



●GEF Portal



●Eric Mugo

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0.CEO Endorsement Form

Harnessing the Great Green Wall Initiative (GGWI) for a Sustainable and Resilient Sahel





- CEO Approval Request
 - GEF Review
 - CEO Approved

CEO Approval (CEO) entry – Medium Sized Project – GEF - 7



Part I: Project Information ☐

GEF ID
10634

Project Type
MSP

Type of Trust Fund

GET

CBIT/NGI

☐ CBIT

☐ NGI

Project Title

Harnessing the Great Green Wall Initiative (GGWI) for a Sustainable and Resilient Sahel

Countries

Regional

Agency(ies)

UNEP

Other Executing Partner(s):

UNEP Terrestrial Ecosystems Unit in collaboration with the following Executing Partners: National Great Green Wall Agencies/Coordinations; Panafrican Agency of Great Green Wall; UNCCD Secretariat-The GM, UNEP Africa Office

Executing Partner Type

Others

GEF Focal Area

Land Degradation

Taxonomy

Focal Areas, Influencing models, Stakeholders, Gender Equality, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Land Degradation, Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands, Sustainable Land Management, Sustainable Livelihoods, Income Generating Activities, Improved Soil and Water Management Techniques, Integrated and Cross-sectoral approach, Sustainable Agriculture, Community-Based Natural

Resource Management, Sustainable Pasture Management, Sustainable Forest, Land Degradation Neutrality, Land Cover and Land cover change, Land Productivity, Carbon stocks above or below ground, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Demonstrate innovative approaches, Beneficiaries, Type of Engagement, Partnership, Information Dissemination, Participation, Consultation, Local Communities, Private Sector, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Large corporations, Communications, Awareness Raising, Behavior change, Civil Society, Academia, Non-Governmental Organization, Gender Mainstreaming, Women groups, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Gender results areas, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Capacity Development, Participation and leadership, Innovation, Knowledge Generation, Knowledge Exchange, Learning, Theory of change

Rio Markers**Climate Change Mitigation**

Climate Change Mitigation 0

Climate Change Adaptation

Climate Change Adaptation 0

Submission Date

7/16/2020

Expected Implementation Start

7/30/2020

Expected Completion Date

12/31/2021

Duration

17

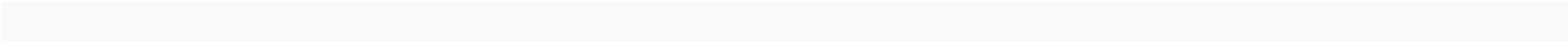
In Months

Agency Fee(\$)

190,000

A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS

Objectives/Programs	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
LD-2-5	Create enabling environments to support scaling up and mainstreaming of SLM and LDN	GET	2,000,000	19,511,822
Total Project Cost(\$)			2,000,000	19,511,822



B. Project description summary

Project Objective

Long term vision, which takes stock of lessons learnt from past initiatives, developed leading to institutional strengthening of the GGWI and mobilization of adequate investments for a resilient and sustainable Sahel.

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
1: Strengthening the institutional and governance framework for GGWI coordination and partnership	Technical Assistance	1.1. The GGWI governance and institutional capacity roadmap, capacity development plan, and resources mobilization and deployment strategy adopted at regional level during GGW High Level Meeting	1.1.1. Roadmap for a strengthened GGWI governance and institutional framework, with due consideration of gender issues, is developed and submitted to the GGW High-Level Meeting for adoption and implementation initiated 1.1.2. A Capacity Development Plan, with due consideration of gender issues, is prepared and implementation started focusing PAAGGW and national Focal points; environment conventions and programs focal	GET	543,800	4,630,000

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
			<p>points synergy to support institutional framework and submitted to the GGW High-Level Meeting for adoption</p> <p>1.1.3. A Resource Mobilization and Deployment Strategy with due consideration of women and youths is developed for the GGWI to achieve LDN and submitted to the GGW High-Level Meeting for adoption and immediate opportunities for initial implementation are identified</p>			
2. Identifying and prioritizing investment opportunities to transform key economic systems in	Technical Assistance	2.1. Targeted integrated landscape investment and monitoring models provide GGW Countries basis for	2.1.1. A report documenting on innovative practices, monitoring, and Knowledge Management Platform is established based on a review of knowledge platforms and	GET	631,400	8,311,822

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
the Sahel Region		transformational changes that spur economic growth of multiple benefits for people and the environment	<p>databases such as WOCAT and Terrafrica given consideration to the possibility of immediate pilot implementation, women and the youth with potential for scaling-up and achieving LDN</p> <p>2.1.2. A report documenting targeted investments in existing initiatives as models for the integrated landscape approach is elaborated and disseminated to relevant stakeholders, and women and youth trained on ecological goods and services including renewable energy and their access to strategic and quick result-oriented investments facilitated.</p> <p>2.3. A report on Baseline information on emerging opportunities, including</p>			

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
			those targeting women and the youth, for transformational change, is produced and disseminated to relevant stakeholders and linking GGWI stakeholders to those opportunities initiated.			
3. Convening relevant stakeholders to launch shared vision for the GGWI and Sahel region	Technical Assistance	3.1. Relevant GGWI stakeholders, including donors and private sector, are capacitated and informed of flagship programs and increasingly willing to engage in the financial support to the GGWI	<p>3.1.1. An advocacy program to help set up the coordination and partnership mechanism is developed and implementation started in collaboration with key stakeholders</p> <p>3.1.2. A Synthesis document on priority areas and potential flagship programs for targeted donors support with due consideration of gender issues, is elaborated and</p>	GET	543,800	6,000,000

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
			<p>disseminated to relevant stakeholders</p> <p>3.1.3. A blueprint for mobilizing private sector engagement in the GGWI is elaborated and disseminated taken into account risk assessment analysis and gender consideration</p> <p>3.1.4. A Framework for countries to leverage resources for adaptation and resilience is established with due consideration of gender issues.</p>			
4. Project M&E	Technical Assistance	Effective and efficient reporting ensured through timely availability	The progress and annual project reports, with due consideration of gender issues, are	GET	100,000	300,000

C. Sources of Co-financing for the Project by name and by type

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)	Evidence
Others	Panafrican Agency of the Great Green Wall	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recipient Country Government	National Great Green Wall Agency of Burkina Faso	Grant	Investment mobilized	4,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recipient Country Government	National Great Green Wall Agency of Burkina Faso	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	100,000	
Recipient Country Government	National Great Green Wall Agency of Mali	Grant	Investment mobilized	8,611,822	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recipient Country Government	National Great Green Wall Agency of Mali	Grant	Recurrent expenditures	100,000	
Recipient Country Government	Niger GGW Agency	Grant	Investment mobilized	2,400,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recipient Country Government	Niger GGW Agency	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	700,000	
Recipient Country Government	Senegal GGW Agency	Grant	Investment mobilized	900,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recipient Country	Senegal GGW Agency	In-kind	Recurrent	100,000	

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)	Evidence
Government			expenditures		
Recipient Country Government	National Great Green Wall Agency of Chad	Grant	Investment mobilized	900,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recipient Country Government	National Great Green Wall Agency of Chad	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	100,000	
GEF Agency	UNEP Regional Office for Africa	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
GEF Agency	Nature for Climate Branch, UNEP	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	100,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Total Co-Financing(\$)				19,511,822	

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

Many of the Great Green Wall countries are implementing projects with resources earmarked to carry out investments in the countries. those investments will provide strong baselines for the project particularly as they will serve as vehicles to identify good practices and investments models which will be capitalized and planned for replication and scaling up by future interested donors to achieve the intended transformational change.

D. Trust Fund Resources Requested by Agency(ies), Country(ies), Focal Area and the Programming of Funds

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)
UNEP	GET	Regional	Land Degradation	LD Global/Regional Set-Aside	2,000,000	190,000
Total Grant Resources(\$)					2,000,000	190,000

E. Non Grant Instrument

NON-GRANT INSTRUMENT at CEO Endorsement

Includes Non grant instruments?

No

Includes reflow to GEF?

No

F. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

PPG Required

☐

PPG Amount (\$)

45,662

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

4,338

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)
UNEP	GET	Regional	Land Degradation	LD Global/Regional Set-Aside	45,662	4,338
Total Project Costs(\$)					45,662	4,338

CEO Endorsement (CEO)

Core Indicators ☐

To calculate the core indicators, please refer to [Results Guidance](#)

Indicator 1 Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use

Indicator 2 Marine protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use

Indicator 3 Area of land restored

Indicator 4 Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)

Indicator 5 Area of marine habit under improved practices to benefit biodiversity (excluding protected areas)

Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated

Indicator 7 Number of shared water ecosystems (fresh or marine) under new or improved cooperative management

Indicator 8 Globally over-exploited fisheries moved to more sustainable levels

Indicator 9 Reduction, disposal/destruction, phase out, elimination and avoidance of chemicals of global concern and their waste in the environment and in processes, materials and products (metric tons of toxic chemicals reduced)

Indicator 10 Reduction, avoidance of emissions of POPS to air from point and non-point sources(grams of toxic equivalent gTEQ)

Indicator 11 Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment

[View](#)

Provide additional explanation on targets, other methodologies used, and other focal area specifics (i.e., Aichi targets in BD) including justification where core indicator targets are not provided

*It is anticipated that in each of the around 15 GGWI participating countries 50 institutions (ministries, institutes, CSO, parliament; etc) and 250 individuals including 125 men and 125 women from (Private sectors investors, experts, consultants, etc) will make use of the project outputs to contribute in the implementation of the GGWI. Also at least 6 MEA national focal points (CBD, UNCCD, UNFCCC,

Minamata, Ramsar, Rotterdam) and 4 National Programs/Plans coordinators (GGWI, etc) from 11 GGW Countries, PAAGGI making it $12 \times 10 = 120$ Experts, will benefit from the pilot capacity building activities. The project is considered to be soft and expected to create enabling environment (documented innovative options for SLM and stakeholders engagement; institutional and capacity needs assessments; innovative models to be scaled up; private sector and resources mobilization strategies; portfolio projects with transformation potentials, special issues related to gender and youth in the GGWI implementation) for replication and scaling up good practices and models through long term investments to achieve transformational changes in the Great Green Wall area. *It is anticipated that in each of the around 15 GGWI participating countries 50 institutions (ministries, institutes, CSO, parliament; etc) and individuals (Private sectors investors, experts, consultants, etc) including 25 men and 25 women will make use of the project outputs to contribute in the implementation of the GGWI.

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

Elaborate on

- a. The global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed;
- b. The baseline scenario and any associated baseline Programs;
- c. The proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project;
- d. Alignment with GEF focal area and/or Impact Program strategies;
- e. Incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, and co-financing;
- f. Global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF);
- g. Innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up.

1a. Project Description.

The Sahel is one of the most vulnerable regions in the world to the impacts of climate change such as increasingly frequent and intense droughts and floods. This vulnerability stems from a number of socioeconomic factors in the region including: i) increasing population size; ii) limited financial capacities of poor farmers to invest in agricultural inputs; iii) unsustainable use of environmental resources for food, fodder and energy; and iv) conflicts over access to water and land. The Sahel region is also one of the most environmentally degraded regions in the world, and is characterized

by multiple political, security, institutional and governance challenges. In this context, sustainable management of precious and scarce natural resources, such as water and arable land, is necessary for maintaining stability and resilience in the Sahel. Indeed, this was the rationale behind the Great Green Wall Initiative (GGWI), which was established under the leadership of the African Union.

The GGWI is a pan-African initiative for the restoration and sustainable management of land in the Sahelo-Saharan region in order to combat land degradation and poverty. It was first proposed in 2005 by the former President of Nigeria, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, and then followed by the President of Senegal, Abdoulaye Wade. In 2007, the African Union approved the "Decision on the implementation of the Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative."

The GGWI's objective was originally to create a barrier of 15 km wide and 8,000 km long along the Sahel, bisecting 20 countries from Senegal in the west to Djibouti in the east. This vision has been transformed into an integrated ecosystem management approach, targeting a mosaic of different land use and vegetation systems, including sustainable management of drylands, regeneration of natural vegetation, as well as water conservation. Climate change and the last famine of 2010 strengthened this initiative; sparking renewed interest in sustainable land management (SLM) in the Sahel and north of the Sahara in general.

Since 2007, when countries across the Sahel region affirmed their commitment to the implementation of the GGWI, much progress has been made in addressing challenges of drought, land degradation and desertification. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) has played a leading role transforming the initiative from a tree-planting one to one that has focused on integrated management of natural resources for improving livelihoods and landscapes. Over the last decade, the GEF, in response to demands of countries in the region, has invested over US \$ 500 million in grants and has catalyzed an additional US\$ 3 billion in co-financing from national governments, development partners and other multi-lateral organizations for projects in the Sahel region. This financing has helped the GGWI member countries to increasingly promote innovative practices for ecosystem restoration, including improving crop and livestock productivity and restoring degraded parklands. Within this intervention area, the land rehabilitation activities reported by GGW countries between 2007 and 2019 add up to 3.6 million ha.

According to CLIMATEKOS, June 2020 in The Great Green Wall: Implementation Status and the way ahead to 2030 , the Individual member state contributions amount to around USD 53.4 million^[1] while countries reported receiving a total of USD 149 million in external funding from 2011-2019. The funding includes “Action Against Desertification” project funded by FAO with \$41 million; Fleuve project funded by European Union and Global Mechanism with \$7.8 million; Bridges project funded by Turkey and FAO with \$3.6 million. There is divergence in figures with regard to funding flows to the GGW and this reveals the underlying lack of a common and shared accounting framework and related allocation of activities to the GGW Initiative. Donor funding flows reported by the Pan-African Agency (PAA) of the Great Green Wall differ strongly from what is considered as relevant and contributing to the GGW implementation by donors and the respective regional or cross-border programmes and projects.

Although the progress and achievements of these investments are significant, the Sahel region still faces enormous environmental, social and development challenges. According to Climatecos June 2020 in “The Great Green Wall: Implementation Status and Way Ahead to 2030”, countries reported a range of challenges they encountered when implementing the GGW Strategy and Action Plans, both in direct relation to the Initiative as well as related to sustainable soil management and the restoration of degraded land in general. These challenges include: i) governance issues causing institutional challenges; ii) lack of a system to identifying, monitoring and reporting of activities on the ground; iii) funding challenges (overall insufficient, unpredictable and insecure funding situation; the mastery of environmental finance); and iv) technical challenges in restoration projects. These challenges continue putting severe strain on the resilience of Sahel population. Given the magnitude of the challenges facing the region, a new vision is necessary for countries to continue their collective efforts for a sustainable, resilient and prosperous Sahel. The vision needs to build on past and ongoing efforts to more effectively respond to the persistent socioeconomic and environmental challenges, including emerging ones such as COVID-19 that has reversed some of the development gains in the region. The new vision should aim at transforming the Sahel into a prosperous and resilient region. Advancing this vision will require a systemic approach and a framework for holistic reflection and coordination that will ensure the integration of environmental and development priorities in order to maximize the potential for exploiting synergies at scale and reducing investment risks. The GEF's experience with integrated approach programs offers an excellent opportunity to design such a program, at a time when countries show strong political will through commitments under major multilateral agreements.

1.a.1. The global environmental and / or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed (systems description);

Situated in the arid and semi-arid zone of Africa that receives an annual average rainfall of 100 and 400 mm, the GGWI shelters approximately 232 million inhabitants over 780 million hectares[2]². Great environmental and development challenges as well as immense potential characterize the GGWI region. This geographical space presents ecological particularities going from the desert and arid spaces to the flood plains of the delta of the Niger river, of the Senegal river, of the Gambia river and of the basin of Lake Chad, via the wooded savannas and the wooded steppes.

The challenges are multiple, multifaceted and complex interacting with each other and exacerbating the situation despite the enormous potential existing in the region. The GGWI territory is a mosaic of ecosystems with a varied biodiversity which, although under threat, benefits in certain places from the protection of the habitat, the preservation of the connectivity between landscapes and the conservation of certain specific species. This specificity of the Saharo-Sahelian fauna and its endemism make an invaluable contribution to the world heritage of biodiversity. This biodiversity has developed various adaptations for living in arid conditions marked by limited precipitation over a short period, low humidity and high temperatures.

The GGWI area covers a large area of vegetation which contributes significantly to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions through the sequestration of carbon in the soil and in biomass. In addition, the various interventions carried out support the adaptation effort with many actions related to the sustainable land and water management. The region is among the areas most affected by desertification in the world. The global impacts of the GGW are indeed multiple, reducing land degradation in the agricultural, pastoral, forestry or mixed agro pastoral and agro sylvo pastoral systems.

Environmental and natural resources context: The arid and semi-arid areas covered by the GGW area represent a set of remarkable cultural and biological heritages that should be conserved, restored and enhanced. However, their vulnerability to climate change constitutes one of the most important threats of the 21st century in these areas. Indeed, this Sahelo-Saharan zone faces frequent droughts combined with unsustainable management of soil and water as well as climatic variations leading to a significant reduction in the productive capacities of the land. The high proportion of populations living in this arid zone is disproportionately exposed to the harmful consequences of global warming[3]³. The desertification process that affects this area amplifies global warming due to carbon dioxide emissions from the reduction of vegetation. The worsening climate associated with harmful anthropogenic factors has had harmful effects on the natural capital. For example, Lake Chad currently represents only 8% of its original size in the years before the great drought of 1973. The region is also the last bastion of the *Giraffe camelopardalis* spp. *peralta* (south west of Niger). The region is experiencing recurrent production deficits due to climate variability and climate change associated with accelerated land degradation. This perpetuates in the region's structural food insecurity.

Socio-economic context: Population growth has led to an increase in demand for food products, goods and services from the exploitation of natural resources (wood, fodder, water, etc.). This growth is relatively strong in the GGW area. It varies from 2.4 to 2.8% in countries like Mauritania, Sudan or Ethiopia, to 3% in Chad and 3.8% in Niger which saw its population multiplied by 7 between 1960 and 2020. The total population for the GGW countries is about 695 million inhabitants. According to a study by the World Bank and the French Development Agency, if no action is taken by 2030, the number of households dependent on agriculture, poor and vulnerable to droughts and other shocks, will increase by around 60% in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa^[4]. The latest 2019 FAO / WFP / UNICEF / IFAD report on the state of food security and nutrition in the world, indicates that hunger has increased in almost all sub-regions of Africa with a prevalence of under nutrition of 22.8% in sub-Saharan Africa. The gravity of the situation affects particularly communities living in the Saharo-Sahelian region.

The incidence of poverty is more marked in the GGW area with more than half of its population living below the poverty line. It should be noted that all the GGW countries in the sub-Saharan zone belong to the LDCs (Least Developed Countries). The proportion of people living below the poverty line is around 42% and Human Development Index (HDI) is between 0,377 in Niger and 0,759 in Algeria according to the UNDP 2019 Human Development Report. The Saharo Sahel local populations are very exposed and increasingly affected by impacts of climate change and land degradation. Their productive bases and production systems, already severely affected, will become even more vulnerable. The socio-economic resilience of local communities is thus reduced if conservation measures and sound management of natural resources are not undertaken.

It is also important to underline that accelerated urbanization encroaches on production areas and leads to both positive and negative changes in socio-demographic, economic, ecological and cultural terms. The population is young with around 60% below 25 years of age. The demographic dividend hoped for can only be realized if significant investments are made for a population of the youth that is educated and trained better within a strong political will clearly stated by national governments.

The combination of these various factors (population growth, land degradation and desertification, climate change) creates conditions of great vulnerability characterized by food insecurity and increased poverty. The essential sectors for the populations and the economies of the countries which are agriculture, animal husbandry, forestry, water, fishing and tourism, as well as energy, depend directly on the environment for their respective growths in order to meet the basic needs of countries and to alleviate poverty in the short and medium terms. As such, states, investors, donors and

communities must consider these ecological resources as productive natural capital, on an equal footing with other stocks of productive capital and source of economic wealth (for budget statistics, contribution to growth) for sustainable actions.

Security and migration context: Sahelian countries have faced many security challenges over many decades. These were previously limited to conflicts between farmers and herders for access to pasture lands and water. However, the conflicts have become more complex over the past decade with the rise of violent extremism, terrorism and criminal activities and networks of illicit drugs and products. The consequences are manifold with inhibiting effects on sustainable development, the exacerbation of the economic, climatic and social vulnerability of the population with worsening food insecurity of the poorest social stratum, the increase in poverty and insecurity. The triggers and the factors that fuel violent extremism are multiple and complex. Although ideological and religious factors are highlighted, many studies note that they serve rather as a pretext and legitimization for violent extremism. At the core of the conflicts in the GGW are the following factors:

- The lack of economic opportunities for young people resulting in a high youth unemployment rate, poverty and the tendency to seek easy earnings;
- Land degradation and climate change which significantly affect the productive assets of communities;
- The absence, insufficiency or ineffectiveness of basic social services (health, energy, water, education, etc.)
- The deficit in governance in terms of equity and justice, creating and fueling feelings of marginalization and exclusion; and
- Exogenous factors of destabilization (war in Libya in particular).

This situation of insecurity accentuates internal migration (refugees, internally displaced persons) and displacements either in the direction of coastal countries or outside Africa (mainly to Europe or the USA). It is necessary to define and implement adapted development strategies that take into account the economic, ecological, social, food and security vulnerabilities of the Sahel populations so as to restore socioeconomic opportunities for the youth who are still resourceful in sectors such as agriculture.

Legal and institutional context: Since 2007, under the leadership of the African Union, the countries of the Sahel region that affirmed their commitment to implementing the GGWI, have made significant progress in responding to the challenges of land degradation and climate change. During this period, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) played a leading role in influencing the shift from the initial vision of a tree planting enterprise to a strategy focused on integrated resource management of natural resources to improve livelihoods and landscapes.

Since 2007, the GEF support through grants as well as the support from other development partners have led to the implementation of major regional and / or sub-regional initiatives. These regional initiatives include particularly the Pan African Agency for the Great Green Wall (PA-GGWI), a legal and institutional instrument for supporting transnational initiatives to combat desertification and local development of affected populations. Equally relevant is the development of support services for rural entrepreneurship around environmental goods and services that could serve as a niche for the creation of green jobs and support for the rural economy. This mechanism can be based on the establishment of a guarantee fund to support rural entrepreneurship.

At the same time, taking advantage of the decentralization process in the countries, regional consultation frameworks would help the national GGW structures and would make it possible to document current practices with a view to capitalization. These consultation frameworks could also serve as a body for preventing and resolving conflicts. The decentralization process offers niches for the participation of all stakeholders, in particular local decision-makers, with a view to integrating GGW actions into local development plans for their improved implementation and ownership.

From a political and legal point of view, all countries are not only committed to the implementation of the various international conventions, in particular post-Rio, but have legislative and regulatory texts provided. Unfortunately, these often do not open up enough prospects to encourage investment in the management of natural resources and the environment. What is more, the fragmentation of public policies remains a major challenge to be addressed. In particular, the implementation of the Multilateral Environment Agreements/Conventions and of major Programmes has led to the establishment of many specific Focal Points (e.g. CBD Focal Points; UNCCD Focal Points, UNFCCC Focal Points, GCF Focal Point; Adaptation Focal Point, Minamata Convention Focal Point; GGW Initiative Focal Point; Fouta Djallon Focal Point, RAMSAR Focal Point, etc). While this multitude of focal points will ensure adequate implementation of each convention at national level, in most cases it creates silos with Focal Points not speaking to each other and working in parallel impeding complementarity and synergy. The capacity needs assessment will help identified key issues of synergy and coordination and support will be provided in developing platform and collaboration modalities which will allow synergetic implementation of conventions in the context of the Great Green Wall Initiative.

Also, over the past twenty years, the sub-Saharan region has undergone significant social, cultural, institutional and political changes, including:

- Democratization process and respect of rule of law;
- Acceleration of the regional integration process;
- Evolution of the respective roles of the State and the private sector;
- Expansion of the informal sector generating jobs;

- Evolution of women's rights and their representativeness in society;
- Predominance of young people in society; and
- Decentralisation process.

According to a 2015 Global Report on Land Degradation, desertification affects approximately 33 percent of the global land surface, and that over the past 40 years' erosion has removed nearly one-third of the world's arable land from production. The degradation of land and forest resources threatens the livelihoods of tens of millions of people globally who depend on them. Every year, some 12 million hectares of land is degraded, while another 7.6 million hectares of forest are converted to other uses or lost through natural causes (FAO, 2015). Land degradation entails significant costs for society as a whole; according to several studies (World Bank, 1989; Berry, Olson and Campbell, 2003; Morales et al., 2011, UNEP & ELD Initiative, 2015). These costs can range from 3 to 16 percent of agricultural gross domestic product (GDP) in terms of impacts on soil fertility and productivity loss.

Africa is particularly vulnerable to land degradation and desertification and is the most severely affected continent. Desertification affects around 45 percent of Africa's land area, with 55 percent of this area at high or very high risk of further degradation. Land degradation has been mostly caused by the collapse of traditional agricultural ecosystems under the combined pressure of demographic and land mismanagement and has been a key impediment to achieving food security and improving livelihoods on the continent. Communities located in the dryland areas of the Sahel are frequently impoverished and therefore incapable of avoiding land degradation. Almost all of the Sahelian countries lie in the bottom quartile of the world in terms of per capita Gross Domestic Product, and the drier regions of those countries are the most deprived areas. In these areas, food, water, and energy security are major development barriers and communities are frequently exposed to environmental hazards, especially drought, powered by land degradation. The Sahel region is largely inhabited by farmers, pastoralists and forest-dwelling communities whose traditional livelihoods heavily depend on the goods and services provided by forests, trees, shrublands, and grazing lands. Forests, grasslands and resilient traditional agroecosystems in the arid zones of sub-Saharan Africa (including the sub-Sahara and Sahel areas) are essential but undervalued resources. They have significant roles in biodiversity conservation, providing habitat and essential ecosystem goods (such as fodder for livestock, fuelwood, wood, medicines and herbs, tradable commodities such as resins and gums) as well as services (such as soil stabilization, water, erosion and desertification control).

