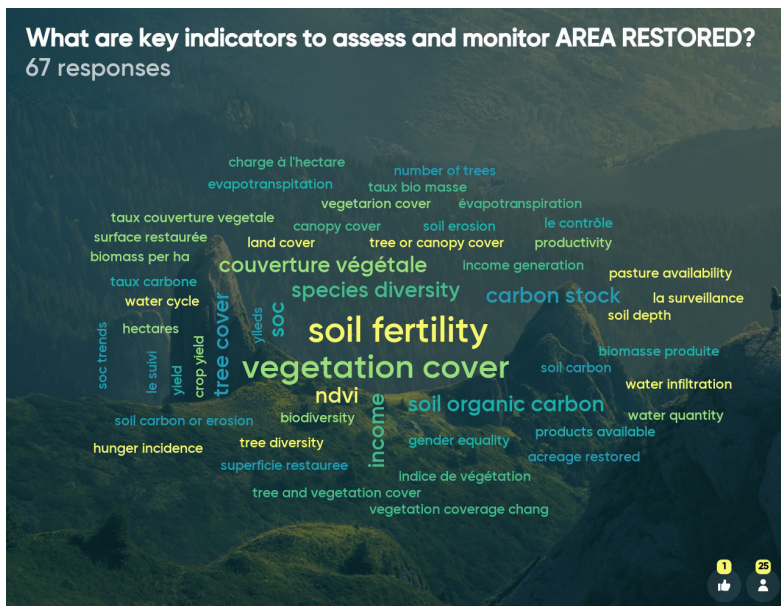
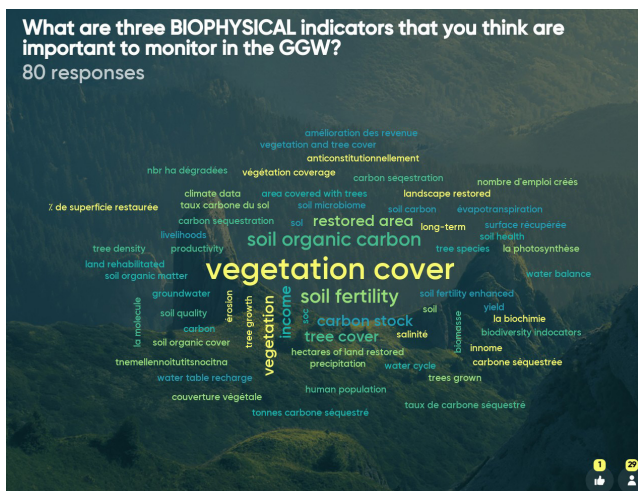
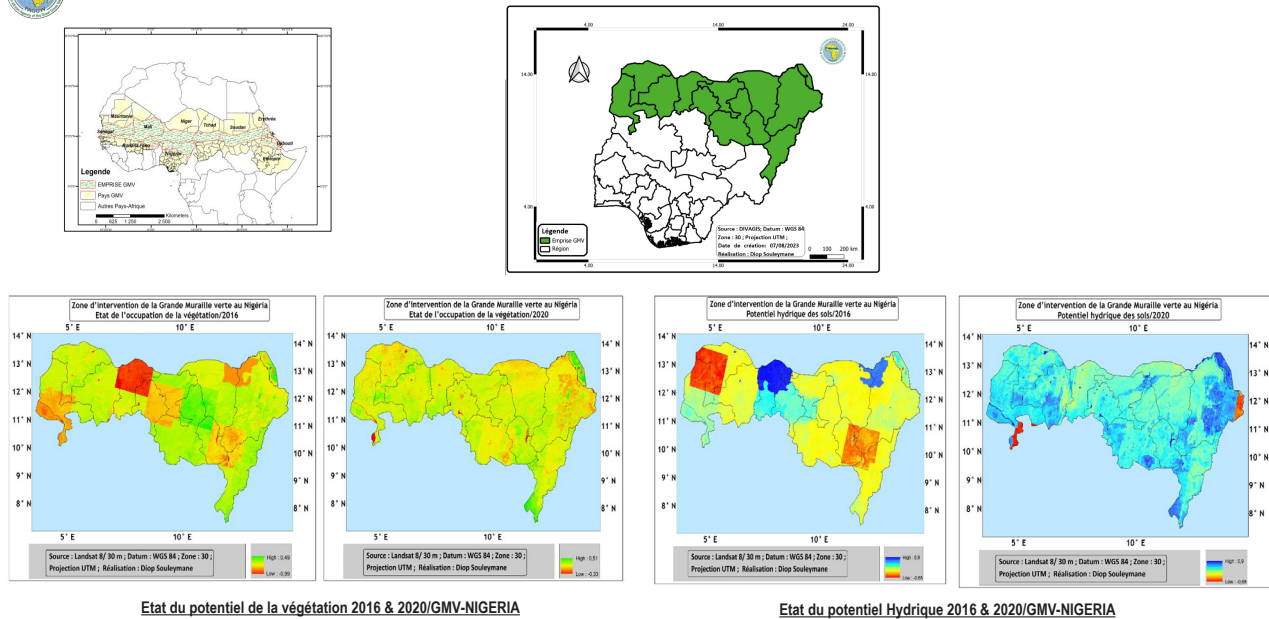