The GGW area is subject to geomorphological, edaphic and climatic transformations which raise fears of an aggravation in the pluviometric and evapo-transpiration conditions as well as in the physico-chemical and biological properties of the soils. The ecosystems have changed significantly under the combined effects of several factors causing the drying up or shrinking of many water bodies (Lake Chad in particular), the reduction of plant cover and the aggravation of wind and water erosion, a loss of genetic diversity, greater thermal amplitudes etc. The negative consequences of aridification and desertification on production activities (for local consumption and trade) as well as on living conditions (health, food, economic livelihoods, etc.) are becoming increasingly difficult to control, thereby exacerbating food insecurity and poverty. An effective synergy in the implementation of the three Rio Conventions (Desertification control, Biodiversity and Climate Change) and their concrete integration in development plans especially at local level are essential as a strategic and programmatic imperative.

The causes of land degradation in GGW region:

The major causes of aridification and desertification (land degradation) can be identified in the GGW area as:

- Deforestation: Forests play an important role in maintaining fertility of soil by shedding their leaves which contain many nutrients. Forests are also helpful in binding up of soil particles with the help of roots of vegetation. Therefore, cutting of forests will affect the soil adversely. Population growth has resulted in the intensification of agriculture on existing farmlands and increased cultivation of marginal lands. The higher demand for food due to population growth has caused a decrease in fallow periods which declines the fertility of the soil, and consequently a decline in productivity (Mazzucato and Niemeijer, 2000). Farmers are then forced to cultivate new lands. Natural woody savannah lands have increasingly been converted to rain-fed cultivated lands due to this (Raynaut, 2001). Expansion of cultivation to marginal lands increases degradation of upland field areas. These are then abandoned for new lands (Reenburg, 2001). Agricultural expansion, particularly groundnut cultivation, has resulted in the decline of fallow lands and savannah vegetation in the Sahelian part of Senegal (Van Vliet et al., 2013). A trend spanning 40 years shows a steady increase in crop lands and eroded bare soils leading to a drastic decline in woody vegetation cover in Kouonkaba village in the Sahelian region of Mali (Ruelland et al., 2010). Increase in cultivated land area in the Sahelian portion of Niger between 1950 and 1998 also resulted in a 7 to 16% increase in eroded land at the detriment of the savannah (Seguis et al., 2004).

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- Unsustainable agricultural and pastoral production: It is mainly caused by the collapse of traditional agricultural and pastoral production systems under the combined demographic pressure and land mismanagement. Land degradation is a major obstacle to achieving food security and improving livelihoods on the continent. Almost all Sahelian countries are in the bottom quartile of the world in terms of gross domestic product per capita, and

the driest part of these countries are the most disadvantaged areas. In this region, food, water and energy security deficits are major obstacles to development and communities are frequently exposed to environmental risks. The Sahel region is mainly inhabited by farmers, pastoralists and forest communities whose traditional livelihoods depend heavily on the goods and services provided by forests, trees, shrubs and pastures. Resilient traditional forests, pastures and agro-ecosystems in the arid zones of sub-Saharan Africa (including the sub-Saharan and Sahelian zones) are essential resources. They play important roles in conserving biodiversity, providing essential habitat and ecosystem goods (such as fodder for livestock, fuelwood, timber, medicines and herbs, marketable products such as resins and gums) as well as services (such as soil stabilization, water, brake erosion and desertification). These facts underscore the vulnerability of these areas which are particularly threatened by anthropogenic actions. About 21% of the GGW area requires restoration and it would take 10 million ha of land each year to restore to achieve SDG 15.3 by 2030[5]⁵. Despite the fragility of the soil in the region, there is systematic use of fertilizers when ever access to it is possible. Fertilizers are indispensable for increasing food production but their excessive use has occasioned much concern as a possible environmental threat. Excessive use of fertilizers is causing an imbalance in the quantity of certain nutrients in the soil. This imbalance adversely affects the vegetation. Increase in livestock population results in overexploitation of pastures. Due to this, grass and other types of vegetation are unable to survive and grow in the area, and lack of vegetation cover leads to soil erosion. Millions of people in West Africa raise animals on pastures and rangelands that have low carrying capacity because of poor quality or unreliable rainfall. Pastoralists and their rangelands are threatened by overgrazing. Pastoral associations in West Africa have tried with mixed success to improve the productivity of common held livestock pastures. The Aga Khan Rural Support Programme for example has been successful in improving management of common grazing lands.

- Soil erosion: Accelerated soil erosion by water and wind is the major land degradation process and this is a consequence of changed relationship between environmental factors which occur as a result of human interventions. Adverse changes in physical, chemical or biological characteristics of the soil result in reduced fertility and soil erosion. Other kinds of land degradation are as waterlogging, chemical contamination, acidification, salinity and alkalinity etc. Land degradation results from the combined effects of processes such as loss of biological diversity and vegetative cover, soil loss nutrient imbalance, decline in soil organic matter and decrease of infiltration and water retention capacity. Soil erosion means the removal of top fertile layer of the soil. Soil erosion by wind and water is the most common and extensive form of soil degradation.

- Climate Change: The Sahel is one of the regions most vulnerable to climate change, characterized by extremes in terms of high water deficit or floods. It should be noted that from the 1970s until the end of the last century, the Sahel was plagued with a series of severe droughts. Changes in climate may cause changes in land use practices (Mazzucato and Niemeijer, 2000) which may contribute to land degradation processes. Trends and variability in rainfall in the Sahel directly and indirectly affect crop production, vegetation, land degradation processes and the functions of the entire ecosystem (Boko et al., 2007). There has been an estimated reduction in rainfall of about 20 to 30% in the Sahel region in the second half of the 20th century (Batterbury and Warren, 2001). In Burkina Faso, it was found that farmers reallocated their fields from upland areas as an adaptation to declining rainfall. Some farmers abandoned farms in higher areas as yields were no longer adequate due to declining rainfall (Mazzucato and Niemeijer, 2000). The declining rainfall is also linked to a concentration of farming in sandy areas. Sandy soils have a relative advantage in dry areas (Reenberg, 1994). Lands have been extended through shifting farms from one type to the other compelled by climatic events (Mazzucato and Niemeijer, 2000). The drought in the late 20th century in the Sahel represents one of the most striking shifts in climate (IPCC, 2007). Satellite imagery of the effects of the severe droughts in the Sahel between 1983 and 1984 showed a shift of the desert southward into the Sahel region (Olsson et al., 2005). Severe droughts affect the soil structure by causing the land to develop cracks and also affect crop production. The droughts also caused migration. Migrations in Burkina Faso commenced in the 1980 as a consequence of severe droughts which affected the central and northern portions of the country, resulting in considerable losses of crop and livestock to farmers. Since then, there has been increased migration to less drought areas in the south, west and east of the country as a livelihood diversification strategy. The size of crop land in the southern part of Burkina Faso has increased at an annual rate greater than 1% since 1986 to 2006, caused mainly by population size and distribution of migrants (Quedraogo et al., 2009).
- The process of climate change unfortunately continues. According to the IPCC, the average air temperature increased by 1.5 ° C between the pre-industrial period (1850-1900) and the period from 2006 to 2015. On average, the land surface temperature has increased by 0.87 °C^[6]. Arid and semi-arid areas will continue to be the most exposed to risks to health, livelihoods, food security, water availability, social peace and economic growth. It is in the face of these major challenges brought about by climate change that 17 Sahelian countries had adopted in 2019 the Climate Investment Plan for the Sahel region (PIC –RS). It is an ambitious plan in the order of \$ 400 billion for the period from 2019 to 2030.

Land degradation encompasses change in chemical, physical and biological property of the soil. Such a change in soil properties alter and reduce the soil ability to sustain a peculiar quality and quantity of plant growth. Soils are also crucial to food security and change in climate has threatened the food security by affecting the soil property. Understandings of the effects are required to know how climate and soils interact and to understand changes in soil due to change in climate. At regional, ocean basin and continental scales, numerous long-term changes in climate have been noticed. These admit changes in ocean salinity, far-flung changes in precipitation amounts, changes in Arctic ice and temperatures, changes in wind patterns, change in the intensity of tropical cyclones and changes in heat waves and heavy precipitation. More acute and longer Carbon dioxide (CO₂) accelerated climate change and desertification stay inextricably associated because of feedbacks between precipitation and land degradation. Water resources are also inextricably associated with climate. Annual ordinary river runoff and water availability are projected to rise by 10-40 percent at high latitudes, in wet tropical areas, at mid-latitudes and in the dry tropics it decreases by 10-30 percent. Land exhibited to degradation as a consequence of poor land management could become infertile as a result of climate change.

Drivers

Key drivers of the causes of land degradation and desertification in the GGW countries include:

- The prevalence of poverty: According to the World Bank's 2018 report on poverty and shared prosperity, about 41% of the population of sub-Saharan Africa lives below the international poverty line. In the Sahel region, this number is around 50%. Poverty is accentuated by the limited access to energy and basic social services. As already mentioned, it is important to stress that all of the sub-Saharan Sahelian countries except Cape Verde are LDCs, with low per capita incomes.
- Accelerated population growth: The region is characterized by a high population growth between 2.4 % and 3.8 % depending on the country, with few jobs created and limited capacities to develop human resources as well as weaknesses in social governance in relation to gender, especially with regard to equity in control and access to natural resources. Due to the increasing demand of populations to meet their needs, a development model based on a green economy favoring the decoupling between economic growth and the exploitation of natural resources, i.e. use of natural resources which does not follow linearly the increase in the GDP, would bring better prospects for the region.

- Low economic valuation of the existing productive potential: The economic development of the immense natural potential of the Sahel is slow to take place, with the exception of non-renewable natural resources through the extractive industries. The development of value chains of agricultural products, woody and non-woody, clean energies, offers great possibilities of improvement of the income of the populations and for development. It is also important to build the capacities of actors on effective methods of economic, social and ecological evaluation concerning the dynamics of land degradation and climate change while improving understanding of the economic value of productive land and products.

- Recurrent security issues: The insecurity related to the conflicts in the Sahelian zone are a serious threat to land restoration because of slowing down or even blocking the achievement of the sustainable development goals including Sustainable Land Management (SLM). Insecurity either lead to abandonment of lands and restoration activities by local farmers, evidence of what is currently happening in northern Nigeria and Lake Chad where thousand of local communities are displaced and their land left without care. Another consequence of such insecurity is defence spending from public funding is already straining state budgets making it difficult for countries to invest in SLM. In addition, due to insecurity, many development projects and programs have had to suspend their activities. This insecurity situation hampers production activities in the area. The land is no longer ploughed, sowed and cultivated and the pastoralists can no longer carry out transhumance in conditions of tranquility. As mentioned above, multiple causes that interact with each other are the basis for the emergence or exacerbation of insecurity. It is therefore, important that collaboration and complementarities are established between the actors who intervene in the sphere of reduction of violent extremism and those who are active in its development. Likewise, an integration of humanitarian assistance and development aid is essential. In addition, the GGW offers a unique opportunity to create a framework for the coherence of multiple interventions in the Sahelian zone to create a real pooling of objectives and resources between various initiatives with great potential for synergy: the Climate Investment Plan of the Sahel (PIC-Sahel), the Sahel Alliance, the UN Support Plan for the Sahel, the G5 Sahel in its development component and that relating to the strategy for the reduction of violent extremism, and this GEF project.

Barriers

To address the environmental challenges characterised by the above-described causes and drivers exacerbating land degradation and desertification, the long term solution will entail putting in place an appropriate institutional framework capable of coordinating a relevant and efficient programme in the region to provide the enabling environment where practices and partnerships can be scaled for a resilient and sustainable Sahel. To achieve this long term objective, the following three barriers need to be lifted:

Barrier 1: Inadequate institutional mechanisms for coordination and partnership, including the non-availability of reliable and up-to-date data:

As revealed by CLIMATEKOS Assessment; an overarching issue appearing in most or many GGW countries is weak governance in the field of environmental change. This causes different institutional problems referred to, directly or indirectly, by all the countries in the region as a main barrier to success in the implementation of the GGW. Overall, the following challenges are encountered and shared by many countries, occurring in different levels of severities, often one leading to another, therefore they are interlinked to a large extent:

- Lack of high level political support for the environmental policy agenda from the governments of the GGW member states, leading to a lack of needed underlying legislation, political mandates to establish and properly resource the required institutional structures and processes of which the GGW would benefit or is largely dependent on if it comes to government support.
- Weak organizational structures and processes for the implementation of environmental projects or larger environmental development initiatives or programmes, such as the GGW, which is linked to and caused by a lack of related financial and human resources allocated to the respective government institutions. A flagship initiative such as the GGW obviously suffers from the lack of the structures and processes for environmental matters and policy, resulting in national GGW agencies often not materializing, yet. Without the necessary institutional structures and processes the required capacities at the scale needed do not materialize, neither within the government institutions nor will the creation of such capacities outside the government in the private, the non-governmental and the research sectors be promoted.
- Lack of mainstreaming of environmental change and action into the respective sector strategies, policies and action plans and programmes – reaching the local levels. An initiative like the GGW cannot receive the required support from the government without a proper integration of environmental policy and action into the strategies, policies and action plans and programmes in key sectors relevant to the GGW, including agriculture, land use, rural development and energy. Full mainstreaming means trickling down to the local level, manifesting in local policies, planning and actions.
- Missing coordination, exchange and flow of information and knowledge at the regional and national levels and between the respective GGW structures: there are no proper and managed knowledge/information sharing and coordination mechanisms at the national and regional levels, leading to insufficient coordination and collaboration between GGW countries and between project developers at the national level and cross-border. This is especially important regarding lessons learned and success stories, as the only way forward to a rapid and efficient expansion of the GGW initiative is via developing pilot projects, which will then be replicated in many locations once they are successfully implemented.

The scale of the direct and indirect challenges of land degradation associated with those of poverty, food insecurity and violent extremism, the multiplicity of multifaceted interventions which very often are marked by overlapping and juxtaposition, the huge potential in natural resources, a large part of which is still untapped, requires finding suitable solutions to the following challenges:

- Insufficient strategic coherence (in terms of common understanding and agreement on approaches and means to work together to achieve development goals and implement policies in the most synergistic way);
- Insufficient programmatic coherence (the need for strong complementarity and synergy in the various programs and projects);
- Insufficient operational effectiveness (in the concerted implementation of activities to seek greater efficiency and impact among various actors); and
- Governance issues causing institutional challenges.

It is therefore important to improve coordination and partnership mechanisms to enhance their relevance, functionality and capacity to respond to the needs of countries.

In addition, the insufficiency of reliable and up-to-date data compromises the ability of actors to objectively measure the progress made, to assess the results obtained, to adequately understand the success factors and the obstacles, and to draw lessons from the interventions. Also, data insufficiency hinders a better understanding of the conditions necessary for the viability of the actions, for replicability or for scaling up requiring the pooling of resources, knowledge and know-how. The current challenges relate to the existence of fragmented and dispersed data among actors, with little mechanism of pooling or sharing information and data. There are also weak capacities of the majority of actors to generate reliable and updated data on the impact of their activities and on opportunities to increase complementarities and synergies.

Barrier 2: Limited capacities to improve the economic livelihoods of populations, especially young people and women, including poor knowledge management on past and ongoing experiences

As revealed by CLIMATEKOS, there are challenges in securing external funding for the implementation of the GGW objectives. These challenges are related to: i) Scale issues (large & small at the same time): on the one hand, the GGW is an ambitious undertaking within an extremely vast geography that requires coordination between over 11 countries, several governance structures or levels of governance and covers millions of hectares and on the other hand, the projects to finance are mostly small in size, challenging to implement in practice, and also too small to be attractive

to institutional investors; ii) Inherent investment risks of land use projects: many of the projects are not profitable, at least from a strictly financial point of view. Environmental and social benefits usually have no market value, unless it concerns social impact investors and the likes aside from public finance, aside from the markets for environmental services, such as for GHG mitigation and carbon sequestration that evolved over the last two decades ; iii) GHG mitigation/offsetting projects in the land use sector and related risks: there are a number of risks related to developing and implementing carbon sequestration projects, compliance or voluntary projects. Reaching a critical size of carbon stored and related credits requires of a certain or high number of participants when looking at community-based smallholder structures, unless large publicly or privately owned areas to be used for plantations are available; iv) Community ownership and involvement require more sophisticated engagement strategies that put many investors off as such projects need to be intimately understood, accepted, supported and carried by local communities who will have to benefit from the projects; v) Country risks : investors may shy away from investments overseas, here the GGW Initiative and the Sahel, when they are exposed to risks that stem either from an act of the host government or from other external political events taking place in a country. Currently, the majority of the GGW countries show high to even severe country risks.

Economic capacity for livelihoods is still low despite the great efforts in the GGW area regarding natural resource management, land restoration, agricultural or pastoral development. The opportunities for economic investment in promising sectors to promote entrepreneurship among young people and women are still limited despite the significant potential that exists. There is a need to move to the effective creation of the agropoles provided for in the GGW strategy. There are promising initiatives to develop technologies and or innovations with significant economic impact at in agricultural, forestry, pastoral, eco-tourism and renewable energy sectors which can be scaled up to facilitate transformational change in the region.

In addition, there is a lack of structured and long term capitalization of good practices to allow the identification of the most promising initiatives mentioned above for their scaling up. The lack of adequate information and the limited capacity to interpret and use information are major obstacles to identifying policies and investments that aim to halt and reverse land degradation or to enhance the economic potential of existing resources. This insufficiency also results in difficulties in capitalizing on the lessons of past investments in order to determine what works, what is profitable and where to allocate future investments for scaling up and in what appropriate ways.

Barrier 3: The inadequacies in defining a shared vision of a common future for the Sahel in terms of issues and priorities for building resilience and sustainable development in the Sahel:

The creation of GGWI was born from a common vision of the countries that have set up the Pan African Agency to ensure land restoration, conservation and protection of natural capital. No vision can remain static and the vision of the GGW must evolve to take into account:

- Lessons learned during the implementation of the first strategy (2011-2015) and the second strategy (2016-2020);
- The need to capitalize on the achievements;
- The need to take into account current and emerging challenges and opportunities; and
- The importance of mobilizing all stakeholders including other countries not yet members of the PA-GGWI in the coalition for the implementation of the joint initiative.

This updated shared vision will serve to build together a common future based on better management of natural resources, concerted efforts to combat climate change and genuine sustainable development built on the opportunities for economic transformation in the region. More concretely, a regional vision-sharing forum on the margin of AMCEN[7]⁷ will allow all actors of different categories and at different levels to agree on:

- common priorities that could be endorsed by AMCEN;
- partnership opportunities and the best ways and means of strengthening it;
- areas of actions and flagship programs likely to benefit from the support of key partners such as the GEF and the GCF; and
- the appropriate frameworks and modalities for mobilizing the private sector.

1a. 2) The baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects.

Policy Baseline:

- The Great Green Wall strategy implemented by Panafrican Agency of the Great Green Wall (PAAGGW):** The current strategy (2016 - 2020) adopted by the 11 countries of the **PAAGGW** is based on the vision of ensuring the transformation of rural areas by installing levers of socio-economic development essential to the creation by 2020 of poles of economic emergence which will be engines of local development and ultimately rural poles of production and sustainable development in 2025. The objectives are the contribution to eradication of poverty in the area of the Great Green Wall, job creation, food and nutritional security, access to basic social services and efficient local land governance. This strategy is based on the following major axes: i) Sustainable land management and the green economy; ii) fight against climate change, socio-economic development and land governance; iii) support and development research; iv) and communication, marketing and advocacy.

- b) **SDG Target 15.3 of Agenda 2030 sets out a new global ambition:** “By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought, and floods, and strive to achieve a land-degradation-neutral world”. In order to quantify Indicator 15.3.1, “Proportion of land that is degraded over the total land area,” a Working Group was established to define relevant indicators for monitoring progress toward LDN target. The working group has agreed on three main sub-indicators to track land degradation and to derive the spatial extent and thus the percentage of total land that is degraded. These include (i) land cover and land cover change, (ii) land productivity, and (iii) carbon stocks, above and below ground, which can be used for monitoring and reporting progress towards SDG target 15.3, as well as other relevant targets and commitments including the GGWI. To date, LDN targets have been set and endorsed on a voluntary basis by all countries of the region except Mauritania who is currently in the process, as part of their obligations under UNCCD and in connection with their commitments to UNFCCC and CBD. As part of the LDN approach, a specific LDN impact investment Fund (LDN Fund) has been established to support private investment in economically viable SLM projects, in complement to existing and developing public investment funds operating inter-alia with co-financing from GCF. The LDN Fund is managed by Mirova, which is interested to partner in the development of Earth Observation (EO) data and field-based LD monitoring and evaluation systems applicable at the local scale where investments are taking place.
- c) **The 3rd African Drylands Conference** organized in Windhoek, Namibia in August 2016 came up with a number of recommendations for countries and international, regional and sub-regional organizations. These include the need to (i) conduct large-scale assessment of tools, methodologies, and knowledge in support of drylands initiatives monitoring; (ii) develop policy briefs, and knowledge products accessible to end users; and (iii) create platforms to promote synergies and South-South Cooperation.
- d) **The United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA)** adopted a resolution in May 2016 on land degradation and sustainable pastoralism. This resolution calls for Member States to increase efforts to invest in programmes that address problems of desertification, deforestation, drought, biodiversity loss, degradation of rangelands, invasion of alien species, and water scarcity. The goal is to maintain and improve the productivity and sustainable management of land, through national development policies, strategies, and programmes developed in consultation and/or in cooperation with key stakeholders, as appropriate.
- e) **Opportunity /Issues Based Coalition -5 (O/IBC5) initiative:** This initiative is co-chaired by UNEP, FAO and UNDP. It brings together more than 10 UN agencies. It will drive the Regional Coordinator Programme (RCP) ’s work on Fostering action on climate change, strengthening natural

resources governance, resilience and enabling energy transitions for sustainable development. It will bring together the UN's individual agency capacities on these areas of work to agree on and deliver on a joint workplan that leverages the individual agency investments on identified areas for joint action for better condition and increased value addition in response to emerging needs on the African continent. The O/IBC's specific goals include the following: i) To accelerate implementation of SDGs and Agenda 2063 in the Decade of Action; ii) To create a resilient Africa with inclusive economies and fairer societies; iii) To support joint and harmonized climate action with the African Union Commission and other regional economic communities; iv) To mobilize and engage UN and non-UN actors such as governments, private sector, academia, civil society organizations and donors to fast track SDGs and Agenda 2063 implementation in the areas of climate change (both adaptation and mitigation), Disaster Risk Reduction, Natural Resources Governance, Resilience Building and Facilitating Energy Transition; and v) To jointly mobilise resources to deliver on joint programmes and projects in support of the identified Flagship Initiatives. The O/IBC- 5 joint workplan will be constituted from an initial mapping of ongoing agency programmes/initiatives to determine gaps and opportunities for elevating and strengthening delivery of the commonly agreed Flagship Initiatives. Four themes have been agreed and will form the basis for agency programmatic support to the flagship initiatives. Each of the identified Flagship Initiatives will receive support through joint work from a minimum of two or more agencies. The Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative is one of the flagship initiatives of the O/IBC-5 workplan.

- f) In addition, international NGOs such as Tree Aid and SOS Sahel contribute to GGW objectives with their activities on the ground. Within the intervention area, the land rehabilitation activities reported by GGW countries between 2007 and 2019 add up to 3.6 Mha. This is complemented by another 11.8 Mha of land under restoration within GGW countries, but outside the strict intervention zones. The achievements so far thus depend strongly on the delineation of the intervention zone, or what actually counts as land restoration under the GGW. This clearly shows the need for a consistent accounting approach. In most of the GGW member states several achievements have been recorded, with some countries being more successful than others. Some countries have started the implementation of the GGW activities since 2007, while others have started as late as 2014, when the GGW declaration was ratified. Disparities between the restoration achievements of different countries also arise from country-specific conditions and challenges, which sometimes slow down the implementation process of planned activities.

Summary baseline information on national efforts: According to CLIMATECOS, 2020^[8], the countries of the Pan African Agency of the Great Green Wall have put in place dedicated national coordinating bodies. The operational approach in the implementation of the GGW Initiative is executed by the GGW operational and steering institutions at the regional, national and local levels. The PA-GGW (regional level) is relayed to each

member state by a national GGW structure, and at the local level through a core community entity, the Integrated Sustainable Development Community Unit (ISDCU), administrated by the Local Sustainable Development Committees (LSDC).

A number of transboundary programmes have been established in recent years to support the implementation of the GGW Initiative at the regional level. These include major GEF/World Bank operations as well as FAO programmes and a project by the UNCCD. Moreover, Turkey is an active bilateral donor through its Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency (TIKA) programme with FAO. The report indicates that, the land rehabilitation activities reported by GGW countries between 2007 and 2019 add up to 3.6 Mha. This is complemented by another 11.8 Mha of land under restoration within GGW countries, but outside the strict intervention zones. The report indicated that most of the GGW member states several achievements have been recorded, with some countries being more successful than others. Some countries have started the implementation of the GGW activities since 2007, while others have started as late as 2014, when the GGW declaration was ratified. Disparities between the restoration achievements of different countries also arise from country-specific conditions, which sometimes slow down the implementation process of planned activities. The eleven GGW member states have engaged in different SLM activities, including components on water and soil conservation measures, as well as activities in the forestry and agriculture sectors. In this context, land restoration and conservation activities to increase resilience to climate change and ensure sustainable food production have been realised, including agrosilviculture techniques, shelterbelts and reforestation. Other measures included the establishment of fruit orchards as well as multipurpose gardens and community nurseries for plant production. Moreover, with drought and water scarcity being one of the main physical constraints in the Sahel region, most countries address this by engaging in water conservation measures, such as watershed management, drilling of bore holes and water harvesting techniques. The most commonly reported SLM activities are forest and watershed management (0.9 Mha), and terracing and soil measures (0.83 Mha), followed by reforestation (0.67 Mha) and conservation/assisted natural regeneration (ANR) (0.6 Mha). Land restoration in general was reported for 0.48 Mha. Agroforestry techniques as well as windbreaks and shelter belts are common activities that do however only contribute small shares. Individual member state contributions amount to around USD 34 million and countries reported receiving a total of USD 149 million in external funding.