Figure 16. Some examples of the indicator word maps and response charts that participants created during the monitoring session

Source: Created with Menti.com during the event



Zone d'intervention de la GMV au NIGERIA



Etat du potentiel de la végétation 2016 & 2020/GMV-NIGERIA

Etat du potentiel Hydrique 2016 & 2020/GMV-NIGERIA

Figure 17. Map showing the GGW intervention zone in Nigeria, along with vegetation and hydrological potential. The session also presented similar maps from Mali, Burkina Faso and Djibouti

Source: K4GGWA team/CIFOR-ICRAF

Question

Bernard Terris, UNCCD

Mr Terris described the maps as very interesting, asking if it was possible to present them “in a way that shows the evolution of the annual progress for each of the measurable objectives of the GGW?” He also noted the need to harmonize the sets of indicators used by CIFOR-ICRAF, FAO and the PAGGW. According to Mr Terris, harmonizing the indicators would produce maps that are easily readable and understood by the layperson. He concluded by saying, “These maps should be made available on the websites of the national agencies, the PAGGW, and others.”

Response

Marcelin Sanou PAGGW

Mr Sanou acknowledged Bernard’s comments, saying, “Yes, we are talking about harmonization and coordination. In 2018, in collaboration with the FAO, we conducted training on the use of Collect Earth, a tool that helps to assess the biophysical information in the GGW areas.”

Mr Sanou emphasized that harmonizing data collection and presentation was crucial. “At PAGGW, we are working to collect extended and harmonized data that are going to the

verified, treated, and centralized within the PAGGW for a more effective monitoring and evaluation of the impact of the GGW initiative,” Mr Sanu said.

Question

Niclas Gottmann EU

Mr Gottman mentioned the maps for 2016–2019, suggesting it would be good to know if the interpretations of these maps have changed, as occurred in Senegal. He requested updated versions of the maps for all GGW countries. Mr Gottman also asked if the updating would be conducted with the national agencies.

Responses

Marcelin Sanou PAGGW

According to Mr Sanou, the process of updating the maps is ongoing in all GGW countries. He said the national agencies’ monitoring and implementation (M&I) staff will assist in this task and will soon receive relevant training.

Abakar Zougoulou PAGGW

Mr Sanou’s PAGGW colleague, Mr Abakar Zougoulou, also responded to the EU representative’s query. “The GGW areas are diverse and extend to various regions and ecosystems,” Mr Zougoulou said. He noted that one of PAGGW’s challenges was establishing the situation of reference for

measuring intervention impact. According to Mr Zougoulou, PAGWW recognizes that data comes from GGW countries and has trained country M&I staff in harmonized data collection.

However, he pointed out that M&I staff face mobility challenges, and their members are constantly changing. The GGW areas also change in the countries. For example, Chad counted 10 regions as part of the GGW for 10 years but has added two more since the One Planet Summit. Similar changes have occurred in Senegal, which have affected their reference coordinates. “There is a need to stabilize the targets,” Mr Zougoulou said, “We are updating the system . . . but need more resources to complete it.”