Private sectors baseline: A range of national and multinational companies are involved in a growing market for plant-based food, drink and cosmetic products derived from dryland savanna trees or plants. Numerous examples include the Shea butter sector, gum Arabic sector, baobab products. Example companies range from national producers such as Produits du Sud (Mali), Sahara Sahel Foods (Niger) or Acacia for all (Tunisia) to international companies such as Aduna or Body Shop. It is also worth mentioning some private initiatives such as:

- ‘Faso Attieke’ in Burkina Faso. It has been created in 2010 to improve food security in the country by producing a product from cassava call ‘attieke’. The company has around 40 employees from which 37 are women. Another example is ‘Sahara Sahelo Foods’ in Niger which aims at

promoting the transformation of forest by-products to make cosmetic oil and food. The employees (21) are mainly women and the company has three main objectives: (i) improving rural incomes, (ii) contributing to desertification control and (iii) improving nutrition of the population.

- Olam is a leading food and agri-business company working across 60 countries including Ghana and Burkina Faso in West Africa. The company employs 74,500 employees working in orchards, plantations and farms growing a large variety of crops (coffee, cocoa, rubber, almonds, etc.). Olam also serve as suppliers by connecting customers to farmers (4.8 million farmers) and processors with 170 processing and manufacturing facilities. In Burkina Faso, they are one of the main exporters of sesame seeds and cashew nuts. Whilst Olam sources from 8,600 large-scale farmers, the majority of farmers are smallholders and they operate an integrated supply chain in Burkina Faso across sourcing, processing, logistics, marketing and distribution. Olam aim to minimise resource consumption including soil and water to ensure SLM. Olam provide support to smallholders through an integrated soil fertility management programme with the aim of improving soil management techniques and access to fertilisers. This is achieved through training and they estimate that 80% of the land which produces crops for their supply chains are not under their direct influence but that of third party smallholders.
- In Chad, an acacia gum project led by SOS Sahel involved a public-private sector financing coalition between Agence Française de Développement (AFD), the Swiss flavour company Firmenich, global agri-food business Danone and French natural ingredient retailer Nexira. Danone invested in the project after agreeing to replace a synthetic bio-activator with gum arabic in its yogurt production. Since 2009 Danone buys gum arabic through exporter Nexira from producers in Cameroon and Chad. AFD, Danone, Firmenich and Nexira investment in the project has enabled SOS Sahel to improve the livelihoods of 60,000 people involved in gum production in Chad and Cameroon. Additional activities include a sustainable cookstove scheme, investment in drinking water access and various activities to preserve the acacia gum forests from overexploitation such as mapping and monitoring the resource, training on sustainable harvesting and establishing tree nurseries and replanting areas.
- In Mali, Root Capital is a non-profit social investment fund that provides loans and advisory services to agricultural enterprises in developing countries that can demonstrate positive social impacts. In 2010 Root Capital was the first lender to provide a loan to Produits du Sud an enterprise operating in Sandare, near Kayes in Mali. The company trained unemployed youth to conserve and tap wild gum arabic and gum karaya for their high value resins rather than fell the trees for cattle fodder. Through Root Capital lending the company expanded exports to Europe 10-fold while payments to farmers have jumped from \$17,000 in 2008 to more than \$1 million in 2012. The loan helped the business to secure contracts with international buyers and expand its reach from 30 farmers spread across 5 villages in 2010 to 2,000 farmers in 200 villages in 2012. This loan is a good example of the positive social and environmental impact of export finance.
- In Senegal the fruits of the baobab tree (*Adonsonia digitata*) are commercially exploited by a growing international export market, particularly since EU legalisation in 2008 authorised its import under the Novel Food Regulations (EC) No 258/97. It is estimated that about 13,000 tonnes of fruit are

grown in the country annually and there are now several internationally-owned processors and exporters operating in the country and shipping raw baobab products (powder / seeds) to Europe and the US to supply growing demand from health food markets.

Climatekos assessment reported on State of the Great Green Wall, reveals that available funding sources can be divided mostly into:

- Public and private sources which do not expect financial return, but substantial environmental and social returns, and
- Sources which expect financial returns on top of environmental and social returns.
- All such sources comprise many sub-sources with varying characteristics and which may be called into depending on the timing, size, level of risk and overall conditions of projects or programmes of projects. The following actors and groups of actors can be allocated to the two or three categories defined above:
 - o Public sources which do not expect financial returns, include local funding sources (national, regional), international multilateral sources, such as the World Bank, the GEF, African Development Bank, Green Climate Fund, etc. and bilateral funding originating from specific country governments (e.g. Germany, France, Japan, amongst other). Such sources are commonly coupled with Technical Assistance (TA).
 - o A number of private and non-governmental sources do not request financial returns: i) Philanthropic organisations (e.g. Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation) ii) NGOs or Donation via impact investing, iii) Donation via crowdfunding
 - o Sources expecting financial return: a larger number of such sources are available, mostly of private nature: i) Large international public financial institutions (World Bank, AfDB, EIB, KfW, etc.), ii) Local financial institutions (banks and other financial services providers), iii) Small businesses facilitators (business angels, private equity/venture capital), iv) Large multinational companies (who have vested interest in local productions), v) Carbon asset buyers, vi) Impact investments, vii) Crowdfunding, viii) Climate bonds and green bonds, in case of large projects or a number of aggregated projects, the issuance of bonds could be contemplated, and ix) Insurance and mitigation of long-term risk schemes.

GEF LDCF/SCCF Baseline:

The GEF LDCF/SCCF portfolio (Annex Q) in the GGW countries amount around \$240 million which mobilised more than \$1 billion cofinancing. This portfolio which is mainly addressing the NAPA priorities in the LDCF countries of the GGW focus on building resilience in agriculture, pastoral and integrated water and natural resources management sectors. The portfolio includes also mainstreaming and promoting of Ecosystem Based Adaptation and building resilience of alternative livelihoods options. The portfolio also includes capacity building of countries and stakeholders on weather and early warning systems. The review of lessons learn from these project will not only help to identify successful approaches for scaling up but also it

will provide opportunity to identify adaptation gaps which can be addressed through support to countries to access targeted LDCF fundings in support of the GGWI.

Science baseline information: *Given the stated environmental and social objectives of the GGWI, researchers from all disciplines have an important role to play in pooling their expertise to guide the decisions of the institutions managing the project. While the GGW is no longer a simple wall of trees as originally envisaged by political actors, plants and re-vegetation remain at the heart of the project because, more than anywhere else, the people of the Sahel depend heavily on plant resources to meet their daily needs. The challenge is to find a balance between the protection and sustainable use of plant resources in a Sahel undergoing social and ecological transformation*[9]⁹.

As a result of findings from several regional processes, it was established that there is a need of scientific basis for the implementation of the Great Green Wall Initiative. In contribution to response to this gap, the GEF has approved the project on “ Large-scale Assessment of Land Degradation to guide future investment in SLM in the GGW countries . in collaboration with internationally recognized scientific institutions and databases (Lunds University, NASA, European Space Agency, OSS, IRD, CILSS/Aghrymet, etc)) UNEP, through the project with the GEF financial support, will assess available tools and methodologies for scientific measurement of the ecological impacts of land degradation and SLM practices to guide future investment decisions in the GGW region. In the mean time, the French Desertification Scientific Committee (CSFD) in 2011, through the publication “The African Great Green Wall project: What advice can scientists provide?”[10]¹⁰ provided some useful recommendations for use in the Great Green Wall context. These recommendations include: i) Adopt a flexible approach in order to make effective use of the best sustainable land management practices, while taking the results of many completed green belt, plantation and agroforestry projects, and local know-how, into account; ii) Identify and boost farmers’ awareness on the most effective regeneration techniques, that are easy to manage (technically and financially) and cost-effective; iii) Rely on the decentralization process by ensuring the participation of inhabitants in planting the GGW and highlighting the potential benefits for them (improved land fertility, yields and the diversification of income-generating activities); iv) Foster agricultural and livestock farming intensification, so as to reduce pressure on forest resources.

According to Deborah Goffner et al. 2019[11]¹¹, over the past 50 years, a large number of development initiatives have addressed the diverse social and ecological challenges in the Sahel, often focusing on a single entry point or action, resulting in only a limited degree of success. Within the last decade, the international development discourse has evolved to incorporate resilience thinking as a way to address more complex challenges. However, concrete examples as to how to operationalize resilience thinking are lacking. The Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative (GGW), a pan-African program with a strong reforestation focus, is the latest and most ambitious of these development programs to date. The GGW represents an ideal opportunity to apply resilience thinking at a large scale, but in order to do so, it must intelligently gather and centralize pre-existing interdisciplinary knowledge, generate new knowledge, and integrate knowledge systems to appropriately navigate future uncertainties of the diverse social-ecological systems along its path. Herein, after a brief description of large-scale reforestation history in the Sahara and Sahel and the conceptual evolution of the GGW, we propose a transdisciplinary research framework with resilience thinking at its core. It includes analysis of complex social-ecological systems, their temporal and spatial cross-scale interactions, and outcomes focused on the supply of abundant, diverse, equitable, and durable ecosystem services to support livelihoods in the region. If the research areas that comprise the framework were to be properly addressed, they could conceivably guide GGW actions in a way that would contribute to desirable future pathways. Deborah et al designed a transdisciplinary research framework[12]¹² for GGW resilience building. The multiscale framework highlights research needed to better understand present Social Ecological Service (SES) along the GGW, their past-to-present dynamics, and to identify desirable futures and how GGW actions can contribute to pathways towards them. In the central panel, the contribution of different landscape units within a given SES to the total bundle of ecosystem services (ES) is illustrated. The benefits from ES bundles are distributed more or less equally among the people living in the SES (depicted as equal or unequal-sized people respectively). They identify three research areas (RAs) that they feel are particularly critical to inform the implementation of GGW actions. RA 1 is focused on characterizing the present-day Social Ecological Services (SESs) and bundles of Ecosystem Services (ES) along the GGW path. The SES 1 we observe today may have evolved from alternative SESs in the past. Identification of the pathways from past to present, and how we can learn from how these were shaped, is the focus of RA 2. Central for the application of the framework in relation to the implementation of GGW actions is to identify potential future pathways, and how combinations of GGW actions can act as drivers of change towards desirable future SES. This is the focus of RA 3. The ultimate goal of the framework is to enable the identification of action combinations that are both plausible, i.e., within the constraints of the SES, and capable of building ES delivery that inherently strengthens desired development trajectories.

Regional Projects Baseline:

a) **Green Climate Fund Projects:** Mitigation projects include:

- The facility to scale up investments in West Africa for solar energy: it covers six countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Niger, Mali, Guinea Bissau and Togo) with the aim of quadrupling existing capacities in solar energy production. The project is scheduled to end in 2027 with funding from the Green Climate Fund of \$ 67.32 million in loans and grants through the West African Development Bank (BOAD).
- Project aiming at contributing to universal access to electricity in sub-Saharan countries through the scaling up of investments in renewable energies: it covers 7 countries including three countries of the Great Green Wall that are Nigeria, Ethiopia and Benin. The project started in 2016 for a period of 15 years and received funding from the Green Climate Fund of around \$ 80 million in grant and equity. The objective is to promote, through the private financial sector, the production of electricity from off-grid renewable energy (off-grid).
- Project to promote improved stoves for reducing climate impacts: it covers two countries (Senegal and Kenya) for the period from 2019 to 2025 with funding of US \$ 18.22 million. While reducing the effects of indoor air pollution, the activities aimed at popularizing improved stoves to make a significant contribution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The GCF adaptation project is the:

- Integrated development and adaptation to climate change program in the Niger Basin: this program with African Development Bank as Implementing Agency, covers Benin, Burkina Faso, Niger, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Nigeria, Cameroon and Chad for the period from 2018 to 2025. With funding of \$ 67.77 million in loan and grants from the Green Climate Fund, it aims to reduce the sedimentation of the Niger river and to strengthen capacities of local populations to adapt to climate change through mitigation, reforestation and better land use activities.

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) is currently preparing a major program (Umbrella program) for mitigating the impacts of climate change and for strengthening the climate change adaptation capacities of populations of the Great Green Wall. The goals of the umbrella programme, which funding envelop is not yet defined, are to build on the significant efforts and support made over the years in the region and

- scale up the most transformational approaches in the natural resources sectors in building resilient landscapes, improving the adaptive capacity of local communities, restore and conserve degraded landscapes and transform the region, notably through access to finance and markets; and
- support the achievement of the Great Green Wall 2030 goal to restore 100 million ha of degraded land and sequester 250 millions tons of carbon and create 10 million jobs.

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) will be the Implementing Agency and UNCCD Global Mechanism a partner. It is important to emphasize that the process of preparing the major program (Umbrella program) of the GCF in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification, offers a first-rate opportunity to pool the efforts of GEF and those of GCF in order to create strong complementarities and synergies between the two initiatives.

- b) **UNCCD / Global Mechanism initiatives:** The Secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification and the Global Mechanism have been engaged in an evaluation process of the Great Green Wall since the creation of the initiative. This assessment through a project of about 2 million Euros, will help GGW and Panafrican Agency of the GGW countries to measure progress, learn lessons and better prepare for the next cycle (2021-2025) of the Great Wall implementation strategy. In addition, the Secretariat through the Global Mechanism provides technical support to countries in the preparation of plans to define targets for neutrality in land degradation.
- c) **European Union Projects:** The European Union provides multifaceted support to countries through support for the development of policies and strategies, programs and projects in various fields such as poverty reduction, climate change, economy and job creation, including green jobs, peace and security, migration etc. For Sahel region, among other things, the following should be noted:
- The Sahel Alliance which covers 10 countries in the Sahel region. The European Union, along with other partners (the World Bank, Germany, the United Kingdom, France, etc.) created the Sahel Alliance in 2017. In 2019, the Alliance defined a portfolio of 730 projects for a total amount of 11 billion euros of investment by 2022 to meet the security and development challenges of the Sahel.
 - The European Union partnership program with the G5 Sahel countries. This program aims not only to strengthen the defence capacities of the Sahel countries but also to support development actions.
 - European Development Fund projects (2014-2020) which aims to support countries in various areas of development including rural development; food and nutritional security, strengthening resilience to climate change.

The new programming cycle of the European Union (2021-2027) offers an opportunity, as it occurs simultaneously with the development and start of the GEF 8 cycle, to allow possible complementarities and synergies with the projects eligible for the GEF and the GCF which will be prepared during the realization of this project.

- d) **The African Union - United Nations Framework Agreement for the implementation of the SDGs 2030 and the Agenda 2063:** In January 2018, the African Union and the United Nations signed a Framework Agreement aiming at strengthening partnership for the concomitant, concerted and

effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Agenda 2063; the latter defining Africa's aspirations and priorities for inclusive growth and sustainable development, based on optimizing the use of the continent's resources for the benefit of all Africans. This agreement is based on the guiding principles of transparency, subsidiarity, ownership, accountability and partnership. It should also be emphasized that in connection with this framework agreement, the United Nations prepared and adopted the UN Support Plan for the Sahel focused on 10 countries (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, The Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Chad) for the period 2018-2030. As an indication, the cost of implementing the SDGs in the Sahel is estimated between USD 140.25 and 157.39 million per year. Priorities in AU-UN cooperation have been defined, including the fight against poverty, climate change and conflict resolution (silencing the guns).

- e) **The United Nations Decade for Ecosystem Restoration:** The [UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration strategy](#) was launched on 15 September 2020, following a global and inclusive consultation process in 2019 and 2020. The Decade's overall platform will include several facilities and infrastructure designed to support Flagship interventions such as the Great Green Wall, and thus could be highly relevant for component 3 of the current project. This includes, a digital communication and knowledge platform, global, regional and national policy and technical dialogues and monitoring of restoration activities. Furthermore, as the decade is implemented in partnership with partners reaching from local NGO's to financial institutions to countries to convention secretariats, it will be able to mobilize substantial knowledge and technical resources. The Decade will support interventions through Flagships and the Great Green Wall has been identified as the first and high priority Flagship. To implement the core elements of the decade and bring together contributors, FAO and UNEP is currently preparing a Multidonor Trust Fund (MPTF). With initial support, a global communication Platform is being established, global and regional dialogues being outlined and a global monitoring programme designed. Country/regional level intervention will be done through Flagship programmes. Great Green Wall is included as the priority Flagship programme for the Decade. Activities can be funded through a Decade Multi-Partner Trust Fund or directly through UNEP or FAO, but still benefitting from the Decades infrastructure, capacities and network.
- f) **CILSS projects and programs:** The Inter-State Committee for Drought Control (CILSS) through its three entities (Agrhymet Center, Sahel Institute and Executive Secretariat) is implementing a number of regional Sahelian projects among which it should be noted:
- The Regional Support Project for Pastoralism in the Sahel (PRAPS) is underway in six countries (Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Chad and Senegal) for the period 2015-2021 with funding from the World Bank for an amount of \$ 248 million. It has five components: natural resource management, animal production and health, sector competitiveness and market access, security of goods and rights and access to basic services and finally knowledge management;

- The Regional Support Project for the Sahel Irrigation Initiative started in 2018 for a period of 6 years, and covering the following countries: Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Chad. This is World Bank funding of US \$ 170 million. The main objective is to promote productive, sustainable, profitable irrigated agriculture that creates jobs and ensures food security.
- The AGIR Sahel and West Africa project funded by the European Union and USAID, which the main objective is to improve the social protection of communities and vulnerable households by securing their livelihoods. It covers 17 countries in the Sahel, ECOWAS and UEMOA with the aim of sustainably improving agricultural and food productivity as well as the incomes of the most vulnerable, and strengthening the governance of food and nutrition security.
- The program to strengthen resilience to food and nutritional security in the Sahel (P2RS): it aims to improve production in agroforestry, pastoralism and fishery resources sectors. Funded by the AfDB, it is scheduled to run in 5-year phases for a period of 20 years. The 2014-2019 phase involved Burkina Faso, The Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Chad for a funding of 179.92 million units of account. The fields of action mainly concern development of value chains, rural infrastructure and coordination strengthening.
- The Sahel and West Africa Program (SAWAP) in support of GGW, 2013-2019: SAWAP was developed jointly by the World Bank and the GEF, with the aim of contributing to the development of sustainable land and water management practices, and thus support adaptation of most vulnerable communities to climate change in West Africa and the Sahel. SAWAP has contributed to the implementation of GGW by improving resilience of landscapes and livelihoods, and therefore poverty reduction, food security and the security of water resources. As part of SAWAP, the BRICKS (Building Resilience through Innovation, Communication and Knowledge Services) project provided technical and operational support to national projects for four years. The BRICKS project aimed to improve access to best practices and to monitor the implementation of the twelve national projects, by creating opportunities for knowledge sharing between them. At the same time, the project focused on building the capacity of regional centers of excellence (the Permanent Inter-State Committee to Combat Drought in the Sahel, the Sahara and Sahel Observatory, OSS). With a total budget of \$ 1.1 billion, 12 countries have been helped to implement projects based on national priorities: Benin, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sudan, Chad and Togo. In total, it is estimated that SAWAP projects have a carbon sequestration potential of around 90 MtCO₂eq, an intervention area in the context of SLM practices of around 1.5 million ha and 7.9 million direct beneficiaries. as well as more than 74,680 farmers who received training in SLM practices and improved agricultural technologies.

These different projects and programs are geared towards removing the barriers identified by this GEF project, in particular through strengthening the capacities of households to ensure food and nutritional security and to improve the living conditions of households and communities in the area of the Great Green Wall.

g) **FAO's projects:**

- Boosting Restoration, Income, Development, Generating Ecosystem Services (BRIDGES) - (FAO and Turkey), 2017-2020. The BRIDGES project is a product of the FAO-Turkey forestry partnership program, Turkey providing most of the funding and FAO serving as implementing partner. The idea is to stimulate South-South cooperation between Turkey and GGW and in arid regions around the world. With a budget of US \$ 3.6 million, its main objective is to support Eritrea, Mauritania and Sudan in the fight against land degradation and desertification by the sustainable management of their natural resources and the restoration of degraded forests and landscapes. The main elements are: (1) restoration of 5,000 hectares of forests and arid landscapes; (2) value chains strengthening of non-wood forest products; (3) establishment of 'information and monitoring of drinking water; and (4) compilation, management, knowledge sharing and good practices, promotion of communication and visibility.
- FAO Desertification Action Program; 2014 - 2019. Established in 2014, the Desertification Action Program has addressed sustainable land management and the restoration of arid zones in different places in Africa, the Caribbean (Haiti) and the Pacific (Fiji). In Africa, the program has been implemented in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal, where it has supported local communities, governments and civil society in rehabilitation and sustainable management of forests and pastures. The total budget was € 41 million for a period of 4.5 years. The activities of the action program against desertification are as follows: (1) Capacities strengthening of government partners and NGOs to create a favorable environment to the restoration and SLM of land and forests, (2) Dissemination of good SLM practices. The achievements of the action program against desertification are: the use of 100 species for restoration activities, the production of 2,700,000 plants and the restoration of 35,000 hectares.

h) **ECOWAS Program Ecology:** The program objective is to support the transformation of agriculture and promote emergence, adoption and dissemination of good practices of sustainable agriculture and agroecology at the household level and management models in favor of the adoption focusing primary value chain including rice, maize, cassava and millet / sorghum. This is an € 23,437,348 program that will be financed by EU, AFD and other donors. The GEF project will be instrumental in identifying investment opportunities for this program in the GGW region.

i) **NGO - Tree Aid** - Tree Aid is an international NGO which participates in the implementation of 17 land restoration and reforestation projects in the Sahel countries, including 4 GGW states: Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Mali and Niger. To date, Tree Aid's interventions represent more than 1.2 million trees planted and more than 29,580 hectares of restored land and forest. More than 1.6 million vulnerable people in rural areas, including women and children, have directly benefited from Tree Aid activities thanks to improved legislation, access to and management of forests, resilience to change and

income from income-generating activities. In addition, around 126,000 farmers have been trained in SLM techniques, including ANR and GRN, and in best harvesting practices of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs).

- j) **SOS Sahel-** SOS Sahel is an international NGO which aims to improve the social, economic and environmental conditions of people in the heart of Africa. Its activities are part of its objectives, contributing to reforestation, promotion of sustainable agricultural practices, improvement of access to water and support of countries in the fight against desertification. In this context, the NGO has been involved in 6 projects in 4 GGW countries, namely Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali and Senegal. In total, SOS Sahel's interventions contributed to the production of more than 2.9 million seedlings / plants, to the reforestation of 10,845 ha and to the restoration of 10,143 ha of land. In addition, over 100,000 people have directly benefited from SOS Sahel's activities through the development of agro-sylvo-pastoral production systems and increased productivity.
- k) **UE-IFAD-CIRAD / IRD - FAIR Sahel Project-** Fostering an Agroecological Intensification to improve farmers' Resilience in Sahel. The 9 million Euro project, is for 4 years (2020-2023) to be implemented in Mali, Senegal and Burkina Faso. Its objective is to define the role of research in order for the institutional, political and technical actors to have necessary knowledge to support the organized and voluntary and create enabling condition for AgroEcological integration.
- l) **Transboundary Burkina Faso – Niger Restoration of forest landscapes and sustainable land management in the Sahel region** with FAO, GEF, EU (through the FFEM) as donors. The objective of this transboundary project is to restore degraded landscapes and create income-generating activities for local populations. The project combines aspects of international governance as well as national commitments with local restoration actions. The project supports three municipalities in Burkina Faso and three municipalities in Niger to restore degraded production landscapes while contributing to improving local livelihoods through diversifying income-generating activities. This is being through the establishment of municipal financial services and decentralizing participative management of natural resources. Intervention area: Sahel and East region : It is a transboundary project between Burkina Faso and Tillabery region of Niger with funding amounting to USD 8.8 million for the period between 2017 and 2021.

m) **Building capacity of local communities to adaptation and resilience to climate change through development of Integrated (FACI)**^[13]: Implemented by the PAAGGW with funding from contributions of member states, the FACI include developing potential production systems for local areas (poultry farming, beekeeping, sheep-goat farming, market gardening, fish farming, etc.) and taking into account support mechanism by integrating growth areas (energy, hydraulic, social and economic infrastructure) as well as strengthening the skills of the various players. The approach developed by the project ranges from the installation of one (01) FACI pilot site with all components in each of the 11 PAAGGW countries with the intention of replicating on various sites in each country. This will lead to the establishment of Integrated Community Agricultural Domains for the establishment of Rural Agropoles. The development of the Public-Private Partnership will boost the process by creating platforms for processing and marketing local products for the establishment of Rural Poles of Production and Sustainable Development. The FACI model is already being tested in the pilot phase in terroirs in six (6) GMV countries : Burkina Faso (Beekeeping and arboriculture), Mali (Market gardening, fish farming and arboriculture), Mauritania (Poultry farming and market gardening), Niger (fish farming), Nigeria (beekeeping) and Chad (market gardening, sheep / goat farming). The evaluation of the impact of the pilot FACI indicated substantial contributions in terms of monetary income, improved nutrition as well as the strengthening social cohesion. With the objective of taking stocks of innovative models which has been proven to offer potentials for transformational change in the GGW area, the piloting of FACI within the framework of this project will provide additional lessons learn to consider the approach for scaling up in the context of future investment.

The above provides the regional baseline scenario and projects directly related to the project, more information on the country baseline projects are provided in annex O.

1a. 3) The proposed alternative scenario with a description of outcomes and components of the project

To incorporate lessons learned from more than a decade of investments in the Sahel, there is need to support the GGWI's vision to evolve and harness the region's vast natural and human capital. This vision will enable countries to move beyond tackling environmental degradation to transforming key economic systems, specifically food, land use, energy, and freshwater, as well as implementing large-scale ecosystem restoration for a sustainable, resilient and prosperous future. According to a recent World Bank estimate, financial needs for achieving impactful outcomes at scale average

between US\$ 40–130 million per country annually. This level of financing will need to be mobilized from diverse sources both domestically in the countries and internationally by partners.

Despite the pervasive poverty and vulnerabilities facing its population, the Sahel region has a multitude of sustainable development opportunities. It has large potential for development of solar energy, providing opportunities for renewable energy supply to local communities that will reduce reliance on fuelwood. It is also an area with lucrative production of cereals, vegetables, fruits and nuts, oil and seeds. These opportunities could be fully seized and turned into profitable businesses, catalyzing transformational change for the people of the region. The new vision consists of transforming the Sahel into a prosperous and resilient region, acknowledging that large-scale ecosystem restoration and improved natural resource management positively influence security and conflict over resources, and reduce migration out of vulnerable areas. Advancing this vision will require an approach that is underpinned by systems thinking, and will ensure integration of environmental and development priorities to maximize potential for harnessing synergies at scale. The GEF's experience with the integrated approach programs provides an excellent opportunity for achieving such a vision, at a time when countries are recognizing the urgent need for improved sustainable development, ecosystem restoration and economic recovery, while also demonstrating their commitments under major multi-lateral agreements.

The proposed approach will require: i) an analysis of lessons learned in the region over the past decade; ii) identification of different drivers of change in the region; and iii) identification of complementarity between this and past and ongoing efforts on-the-ground. Furthermore, coordinated actions involving all major stakeholders and driven by country-specific needs and opportunities for advancing transformational change. Such a program will strengthen the GGWI as a platform for countries to engage with diverse stakeholders from IFIs, development agencies, private sector, technology providers, research centers, and civil society on the following priorities toward impactful outcomes:

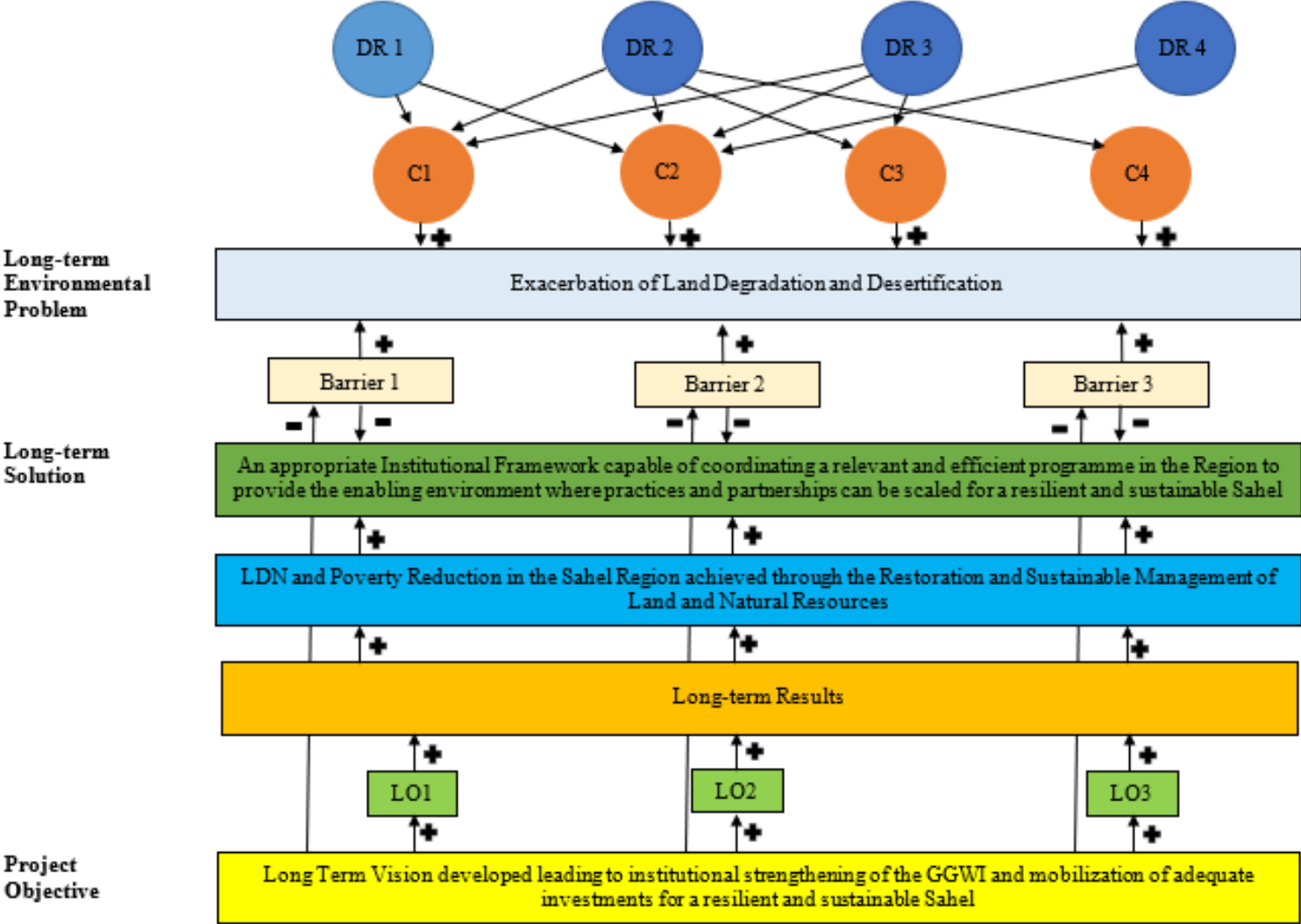
- Promote comprehensive land-use planning to better target and scale-up integrated natural resource management, including practices for landscape restoration and increased resilience;
- Promote policies to increase tenure security and rights of Local Communities and Indigenous People, including pastoralists for harmonizing land access and use practices and reducing conflict between resident and nomadic communities, as well as private investors and local communities;
- Promote policy options to unlock market opportunities and innovative financing for diversified livelihoods of smallholder farmers and pastoralists; and
- Promote universal access to clean and affordable energy and low-carbon pathways for economic growth and development.

The project's theory of change: As evidenced by many assessments undertaken on the Great Green Wall initiative three barriers constitute the major handicap to put in place an appropriate institutional framework capable of coordinating a relevant and efficient programme in the region to provide the enabling environment where practices and partnerships can be scaled for a resilient and sustainable Sahel. These are: (i) inadequate coordination and partnership mechanisms including the non-availability of reliable and up-to-date data, (ii) limited capacities to improve the economic livelihoods of populations especially young people and women, including poor knowledge management on past and ongoing experiences; (iii) the inadequacies in defining a shared vision of a common future for the Sahel in terms of issues and priorities for building resilience and sustainable development in the Sahel. The drivers of the causes of land degradation and desertification in the Sahel (deforestation, unsustainable agricultural and pastoral production, soil erosion and climate change) are mainly the prevalence of poverty, the accelerated population growth, the low economic valuation of the existing productive potential and recurrent security issues.

The project objective “Long term vision developed leading to institutional strengthening of the GGWI and mobilization of adequate investments for a resilient and sustainable Sahel” will be achieved by the achievement of the three project outcomes: (i) The GGWI governance and institutional capacity roadmap, capacity development plan, and resources mobilization and deployment strategy adopted at regional level during GGW High Level Meeting; (ii) Targeted integrated landscape investment and monitoring models provide GGW Countries basis for transformational changes that spur economic growth of multiple benefits for people and the environment; and (iii) Relevant GGWI stakeholders, including donors and private sector, are capacitated and informed of flagship programs and increasingly willing to engage in the financial support to the GGWI. Each of these project outcomes directly addresses one of the barriers. By achieving the project objective, the project will lead to the achievement of three long-term outcomes namely: (i) Institutional and governance capacities of national GGW coordinating bodies and Pan African Agency of the GGWI strengthened; (ii) the large arid and semi-arid territories of the Sahel region become hubs of investment opportunities for transformational change and (iii) a portfolio of projects for long term investment identified and implemented funded by key donors and partnership. These long-term outcomes will lead to the long-term result related to “Incomes and resilience of households and communities in the Sahel improved through implementation of GEF, GCF and various other relevant projects”. This will lead in the long-term to land degradation neutrality and poverty reduction in the Sahel region achieved through the restoration and sustainable management of land and natural resources which again further strengthen the long-term solution of the project “An appropriate institutional framework capable of coordinating a relevant and efficient programme in the region to provide the enabling environment where practices and partnerships can be scaled for a resilient and sustainable Sahel”. A reinforcing balancing loop will be created leading to positive long-term environmental results and a resilient and sustainable Sahel region.

Figure 1: Diagram of the Theory of Change

Figure 1: Diagram of the Theory of Change



<p><u>DRIVERS</u></p> <p>DR 1. Prevalence of Poverty</p> <p>DR.2 Accelerated population growth</p> <p>DR 3. Low economic valuation of the existing productive potential</p> <p>DR 4. Recurrent security issues</p>	<p><u>CAUSES</u></p> <p>C1: Deforestation</p> <p>C2: Unsustainable agricultural and pastoral production</p> <p>C3: Soil Erosion</p> <p>C4: Climate change</p>
<p><u>BARRIERS:</u></p> <p>Barrier 1: Inadequate coordination and partnership mechanisms including the non-availability of reliable and up-to-date data</p> <p>Barrier 2: Limited capacities to improve the economic livelihoods of populations especially young people and women, including poor knowledge management on past and ongoing experiences</p> <p>Barrier 3: The inadequacies in defining a shared vision of a common future for the Sahel in terms of issues and priorities for building resilience and sustainable development in the Sahel</p>	
<p><u>LONG-TERM OUTCOMES</u></p> <p>LO 1: Institutional capacities of national GGW coordinating bodies and Pan African Agency of the GGWI strengthened</p> <p>LO 2: The large arid and semi-arid territories of the Sahel region become hubs of investment opportunities for transformational change</p> <p>LO 3: Portfolio of projects for long term investments identified and implemented funded by key donors and partnership</p>	
<p><u>LONG-TERM RESULTS:</u></p> <p>Incomes and resilience of households and communities in the Sahel improved through implementation of GEF, GCF and various other relevant projects</p>	

The GEF grant will support delivery of the outcomes and outputs through the following three main components:

Component 1 - Strengthening the institutional and governance framework for GGWI coordination and partnership

The vision of transforming the Sahel region into a prosperous and resilient region will not happen without engaging major stakeholders, including the private sector, development banks, environment and development agencies and CSOs. A Regional Steering Committee (RSC) established under the African Union Commission is in place since September 2011 to support the implementation of the GGWI. This RSC includes representatives of national GGW executing entities, African Union, The Pan-African Agency of the GGW, the Technical and Financial Partners and Civil Society Organizations, etc. The Steering Committee aims at supporting GGWI countries to prepare national investment plans, as well as national and cross border projects for the implementation of the GGWI. It also aims at building regional and sub-regional capacities (African Union Commission, the Pan African agency for the GGWI, Regional Economic communities), for a coordinated and harmonized implementation of the GGWI.

This component will seek to create the enabling conditions to strengthen the institutional arrangements, roles and responsibilities, and coordination mechanisms between the African Union Commission and the Pan-African Agency for the GGWI. This could be done through transforming the AU / Steering Committee into a well-designed Platform for Partnership and Coordination, which will include a Resources Mobilization and Deployment Strategy for the implementation of the GGWI. Such an arrangement will facilitate greater efficiency in the engagement with diverse stakeholders, to foster a coordinated effort toward transformational change in the Sahel region.

Expected change through the component will be “The GGWI roadmap, capacity development plan, and resources mobilization and deployment strategy adopted at regional level during GGW High Level Meeting” Outcome 1.1. Through outcome 1.1, the following outputs will be generated: Output 1.1.1. Roadmap for a strengthened GGWI institutional framework with due consideration of gender issues is developed and submitted to the GGW High Level Meeting for adoption and implementation initiated; Output 1.1.2. A Capacity Development Plan with due consideration of gender issues is prepared and implementation started focusing PAAGGW and national Focal points; environment conventions and programmes focal points synergy to support institutional framework and submitted to the GGW High Level Meeting for adoption; and Output 1.1.3. A Resource Mobilization and Deployment Strategy with due consideration of women and youth is developed for the GGWI to achieve LDN and submitted to the GGW High Level Meeting for adoption and immediate opportunities for initial implementation are identified. The UNEP Africa Office plays a role as a host of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment and this will be an important avenue for coordinating the stakeholders dialogue and development of GGWI Shared Vision in the new context of the Sahel region. UNEP’s Africa Office will take the lead in the execution of component 1.

Component 2 - Identifying and prioritizing investment opportunities to transform key economic systems in the Sahel Region

The Pan-African Agency of the Great Green Wall will take the lead in the execution of this component. The UNCCD Secretariat and Global Mechanism will support the Pan-African Agency in the delivery of the outputs of the component.

Through the programs and projects, countries have over the last decade demonstrated how innovative practices by smallholder farmers and pastoralists can help tackle land degradation and desertification in the Sahel, leading to impactful outcomes for livelihoods and the global environment. The ambition is to transform large arid and semi-arid territories of the Sahel region into hubs of economic growth with multiple benefits for people and the planet. This will be achieved through support to GGWI member countries for sustainable management and valorization of natural capital, development and diversification of food systems and land use (including enhancement of value chains), and development of renewable energy systems.

Learning from past and ongoing experiences with difference partners and initiatives including the: (i) FAO Boosting Restoration, Income, Development, Generating Ecosystem Services (BRIDGES) - (FAO and Turkey partnership), particularly on aspects related to the value chains strengthening of non-wood forest product; (ii) Local Environmental Front Project for a Green Union (FLEUVE), 2014-2018 developed by the Global Mechanism, funded by the European Union and implemented in partnership with FAO, which aimed to improve the livelihoods of people in drylands and build their resilience to land degradation, drought and climate variability. The activities consisted of investing in micro-projects implemented in 23 communities in five countries (Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, Chad and Senegal). Capacity building activities at regional level in SLM and innovative financing complemented the projects on the ground; and (iii) the Global Mechanism evaluation process of the GGW since the creation of the initiative which will help GGW and PAAGGW countries to measure progress, learn lessons and better prepare for the next cycle (2021-2025) of the Great Wall implementation strategy. There are also European Union initiatives that offer learning opportunities for the project. These initiatives include: the portfolio of projects to meet the security and development challenges of the Sahel developed in 2019; the Partnership program with the G5 Sahel countries which aims not only to strengthen the defence capacities of the Sahel countries but also to support development actions; and the European Development Fund projects (2014-2020) which aims to support countries in various areas of development including rural development; and food and nutritional security, strengthening resilience to climate change. This component will focus on mobilizing key GGWI stakeholders to engage with member countries in identifying and prioritizing and financing opportunities to advance the transformational change. This will be delivered through

in-country consultations in accordance with the national context for food systems and land use, energy and freshwater, with emphasis on the following:

- stock taking exercise to create a comprehensive understanding of all on-going and recently closed investments;
- synthesizing achievements and innovations for scaling-up donors/partners through the integrated approach, including best practices and innovations;
- identifying funding opportunities for consideration by donors and partners on integrated approaches to advance systems transformation, including both horizontal (comprehensive land use) and supply / value chain dimensions;
- explore potential opportunities to secure funding for GGWI program by exploring ways and means for providing possible support to key countries to access various available funding mechanisms.

This component will also assess progress and opportunities including within FAO, EU, World Bank, AFD, GCF, UNCCD; NGO and other partners initiatives on mobilizing youth and women as entrepreneurs in promoting innovations that transform livelihoods, increase environmental sustainability, and enhance resilience at scale. Youth and women have a crucial role to play in promoting widespread application of emerging technologies and innovations for achieving increased productivity and tackling negative externalities in the supply chain. Most GGWI countries are already advancing models for promoting engagement of youth and women through Rural Agropoles and Integrated Community Agricultural Farms, which have potential for integration and scaling-up.

For the Private sector engagement; the Great Green Wall vision for transformative changes to land management and investment in landscape restoration at scale across the region's drylands will require concerted effort to create the enabling environment required to catalyse green economic growth and investment. The potential for investment in transformative change is clear; the Great Green Wall drylands provide a wealth of globally significant ecosystem services and well-proven approaches to the landscape-scale restoration that provide stimulus for further restoration market investment. Moving beyond the land restoration market, the region's dryland show strong potential for green economic growth, with numerous successful examples of global value chains for natural products and agribusinesses investing in sustainable supply chains. To catalyse private investment into this emerging green economy, a deeper understanding and appreciation of the necessary enabling conditions is required in order to guide policy and public-sector investment in the Great Green Wall. A new vision, encapsulated within four main elements, provide a starting framework to guide decision making and policy on private sector engagement in the Great Green Wall. These key guiding elements include: i) Establish an enabling environment for private investment; ii) Create the institutional context for multifunctional sustainable landscape investment; ii) Promote innovation and partnerships in private investment; and iv) Build the necessary institutional capacity. The project will build on these four

element to develop the private sector engagement strategy and assess feasibility of early implementation of the recommendations from the study on “Engaging Private Sector in the Great Green Wall Initiative”^[14]¹⁴ commissioned in 2019 by the UNEP/GEF project on *Closing the Gaps of the GGW*, executed by IUCN. These recommendations are: a) Invest in development, peace and security; b) Establish mechanisms for integrated landscape planning and investment; c) Provide technical assistance for investment project developers; d) Make appropriate public sector financing available for restoration partnerships; e) Support innovation in finance and investment; f) Mainstream sustainable land management across agricultural value chains and associated markets; g) Conserve dryland biodiversity and landscape resilience; h) Harmonize land degradation neutrality and Great Green Wall targets in agricultural policy. The details related to these recommendations are in Annex R of the CEO Endorsement document. For example, on making appropriate public sector financing available for restoration partnerships and supporting innovation in finance and investment; UNEP through the Project Task Manager has started engaging in a very preliminary and informal dialogue, SGS, a private French company established in Cote d’Ivoire to engage the Governments of the GGW countries in mobilising funds from private international companies planned and already paid to be used for recycling of goods purchased by individuals, enterprises and Government, from international market. Various options will be assessed including channelling these funds in a GGWI Small Grant Programme to be administered by UNEP and possibly using GEF as financial mechanism to receive those funds.

Through this component, the expected change will be “Targeted integrated landscape investment models provide GGW Countries basis for transformational changes that spur economic growth of multiple benefits for people and the environment”. The project will also learn from and capitalize on BRICKS’ developed tools and methodologies in supporting the monitoring, modeling, and mapping of land and water resources and land use changes in the regional portfolio, including carbon modeling as model to help estimate the investment projects portfolio’s contribution to climate change mitigation. The outputs to be delivered will include: Output 2.1.1. A report documenting innovative practices and a Knowledge Management Platform is established based on review of knowledge platforms and data bases such as WOCAT^[15]¹⁵ and Terrafrica given consideration to possibility of immediate pilot implementation women and youths with potential for scaling-up and achieving LDN. WOCAT is a network and database that provides relevant documentation on technologies and approaches on Sustainable Land Management. TerrAfrica, a partnership programme between many agencies (FAO, World Bank, African Union Development Agency –NEPAD) offers a knowledge platform for sharing lessons learned, tools and learning materials for scaling up and monitoring sustainable land management. The Knowledge platform of this project will have innovative value by providing analysis on social and technical barriers for scaling up best practices, ensuring that documented best practices respond to well identified criteria of effectiveness and relevance to the region, integrating issues of gender and regular up date of the

practices if needed to assist on replicability and sustainability ; Output 2.1.2. A report documenting targeted investments are identified in existing initiatives as models for the integrated landscape approach is elaborated and disseminated to relevant stakeholders, and women and youth trained on ecological goods and services including renewable energy and their access to strategic and quick result-oriented investments facilitated; and Output 2.1.3. A report on baseline information report on emerging opportunities, including those targeting women and the youth, for transformational change is produced and disseminated to relevant stakeholders and linking GGWI stakeholders to those opportunities initiated.

Component 3 - Convening relevant stakeholders to launch shared vision for the GGWI and Sahel region.

During the recent Conference of the Parties to the UNCCD, a High-Level consultation was held to engage Ministers from member countries and key stakeholders on re-energizing the GGWI. The consultation identified the need for financial leverage and mechanisms to scale up the best practices across the region. There is need therefore to harness the progress and achievements made to push for more ambitious and transformational investments, so that governments can use the GGWI framework to deliver economic growth and development impacts that are sustainable and resilient. This will be done through re-energizing the GGWI as a partnership platform to support millions of people and communities working towards sustainable management and use of forests, rangelands and other natural resources. It can also help communities mitigate and adapt to climate change, as well as improve food security, with global implications and global benefits. The consultation also called for mobilization of more resources from a range of sources domestically and internationally, including Multilateral Development Banks, special financing mechanisms such as the GEF and the World bank, the Green Climate Fund (GCF), as well as bilateral partners, CSOs , and private sector.

On the margins of the Seventeenth African Ministerial Conference (AMCEN 17) held in Durban 11-16 November 2019, Ministers and heads of delegation of the GGWI countries met to renew the momentum GGWI. The event further confirmed commitment by member countries to continue working with the GEF and engage other key partners and private sector towards developing a new GGWI program.

Through this component, the project will organize outreach activities to engage all major stakeholders. Special attention will be paid to harnessing joint leadership by GEF and GCF as financial mechanisms, for mobilizing other donors including IFIs, development agencies, and private foundations. Building on its accumulated experiences, achievements and network of technical and financial partners, the GEF is well positioned to play a catalytic role in supporting countries of the Sahel and Sahara region for the development of a new GGWI program. Both the GEF and GCF have expressed interest in considering programming opportunities to support GGWI member countries pursue a more transformative vision for the Sahel, such as linking environmental challenges to human development and security. UNEP's involvement in this project confirms its commitment to

supporting the GGWI since 2011 as a pioneer partner - UNEP supported the development of the first 5 years' Plan of the GGW agency in collaboration with the 11 member States. This commitment which continues with two ongoing GEF supported projects has been reiterated at higher level by the UNEP Executive Director during UNCCD COP 14 in Delhi, India. The UN Decade for Ecosystem Restoration given its mandate of promoting ecosystem restoration and the Global Environment Benefits which can be generated for alternative livelihood and platform for strong partnership, will take the lead in the execution of Component 3.

Key comparative advantages of the UN Decade to support component 3 implementation include:

- **Coordination and Dialogue.** In cooperation with partners including Global Landscapes Forum (jointly founded in 2013 by UNEP, World Bank and Centre for International Forestry Research), the Decade has an established and tested structure to facilitate global, regional, national and local dialogues between many stakeholders and across silos. GLF is the world's largest landscape management knowledge platform. The aim is to bring many fragmented initiatives and stakeholders together in dialogue on lessons learned, analysis and cooperation. A new and decentralized version of the Global Landscapes Forum, called GLFx, has been designed to support local groups and communities.
 - **Communication platform.** Based on a 'New Power'^[16] approach, the decade is in cooperation with private sector establishing a communication and dialogue platform, which will facilitate meeting points between local and global groups, support and further strengthen a youth movement, match initiatives with funding, prepare and make available good practise, guidelines and lessons learned. Led by UNEP and FAO, the platform will be able to draw on UN Decade partners like IUCN, World Bank, IUCN and World Economic Forum.
 - **Private sector mobilisation.** Engagement of private sector and private funding is a major aim of the Decade and seen as a precondition for success. Pipeline preparation, match-making and PPP are key priorities of [the Decade Strategy](#). World Economic Forums is thus a core partner, and the decade will draw on existing UNEP facilities like the UNEP Finance Initiative; The Restoration Initiative (with IUCN and FAO), and the Restoration Seed Capital Facility, RCSF. Dialogues are ongoing to engage the IFC and the World Bank, as well as with numerous potential private sector investors. The Great Green Wall is the major Flagship for the Decade on Restoration and for UNEP. UNEP, UNCCD and FAO are leading an effort to prepare a UN Action Plan for cooperation between DFI's (WB, IFC and AfDB), UN organisations including IFAD, UNDP, WFP and others on the Great Green Wall. UNEP are also involved in environmental screening activities and project development in Mali with UNDP and MINUSMA and at regional level with WB. These initiatives seek to build bridge between environment/climate consideration and security consideration in livelihood development. UNEP is part of UN security mechanism. These activities will be coordinated closely with the current GEF programme. FAO is engaged in several projects related to GGW and in building local capacity.
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- **Monitoring.** FAO is in cooperation with many partners and based on existing system developing a system and the capacity to monitor and report on progress in ecosystem restoration. Further, UNEP and FAO are involved in monitoring and reporting on Financial flow towards ecosystem restoration. Both agencies are also central to supporting the monitoring of ongoing efforts such as the Africa Restoration 100 (AFR 100) initiative as part of the Bonn Challenge

Through the GEF, the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) for climate change adaptation also presents an invaluable opportunity for GGWI member countries. The LDCF has already made significant investments in the Sahel countries, with the region accounting for over 50% of the programming portfolio. There are still opportunities for countries to leverage LDCF resources in the context of promoting systems transformation for sustainability and resilience.

With respect to IFIs, the African Development Bank (AfDB) has prioritized energy as a major sector for promoting sustainable development and economic growth, focusing on universal access to modern energy and sustainable energy infrastructures. Building on this commitment, the project will seek to promote renewable energy innovations through the integrated approach, which will create low carbon pathways for achieving systems transformation in the region.

Finally, other donors such as the European Union and several bilateral agencies are demonstrating renewed interest in the Sahel, including a focus on preventing conflicts and out-migration. The implementation of the component 3 will lead to the expected change: Relevant GGWI stakeholders, including donors and private sector, are informed of flagship programs and increasingly willing to engage in financial support to the GGWI (Outcome 3.1). The expected outputs will include: An advocacy program to help set up the coordination and partnership mechanism is developed and implementation started in collaboration with key stakeholders (Output 3.1.1); A synthesis document of priority areas and potential flagship programs for targeted donors support with due consideration of gender issues is elaborated and disseminated to relevant stakeholders (Output 3.1.2); A blueprint for mobilizing private sector engagement in the GGWI is elaborated and disseminated taken into account risk assessment analyse and gender consideration (Output 3.1.3); and A Framework for countries to leverage resources for adaptation and resilience is established with due consideration of gender issues (Output 3.1.4).

In line with capacity building support to the Panafrican Agency and some selected national agencies, the project will help implementation of some urgent measures to meet institutional capacity development critical gaps but also to pilot some few ad hoc activities focusing women and youths in order to generate lessons which will help the identification of innovative approaches, priorities areas and resources mobilisation strategy. These urgent

measures include activities jointly identified by the GEF secretariat and the Panafrican Agency of the GGWI as entry point to support the project long term objective. These activities^[17] will include : i) Integrated Agricultural Farm model (FACI) ; ii) Women Platform ; and iii) Youths Green Caravan.

The Monitoring and Evaluation component: The project will facilitate the assessment of project achievements, and more importantly will draw lessons that will inform the future GEF and other partners' investments and cooperation for the GGWI support. The project will help to ensure that effective and efficient reporting happen through timely availability of resources, including providing required support for the Terminal Evaluation. These will be achieved through the following outputs: (i) The progress and annual project reports with due consideration of gender issues are elaborated in timely manner ; and (ii) The Report of the project Terminal Evaluations is elaborated and Document of the findings is produced for capitalisation.