Mr Zougoulou also mentioned the challenges regarding transparency. “For example,” Mr Zougoulou said, “There are World Bank projects that are implemented outside of the GGW areas, but they count them in their achievements for the GGW. This is not correct.”

Mr Zougoulou concluded his response by noting the important role of the GGW Accelerator in harmonizing the monitoring and evaluation system, which is critical to ensuring more coordinated oversight and measurement of the initiative. He emphasized that without the Accelerator, GGW countries will find themselves in a “donor command” situation where funding agencies decide where to implement projects.

Question

Nicclass Gottmann - EU

Mr Gottman asked about the importance of knowing what counts towards a GGW achievement.

Response

Dr Birguy Lamizana - UNCCD

Dr Birguy responded to the question by first noting that the GGW countries are sovereign. “They are the authority with the mandate to say where the areas are included in the GGW,” he added. Dr Birguy said that considering this mandate across the countries, coalitions are critical, as they ensure all actors and parties are aligned. He further said that

reinforcing the coalitions empowers the national agencies to participate in GGW projects, even when they do not receive funds directly.

Moctar Sacande - FAO

Mr Sacande highlighted how the FAO has invested in training M&I staff. However, the areas needing restoration are changing, according to Mr Sacande, and the FAO has extended the training to the whole continent as part of the agency’s [Africa Open D.E.A.L](#) initiative. “At (the) national levels, we have also extended our intervention beyond the GGW areas, as per the mandates of the ministries of environment, which are not limited to the GGW area,” Mr Sacande said.

Mr Sacande explained that the FAO’s database in Africa extends beyond the GGW and noted that its maps would improve significantly with the K4GGWA project, which will focus on specific information as needed. “At the FAO, we collect data twice a year, during the rainy and dry seasons, for comparative purposes.” Mr Sacande said, “We are also extending our data collection to . . . 0.5-hectare (sites) at the continental level. It is critical to monitor these indicators to make sure we are making progress, and how to curb the challenges.”

Bernard Crabbé - EU

Mr Crabbé said the K4GGWA aims to capitalize on the FAO’s achievements described by Mr Sacande and to contribute to improving the monitoring system, land health, and land cover at the national and regional levels.” K4GGWA also aims at supporting the development and the use of tools, as well as building the actors’ capacities in using those tools.” Mr Crabbé said, “Furthermore, the data collected through these tools could serve to inform and support the PAGGW in the realization of their objectives, as well as decision makers on the needs and priorities of land restoration and sustainable land management.”

Mr Crabbé also noted that the EU’s support for the GGW is part of its overall support in the continent’s larger fight against desertification. The EU seeks “to monitor the impact and larger trend of land restoration interventions on the variables of land health, land cover and vegetation, and not monitor the project results of individual intervening parties,” Mr Crabbé said.

Action Against Desertification - A large scale restoration programme for Africa's Great Green Wall

Day two – Session four

Presented by FAO

The fourth session of day two introduced the Action Against Desertification (AAD) Programme and collected feedback from participants on the lessons learned and the outcomes associated with the programme.

AAD is an initiative of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States to restore degraded lands and tackle the detrimental social, economic and environmental impact of land degradation and desertification.

AAD was an early implementer of the GGW initiative, with its work on sustainable land management and community empowerment closely aligned with the GGW's goals. AAD was conducted from 2015-2023 in initially six GGW countries with EU funding. PAGGW and the FAO held a session with regional stakeholders to discuss AAD's implementation and showcase what was learned.

The presentation began with an overview of AAD's achievements. These include reaching 100,000 households, restoring 100,000 hectares, and collecting and planting 150 tons of seeds comprising 110 native plant species. Each of the hectares reached has been mapped and geolocalized for effective monitoring over time.

AAD's approaches were cost-effective and attractive to the local people. They included using machinery to achieve large scale outcomes and prepare the bare and highly degraded lands ahead of tree planting, enabling greater restoration over a shorter period.

The AAD programme also used fodder and shrub species as short-term incentives for engaging and maintaining local community involvement in restoration efforts. It ensured it delivered meaningful results by consulting with communities about their preferred choice of trees, shrubs and fodder species. This process also involved discussions on developing agroforestry value chains.

The programme's biophysical impact assessment compared the landscape's before and after conditions, measuring the intervention area's results

against the control area using the Collect Earth tool. AAD also assessed the programme's socioeconomic impact assessment through household surveys. One innovative approach to measuring restoration efforts was AAD's use of the 'GGW restoration monitoring App' to document and trace the restoration impact on the ground.

Presenters supplemented their discussion of AAD with a range of slides and maps documenting the programme's activities, outcomes and lessons learned.

Feedback session

Participant feedback identified several challenges related to AAD and its relevance to the GGW. Firstly, they noted the difficulty countries face in accessing climate funds, which hampers their ability to implement necessary initiatives. They also outlined the criteria for selecting project sites, emphasizing that local communities should determine land ownership and tenure arrangements, as they are best positioned to assess their needs and identify areas for restoration.

The importance of securing land titles was highlighted, with participants noting that as land health improves, clear legal ownership of restored areas will become increasingly important in avoiding conflict as competition intensifies for access to good land. Integrating food production with restoration efforts, tailored to each country's unique needs, was also considered crucial.

Feedback included suggestions for enhancing the Scaling-Up Resilience in Africa's Great Green Wall (SURAGGWA) programme, supported by the Green Climate Fund, through approaches like farmer managed natural regeneration, agroecology, and agroforestry.

Initiatives like Regreening Africa and K4GGWA were noted as examples of the EU's long-term support for the GGW, recognizing the importance of diverse contexts, tools, and solutions.

Much of the feedback session focused on the critical role of mapping in monitoring the progress of the GGW. The following dialogue provides a useful snapshot of the range of ideas discussed regarding this vital aspect of implementing the GGW.

Introducing Scaling-Up Resilience in Africa's Great Green Wall (SURAGGWA)

The Scaling-Up Resilience in Africa's Great Green Wall (SURAGGWA) project aims to deliver a paradigm shift by removing barriers to heightened resilience and greater mitigation. The USD 250 million GGW programme, co-financed by the Green Climate Fund (GCF), was introduced.

Built upon Action Against Desertification (AAD), the SURAGGWA programme aims to "Make ecosystems services and rural livelihoods more climate resilient, with enhanced carbon sequestration by providing local communities economic incentives to manage restored land areas with strong institutional and regulatory support from the Great Green Wall institutions."

The 11-country SURAGGWA programme has a similar structure to AAD and consists of three components.

- **Component 1:** Land restoration at scale
- **Component 2:** Enhancement of smallholder value chains to provide economic incentives for land restoration and management

- **Component 3:** Strengthening capacities of local communities and the institutions that support them.

Implementation is expected to start in 2025. The programme's USD 250 million consists of 150 million in direct GCF support and 100 million in co-funding and is expected to run for 10 years. It aims to restore 2 million hectares and sequester 94 million tons of carbon across eight countries (Burkina Faso, Chad, Djibouti, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal). While Sudan, Ethiopia and Eritrea are not part of the programme, they would benefit by participating in SURAGGWA's training and capacity building activities.

During the presentation on SURAGGWA, the PAGGW and FAO also presented on [Collect Earth](#). This open-source platform collects satellite image data from Google Earth, Bing Maps and Google Earth engine for various purposes.

Preparatory session for Technical and Financial Partners (TFPs)

This session aimed to gather national agencies' opinions and concerns in preparation for discussion at the upcoming in-person meeting with financial and technical partners.

Key issues included ensuring GGW funding is properly allocated within national budgets and maintaining and increasing current and future funding opportunities. The session also focused on supporting the implementation of the 'Transform Project' and monitoring pledges to ensure they are fulfilled.

Strategies for continuing work and funding in countries with security challenges were discussed, as well as efforts to support and operationalize national coalitions. The session explored ways of enhancing cooperation between donors and maintaining the GGW's momentum following the One Planet Summit.

The preparatory session concluded by affirming the importance of meeting the supply and demand for resources and projects.