1a.4) Alignment with GEF focal area and / or impact program strategies

The project, through Component 2, will contribute to GEF 7 Land Degradation Objective 2.5: Creating an enabling environment to support voluntary LDN target implementation. This will be achieved through i) providing the technical assistance required to bring funding opportunities to the investment; ii) supporting smallholders through special lending and through extension systems; iii) building capacity at all levels required to restore and maintain functional landscapes; and iv) learning lessons and knowledge exchange and south-south cooperation within the GGW countries.

As indicated in the GEF 7 Land Degradation programming direction, “the importance of land based jobs to sustainability and stability especially in LDCs is outlined in regional frameworks and declarations, such as the recent Ouagadougou Call for Action.” The project will positively reinforce the linkages between human well-being and the health of ecosystems. The investments will aim to maintain, enhance, and restore global environmental benefits with respect to sustainable land management, and co-benefits related to water security, decreasing pollution pressures, and decreasing local deforestation. These measures can contribute to decreasing fragility, increasing human resilience, and delivering substantial development co-benefits.

Targeting poor and vulnerable groups (e.g. women, indigenous groups, and unemployed youth) in such fragile context has been linked to not only restoring productivity but also preventing a slip into radicalization and / or outmigration. Inclusion of the poor and vulnerable supports land

restoration for global environmental benefits through sustainable land management, improved water security, decreasing pollution pressures, and decreasing local deforestation. These benefits can contribute to decreasing regional fragility, increasing human resilience, and delivering substantial development co-benefits.

1a.5) Incremental / additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, and co-financing;

Scenario without GEF investment

Significant investments have been made in the framework of the implementation of the GGW. However, economic potential of the region has not sufficiently been exploited to lay the solid foundations for food security and poverty reduction. It is not clear what works and what does not and what the impacts are. Also, it is not clear if the approaches adopted at local, national, and regional levels contribute to desired goals of combatting LD, leveraging SLM for better environmental and economic outcomes, and making positive strides towards LDN. Without the GEF project, the lack of coherence at the strategic and programmatic level will continue due to the weaknesses in the coordination and partnership mechanism. Thus, the dialogue between the various stakeholders and the promotion of a dynamic partnership would remain affected by the absence of functional and dynamic concerted frameworks as well as methods of establishing and managing win- win relationships among actors. The current regional steering committee of the GGWI managed at the AU Commission level is still affected by a lack of implementation of the recommendations from the various meetings including the 5th session that took place in November 2019.

Furthermore, it should be noted that without the GEF project, the evolution of approaches to establish effective sustainable development would be particularly slow, undermining the potential of the region's natural capital to contribute to the 2030 sustainable development goals. Certainly, the GGW has evolved from its initial conception of a green strip of tree plantations to that of integrated management of natural resources to meet the subsistent needs of the populations. However, without the GEF project, the transition to a more advanced phase of transformational change built around the enhancement of productive potential with better governance, with greater promotion of economic opportunities would be delayed with notable shortcomings.

Finally, the current situation of the GGWI is characterized by a common vision which needs to be updated and refined in response to lessons that have hitherto been learned, take into account other emerging challenges such as disease outbreaks (eg COVID-19) and impacts and spill-over effects of regional conflicts (eg youth migration, radicalization) and explore new opportunities.

Scenario with GEF investment

The proposed GEF investment will enable Sahelian countries to harness the GGWI as a platform for environmental and development challenges by improving the management of the region's natural resources as well as transforming key economic systems in the region. At the same time, it will also position GEF and GCF to play a supportive role in advancing the transformation within the framework of implementing the Conventions. Finally, it will create a platform to engage diverse stakeholders, including other IFIs and the private sector, in mobilizing resources and technological innovations that will drive the transformation at scale. The GEF increment will make it possible to create a roadmap and define capacity needs to set up a coordination and partnership framework which will improve the relevance of the interventions, their efficiency and their effectiveness at the strategic and operational level. At the strategic level, a shared understanding of the challenges, issues and opportunities of the region will help to inform a common framework for all actors at all levels on the best approaches, ways and means to enhance complementarity and synergies to together achieve SDGs and the 2063 agenda (component 2). At the operational level, the project will ensure the establishment of intervention modalities and methods for more efficient and effective implementation of development actions for impacts at scale (component 1).

The realization of the GEF project will contribute significantly to the creation of an enabling policy and technical environment for transformation of the economic systems. These economic systems include the development of agricultural, forestry and pastoral production, increasing carbon sequestration potential and green jobs, the improvement of basic socio-economic infrastructures and the creation of wealth through the development of income-generating activities to contribute to stable food security and the revival of sustainable economic growth. The project will benefit local populations, in particular women and the youth, through the identification of actions to improve the management of natural resources, diversification of food production systems, promotion of renewable energies, mobilization of innovative financing, better environmental governance to be established in the implementation of the portfolio of funding opportunities (to be identified in component 3). The project will allow effective capitalization of good practices, proven technologies and innovations (component 2) to be rendered available to stakeholders for future scaling up in relation to identified projects investment (componante 3), including models of integrated development approaches that increase land productivity, develop value chains and promote green entrepreneurship.

The GEF support will provide an opportunity to showcase the cost-effectiveness in project implementation as while resources will be committed to assessment, capitalisation, development of strategies and plans, part of GEF resources will be investment to showcase and pilot implementation of the identified strategies, plan, good practices and to facilitate access to stakeholders including women, youths and governments to identified opportunities and leverage fundins from existing frameworks and donors who are ready to invest in support of the GGWI and targeted actors.

Finally, the GEF project will revitalize the GGW through an updated vision that will be more inspiring and more mobilizing around the needs and priorities of the populations, taking into account the potential of the region as well as current and emerging environmental, socio-economic and security challenges. The GEF support to institutional and governance strengthening of the GGWI, the capacity building as result of piloting proven technilogies, models and approaches, but also building the capacity of monitoring the implementation of the initiative. The multiple scientific, private sector engagement, countries efforts, the LDCF/SCCF portfolio review; baselines will provide important information to build on and generate transformation approaches and investment which will guide GEF and other partners engagement in the GGWI.

1a.6) Global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and / or adaptation benefits (LDCF / SCCF);

Through the 3 components, the project will contribute to the generation of direct and indirect Global Environmental Benefits(GEB). The direct GEB will include:

- Capacity building of more than 120[18]¹⁸ experts on SLM and governance of natural resources including multisector coordination
- Number of cash resources mobilised from existing investment opportunities to pilot resources mobilisation strategy to be developed by the project and to implement innovative practices identified
- Number of ha of land under good practices as result of immediate investments and opportunities identified during the various project assessments and piloting Good Practices

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Indirect benefit will be related to the support of good governance of natural resources, including e.g. tenure and and/or decreasing resource pressures; enhancing natural resource based employment and livelihoods; restoring degraded lands and water sources in post-natural disaster and/or conflict prone or conflict affected areas with special attention to unemployed youth, women and other vulnerable or marginalized groups. Furthermore, by supporting policies and strategies in favour of investment in the GGW area, the project will lead to improved governance of fragile natural resources of the region.

The countries of the Sahel region show a strong political will for transformational change through commitments made in the framework of the main Multilateral Environmental Agreements (Paris Agreement, CCD, CDB), SDGs, Agenda 2063, Bonn Challenge, AFR100 and the recent United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030. But progress and achievements over the past decade can only be consolidated and strengthened if there is stronger support and commitment from development partners, IFIs, the private sector and engagement of local partners. This is essential not only to harness emerging technologies and innovations to bring global environmental benefits to scale, but also to meet the multiple social and economic needs in the GGWI countries, including poverty reduction, access to energy, food security, diversification of livelihoods and job creation.

The project will create a synergy between Conventions related to environmental management in general and in particular those of Rio, and promote projects and investment portfolios which promote good practices in the field of sustainable land management.[\[19\]](#)¹⁹

The development and promotion of portfolio of projects which promote the adoption of SLM practices will also contribute to conserving biodiversity in a number of direct and indirect ways. Most SLM practices contribute to the conservation of Soil Organic Carbon (SOC), which in turn consists of a vast array of biodiversity: soil microbes, invertebrates, root matter, decaying vegetation, etc. Agroforestry and fallow practices usually include indigenous trees in agricultural systems and provide localized habitat for other wildlife, including migratory birds. Sustainable rangeland management not only creates habitat but also maintains connectivity between landscapes, enabling the dispersal and the adaptation of species. SLM practices are frequently based on the use of locally adapted crop and livestock breeds (landraces) and therefore, can play an essential role in the conservation of agrobiodiversity. Furthermore, SLM practices involve actions at the ecosystem and landscape level and are not limited to site-level interventions. Protecting components like wetlands or woodlands within larger agricultural landscapes is an essential part of protecting ecosystems and conserving biodiversity.

Finally, by promoting the accumulation and protection of organic matter in the soil (Soil Organic Carbon), and protecting natural woodlands and rangelands from conversion to crop farming, SLM practices can play an important role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

1.a 7) Innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up.

Innovation: The project provides an opportunity for greater strategic, programmatic and operational coherence of interventions in the area through the GGW by strengthening the coordination and partnership mechanism at country and regional level. The project demonstrates innovation in the following ways:

- Building on the review of available platforms, knowledge on science, private sector engagement, national efforts, past and ongoing investments, opportunities to come up with transformational approach and investments models to generate GEB and contribute to the strategic development of the Sahel
- Creation of the conditions for better coherence, coordination and institutional linkages between the Pan-African Agency of the GGW, AU, NEPAD and its various flagship programmes (CAADP, EAP, etc.). The analytical review of the coordination mechanism that will be undertaken during the implementation of this project will provide guidance for improvement in the functions of the regional steering committee; it will assist in advising on areas where the AU Commission's political support could be instrumental for the GGWI and propose complementarity linkages with the various relevant AU programmes.
- Supporting the GGW initiative to move to the third stage of its evolution: GGW has evolved from the idea of green strips of trees to an initiative on sustainable land management, desertification control and climate change adaptation programs. The project will instrumentalise the transition of GGWI to one that will broadly embrace ecosystem management and the economic valuation of ecosystem goods and services, resilience building, food and nutrition security, poverty reduction for effective sustainable development by ensuring greater gender equity. This could be achieved by identifying successful integration approaches for scaling up, defining the modalities of effective complementarity and synergy from the various interventions, preparing potential flagship programmes for the GEF, the GCF and other partners.
- Strengthening the capacity of stakeholders through the establishment of a knowledge management platform that will make it possible draw lessons from past and ongoing production systems and SLM practices in member states. The project will provide the GGW agency with a permanent, more diverse and functional knowledge management platform for the benefit of member countries and those beyond the region.

Sustainability: Key element to be delivered by the project is the enabling institutional, policies, technical and strategic environment which will favour transformational socioeconomic and environment changes in the GGW countries. This enabling environment will favour long term strategy which include a strong resources and strategic partnership mobilization, all in support the sustainability of the project. The Project is identified to strengthen sustainable natural resource management practices that facilitate resilience and adaptation to the effects of climate change, the conservation of the biodiversity and achieve neutrality in land degradation. The ambition is to transform large arid and semi-arid territories in the Sahel region into poles of economic growth with multiple benefits for people and the planet. This will be achieved through support to GGWI member countries for the sustainable management and enhancement of natural capital, the development and diversification of food systems and land use (including strengthening value chains) and the development of renewable energy systems. Mobilization of key GGWI stakeholders to engage with member countries in identifying and prioritizing funding opportunities to advance transformational change will be achieved through in-country consultations in accordance with national contexts for food systems and land use, renewable energy and national development plans of different countries. At the institutional level, sustainability is ensured by strengthening governance frameworks at local, national and regional level, through creating conditions for operational support activities and strengthening the technical skills of target groups and beneficiary populations. This will be in addition to the direct involvement of the different actors in the planning and implementation process of the project activities. The project will assist in strengthening the capacity for planning, monitoring and evaluation to ensure improvement in achieving sustainability of the GGWI.

The approach and knowledge developed in the project will be internalized and applied by institutions in future interventions. By bringing together governments, science, civil society organizations, economic land users and investors (both national and international) already part of dedicated permanent working groups, such as the National LDN Working Groups, the project provides the opportunity to contribute to the design and set-up of an LD assessment system for the GGW region as a whole, applying common data sets and processing standards.

Scaling - up: The project will establish a platform of knowledge management that will assist in harnessing good practices, techniques and technologies that could be up scaled. Conditions and modalities for up scaling will be defined. The project will create a synergy between the technical and financing institutions which implement climate change adaptation and resilience programs, desertification control and poverty reduction initiatives. Innovative local financing to strengthen activities and investments to adapt to climate change, undertake SLM activities, integrate the migration of populations, animals, conflict management in NRM, will be promoted and these have great potential for scaling up.

- [1] According to the Pan African Agency, statutory payments by member states amounted to USD 5.4 million, and voluntary contributions to USD 1.4 million, which means the PAAGGW has received a total of 6.8 million USD, which means that the remaining 50 million USD reported as national contributions should have gone to national implementation activities.
- [2] FAO. 2016. Building Africa's Great Green Wall, restoring degraded drylands for stronger and more resilient communities. Rome,
- [3] IPCC. 2019. Special Report on global warming.
- [4] Agence Française de Développement et Banque Mondiale. 2015. Confronting droughts in arid areas of Africa.
- [5] FAO. 2016. Building Africa's Great Green Wall, restoring degraded drylands for stronger and more resilient communities. Rome.
- [6] IPCC. 2019. Report on Land - Climate Interactions.
- [7] AMCEN: African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
- [8] CLIMATECOS , May 2020, in "The Great Green Wall: Implementation Status and Way Ahead to 2030".
- [9] The Great Green Wall: a hope for greening the Sahel? Encyclopedia – Environment - <https://www.encycopedie-environnement.org/en/life/green-wall-hope-greening-sahel/>
- [10] CSFD Topic Briefs - February 2011
- [11] Deborah et al, March 2019 in "The Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative as an opportunity to enhance resilience in Sahelian landscapes and livelihoods"
- [12] <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10113-019-01481-z#Ack1>
- [13] See Annex P for more details on FOCI re IACFs
- [14] Draft doc on "Engaging Private Sector in the Great Green Wall", May 2019. Daniel McGahey, Nadia Tih Chuienui and Claire Settre (Earth Systems)
- [15] WOCAT : World Overview of Conservation Approachs and Technologies
- [16] NEW POWER: THE KEY TO UNDERSTANDING THE 21ST CENTURY. <https://thisisnewpower.com/the-idea/>

[17] Description of these activities are included in Annex P.

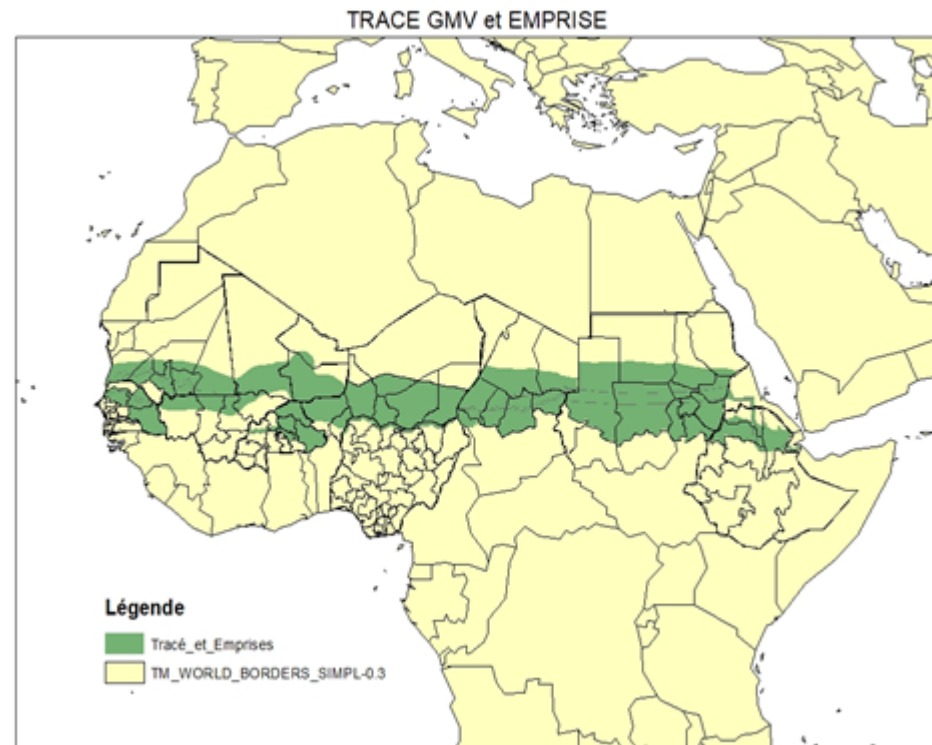
[18] At least 6 MEA national focal points (CBD, UNCCD, UNFCCC, Minamata, Ramsar, Rotterdam) and 4 National Programs/Plans coordinators (GGWI, etc) from 11 GGW Countries, PAAGGI making it $12 \times 10 = 120$ Experts.

[19] SLM as defined by FAO - the use of the resources of the earth, including soils, water, animals and plants, in order to produce goods intended to satisfy human needs which are constantly changing while preserving the productive potential of these resources and maintaining their functions in the environment : i) maintaining long-term productivity and ecosystem functions (soil, water, biodiversity): ii) increasing productivity (quality, quantity and diversity) goods and services (including safe and healthy food).

1b. Project Map and Coordinates

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place.

Figure 2: The Demarcation of Great Green Wall Zone in the 11 Panafrican Agency Member Countries



Source: PanAfrican agency of the GGWI

1c. Child Project?

If this is a child project under a program, describe how the components contribute to the overall program impact.

2. Stakeholders

Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.

Stakeholder engagement is an essential feature of the project, and arrangements have been made in the context of resource allocation through component 3 and concerted implementation to mobilize stakeholders in the context of multi-stakeholder collaboration to achieve the objectives of the project.

The preparation of this project included a number of consultations and information sharing activities with various stakeholders who have a major interest in the proposed project. Numerous consultations and information sharing activities have taken place with the following structures: African Union Commission, Pan African Agency of the GGWI, Executive Secretariat of CILSS, Agrhymet Center, CILSS- Institut du Sahel, UEMOA, UNCCD Secretariat, GCF Secretariat, FAO Africa Regional Office, ECOWAS, All GGWI country agencies, European Commission, UNEP Regional Office for Africa. Key issues arising from these encountered include:

- Countries ownership and capacity developed for effective implementation of the initiative through inter alia regional platforms and structures and national implementation frameworks;
- Coordination with all stakeholders including with all convention processes to ensure synergy en complementarity
- Build on previous and ongoing interventions and partners in the region and in the GGWI countries
- Strong consideration of alternative livelihood and development options for local communities, women and youths
- Private sectors engagement and empowering of CSO to play key roles
- Consideration of local practices and knowledge in scaling up promising alternatives and options.

Stakeholder engagement is an essential feature of the project, and arrangements have been made in the context of resource allocation through component 3 and concerted implementation to mobilize stakeholders in the context of multi-stakeholder collaboration to achieve the objectives of the project.

The preparation of this project included a number of consultations and information sharing activities with various stakeholders who have a major interest in the proposed project. The table below gives an indication of their areas of intervention and their possible roles in the implementation of this project:

ACTORS	AREAS OF INTERVENTION IN THE AREA OF THE GREAT GREEN WALL	ANTICIPATED ROLES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT
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States (Countries) of Great Green Wall area (including populations).	11 out of 20 states have set up the Pan-African Agency for the GGW, open to other countries in the area. Definition and implementation of policies, strategies, programs and projects in various fields of sustainable land management, biodiversity, climate change, SDGs, Agenda 2063, green economy.	Beneficiaries of the project and implementation of the planned activities. They are members of the steering committee.
African Union (AU).	Coordination at the continental level of the GGWI. Ensure coherence between initiative and consideration by African Union Statutory Bodies. Support for implementation of agenda 2063 and SDG 2030 in African countries.	Host the Steering Committee. Political body for orientation and coordination of the Initiative. Will build the Partnership with other stakeholders.
Pan African Agency for the Great Green Wall (PAAGGW).	Implementation of the strategies and programs defined by the 11 countries of the GGWI	Executing Partner of this project with particular role of leading the execution of the Component 2. Member of Steering Committee.
UNCCD Secretariat.	Representing the depositary of the Convention and consulted in all aspects of the project through the Steering Committee and regular contacts.	UNCCD primary responsibility is to advise coordination of the project activities as they relate to the overall LDN process. Support implementation of component 2 in collaboration with the PAAGGW. Member of the Project Steering Committee.
CILSS (SE, Agrhymet and INSAH).	Technical and scientific advice on sustainable land and water management. Policy directions for food security and environmental issues and sustainable development in the Sahel countries. Execute projects in ecological monitoring and climate monitoring.	Participation in the definition of the coordination and partnership mechanism; contribution to the preparation of major projects likely to be submitted to the GEF and the GCF; participation in various studies and technical activities in support of countries. Partnership with other actors. Member of the Steering committee.
Agencies of the United Nations system (UNEP, GEF, FAO, UNDP, GCF, UNCCD, GM).	Concerted implementation of AU-UN Framework for the implementation of SDG 2030 and Agenda 2063. Support to countries in strategies, programs and projects for the implementation of Rio Conventions and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.	Funding and technical support. Regional coordination through the UN Regional Task Team. Implementation of the UN Decade on Ecosystems Restoration. Members of the Regional Steering committee UN Decade/UNEP with partners are building an infrastructure and capacity, which will be able to support core coordination, communication and mobilisation of

		partnerships and co-financing resources for the GGW/GEF programme. We are not aware of other networks with similar infrastructure and capacity
Regional economic integration organization (ECOWAS, UEMOA).	Policy guidance on economic integration. Funding and support for the implementation of development projects and programs	Co-financing. Technical support. Partnership with other actors. Members of the Regional Steering committee.
World Bank.	Support for development policies and strategies Financing of various programs and projects related to the implementation of the SDGs including in sustainable land management (TerrAfrica among others).	Co-financing. Complementarity between World Bank projects and programs and the GEF project. Partnership with other actors. Member of the Regional Steering committee.
European Union.	Building on the Cotonou Agreement (which expires in December 2020) Various supports for development policies and strategies, programs and projects in various fields such as poverty reduction, climate change, the economy and job creation including green jobs, peace and security, migration.	Co-financing. Opportunity to create complementarities between EU programming (new cycle 2021-2027) and GEF 8 (for possible follow up to this project which will prepare project documents eligible for GEF and GCF). Partnership with other actors. Member of the Regional Steering committee.
International or regional Technical Organizations (IUCN, OSS, AFF, ICRISAT.	Technical studies Advisory services Support for the implementation of projects and programs	Participation in carrying out studies. Technical support for the implementation of projects. Partnership with other actors.
Private (entrepreneurs, Banks etc.)	Entrepreneurship to develop certain products from the exploitation of natural resources	Establishment of public-private partnership (PPP) in the context of carrying out certain economic activities. Various service providers and producers of various goods for green entrepreneurship. Partnership with other actors Active participation in the preparation of the private sector mobilization strategy. Partnership with other actors.
Universities, Training centers, Research center.	Studies and research. Training and capacity building.	Participation in studies. Participation in capacity building of actors.

Civil Society (NGOs, Opinion leaders etc.) Local authorities.	Support for the implementation of public development policies. Awareness, advocacy.	Participation in the implementation of the project. Partnership with other actors. Member of the Regional Steering committee.
Technical and financial partners.	Support for the implementation of development strategies and plans in the countries.	Technical and financial support on demand. Partnership with other actors.

In addition, provide a summary on how stakeholders will be consulted in project execution, the means and timing of engagement, how information will be disseminated, and an explanation of any resource requirements throughout the project/program cycle to ensure proper and meaningful stakeholder engagement.

Select what role civil society will play in the project:

Consulted only;

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor; Yes

Co-financier; Yes

Member of project steering committee or equivalent decision-making body; Yes

Executor or co-executor;

Other (Please explain)

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Provide the gender analysis or equivalent socio-economic assesment.

According to OECD[1], West Africa, large gender disparities persist. Women and girls are disadvantaged in many areas and do not enjoy the same opportunities as their male counterparts. This is true for almost all public sectors, ranging from unequal access to basic social services, unequal property rights and persistent gender gaps in the labour market and in the public sphere. Since the mid-2000s, however, almost every West African country and regional organisation has adopted a gender policy or strategy and is increasingly mainstreaming gender issues in different policy sectors. The SWAC Secretariat seeks to inform these policies and strategies by analysing how women's trade networks function and through a regional database on discrimination against women. The OECD report on Women and Trade Networks in West Africa indicate that "Women make a significant contribution to West Africa's food economy, perpetuating a long tradition of commerce and participating in cross-border trade and regional outreach. Their activities face numerous obstacles but also present important opportunities, highlighted in this report through an unprecedented relational and spatial analysis of social networks. The study focuses on the rice sector in the Dendi region (Benin, Niger and Nigeria) and on the regional governance networks that support women's entrepreneurship. It confirms that Nigeria occupies a privileged position due to its demographics and growing urbanisation. The report proposes the development of innovative public policies based on the reinforcement of the social capital of women and policy approaches that promote better integration of the initiatives undertaken by governments, international and non-governmental organisations to empower women and strengthen their resilience."

Sustainable land management requires effective consideration of the gender dimension throughout the development process, from the design phase of projects and programs to the implementation and monitoring – evaluation phases. In the Saharo Sahelian region, more than 60% of rural production activities and almost 90% of domestic tasks are carried out by women. Unfortunately, the persistence of the vulnerability of the populations in the face of climate change and the continuous degradation of the land place households in an increasingly severe and precarious situation with disproportionate negative impacts on women and children. Despite the efforts made by governments to promote women, socio-cultural and economic inequalities persist.

Land degradation adds to the pressure on women to support their families under increasingly difficult physical, social, and economic conditions. Women, as mothers in families, are more vulnerable to lack of food or water, given their social and cultural roles in the region. In social, economic, and political contexts, women, as well as their concerns, are weakly represented – leading to their marginalization from decision-making processes. Besides the direct impacts on agricultural-related livelihoods, land degradation

indirectly negatively impacts women and girls more. For instance, increased siltation of river waters due to land erosion and degradation often renders water unusable, forcing women and girls to travel long distances and spend more time to fetch water. Studies have shown that involving women in participatory land management promotes more sustainable land use, reversal of desertification, and improved socioeconomic conditions[2].

At household level, women are the principal day-to-day decision-makers regarding land management practices. Women are also most directly impacted by public decisions, laws, and planning related to land management. Women often face formidable barriers in their efforts to claim an equitable role in decision-making concerning land resources. Some key constraints to engaging women in SLM are i) insecurity of land tenure despite women's role in household food production, ii) lack of 'value' assigned to labor and subsistence farming; and iii) lack of credit[3].

The GGW region is an area of high migration with migratory flows going mainly to coastal Africa and to Europe. This migration is mainly male, with men abandoning to women the family management and agricultural work for several consecutive years. This situation has the effect of increasing the family burdens and responsibilities of women with an increased need for agricultural extension services to adapt to the needs and priorities of women.

It appears that a large disparity exists in the Sahel region between men and women in many areas particularly in access to knowledge, acquiring production assets, exercising property rights and in decision making process among others. Women empowerment and gender equality will be promoted by the project. More specifically, in carrying out this project, women and young people will be involved in all phases of the project. Efforts to improve the empowerment of women and young people will be made in three essential areas, which have proven to be the most decisive on the basis of experiences learned in the region:

1. Improving the human capacities of women and young people through the acquisition of professional skills in the management of natural resources, production of goods and services, and green entrepreneurship. At this level, actions must target, for example, selected trainings on the basis of the needs expressed by women as well as literacy. In the region, women and girls remain the least educated and the least literate. Initiatives such as cell phone literacy already practiced in some countries will be scaled up. Cell coverage remains relatively high in the region.

2. The creation of economic opportunities (access to land, to financial services including credits, promotion of profitable income generating activities etc.). This component relates to support for the creation of assets by rehabilitating or helping to acquire economic means to improve livelihoods at individual and household level. These means should seek to build capacities for resilience to climate change, improving food security and reducing poverty. The land tenure issue remains at the center of women's concerns in the creation of productive assets. The project will consider setting up “a stock exchange land market” or “bourse du foncier” to facilitate women’s access to land. Through this initiative, degraded land can be rehabilitated and with plots not in use, they can be leased or given to women for compensation to their owners. It is also necessary to identify the various promising initiatives in the region in terms of women's empowerment for effective scaling up. This is particularly the case for the MMD experience (Mata ma su dubara or organization of ingenious women) which promotes endogenous savings and credit instruments for women while improving their livelihoods. MMD will also provide training in income generating activities (IGA) and leadership.
3. Continued efforts will be made to remove constraints related to socio-cultural and religious norms which are still deeply rooted in the local culture (awareness and advocacy for the reduction of domestic tasks burden, greater participation in the production and reproduction process etc.). Activities such as “Ecole des Maris” to be scaled up in the region are planned. The “Ecole des Maris” or “schools for husbands” are groups of married men whose objective is to improve inter-couple dialogue and joint decision-making within the household while facilitating the search for a solution for reducing the burden of household chores of women and better involvement in family planning.

In order to ensure that gender equity and the empowerment of women and young people are effectively taken into account, gender sensitive indicators will be considered in implementing this project. Furthermore, in choosing the project beneficiaries, gender equity will be taken into account, ensuring full participation of women and young people in all the activities selected which will be carried out within the framework of effective integrated management of natural resources. In all cases, the project will ensure that no action that isolate women will be undertaken but gender equity and women empowerment approach will be promoted. Interventions targeting women and youth will contribute to gender equity in access to decent green employment. The project will pay close attention to women, the majority of whom live below the poverty line, especially in rural areas. Indeed, women do not invest in sectors with high added value because they experience enormous difficulties in accessing the means of production (land, equipment) and adequate financing.

Appropriate policies and programs emphasizing gender equity and the empowerment of women will have significant positive effects on the sustainable development of the GGW countries. A study by Brookings Institute[4] notes that considerable macroeconomic gains could be recorded by Africa through equitable and unrestricted access of women to the labour market. By way of illustration, an increase in GDP of around 20% could be recorded in Mali, 12% in Mauritania and up to 50% in Niger.

More specifically, the project will address the gender inequality and women empowerment by;

- Building on the findings from the various assessments envisaged in the project, specific actions will be identified and promoted on pilot basis to address women needs in the Great Green wall areas and unlock the opportunities for long term women and youth development
- Support the PAAGGW to structure the Green Women Platform
- Take stock of the multitude of opportunities provided by private sector initiative to promote and scale up those initiatives with great transformation potentials particularly for women led enterprisesIn line with OECD recommendations to act at policy level, the project will consider mainstreaming in the GGW Revised strategy, the capacity development plan,gender issues and considerations.

[1] <https://www.oecd.org/swac/topics/gender/>

[2] Nyanga et al. 2016. Key socio-economic factors influencing sustainable land management investments in the West Usambara Highlands, Tanzania. Land Use Policy. 51:260-266.

[3] Nigussie et al. 2017. Factors influencing small-scale farmers' adoption of sustainable land management technologies in north-western Ethiopia. Land Use Policy. 67:57-64.

[4] Brookings Institute. 2019. Africa foresight report: Opportunities for the continent 2020-2030

Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment?

Closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources;

Improving women's participation and decision making Yes

Generating socio-economic benefits or services or women Yes

Will the project's results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators?

Yes

4. Private sector engagement

Elaborate on private sector engagement in the project, if any

EARTH SYSTEMS[1] in a study on “Engaging the Private Sector in the Great Green Wall” commissioned by the UNEP/GEF project on Closing the Gaps of the Great Green Wall, executed by IUCN, indicated that the range of private sector investments currently targeted at the land restoration market or value chains linked to improved SLM are examined to demonstrate some of the critical barriers to investment and impacts on the ground. Key informant interviews with a range of private sector actors identified as involved in investments along these value chains are used to gain understanding on the issues and constraints.

The availability of international private sector finance for restoration is not currently a constraint and a series of specific barriers to catalysing the role of the private sector are noted. Far more focus is needed on understanding the potential value of enhanced ecosystem services from land restoration in order to drive economic models and decision making. While opportunities for tree-based restoration are well-known, far less attention has been given to restoration within other ecosystems such as grasslands, steppe, Mediterranean woodlands, and wetlands in the Great Green Wall drylands.

Ecosystem values within the Great Green Wall: Restoration and sustainable land management of landscapes in the Great Green Wall has the potential to secure a range of ecosystem services including regulating and supporting services related to water and geochemical cycles, and provisioning services related to water supply, soil/biomass carbon, energy, habitats and plant diversity, and extensive livestock production. Valuing ecosystem services in drylands is challenging, and there is a tendency for some ecosystem values to be underestimated such as soil carbon, while many go unmeasured. A deeper understanding is required of the inherent value and restoration potential of these diverse ecosystems services in order to make effective benefit-cost estimates for investment planning. Where such economic modelling has been conducted it suggests that investment in restoration measures delivers real economic returns for land users and investors, from a range of provisioning and regulating services. Beyond this, economic returns to society at large are significant both within restored dryland landscapes and at the global level.

Private sector investment to enhance ecosystem values and SLM: While shortage of international private sector finance for land restoration or SLM investments in the Great Green Wall is not currently a barrier to the growth of markets for ecosystem services and SLM as demonstrated by various studies on financing the initiative, risks associated with conflict and insecurity are hampering investor appetite for land restoration investments in parts of the Sahel. A shortage of investment-ready opportunities is also noted as a bottle-neck by some investment fund managers currently scoping out land restoration investments.

Stronger multi-sectoral partnerships are required between multiple stakeholders from public, non-governmental and private sectors in order to build the coalitions needed to de-risk investments and create clear value streams from restoration actions. Strong public institutions for SLM are also vital to ensure effective landscape management and to create the policies that favour sustainable private sector investments in land. Multi-stakeholder investment platforms for landscapes within the Great Green Wall would act as a centralised facilities to aggregate and scale-up investments, but private sector leadership and logic should be facilitated within such a partnership to ensure economic efficiency.

Catalysing the role of the private sector to achieve the goals of the Great Green Wall: Enhancing private sectors' role in the Great Green Wall has the potential to ensure the initiative achieves the transformative changes required to secure a vast mosaic of healthy, restored and productive landscapes surrounding the Sahel and Sahara. Such changes are unlikely without the full and active engagement of the private sector as a source of investment and key actor influencing land management outcomes across the region. Presently, some private and public sector actors have conflicting visions of development priorities and there is a historical bias towards capital-intensive agricultural development at the expense of more local SLM and community resilience and risk management approaches.

Land restoration and SLM investment across the Great Green Wall has the potential to unlock a valuable and diverse range of ecosystem services, and there are well-established approaches practiced by land managers in the region which form a strong stimulus for future investment.

To catalyse private investment into this emerging green economy, a deeper understanding and appreciation of the necessary enabling conditions is required in order to guide policy and public-sector investment in the Great Green Wall.

Earth Systems recommendations for catalysing the role of the private sector to achieve the goals of the Great Green Wall can be summarised as follows:

- **Invest in development, peace and security**, to close critical development gaps in the Sahel and enhance the enabling environment for private sector investment in land restoration and green economic growth;
- **Establish mechanisms for integrated landscape planning and investment**, to ensure adequately resourced and mandated inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms are available and local institutions have adequate access to resources for ongoing capacity building;

- **Provide technical assistance for investment managers and restoration project developers**, to support project preparation, business plan development, impact monitoring and market analysis as a means to increase investment readiness of the land restoration market across the Great Green Wall;
- **Make appropriate public sector financing available for restoration partnerships**, to enhance attractiveness of the emerging land restoration market for the private sector and ensure better alignment of objectives between public and private financing;
- **Support innovation in finance and investment** to catalyse investment to the landscape-level by establishing de-risking partnerships with public financiers and centralised facilities that enable the aggregation of available land-based investments into larger portfolios that provide an improved match with the scale and interests of available private capital;
- **Mainstream sustainable land management across agricultural value chains and associated markets**, to address business-as-usual trends towards land degradation and enable green investment in sustainable approaches to land management across the Great Green Wall;
- **Conserve dryland biodiversity and enhance landscape resilience**, to ensure the continued abundance of biological resources and resilience within agro-forestry systems and optimisation of ecosystem services from restored landscapes within the Great Green Wall;
- **Harmonize land degradation neutrality and Great Green Wall targets in agricultural policy**, to address policy failures associated with unsustainable land management and preventing the growth of sustainable value chains and the land restoration market.

Earth Systems concluded by indicating that “the Great Green Wall cannot be achieved without effective engagement and investment from the private sector, yet the potential role of the private sector and the enabling conditions required remain poorly understood. While the Great Green Wall currently presents as a nascent market for private investment in land restoration, the availability of international private finance should not be considered a bottleneck.

To create incentives for private sector engagement, specific barriers to scaling up investment need to be overcome including readiness of available investments to meet the requirements of international investors, improving the targeting of public finance to reduce risks and establishing the institutional arrangements and policies required promote the growth of dryland markets and value chains associated with restored ecosystems”. To achieve this, the project will conduct a deeper analysis and appreciation of the necessary enabling conditions in order to understand the current situation and guide policy and public-sector investment in the Great Green Wall. A new vision, encapsulated within: i) Establishment of an enabling environment for private investment; ii) Creating the institutional context for multifunctional sustainable landscape investment; ii) Promoting innovation and partnerships in private investment; and iv) Building the necessary institutional capacity to guide decision making and policy on private sector engagement in the Great Green Wall; will be developed.

According to the study on private sector enagement in the GGW commissioned by UNEP/GEF project on Closing the Gaps of GGW, the Eco-certification schemes and product eco-labelling can enable producers to demonstrate and promote sustainability standards within their production systems provided available markets can be found. If applied at the landscape-scale these approaches could provide powerful tools to address land degradation within agribusiness value chains across the Great Green Wall area. Typically independent agencies verify compliance of individual producers to a given standard and most schemes are driven by non-governmental organisations interested in ensuring products are produced to high sustainability and socially equitable standards. Currently there are no standards or certification schemes assessing sustainability outcomes at the landscape scale, which could be missed opportunity for addressing land degradation neutrality or sustainability within specific ecosystems. However, new landscape approaches to certification and labelling are emerging such as the Verified Carbon Standard – Landscape Sustainable Production Standard (Denier, 2015). The project will work with countries and private sectors including small holders to promote certification standards for local products which can be promoted in international market. The table bellow provide indication of some existing examples which are facing challenges the project will address on pilot basis to create incentives.

Agribusinesses engaged in livestock and crop commodity value chains within the Great Green Wall area

Example Agricultural commodity	Example Agribusiness Activity	Sustainability Issues and Scaling Challenges
Irrigated Cotton	Cotton production in West Africa is characterised by smallholder family farms and rising pesticide costs and disillusionment among cotton farmers.	In the Koussanar district of Senegal Yakaar Niani Wulli Federation is a farmer association formed in 1997 which has assisted over 100 farmers to obtain organic and fair trade certification for cotton and food crops. With the help of a local NGO Enda Pronat farmers disillusioned by the negative effects of pesticide use and high levels of debt among farmers locked into purchasing inputs, the cooperative has invested in training on organic methods for cotton, cereal crops and vegetables. However, the initiative experienced difficulties marketing organic cotton at the international level causing a refocusing of activities towards the production of food crops for local markets.
Multiple grains	Faso Kaba Seed Company in Mali produces, packages and distributes a variety of locally sourced seeds. The company enters into contracts	The company aims to distribute seeds nationally and is currently on the largest agribusinesses in the county. Seeds for crops grown in the Sahel region include, sesame, millet, sorghum and groundnut. The company has been successful in raising capital in the form of start-up loans, redeemable equity and working capital loans

Example Agricultural commodity	Example Agribusiness Activity	Sustainability Issues and Scaling Challenges
	with farmer cooperatives who grow the seeds in country.	from a variety of lenders (AGRA, Injaro Agricultural Capital). So far the company does not produce or retail organic certified seeds.
Camel milk	Tiviski is a dairy company processing and selling a variety of dairy products from camels milk from pastoralist communities.	<p>The company sells pasteurised fresh milk, ultra-high temperature milk (UHT), yogurt, butter and cheese. The company is the largest employer in the dairy sector in Mauritania and has successfully competed against imported dairy products from Europe which dominate urban markets. Through engaging with over 2,000 livestock herders and generating 200 additional jobs the company has promoted and preserved the practice of mobile pastoralism, a recognised SLM practice in drylands. The business activity resulted in an increase in land reserved for animal pasture.</p> <p>Challenges faced by the company include: (i) regulatory barriers in seeking to export camel milk products to the EU; (ii) lack of independent laboratory for testing products; and (iii) stigma pastoralists attached to selling camels milk as bringing bad luck.</p>

A plan of engagement of the private sector in the implementation of GGW will be prepared during this project, examined and then adopted by different actors. The private sector will play a leading role in the region's transformation process. Ecological goods and services in the region can be transformed into marketable products that can create jobs, generate resources for individuals, for households, for local communities and for the nation.

Involvement of the private sector will be important to link smallholder producers and pastoralists to markets, introduce sustainable supply chains, and create stable revenues with agricultural commodities, especially dryland commodities such as cotton, wool, leather, shea, gum Arabica, etc. Already the GGWI in certain countries are working with private sector in that direction. This includes the Arabic gum value chain in Niger and Chad, and the transformation of natural resources like *Balanites aegyptiaca* in Mauritania. The synergy with arresting and reversing land degradation is on the sustainable production side, especially by involving smallholder farmers and local communities and facilitating a mutually beneficial engagement with the private sector. In this way, changes to commodity production pathways can be made before irreversible damage is done to the respective agro-ecosystems. Access to finance and technical assistance for smallholders and small businesses in most land sectors is a big challenge. Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are critical contributors in the agricultural sector at the leading edge of both environmental impact and solutions to mitigate these. Strategies pursued with the private sector will target SMEs that are promoting innovations in the agriculture and livestock production

systems. Partnership and collaboration will be developed with the AFD project on value chain in Mali so as to learn and build a case for impactful private sector involvement in the GGW.

Several new private sector funds have recently emerged e.g. the Moringa, & Green, and the LDN Fund. These Funds invest in profit-generating sustainable land management and restoration projects worldwide. The project will explore potential collaboration with such Funds for them to provide technical assistance necessary, and facilitate de-risking of funding opportunities.

As indicated in the GEF 7 Programming document; in GEF-6, eight countries participated in the GEF Global Cleantech Innovation Programme (GCIP), promoting innovation in energy, water, and buildings. Over 900 private sector companies have been trained, mentored, and introduced to funding opportunities. Hundreds of the innovators and companies are women-owned and operated. In many cases these companies are already up and running; attracting investment, making innovative products, and delivering environmental benefits. Working in partnership with these early stage private sector innovators can open the door to the much needed investments. The project will learn from this experience and will encourage exchange to strengthen the capacity of the private sector in the GGW area to embark on this kind of venture taken into consideration the specificity of the Sahel.

- The private sector will be engaged on the basis of promoting good practices, clean techniques and technologies meeting three essential criteria:
- Financially viable to generate profits along the value chain (production - transformation - packaging - marketing - consumption);
 - Ability to meet the needs of populations;
 - Matching the requirements of the contribution to sustainable management of natural resources by integrating the principles of decoupling, reduction in the use of materials and production factors, eco-labeling.

In addition, the risks and barriers to private sector development for better management of natural resources will be analyzed and an inventory of existing and potential green jobs in the region will be carried out. The table below indicates the sectors carrying private intervention for better management of the productive potential of environmental resources and support for sustainable development.

Agriculture	Organic farming, organic pesticides, certified seeds.

Forestry	Bio fuels (jatropha), various forest products (gum, resin, fruit, basketry and plaiting), production of plants, energy wood, beekeeping.
Eco tourism	Eco tourist agencies, hotel parks and environmentally-friendly reserves, etc.
Water and soil conservation / Land defense and restoration	Micro dams, water harvesting, material and equipment for land restoration, techniques for sustainable land management
Energy	Promotion of solar energy and other renewable energies; energy saving by promoting low energy consumption devices; improved stoves.
Waste management	Recycling; composting etc.
Fisheries and aquaculture	Fish farming
Buildings adapted to the Sahelo Saharan climate	Eco-constructions
Water	Watershed management, irrigation systems adapted to arid zones, wells and boreholes
Pharmacopoeia	Sustainable production of medicinal plants and processing
Wildlife	Ranching of wildlife like certain antelopes more profitable by UBT than domestic animals; ostriches etc.
Carbon markets	CO2 sequestration
Town planning and development	Architects and planners of green cities taking into account the accelerated urbanization of the Sahel
Sustainable banking	Participation of banks in a country program and then at the regional level of interest in the banking sector in the financing of green businesses, the promotion of clean technologies. Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) by investing in initiatives to reduce ecological impacts while preserving profits.

According to the IPCC, land restoration and the rehabilitation of drylands have significant economic returns. For 1 dollar invested in land restoration, the return can be 3 to 6 times greater (3-6 dollars) over a period of 30 years[2].

The incubation centers for small and medium-sized enterprises that already exist in several GGW countries will be used to build capacity in green entrepreneurship with a focus on women and young people. SAHEL INNOV which is a grouping of incubator centers from 9 Sahelian countries could constitute a partnership to support the development of green entrepreneurship in the region. Economic operators will thus be able to contribute to investment in value chains linked to agro-silvo-pastoral and fish production, renewable energies, clean technologies, as well as in other sectors / branches of activity, industry and services that contribute to the transition to a green economy.

[1] Earth Ecosystems - Daniel McGahey et al, 2019 in “ Engaging Private Sector in Great Green Wall” Draft Report for UNEP/GEF project on Filling the Gaps of the GGWI.

[2] IPCC. 2019. Report on desertification

5. Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

Elaborate on indicated risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, the proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation.(table format acceptable):

The convergence and the synergy between the various initiatives in the implementation of the GGW, and the ownership by the target populations in each member State should make it possible to ensure greater achievements of the projects. However, there are risk factors that could slow down its execution. These include:

- the lack of political will from the member States. The project requires political and financial commitments of each of the member States at the right time and in accordance with planning process that will be defined;
- the situation of the political instability and the insecurity in the targeted areas of the GGW, local conflicts, land issues, political instability; and
- the possible lack of partnership or weaknesses in collaboration between the partners that could have negative repercussions on the general implementation schedule of project.

In addition, risks of overlap exist with other rural development projects or programs implemented or supported in the area of the GGW. The project will seek to work in synergy with other stakeholders, in particular the local services of other sectoral departments of governments of member States, the private sector, the G5 Sahel, the IOM, GCF, UNCCD, FAO, AFD the UNDP, etc.), to promote effective, complementary and synergy with an application of the principle of subsidiarity using the Regional Steering Committee as a common platform or adhoc working group.

The current socioeconomic context due to the influence by the COVID 19 outbreak is an important risk to be considered for this project due to the short term implementation period and expectations to generate results. According to the Secretary-General António Guterres, 31 March 2020: “*Everything we*

do during and after this crisis must be with a strong focus on building more equal, inclusive and sustainable economies and societies that are more resilient in the face of pandemics, climate change, and the many other global challenges we face". Like the vast majority of countries in the world, the Sahelian zone is still experiencing the COVID-19 pandemic. The possible consequences on fragile economies and the precarious livelihoods of populations require anticipation in the choice of resilience strategies and measures to face this new global threat. Even if it disappears, the consequences of this pandemic will have a lasting impact on Sahelian communities and the various production systems. The potential for future outbreaks cannot also be ruled out. In this context, it is imperative to identify relevant support to enable the countries of the Sahel to cope with the consequences of this pandemic, in particular its implications on food security, transhumant livestock farming, pressure on natural resources and cross-border trade flows. It is therefore, important to promote the adoption of an approach where communities in general, and women and youth (who are the majority in rural areas and who are essential in the production and processing of agricultural, forestry and pastoral products) in particular, will be central to the process of creating goods and services and generating wealth. This will ensure the improvement of the productivity of the land and its water resources, the possibility of creating jobs and wealth around specific sectors without forgetting the plants used by rural populations to fight against diseases (e.g malaria,), through the promotion of the local pharmacopoeia, particularly the cultivation of appropriate medicinal plants.

UNEP, as the Implementing Agency of this project, will consider the project in the current dynamic of "Rebuilding the post-pandemic world, better". This will be through the the Re-examining, retool, accelerating UNEP work on: i) Green Jobs: Towards decent work in a sustainable, low - carbon world (UNEP, ILO, IOE, ITUC, 2008); ii) Global Green New Deal (2009); iii) Green Economy and iv) Sustainable Consumption and Production.

Risk description	Criticality (1 to 5)[1]	Potential impacts	Anticipation measures, mitigation
Poor coordination (national, supranational)	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dispersion of efforts and the blockages in the implementation ▪ Dilution of impacts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Launch workshop for stakeholder identification and engagement. ◦ Formal meetings included in the Agenda. ◦ Use of remote work technologies and supports. ◦ Improving institutional communication. ◦ Improved communication between the different actors by supporting regional steering committee meetings but also at national level by working closely with the National Focal Points to ensure national GGW Alliance are really functional.

Risk description	Criticality (1 to 5)[1]	Potential impacts	Anticipation measures, mitigation
Reluctance of financial partners	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Results-Resources mismatch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Efforts to mobilize additional resources through the opportunities identified during the assessment but also by contributing to the start up implementation of the resource mobilisation strategy and access to funding mechanisms. Communication and success-sharing strategy. Financial efforts of national and supranational entities by acting on the announced cofinancing by countries and partners.
Limited capacity of local / technical institutions to support vulnerable communities in terms of adaptation	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Break between institutions and communities Potential of the under-exploited project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity building of local institutions based on the outcome of the capacity needs assessment to be conducted under output 1.1.2 of component 1. Promotion of Citizen Control of Public Action – This will build on the findings in line with output 3.1.1.
Poor access to resources (especially land) for women and young people / conflicts over resources	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced chances of entrepreneurship for vulnerable groups of women and young people Social capital under strain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building on the identified innovative practices as result of output 2.1.1, the project will promote proven experiences to promote access. Targeted investment in support of women and youths identified in output 2.1.2. Emerging opportunities which promote access identified through output 2.1.3 will be rendered public and facilitation done to promote that access. Information on Partnership opportunities identified in output 3.1.1 and which will facilitate resources access will be available to all stakeholders.
Climatic disturbances (drought, flood)	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delay and disruption in implementation Blocking long-term visions by the Emergency and Humanitarian 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identified innovative practices, emerging opportunities and partnerships respectively in output 2.1.1, 2.1.3 and 3.1.1 will consider adaptation to climate risk will be promoted. Landscape approach as opportunity for investments will be promoted as model for climate smart option.
Insecurity in certain hot spot areas	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cancellation or delay in the delivery of certain products 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunities for partnership and investments in favour of security building identified in various project outputs will help to mitigate the security risk. The capacity building plan to be developed will include a good part of security considerations measures in developmental projects in Sahel. The institutional arrangement in favour of large scale investment for transformational changes in Sahel will give due consideration to security component.
COVID-19 Persistence	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disruption and delay in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All the project outputs will be delivered under the condition that the recovery from

Risk description	Criticality (1 to 5)[1]	Potential impacts	Anticipation measures, mitigation
		implementation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduction of the social and economic benefits of the project 	COVID 19 will be effective and mitigation measures will be included if the pandemic disease will persists.

[1] 1 Weak, 5 Strong (Proxy for Force impact * Probability)

6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination

Describe the institutional arrangement for project implementation. Elaborate on the planned coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.

UN Environment Programme - GEF Implementing Agency: UN Environment Programme (UNEP) will implement the project through its Ecosystems Division, and will be responsible for overall project supervision to ensure consistency with GEF and UNEP policies and procedures. UNEP will provide guidance on linkages with related UNEP and GEF-funded activities. UNEP will also monitor implementation of the activities undertaken during the execution of the project, including the overall coordination to ensure that the project is in line with UNEP Medium-Term Strategy, its Program of Work (PoW) and GEF 7 programming direction and policies. More specifically, UNEP shall provide project oversight to ensure that GEF policies and criteria are adhered to and that the project meets its objectives and achieves expected outcomes efficiently and effectively. Project supervision is entrusted to the UNEP / GEF Task Manager and Fund Management Officer. UNEP will bring to bear its vast scientific and empirical experience of critical relevance to the objectives of the project. UNEP will be providing technical support in the project and expertise in coordinating the development of environmental policy consensus through sharing experiences of its other projects being supported by GEF or other agencies. As the GEF Agency for this project, UNEP will provide a platform for a collaborative partnership between national and international organizations which will bring the best available expertise in science and knowledge from the scientific community to partners who are working at the development interface at the national level.