Figure 18. Field trip participants at the Dima Tree Seed Centre, Ethiopia
Source: Eyob Getahun/CIFOR-ICRAF

Day 3

Field trip

Day three consisted of three components:

- A field trip
- Technical and Financial Partners (TFP) Meeting (One Planet Summit), described separately in a private UNCCD report.
- Ethiopia National Coalition meeting, described separately in an internal report by the Government of Ethiopia.

Participants at the week-long event enjoyed the opportunity to visit the Dima Tree Seed Center in Ethiopia's Oromia region. Staff showed the participants around the center's facilities and made short presentations on establishing orchards for breeding seeds, including advice on procuring, storing and distributing tree seeds.



Day 4 and Day 5

Figure 19. Tree establishment under
Regreening Africa in Ghana

Source: Kelvin Trautman/CIFOR-ICRAF

8th Regional steering committee meeting for the GGW

Day one and day two

The agenda for this meeting is captured in Annex 1. Notes for days four and five are available from the African Union Commission (AUC).

Annexes

Annex 1. Programme for a Great Green Wall (GGW) Week in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

6-10 November 2023

Including the 'K4GGWA' Programme launch, a regional dialogue, cross-learning sessions, a Technical and Financial Partners meeting, an Ethiopia National Coalition meeting, and the 8th Regional Steering Committee Meeting for the GGW Initiative.

Time (EAT)	Activity	Lead
DAY 1 6 November	Launch of K4GGWA and Regional Dialogue African Union Commission Medium Conference Hall (French-English translation available)	CIFOR-ICRAF/ FAO
8.30-9.00	Registration	CIFOR-ICRAF/ AUC at the gate
9.00-10.30	Welcome and Official Launch of the Knowledge for Great Green Wall Action (K4GGWA) Programme Outline of the Programme (EU/CIFOR-ICRAF/FAO) and High-level remarks from: Commissioner H.E Ms. Josefa Sacko, AUC H.E. Ato Kebede Yimam, Director General, Ethiopian Forestry Development, Government of Ethiopia Government of Nigeria (recorded message TBC) Mr Thomas Huyghebaert, Head of Cooperation of the EU Delegation to the AU Dr Abebe Haile-Gabriel, Assistant Director General and FAO Regional Representative for Africa (online) Dr Peter Minang, Director for Africa, CIFOR-ICRAF	CIFOR-ICRAF/ FAO Moderated Session/High-Level Session
10.30-11.00	Family Photo and Tea/Coffee Break	
11.00-13.00	Presentation of K4GGWA Programme Components [interactive], including opportunities for feedback and discussion [Limited opportunity for online participation except for the start and end of the session]	CIFOR-ICRAF/ FAO Technical Session
13.00-14.00	Lunch	
14.00-16.30	Regional Programmes' Dialogue Support the PAGGW (Sahel/Sahara/Horn of Africa GGW) to ensure communication, enhance synergies and reduce overlap	Pan-African Agency of the GGW (PAGGW) Technical Session
16.30-17.00	Closing Tea/Coffee	
18.00-20.00	Group Dinner [optional]	
DAY 2 7 November	Cross-Learning African Union Commission (French-English translation available) [Limited opportunity for online engagement before 15.00]	CIFOR-ICRAF/ FAO
8.30-9.00	Registration	CIFOR-ICRAF/ AUC at the gate

Continued to next page

Time (EAT)	Activity	Lead
9.00-11.00	Cross-Learning Session I – Practices and Approaches (including value chains)	CIFOR-ICRAF/ FAO Group Discussion
11.00-11.30	Tea/Coffee break	
11.30-13.00	Cross-Learning Session II - enabling Policy and Institutions (including partnerships)	CIFOR-ICRAF/ FAO Group Discussion
13.00-14.00	Lunch	
14.00-15.00	Cross-Learning Session III - Monitoring (including the GGW Accelerator monitoring framework)	CIFOR-ICRAF/ FAO/UNCCD Group Discussion
15.00-16.00	Feedback from the Action Against Desertification Programme	PAGGW/FAO Technical Session
16.00-16.30	Preparatory Session for Technical and Financial Partners (TFPs) Meeting Gather input to the TFP meeting the following day from the GGW focal points to the PAGGW	PAGGW Technical Session
16.30-17.00	Closing tea/coffee	
DAY 3 8 November	Field Trip For participants not attending the TFP meeting on this day [more details to be shared by email]	CIFOR-ICRAF
DAY 3 8 November	Technical and Financial Partners Meeting (One Planet Summit) [by invitation only (zoom link available)] and Ethiopia National Coalition Meeting	UNCCD Accelerator
8.30-9.00	Registration	UNCCD/ AUC at the gate
9.00-9.15	Welcome Remarks	AUC
9.15-10.00	Updates from the GGW Accelerator Dr Birguy Lamizana, Senior Program Officer, Global Mechanism Update on implementation M. Gilles Amadou Ouedraogo, Program Management Officer, Global Mechanism The GGW Accelerator Multipurpose Platform Updates on the Monitoring Evaluation	UNCCD Technical Session
10.00-10.15	Tea/Coffee break	
10.15-11.00	Review of the Financial Report 2023 Discussion moderated by Ms. Sarah Toumi, Donor Relations Officer, Global Mechanism Coalition's commitments illustrated by success stories Numbers that make sense Agreement on publication	UNCCD Technical Session
11.00-12.20	An Agenda Towards 2030 Discussion moderated by Dr Birguy Lamizana and Dr Elvis Paul Tangem, Coordinator for the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative (GGWSSI) at the AUC. What support for 2025-2030? Definition of a roadmap and opportunities mobilization of the coalition for this new funding phase	UNCCD Group Discussion

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Time (EAT)	Activity	Lead
12.20-12.30	Wrap-Up and Closing Remarks	
13.00-14.00	Lunch	
14.00-17.00	Ethiopia GGW National Coalition Meeting	UNCCD/ Government of Ethiopia
DAY 4 9 November	8th Regional Steering Committee Meeting for the GGWI French-English translations are available with online participation	AUC
8.30-9.00	Registration	AUC at the gate
9.00-10.00	Official Opening of the 8th RSC	AUC Commissioner
	Statements: Civil Society representative (Enda Energy) UN Agency representative (FAO) Pan-African Agency of the GGW	AUC High-Level Session
10.00-10.30	Tea/Coffee break and Family photo	
10.30-11.30	Annual Activity Update of the PAGGW Additions by member countries	PAGGW Technical Session
	RECS Update - Great Green Wall Additions by member countries Update on the annual activities followed by Q&A	SADC Secretariat Technical Session
	AUC Activity Update – Great Green Wall Introduction to the new AU GGWI Strategy	AUC GGWI Unit Technical Session
11.30-13.00	Presentation of the 2nd Draft of the new AU GGWI Strategy and 10-Year Framework Feedback on the AU GGWI Strategy	GGWI-SEBE & Consultant Technical Session
13.00-14.00	Lunch	AUC
14.00-16.30	Feedback on the AU GGWI Strategy	GGWI-SEBE & Consultant Group Discussion
16.30-17.30	Africa Sustainability Outliers Award Ceremony (ASOAC)	CSO Consortium Award Session
17.30	Closing Tea/Coffee	
DAY 5 10 November	8th Regional Steering Committee Meeting for the GGWI (no translation available – online participation possible)	AUC
8.30-9.00	Registration	AUC at the gate
9.00-10.45	Recognition of Partner Contributions separated by category in a short presentation: Research support Facilitation, governance, enabling environment. Delivery of activities on the group. Followed by group discussions and contributions with all partners on contributions (e.g., Transparency International, Danaya, SOS Sahel, Tree Aid, GEF small grants)	AUC/Partners
10.45-11.30	Reading of Conclusions and Closing Remarks	UNCCD/PAGGW/ AUC CIFOR-ICRAF-FAO
11.30-12.00	Closing Tea/Coffee	AUC