Execution:

To support this partnership platform and contribute in the building the coordination capacity and efficient delivery of projects and initiatives of the Panafrican Agency of the GGW, UNEP Ecosystems Division, through the Terrestrial Ecosystems Unit (TEU), will locate in Mauritania, at the Headquarter of the Agency, a Project Manager (PM) at P4 level fully funded as Agency Cofinancing with 50% of his/her time devoted to this project. The PM should be in position to engage with senior officials of the Agency and the Member States and will coordinate the work executing partners described below and work directly to support the Agency in the delivery of Component 2. The PM will be supported by an Associate Project Officer (APO) at P2 level based in Mauritania to support the Monitoring and Evaluation of the Project and to work directly with the UNEP Funds Management Officers in charge of the project to ensure a timely reporting and funds transfer to executing partners. The APO will be recruited by the project and located in the Agency Office together with the PM. The PM and APO will act as Project Management Unit (PMU). The PMU will serve as the critical link between the UNEP as the Implementing Agency and the project partners, assuming the lead of thematic areas (Panafrican Agency; Secretariat of UN Decade for Ecosystem Restoration and UNEP Africa Office) and the different national, regional and international partners engaged in project activities. The PMU will ensure project planned activities are adequately executed and that lessons learned are shared among sites and within national committees; providing visibility of the project at national and international levels. Also, the PMU will be responsible for ensuring adequate communication of information to all project partners.

Project Executing Partners: The project will work with three (3) partners each assuming leadership on a thematic area of one of the components. UNEP Ecosystems Division will sign with each of these executing partners, an Agreement for the execution of the respective components. These Executing Partners will include:

- i) **Panafrican Agency of the Great Green Wall (PAAGGW).** The Agency will take the lead in the execution of component 2 of the project. The Agency was created on June 17, 2010 during the first meeting of the Conference of Heads of States and Governments of Sahelo-Saharan countries held in N'Djamena, Republic of Chad among Sahelo Saharian States: Republic of Burkina Faso, Republic of Djibouti, State of Eritrea, Federal and Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Republic of Mali, Islamic Republic of Mauritania, Republic of Niger, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Republic of Senegal, Republic of Sudan, Republic of Chad, setting up an Organization named PAAGGW. The PAAGGW is an intergovernmental organization designed under the auspices of the African Union and the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD). PAAGGW has the international legal capacity and autonomy of operation. Its objective is to implement the GGWI in the members States in order to fight against the drawbacks of climate change and desertification as well as loss of biodiversity, to yield high positive socio economic impacts on populations and to ensure sustainable management of natural resources and integrated development within target desert zones. The PAAGGW main tasks include: planning, coordination,

monitoring, evaluation and mobilization of financial resources, for implementation of the Great Green Wall activities. It has the international legal capacity and autonomy of operation. The Agency will collaborate closely with UNCCD Secretariat as lead to take stock of the Assessment conducted by the Global Mechanism to deliver on the output 2.1.1.

- ii) **National Agencies/Coordinations/Focal Points of the GGWI:** The Great Green Wall General Directors or Focal Points in each country will play the role of Project Focal Point, who will serve as the liaison persons between the Panafrican Agency of The Great Green Wall and the project with regard to recruitment of national consultants, stakeholders consultations and between the project technical partners and relevant national institutions with regards to technical activities in the respective pilot countries. The National GGWI structures will facilitate as necessary the project execution with the partners and will ensure that the project fits into national development and reform agendas.
- iii) **UNCCD Secretariat – Global Mechanisms:** They will be an executing partner of the project and will be involved in all the project outputs as a key partner. In collaboration with the PAAGGW, they will support delivery of the component 2 outputs of the project and will take the lead particularly on the delivery of output 2.1.1. This decision is based on the particular role the UNCCD bodies are playing in the implementation of the GGWI. The two Convention bodies have a global mandate of coordinating and supporting the UNCCD Convention implementation including the Land Degradation Neutrality. The Global Mechanism (GM) of the UNCCD implemented a flagship initiative under the GGW called FLEUVE. The project was financed by the European Commission in the amount of about seven million Euro, and was implemented from 2014-19. The GM of the UNCCD is also supporting the development of sustainable value chains, where it is working with the private sector who guarantee purchase of dryland products in the Sahel. This leads to the creation of land-based jobs for thousands of rural women and the youth in the Sahel.

The GM is simultaneously implementing a project of EUR 1.2 million grant from the Irish Government in support of the GGW. This work is based on two pillars: (i) the elaboration of a “State of the Great Green Wall” Landmark Report, which will provide a big picture overview and authoritative analysis to assess the state of the Great Green Wall, a decade after it was launched; (ii) Development of a portfolio of transformative projects along the Great Green Wall for future donor funding.

The UNCCD has launched a public awareness campaign on the GGW, called "Growing a World Wonder." The campaign aims to boost global awareness of the initiative in public spheres, policy debates, as well as media and cultural sectors with a clear view towards inspiring long-term public and private investment in the initiative. The campaign aims to inspire a global popular movement to deliver this urgent African-led dream by 2030. It centers on the

core narrative that the GGW is an urgent symbol of hope in the face of the greatest challenges faced by mankind this century from climate change to food security, migration and resource-driven conflict. It is a compelling example of man and nature working together to create a unique legacy – a new world wonder for the next generation. The campaign has already reached millions of people through mass media outreach, virtual reality, high-level events and civil society involvement. Among the future highlights is the release of the Great Green Wall documentary produced in collaboration with an Oscar nominated filmmaker Fernando Meirelles and Malian singer Inna Modja. Based on the above experiences, UNCCD Secretariat together with Global Mechanism (GM) will lead the delivery of the output 2.1.1 related to documenting innovative practices given due consideration to women and the youth with potential for scaling-up and achieving LDN. The delivery of this output will rely mostly on the current GM work on assessment of the impacts of previous intervention on GGWI.

- iv) **UNEP Africa Office:** It will ensure the thematic lead for component 1. Given its convening power in the coordination of environmental issues in the region through its mandate and host of the Africa Ministerial Conference. UNEP Africa Office represents UNEP and coordinates its work in Africa. The Office hosts the Secretariat of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), which was established in 1985 following a conference of African ministers of environment held in Cairo, Egypt. The Office works to ensure the effective and efficient delivery of interventions in response to regional, sub-regional and national needs. UNEP Africa Office also ensures better coherence and coordination in the effective delivery of environmental capacity-building and technical support at all levels in response to country needs and priorities. UNEP's presence in Africa assists countries, sub-regions and regions to work towards an integrated delivery of projects and programs - achieved through global consensus and policy coherence on global agendas and environmental sustainability.

UNEP's work in Africa revolves around UN Environment's seven thematic programs: climate change, disasters and conflicts, ecosystems management, environmental governance, chemicals and waste, resource efficiency and environment under review. UNEP works through partnerships throughout the region to: (a) implement national environment policies; (b) implement United Nations Development Frameworks; (c) implement multilateral environmental agreements; (d) develop local capacity through information sharing and best practices; and (e) enhance dialogues, discussions and forums to foster increased awareness of views and solutions on environmental issues. African Member States benefit from UN Environment's regional presence and delivery of the organization's program of work. UNEP's achievements represent the collective efforts of UN Environment and partners, government institutions and ministerial forums, non-governmental agencies, regional economic communities, UN agencies, major groups and stakeholders, the private sector, local authorities and regional centers of excellence

The Secretariat for the UN Decade of Ecosystems Restoration (through the Terrestrial Ecosystem Unit): The Secretariat will take the lead on Component 3 of the project related to the Convening relevant stakeholders to launch shared vision for the GGWI and Sahel region”. This correspond to the core of the activities of the Core Team of the Decade and its contribution to the execution of the project component 3. These roles will include: i) **Coordination and Dialogue.** In cooperation with partners including Global Landscapes Forum (jointly founded in 2013 by UNEP, World Bank and Centre for International Forestry Research) the Decade has an established and tested structure to facilitate global, regional, national and local dialogues between many stakeholders and across silos. GLF is the world’s largest landscape management knowledge platform. The aim is to bring many fragmented initiatives and stakeholders together in dialogue on lessons learned, analysis and cooperation. A new and decentralized version of the Global Landscapes Forum, called GLFx, has been designed to support local groups and communities; ii) **Communication platform.** Based on a ‘New Power’^[1] approach, the decade is in cooperation with private sector establishing a communication and dialogue platform, which will facilitate meeting points between local and global groups, support and further strengthen a youth movement, match initiatives with funding, prepare and make available good practise, guidelines and lessons learned. Led by UNEP and FAO, the platform will be able to draw on UN Decade partners like IUCN, World Bank, IUCN and World Economic Forum; iii) **Private sector engagement.** Engagement of private sector and private funding is a major aim of the Decade and seen as a precondition for success. Pipeline preparation, match-making and PPP are key priorities of [the Decade Strategy](#). World Economic Forum is thus a core partner, and the decade will draw on existing UNEP facilities like the UNEP Finance Initiative; The Restoration Initiative (with IUCN and FAO), and the Restoration Seed Capital Facility. Dialogues are ongoing to engage the IFC and the World Bank, as well as with numerous potential private sector investors. The Great Green Wall is the major Flagship for the Decade on Restoration and for UNEP. UNEP, UNCCD and FAO are leading an effort to prepare a UN Action Plan for cooperation between DFI’s (WB, IFC and AfDB), UN organisations including IFAD, UNDP, WFP and others on the Great Green Wall. UNEP are also involved in environmental screening activities and project development in Mali with UNDP and MINUSMA and at regional level with WB. These initiatives seek to build bridge between environment/climate consideration and security consideration in livelihood development. UNEP is part of UN security mechanism. These activities will be coordinated closely with the current GEF programme. FAO is engaged in several projects related to GGW and in building local capacity; iv) **Monitoring.** FAO is in cooperation with many partners and based on existing system developing a system and the capacity to monitor and report on progress in ecosystem restoration. Further, UNEP and FAO are involved in monitoring and reporting on Financial flow towards ecosystem restoration. Both agencies are also central to supporting the monitoring of ongoing efforts such as the Africa Restoration 100 (AFR 100) initiative as part of the Bonn Challenge.

The above described partner organizations will respectively lead the activities of the components 2, 1 and 3 in close collaboration with the PMU. Each of these organizations will work with the PMU to develop Annual Work Plans for their respective component. They will directly report to the PMU on the technical activities and financial expenditures. These reports will need to be validated by the PMU. Through the PMU, the partners will also work with the Regional Steering Committee described below:

Project Steering Committee (PSC): The African Union Summit Decisions Assembly / AU / Dec.137 (VIII) and EX.CL/Dec. 465 (XIV), through which the Heads of States and Government of the African Union mandated the African Union Commission to facilitate and coordinate the implementation of the GGWSSI and to report regularly on the implementation to the AU Summit. A Regional Steering Committee meeting was put in place by the AUC. The main objective of the Steering Committee meeting amongst others is to look at the current status of implementation of the GGWSSI, provide a general orientation for future activities and review GGWSSI strategic documents, among others. This biennial meeting brings together the principal stakeholders involved in the implementation of the GGWSSI to ensure synergies, harmonization, and sharing of experiences amongst stakeholders. This GEF project will use this existing committee as a steering and coordinating body of the project. Given the necessity to have the project outputs ready for partners, the Committee will exceptionally meet twice during the lifetime of the project. The first meeting will focus on clarifying the project objective and on ensuring that synergy and complementarity are built among the current GGWI stakeholders. The second meeting will aim at validating project output and draw a road map for partners for the implementation of the GGWI with due consideration of the project recommendations and other partners perspective. For the two sessions envisaged by the project, the co-Chairpersonship will be assured by AU and UNEP.

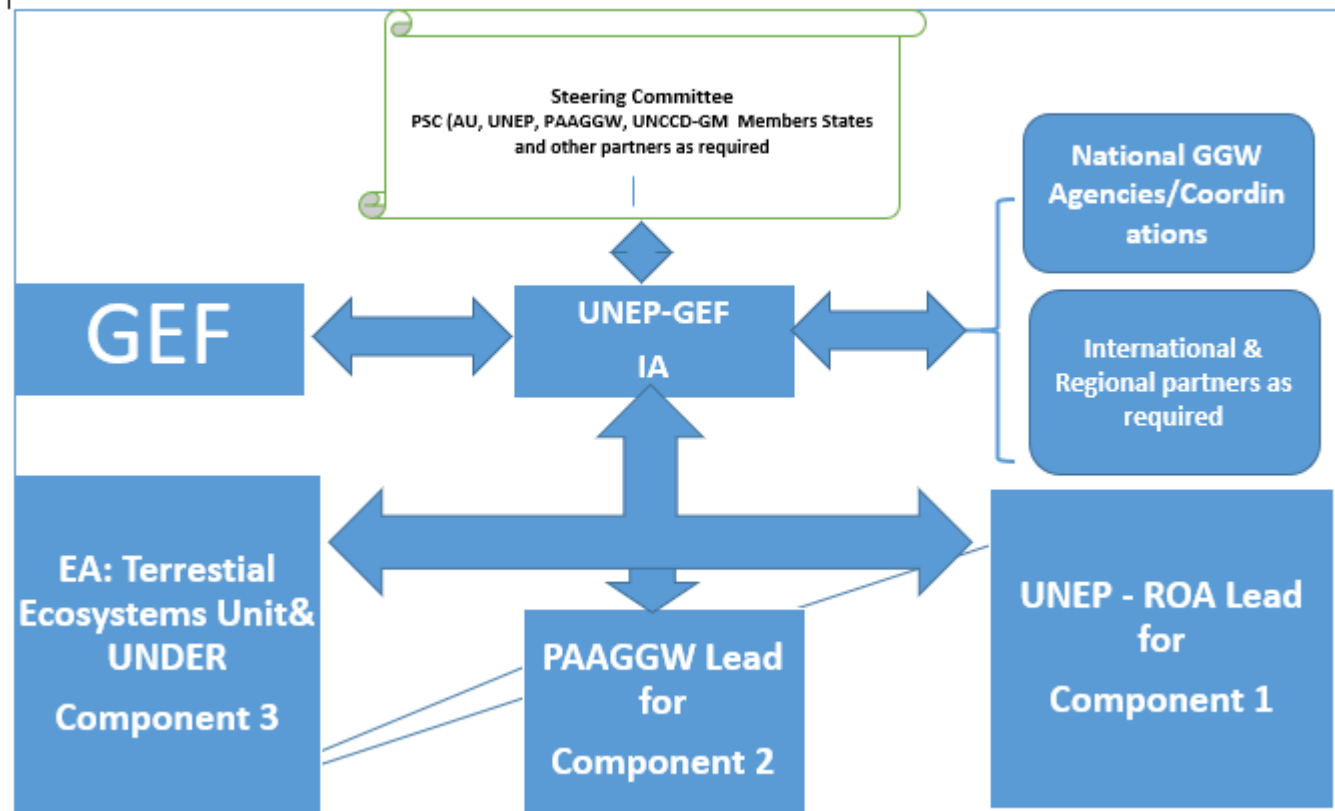
Project Evaluations: In-line with UNEP's Evaluation Policy and the GEF's Monitoring and Evaluation Policy, the project will be subject to a Terminal Evaluation. Additionally, a Mid-Term Review will be commissioned and launched by UNEP before the project reaches its mid-point. If project is rated as being at risk, a Mid-Term Evaluation will be conducted by the Evaluation Office instead of a MTR. The review will include all parameters recommended by the GEF Evaluation Office for terminal evaluations and will verify information gathered through the GEF tracking tools, as relevant. The review will be carried out using a participatory approach whereby parties that may benefit or be affected by the project will be consulted. Such parties were identified during the stakeholder analysis (see sections A3. Stakeholders above). The project Steering Committee will participate in the mid-term review and develop a management response to the evaluation recommendations along with an implementation plan. It is the responsibility of UNEP's Task Manager to monitor whether the agreed recommendations are being implemented.

The Evaluation Office will be responsible for the Terminal Evaluation (TE) and will liaise with the Task Manager and Executing Agency(ies) throughout the process. The TE will provide an independent assessment of project performance (in terms of relevance, effectiveness and efficiency), and determine the likelihood of impact and sustainability. It will have two primary purposes: (i) to provide evidence of results to meet accountability requirements, and (ii) to promote learning, feedback, and knowledge sharing through results and lessons learned among UNEP, the GEF, executing partners and other stakeholders. The direct costs of the evaluation will be charged against the project evaluation budget. The Terminal Evaluation will be initiated no earlier than six months prior to the operational completion of project activities and, if a follow-on phase of the project is envisaged, should be completed prior to

completion of the project and the submission of the follow-on proposal. Terminal Evaluations must be initiated no later than six months after operational completion.

The draft Terminal Evaluation report will be sent by the Evaluation Office to project stakeholders for comments. Formal comments on the report will be shared by the Evaluation Office in an open and transparent manner. The project performance will be assessed against standard evaluation criteria using a six-point rating scheme. The final determination of project ratings will be made by the Evaluation Office when the report is finalised and further reviewed by the GEF Independent Evaluation Office upon submission. The evaluation report will be publicly disclosed and may be followed by a recommendation compliance process.

The project organigram is presented below:



Links to other GEF and non-GEF interventions: The project is designed to add value to existing (past and present) investments and policies for SLM and to guide future investments. For this reason, the project will closely coordinate with all relevant actors, as far as resources allow. As indicated in the baseline section, various bilateral and multilateral stakeholders are conducting separate initiatives on the use of technology and methods in assessment and evaluation of investments in natural resources and agricultural sector investments. The AU established GGWI Steering Committee which constitutes a platform for stakeholder engagement in the project. For instance, the project will work closely with the official structures of the GGW in order to enable coordination between actors, particularly at the regional level. Existing formal and informal mechanisms for coordination of the GGWI will be used as a channel for the project to engage with a wide range of regional and national stakeholders, including GEF and non-GEF projects. The project will work closely with the following partners and projects:

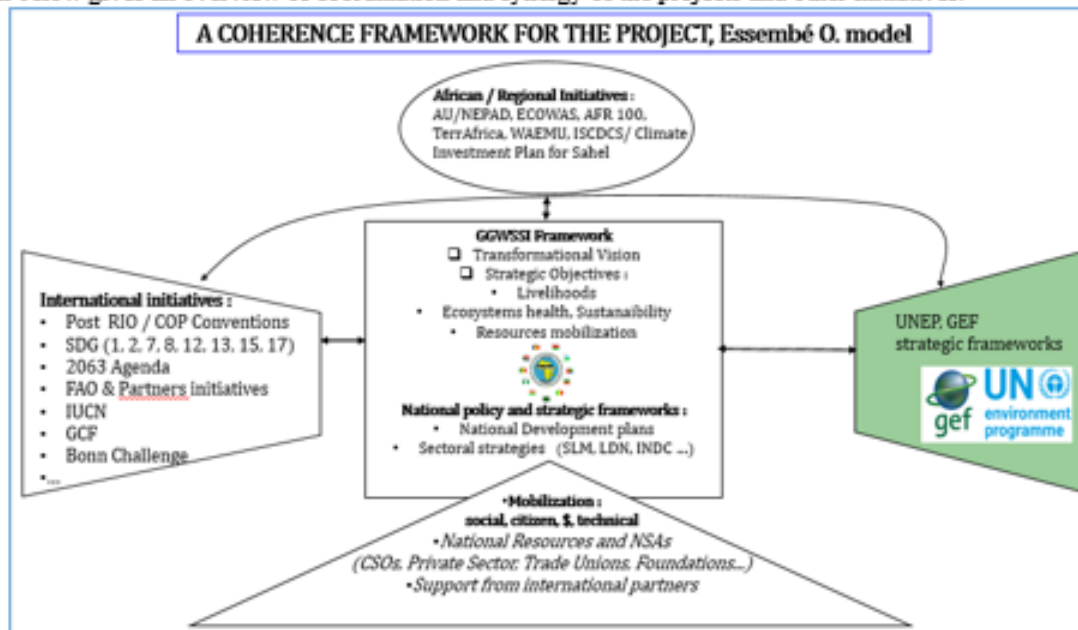
- **Green Climate Fund Projects and Initiatives:** The GCF is currently preparing a major programme (Umbrella programme) for strengthening the climate change adaptation capacities of populations of the GGW. Furthermore, many GCF projects are underway in the region (e.g. the facility to scale up investments in West Africa for solar energy; Integrated development and adaptation to climate change programme in the Niger Basin; contributing universal access to electricity in sub-Saharan countries through the scaling up of investments in renewable energies; and the project to promote improved stoves for reducing climate impacts)
- **UNCCD / Global Mechanism initiatives:** The Secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification and the Global Mechanism have been engaged in an evaluation process of the Great Green Wall since the creation of the initiative. This assessment will help GGW and PAAGGW countries to measure progress, learn lessons and better prepare for the next cycle (2021-2025) of the Great Wall implementation strategy.
- **European Union Projects:** The European Union (EU) provides multifaceted support to countries through support for the development of policies and strategies, programs and projects in various fields such as poverty reduction, climate change, economy and job creation, including green jobs, peace and security, migration etc. The new programming cycle of the European Union (2021-2027) offers an opportunity to strengthen complementarities and synergies among the EU and the GEF and GCF-funded projects in the region during the lifetime of the proposed project. For the Sahel region, EU initiatives include: (i) the Sahel Alliance which covers 10 countries in the Sahel region. In 2019, the Alliance defined a portfolio of 730 projects for a total amount of 11 billion euros of investment by 2022 to meet the security and development challenges of the Sahel; (ii) the European Union partnership program with the G5 Sahel countries. This program aims not only to strengthen the defence capacities of the Sahel countries but also to support development actions; (iii) European Development Fund projects (2014-2020) which aims to support countries in various areas of development including rural development; food and nutritional security, strengthening resilience to climate change.
- **The African Union - United Nations Framework Agreement for the implementation of the SDGs 2030 and the Agenda 2063.** In January 2018, the African Union and the United Nations signed a Framework Agreement aiming at strengthening partnership for the concerted and effective implementation

of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Agenda 2063. The latter defines Africa's aspirations and priorities for inclusive growth and sustainable development, based on optimizing the use of the continent's resources for the benefit of all Africans.

- **The United Nations Decade for Ecosystem Restoration coordinated by UNEP and FAO:** The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed in March 2019 the period 2021-2030, the United Nations decade for ecosystem restoration. The actions to be carried out should be built on existing initiatives through flagship programmes benefiting from political support, developing technical and scientific capacities of countries, and mobilizing public and private resources for effective restoration of ecosystems around the world.
- **The Great Green Wall strategy implemented by PAAGGW:** The current strategy (2016 - 2020) adopted by the 11 countries of the PAAGGW is based on the vision of ensuring the transformation of rural areas by installing levers of socio-economic development essential for the creation of poles of economic emergence by 2020 which will be engines of local development, and ultimately rural poles of production and sustainable development in 2025.
- **CILSS projects and programs:** The Inter-State Committee for Drought Control (CILSS) through its three entities (Agrhymet Center, Sahel Institute and Executive Secretariat) is implementing a number of regional Sahelian projects which are relevant to this project.
- **FAO's projects:** Of particular importance for the project is the Boosting Restoration, Income, Development, Generating Ecosystem Services (BRIDGES). The idea is to stimulate South-South cooperation between Turkey and GGW and in arid regions around the world. Its main objective to support Eritrea, Mauritania and Sudan in the fight against land degradation and desertification through sustainable management of their natural resources and the restoration of degraded forests and landscapes.
- **ECOWAS Program Agro-Ecology:** The programme objective is to support the transformation of agriculture and promote emergence, adoption and dissemination of good practices of sustainable agriculture and agroecology at the household level and management models in favour of the adoption focusing primary value chain including rice, maize, cassava and millet/sorghum. The 23 million Euro program will be financed by EU, AFD and other donors. The GEF project will be instrumental in identifying investment opportunities for this program in the GGW region
- **UE-IFAD-CIRAD/IRD - FAIR Sahel Project-** Fostering an Agroecological Intensification to improve farmers' Resilience in Sahel. The objective is to define the role of research in order for the institutional, political and technical actors to have necessary knowledge to support the organization and creation of an enabling condition for AgroEcological integration.
- **NGO - Tree Aid** - Tree Aid participates in the implementation of 17 land restoration and reforestation projects in the Sahel countries, including 4 GGW states: Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Mali and Niger. To date, Tree Aid's interventions represent more than 1.2 million trees planted and more than 29,580 hectares of restored land and forest. More than 1.6 million vulnerable people in rural areas, including women and children, have directly benefited from Tree Aid activities thanks to improved legislation, access to and management of forests, resilience to change and income from income-generating activities. In addition, around 126,000 farmers have been trained in SLM techniques, including ANR and GRN, and in best harvesting practices for Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs). The project will learn from this initiative and explore scaling up options in other GGW countries.

- **SOS Sahel** - SOS Sahel activities are part of its objectives, contributing to reforestation, promotion of sustainable agricultural practices, improvement of access to water and support of countries in the fight against desertification. In this context, the NGO has been involved in 6 projects in 4 GGW countries, namely: Burkina Faso; Chad; Mali; and Senegal. In total, SOS Sahel's interventions contributed to the production of more than 2.9 million seedlings / plants, to the reforestation of 10,845 ha and to the restoration of 10,143 ha of land. In addition, over 100,000 people have directly benefited from SOS Sahel's activities through the development of agro-sylvo-pastoral production systems and increased productivity, using SLM practices.

The diagram below gives an overview of coordination and synergy of the projects and other initiatives.



[1] NEW POWER: THE KEY TO UNDERSTANDING THE 21ST CENTURY. <https://thisisnewpower.com/the-idea/>

7. Consistency with National Priorities

Describe the consistency of the project with national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions from below:

NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc.

- National Action Plan for Adaptation (NAPA) under LDCF / UNFCCC
- National Action Program (NAP) under UNCCD
- ASGM NAP (Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining) under Mercury
- Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA) under Minamata Convention
- National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (NBSAP) under UNCBD
- National Communications (NC) under UNFCCC
- Technology Needs Assessment (TNA) under UNFCCC
- National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA) under UNCBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD
- National Implementation Plan (NIP) under POPs
- Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)
- National Portfolio Formulation Exercise (NPFE) under GEFSEC
- Biennial Update Report (BUR) under UNFCCC
- Others

The project will contribute to bridging the knowledge gaps and science priorities as established in National Action Programs to Combat Desertification and in National GGWI strategies, which are closely aligned with the 10-Year Strategy of the UNCCD. It will contribute to strengthening implementation of National voluntary LDN targets as established under the GEF-funded LDN Target Setting Initiative. The

project addresses gaps related to lack of scientific monitoring tools of the Land Degradation identified at the first GGWI meeting in Dakar, in 2016. The project will also contribute to understanding the potential synergies between the Rio Conventions, and will provide evidence to support the identification of low-cost options for simultaneously addressing concerns of land degradation, biodiversity conservation, and climate change. Evidence generated by the project will be available to influence the revision of LDN Voluntary National targets, NAPs, NAPAs and NBSAPs, as well as evolving GGWI strategies at the national and regional levels.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes the importance of the conservation and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems (Goal 15) and of reversing land degradation and achieving Land Degradation Neutrality (target 15.3). This target is at the heart of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). Sustainable land management is also central to many African Countries' Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. The project is also fully in line with Aichi biodiversity targets 14 and 15 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, 2011-2020, which seek to enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services. At the global level, the proposed project is closely linked to key objectives of the UNCCD. In particular, the proposed project is in alignment with the UNCCD National Action Plan (NAP). The NAP-UNCCD is a key guiding document which provides the structures, and guides the process and defines the elements to strengthen environmental capacities, enhance public awareness and mobilize active participation in order to better manage the natural resources, combat land degradation, and desertification and mitigate the effects of drought. In general, the country UNCCD NAPs have four main strategic objectives: (1) to improve the living conditions of the affected population; (2) to improve the condition of affected ecosystems; (3) to generate global benefits through the effective implementation of the Convention; (4) to mobilize resources to support the implementation of the Convention through building effective partnerships between national and international actors.

This project is in line with both regional and national GEF strategic programmes. The project will promote Strategic Objective 2 of the GEF 7 LD FA. The global environment and development objectives of the proposed project are consistent with the vision of the TerrAfrica framework and the Strategic Investment Program (SIP) for Sustainable Land management in Sub-Saharan Africa, which is to prevent and reduce the impact of land degradation on ecosystem services. The expected outcomes of this project are therefore in line with the TerrAfrica Business Planning Framework (Activity Line 3, Objectives 6 and 7), especially interventions to assist countries to align and harmonize SLM investments.

The project will strengthen the commitment of each of the participating countries in the implementation of global and regional frameworks, such as the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Change Change (UNFCCC), the

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the African Union's New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) for its Environment Action Plan (EAP) and its Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). The project is consistent with the UNCCD strategic plan and the framework for implementing the Convention, contributing to each of its strategic objectives.

Furthermore, the AFR100 (Initiative for the Restoration of African Forest Landscapes) is a regional effort with the objective of restoring 100 million hectares of deforested and degraded landscapes in Africa by 2030. AFR100 is committed to accelerating restoration to improve food security, increase resilience and mitigation in the face of climate change and combating poverty in rural areas. It is in accordance with the political declaration approved by the African Union in October 2015 for the creation of the African Initiative for resilient landscapes (Africa Resilient Landscapes Initiative, ARLI). It complements the African Landscapes Action Plan (ALAP) and the broader African Union program for climate change, biodiversity and land degradation (Climate Change, Biodiversity and Land Degradation, LDBA). AFR100 contributes to the fulfillment of the national restoration and sustainable development commitments made by the Bonn Challenge and the New York Declaration on Forests, among many other objectives. The initiative also contributes directly to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Climate Agreement. It draws on the experience and results of the TerrAfrica partnership and the corresponding efforts to restore landscapes.

In the same vein, the project will make its contribution to the Climate Investment Plan for the Sahel Region (PIC-RS). The PIC-RS remains a framework which can make it possible to "contribute to the mobilization of the various actors for a better synergy of climate actions".

Adopted in February 2019 by the Summit of Heads of State of the Region, the PIC-RS is planned to be implemented over the period 2019-2030 and sets for itself as an overall objective to "contribute to the planetary effort of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and increasing the adaptation and resilience of the Sahel region to climate change." It is therefore, designed as a specific response and shared long-term vision for the resilience of the populations and ecosystems of the Sahel Region.

The PIC-RS is based on specific objectives related to: i) reinforcing the environmental action of mitigation of GHG emissions and adaptation / resilience to climate change; ii) improving the availability of water resources for human consumption and the development of economic activities; iii) ensuring the sustainability of agricultural and pastoral production systems in the face of the effects of climate change; iv) promoting sustainable energy production, transmission and consumption options; (v)

strengthen information, awareness and advocacy capacities on climate change; and vi) strengthening institutional capacities and improve environmental governance.

The Subprogramme 3: Healthy and productive ecosystems of UNEP Programme of Work for the Biennium 2018 -2019 objective is “Marine, freshwater and terrestrial ecosystems are increasingly managed through an integrated approach that enables them to maintain and restore biodiversity, ecosystems’ long-term functioning and supply of ecosystem goods and services”. The two Expected Accomplishment of the Subprogramme include: **Expected Accomplishment (a)** The health and productivity of marine, freshwater and terrestrial ecosystems are institutionalized in education, monitoring and cross-sector and transboundary collaboration frameworks at the national and international levels and the **Expected Accomplishment (b)** Policymakers in the public and private sectors test the inclusion of the health and productivity of ecosystems in economic decision-making. The project is aligned to this Subprogramme 3 and all its 2 related Expected Accomplishments. This justifies clearly the comparative advantage of UNEP to take the lead in this project implementation as GEF Agency.

Developed in consultation with the Governments and national partners including the United Nations System (UNS) and the civil society, United Nations Development UNDAF documents of respective GGW countries represent UN's contribution to the national development strategies. The Theory of Change of the program is based on the assumption that the multidimensional poverty reduction for vulnerable populations, gender inequalities, and economic disparities including youth and women, and their resilience to the adverse effects of climate change, coupled with good democratic, judicial and security governance in the respect of human rights, will be ensured through the provision of decent and sustainable economic and employment opportunities, a better prevention of violent extremism, a sustainable management of natural resources and an improved access to renewable energies, the availability of quality public and judicial services in a context of demographic control, favorable political, security and social stability and availability of necessary resources.

8. Knowledge Management

Elaborate the "Knowledge Management Approach" for the project, including a budget, key deliverables and a timeline, and explain how it will contribute to the project's overall impact.

The GEF has been investing in specialized Knowledge and Learning from projects in several focal areas, developing knowledge hubs and platforms, communities of practice, distance learning and information sharing tools to facilitate learning and knowledge uptake, globally. This project will be another contribution to knowledge development and sharing. The project will collate information and set up the necessary platforms for SLM good practices, investment opportunities for transformational change and to guide future investments and monitor the impacts of those investments on ecological and socioeconomic conditions. The project will learn from the experiences of the initiatives of partners in the region, including those from GCF, FAO, IFAD, UNCCD, EU etc. The project will capitalize on the achievements of the projects mentioned above through consideration of lessons learned and further consultations with project teams. The focus of such extraction of lessons learned will, in particular, be on the comparing of tools and methodologies for assessing, monitoring and capacity building on SLM. The knowledge to be generated and managed by the project will respond to identified needs and demands, will comply with the capacities and resources of the participating stakeholders to assess land degradation trends and impacts monitoring.

The continuous improvement of knowledge and know-how, the harnessing of knowledge, and the sharing of experiences will be at the center of the activities of this GEF project. The ultimate goal of knowledge management is to increase the relevance and impact of interventions in the region. The objectives pursued are essentially of three types:

- Monitor and better understand the development dynamics of the region to adjust the strategic, political and programmatic goals, opportunities and needs of the region;
- Identify and disseminate good practices and models of integration that have proven to facilitate scaling up;
- Strengthen collaboration among actors for greater effectiveness and efficiency of interventions.

More concretely, a knowledge management platform will be set up which will allow the various players to have:

- A database on the monitoring of biophysical and socio-economic indicators as well as projects and programs in the area in order to better measure the transformations taking place in the region;
- A compendium of good practices and lessons learned in proven approaches, techniques, technologies and innovations. This compendium, which is continuously updated, will be produced on paper but also in digital storage and dissemination media using new information and communication technologies;
- A database on the carbon footprint of GGW actions as well as the monitoring of the countries' contributions to the NDCs (National Determined Contributions) in the climate change adaptation plan.

In addition, the knowledge management under this project will help strengthen and create learning and collaboration networks in different areas through:

- The organization of learning and collaboration fora. In the area of the GGW, meetings among actors will be organized to exchange experiences, on the success factors and difficulties of current practices, on the evidence of successes, on the lessons learned, on the possibilities of adoption or adaptation of good practices, on opportunities for collaboration in the implementation of certain practices. The “market of collaborations” during the fora will make it possible to identify the practices which can be the basis for collaboration in the scaling up by identifying the interested actors and the methods.
- The establishment of Communities of Practices (CoP) or networks of practitioners to share online reflections on issues or experiences and establish collaboration links. Electronic forums would be organized for this purpose, bringing together the members of the CoPs.

An annual evaluation of the knowledge management system will be carried out to take stock of it, draw lessons learned, reinforce what has been learned and correct shortcomings.

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

Describe the budgeted M and E plan

The project will follow UNEP standard monitoring, reporting and evaluation processes and procedures for GEF projects. The costed M & E Plan is in the table below. Reporting requirements and templates are an integral part of the UNEP legal instrument to be signed by the executing partners and UNEP.

Type of M&E activity	Responsible Parties	Budget from GEF	Budget co-finance	Time Frame
Inception Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Management Unit (PMU) • UNEP 	15,000	30,000	Within 2 months of project start-up
Inception Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PMU 	0		1 month after project inception meeting
Semi-annual Progress/ Operational Reports to UNEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Coordinator with inputs from partners 	2,000		Within 1 month of the end of reporting period i.e. on or before 31 January and 31 July

Type of M&E activity	Responsible Parties	Budget from GEF	Budget co-finance	Time Frame
Project Steering Committee meetings and National Steering Committee meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Coordinator • PMU • UNEP 	20,000	6,000	Once a year minimum
Reports of PSC meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Coordinator with inputs from partners 			Annually
PIR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Coordinator • PMU • UNEP 	0		Annually, part of reporting routine
Monitoring visits to GGW Countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Coordinator • PMU • UNEP 	15,000		As appropriate
Terminal Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNEP TM/ UNEP • Evaluation Office • PMU 	40,000		Within 6 months of end of project implementation
Project Final Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Coordinator with inputs from partners 	2,000		Within 2 months of the project completion date
Co-financing report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • project Coordinator and input from other co-financiers 	0	1,000	Within 1 month of the PIR reporting period, i.e. on or before 31 July

Type of M&E activity	Responsible Parties	Budget from GEF	Budget co-finance	Time Frame
Publication of Lessons Learnt and other project documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Coordinator with inputs from partners 	6,000	10,000	Annually, part of Semi-annual reports & Project Final Report
Total M&E Plan Budget		100,000	47,000	

10. Benefits

Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the project at the national and local levels, as appropriate. How do these benefits translate in supporting the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund) or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)?

This region does not present only challenges, it has enormous potential opportunities: considerable arable land resources, significant mineral resources (petroleum, natural gas, phosphates, gold, uranium, iron, etc.), immense livestock, marine and freshwater resources. The Saharo-Sahelian area has also significant surface water resources with numerous rivers and lakes (Niger, Gambia and Senegal rivers, Lake Chad, etc.) and the large underground water tables are among the largest aquifers on the continent. The potential for solar energy is huge. The Sahel has a sunshine of about 4300 h per year with the potential to generate more than 2200kWh / m² / year, clearly above the African average. Biodiversity (avian fauna, mammals, reptiles, insects, etc.) is rich and varied despite the great losses that the region has suffered.

It should be noted that efforts to restore land in many countries have led to a greening of certain areas, mainly due to the practice of assisted natural regeneration.

The socio-economic benefits of the project are multiple at various levels: regional, national and local. The project will contribute through greater complementarity and synergy of interventions carried out through other initiatives, in particular LDCF / SCCF. This greater coherence will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the activities with an increased impact for the benefit of the populations. The results will lead to the reinforcement of land restoration capacities and adaptation of populations to climate change. More broadly the project will contribute to the following socioeconomic and environmental medium and long term impacts.

- Promote comprehensive land-use planning to better target and scale-up integrated natural resource management, including practices for landscape restoration and increased resilience,
- Promote policies to increase tenure security and rights of Local Communities and Indigenous People, including pastoralists for harmonizing land use practices and reduction of conflict between resident and nomadic communities,
- Promote policy options to unlock market opportunities and innovative financing for diversified livelihoods of smallholder farmers and pastoralists, and
- Promote universal access to renewable energy and local carbon pathways for economic growth and development.

11. Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks ☐

Provide information on the identified environmental and social risks and potential impacts associated with the project/program based on your organization's ESS systems and procedures

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification*

PIF

CEO Endorsement/Approval

MTR

TE

Measures to address identified risks and impacts

Elaborate on the types and risk classifications/ratings of any identified environmental and social risks and impacts (considering the GEF ESS Minimum Standards) and any measures undertaken as well as planned management measures to address these risks during implementation.

The convergence and the synergy between the various initiatives in the implementation of the GGW, and the ownership by the target populations in each member State should make it possible to ensure greater achievements of the projects. However, there are risk factors that could slow down its execution. These include:

- the lack of political will from the member States. The project requires political and financial commitments of each of the member States at the right time and in accordance with planning process that will be defined;
- the situation of the political instability and the insecurity in the targeted areas of the GGW, local conflicts, land issues, political instability; and
- the possible lack of partnership or weaknesses in collaboration between the partners that could have negative repercussions on the general implementation schedule of project.

In addition, risks of overlap exist with other rural development projects or programs implemented or supported in the area of the GGW. The project will seek to work in synergy with other stakeholders, in particular the local services of other sectoral departments of governments of member States, the private sector, the G5 Sahel, the IOM, GCF, UNCCD, FAO, AFD the UNDP, etc.), to promote effective, complementary and synergy with an application of the principle of subsidiarity using the Regional Steering Committee as a common platform or adhoc working group.

The current socioeconomic context due to the influence by the COVID 19 outbreak is an important risk to be considered for this project due to the short term implementation period and expectations to generate results. According to the Secretary-General António Guterres, 31 March 2020: “Everything we do during and after this crisis must be with a strong focus on building more equal, inclusive and sustainable economies and societies that are more resilient in the face of pandemics, climate change, and the many other global challenges we face”. Like the vast majority of countries in

the world, the Sahelian zone is still experiencing the COVID-19 pandemic. The possible consequences on fragile economies and the precarious livelihoods of populations require anticipation in the choice of resilience strategies and measures to face this new global threat. Even if it disappears, the consequences of this pandemic will have a lasting impact on Sahelian communities and the various production systems. The potential for future outbreaks cannot also be ruled out. In this context, it is imperative to identify relevant support to enable the countries of the Sahel to cope with the consequences of this pandemic, in particular its implications on food security, transhumant livestock farming, pressure on natural resources and cross-border trade flows. It is therefore, important to promote the adoption of an approach where communities in general, and women and youth (who are the majority in rural areas and who are essential in the production and processing of agricultural, forestry and pastoral products) in particular, will be central to the process of creating goods and services and generating wealth. This will ensure the improvement of the productivity of the land and its water resources, the possibility of creating jobs and wealth around specific sectors without forgetting the plants used by rural populations to fight against diseases (e.g malaria,), through the promotion of the local pharmacopoeia, particularly the cultivation of appropriate medicinal plants.

UNEP, as the Implementing Agency of this project, will consider the project in the current dynamic of “Rebuilding the post-pandemic world, better”. This will be through the the Re-examining, retool, accelerating UNEP work on: i) Green Jobs: Towards decent work in a sustainable, low - carbon world (UNEP, ILO, IOE, ITUC, 2008); ii) Global Green New Deal (2009); iii) Green Economy and iv) Sustainable Consumption and Production.

Risk description	Criticality (1 to 5)[1]	Potential impacts	Anticipation measures, mitigation
Poor coordination (national, supranational)	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dispersion of efforts and blockages in the implementation ▪ Dilution of impacts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Launch workshop for stakeholder identification and engagement. ◦ Formal meetings included in the Agenda. ◦ Use of remote work technologies and supports. ◦ Improving institutional communication. ◦ Improved communication between the different actors by supporting regional steering committee meetings but also at national level by working closely with the National Focal Points to ensure national GGW Alliance are really functional.
Reluctance of financial partners	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Results-Resources mismatch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Efforts to mobilize additional resources through the opportunities identified during the assessment but also by contributing to the start up implementation of the resource mobilisation strategy and access to funding mechanisms.

Risk description	Criticality (1 to 5)[1]	Potential impacts	Anticipation measures, mitigation
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Communication and success-sharing strategy. ◦ Financial efforts of national and supranational entities by acting on the announced cofinancing by countries and partners.
Limited capacity of local / technical institutions to support vulnerable communities in terms of adaptation	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Break between institutions and communities ▪ Potential of the under-exploited project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Capacity building of local institutions based on the outcome of the capacity needs assessment to be conducted under output 1.1.2 of component 1. ◦ Promotion of Citizen Control of Public Action – This will build on the findings in line with output 3.1.1.
Poor access to resources (especially land) for women and young people / conflicts over resources	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduced chances of entrepreneurship for vulnerable groups of women and young people ▪ Social capital under strain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Building on the identified innovative practices as result of output 2.1.1, the project will promote proven experiences to promote access. ◦ Targeted investment in support of women and youths identified in output 2.1.2. ◦ Emerging opportunities which promote access identified through output 2.1.3 will be render public and facilitation done to promote that access. ◦ Information on Partnership opportunities identified in output 3.1.1 and which will facilitate resources access will be available to all stakeholders.
Climatic disturbances (drought, flood)	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Delay and disruption in implementation ▪ Blocking long-term visions by the Emergency and Humanitarian 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Identified innovative practices, emerging opportunities and partnerships respectively in output 2.1.1, 2.1.3 and 3.1.1 will consider adaptation to climate risk will be promoted. ◦ Landscape approach as opportunity for investments will be promoted as model for climate smart option.
Insecurity in certain hot spot areas	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cancellation or delay in the delivery of certain products 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Opportunities for partnership and investments in favour of security building identified in various project outputs will help to mitigate the security risk. ◦ The capacity building plan to be developed will include a good part of security considerations measures in developmental projects in Sahel. ◦ The institutional arrangement in favour of large scale investment for transformational changes in Sahel will give due consideration to security component.
COVID-19 Persistence	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Disruption and delay in implementation ▪ Reduction of the social and economic benefits of the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ All the project outputs will be delivered under the condition that the recovery from COVID 19 will be effective and mitigation measures will be included if the pandemic disease will persists.

Risk description	Criticality (1 to 5)[1]	Potential impacts	Anticipation measures, mitigation
		project	

[1] 1 Weak, 5 Strong (Proxy for Force impact * Probability)

Supporting Documents

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title	Module	Submitted
Safeguard Risk Identification Form	CEO Endorsement ESS	

ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK (either copy and paste here the framework from the Agency document, or provide reference to the page in the project document where the framework could be found).

: **Project Results Framework**(either copy and paste here the framework from the Agency document, or provide reference to the page in the project document where the framework could be found).

Components, Outcomes and Outputs	Indicators	Reference	Target 18 months	Means of verification	Assumptions
Overall objective: Long term vision which takes stock of lessons learnt from past initiatives developed leading to institutional strengthening of the GGWI and mobilization of adequate investments for a resilient and sustainable Sahel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of political, institutional and harmonization measures in favour of the GGWI and for a sustainable and resilient Sahel Number of funding mechanism in support of economic transformation in GGW region 	Many initiatives and projects supported by donors in the GGWI but less harmonised and implemented by multitude of local partners	<p>Set of measures agreed by all stakeholders to ensure an operational institutional arrangement in support of GGW coordination and partnership</p> <p>Five investments models for integrated approach identified in existing initiatives taken into account experiences from different initiatives and available for investment mobilisation</p> <p>A portfolio of investment opportunities for transformational changes in GGW area</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Progress Reports Final Evaluation Technical Document 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Priority of investments granted to IGMVSS by States and technical and financial partners, public and private Easing of internal political tensions Stabilization of social peace in large regional / regional centers of tension High-Level Nationals Apply for IGMVSS Opportunities

			to serve as partnership platform with shared vision to support millions of people and communities working towards sustainable management and use of natural resources in Sahel		
Outcome 1.1. The GGWI governance and institutional capacity roadmap, capacity development plan, and resources mobilization and deployment strategy adapted at regional level during GGW High Level Meeting	Number of governance and institutional capacity Roadmap for a strengthened GGWI institutional framework adopted by the GGW High Level Meeting	0	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Regional Committee reportNew perspectives for restructuring and institutional functioning of the GGWDocument on the analysis and assessment of capacity development needs within the framework of GGWIA capacity development strategy and its implementation programOpportunities identified for immediate implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The different stakeholders of the GGWI collaboratieThe states agree to go for institutional reformEasing of internal political tensionsStabilization of social peace in large regional / regional centers of tensionHigh-Level Nationals support
	Number of GGWI Capacity Development Plans to support institional framework adopted by the GGW High Level Meeting and implemented	0	1		
	Number of Resource Mobilization and Deployment Strategies for the GGW to achieve LDN adopted by the GGW High Level Meeting and number of immediate opportunities for initial implementation identified	0	2		
Output 1.1.1. Roadmap for a strengthened GGWI governance and institutional framework, with due consideration of gender issues, is developed and submitted to the GGW High Level Meeting for adoption and implementation initiated					
Output 1.1.2. A Capacity Development Plan, with due consideration of gender issues, is prepared and implementation started focusing PAAGGW and national Focal points; environment conventions and prgrammes focal points synergy to support institutional framework and submitted to the GGW High Level Meeting for adoption					
Output 1.1.3. A Resource Mobilization and Deployment Strategy with due consideration of women and youths is developed for the GGWI to achieve LDN and submitted to the GGW High					

Level Meeting for adoption and immediate opportunities for initial implementation are identified					
Outcome 2.1.Targeted integrated landscape investments and monitoring models provide GGW Countries basis for transformational changes that spur economic growth of multiple benefits for people and the environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Availability of document and knowledge platform where innovative practices for integrated investment, targeted investment and monitoring and emerging opportunities including for private sector as models relevant to the GGWI are described	None	Innovative practices for integrated investments, targeted investment and emerging opportunities including for private as models documented and knowledge platform and monitoring developed, given due consideration to women and youths	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Report of good practice capitalisationReport on information and access modalities to targeted investmentData base on bankable projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Information holders agree to share their experiences, data and informationFunctional national monitoring and evaluation mechanismAvailability of experts at national and regional level to support development the relevant documents
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Availability of a portfolio of fundings opportunities to assist countries and partners to take advantage of funding opportunities to advance transformational change and number of strategic and quick result-oriented investments	None	A portfolio of funding opportunities which consider emerging opportunities from donors (e.g. GEF and GCF), on integrated approaches to advance systems transformation, including both horizontal and value chain dimensions.		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Number of countries and partners who develop initiatives and take advantage of funding opportunities during project period to advance transformational change	0	TBD at inception workshop		
Output. 2.1.1. A report documenting on innovative practices monitoring and Knowledge Management Platform is established based on review of knowledge platforms and databases such as WOCAT[1] and Terrafrica given consideration to possibility of immediate pilot implementation, women and the youth with potential for scaling-up and achieving LDN					
Output. 2.1.2. A report documenting targeted investments in existing initiatives as models for the integrated landscape approach is elaborated and disseminated to relevant stakeholders, and women and youth trained on ecological goods and services including renewable energy and their access to strategic and quick result-oriented investments facilitated.					
Output 2.1.3. A report on baseline information report on emerging opportunities, including those targeting women and the youth, for transformational change is produced and disseminated to relevant stakeholders and linking GGWI stakeholders to those opportunities initiated					
Outcome 3.1. Relevant GGWI stakeholders, including donors and	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Number of technical and financial partners engaged and capacited in the	0	At least 20 partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Report on partnership	Commitment of various stakeholders groups to reach

private sector are capacited and informed of flagship programs and increasingly willing to engage in financial support to the GGWI	<p>shared vision of GGWI and participating in a Cooperation Platform which the role of traditional funding mechanism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of countries, partners, private sector, using revised GGW strategy as a mean for resources mobilisation to finance in-countries activities 	0	At least 20 countries, partners and private sector use the revised GGW Strategy with identified entry points opportunities including flagship programs is available to serve basis for resources mobilisation	<p>opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report on synthesis document on priority area Report of private sector engagement Guidelines for countries on resources availability and mobilisation 	<p>agreement on common vision</p> <p>Commitment of the private sector to engage in the GGWI</p> <p>Countries made request for guidelines on resources mobilisation</p>
<p>Output 3.1.1. An advocacy program to help set up the coordination and partnership mechanism is developed and implementation started in collaboration with key stakeholders</p> <p>Output 3.1.2. A Synthesis document on priority areas and potential flagship programs for targeted donors support with due consideration of gender issues is elaborated and disseminated with relevant stakeholders</p> <p>Output 3.1.3. A blueprint for mobilizing private sector engagement in the GGWI is elaborated and disseminated taken into account risk assessment analysis and gender consideration</p> <p>Output 3.1.4. A Framework for countries to leverage resources for adaptation and resilience is established with due consideration of gender issues</p>					

[1] WOCAT : [World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies](#)

ANNEX B: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS (from GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF).

ANNEX C: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG). (Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:

The PPG reimbursement request will help UNEP to cover the cost already incurred for the expenses in the following table.

Project Preparation Activities Implemented	GETF / LDCF / SCCF Amount (\$)		
	Budgeted Amount	Amount Spent To date	Amount Committed
International Consultants	35,000	35,000	0
Documents Translation	5,000	5,000	0
Stakeholders consultations	5,662	0	5,662
Total	45,662	40,000	5,662

ANNEX D: CALENDAR OF EXPECTED REFLOWS (if non-grant instrument is used)

Provide a calendar of expected reflows to the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/CBIT Trust Funds or to your Agency (and/or revolving fund that will be set up)

ANNEX E: Project Map(s) and Coordinates

Please attach the geographical location of the project area, if possible.

ANNEX F: Project Budget Table

Please attach a project budget table.

See project budget as separate annex.

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