Annex 2. Participant list

Name	Organization	Gender
Sidna Ould Ahmed Ely	GGW Agency - Mauritania	Male
Nabasnogo Roch Pananditgri	GGW Agency - Burkina Faso	Male
Kodou Choukou Tidjani	GGW Agency - Chad	Male
Ibrahim Abdou Malik	GGW Agency - Niger	Male
Toumany Diallo	GGW Agency - Mali	Male
Houssein Rirache	GGW Agency - Djibouti	Male
Tayseer Mohamed	GGW Agency - Sudan	Female
Yusuf Maina	GGW Agency - Nigeria	Male
Adefires Worku	Ethiopian Forest Department	Male
Dr Alenyi Innocent Onu	NAGGW - Nigeria	Male
Abakar Zougoulou	PAGGW	Male
DrSakhoudia Thiam	PAGGW	Male
Marcelin Sanou	PAGGW	Male
M. Jolly Wasambo - Rep of the AUC Commissioner	AUC	Male
Dr Elvis Tangem	AUC	Male
Jimmy Dalemet	AUC	Male
H.E Ato Kebede Yimam	Ethiopian Forestry Development, Government of Ethiopia	Male
H.E Mrs Leyla Traoré	European Investment Bank	Female
Mr Thomas Huyghebaert	EU Delegation to the AU	Male
Mr Bernard Crabbé	European Commission	Male
Mr Niclas Gottmann	European Commission	Male
Mr Simone Anzerine	EU Green Facility	Male
Mr Abebe Haile-Gabriel - Online	FAO	Male
Moctar Sacande	FAO	Male
Marc Parfondry	FAO	Male
Mana Farooghi	FCDO	Female
Birguy Lamizana	UNCCD	Female
Sarah Toumi	UNCCD	Female
Gilles Ouedraogo - Online	UNCCD	Male
Mr Maxime Thibon	IFAD	Male
Ms Fatima Mousass	AfDB	Female
Mr Arona Soumare	AfDB	Male
Darren Posey	CRS Ethiopia	Male
Maleña Tadele	CRS Ethiopia	Female
Ambachew Worku	CRS Ethiopia	Male

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Annex 2. Continued

Name	Organization	Gender
Karmen Till	World Vision Ethiopia	Female
Yidnekachew Wendaferew Asrat	World Vision Ethiopia	Male
Addisu Abebe	World Vision Ethiopia	Male
Yordanos Berhe	World Vision Ethiopia	Female
Jacqueline R. Nyachieo	World Vision East Africa	Female
Bernard Terris	Danaya France	Male
Mrs. Ndeye Fatou Mar - online	OSS	Female
Jean Baptiste Desfontines - online	Birdlife International	Male
Wase Gubena	SOS Sahel	Male
Ange Mboneye	SOS Sahel	Female
Feyere Abdi	SOS Sahel	Male
Dr Hameed Nuru	WFP Representative to the African Union Commission	Male
Ms Beza Berhanu	WFP	Female
Alemu Gebre,	WFP Dakar	Male
Firku Tessema	Treeaid	Male
Annie Schultz	Treeaid	Female
Oumarou Malam Issa - Online	IRD - France	Male
Dr Debissa Lemessa	University of Addis Ababa	Male
Titus Wamae	Wetlands International	Male
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Romy Chevallier	SKULTCHA	Female
Peter Minang	CIFOR-ICRAF	Male
Mieke Bourne	CIFOR-ICRAF	Female
Patrick Worms	CIFOR-ICRAF	Male
Mawa Karambiri	CIFOR-ICRAF	Female
Ibrahim Toure	CIFOR-ICRAF	Male
Jules Bayala	CIFOR-ICRAF	Male
Niguse Hagazi	CIFOR-ICRAF	Male
Sammy Carsan	CIFOR-ICRAF	Male
Kimberly Mertens	CIFOR-ICRAF	Female
Tor Vagen	CIFOR-ICRAF	Male
Constance Neely	CIFOR-ICRAF	Female
Hannington Mwaya Odhacha	CIFOR-ICRAF	Male
Dr Habtemariam Kassa	CIFOR - ICRAF	Male
Sime Mekdes	CIFOR - ICRAF	Female
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Annex 2. Continued

Name	Organization	Gender
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Titus Wamae	Wetlands International	Male
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