

# African Union Great Green Wall Initiative Strategy and Ten-Year Implementation Framework: *Ecosystem Restoration and Livelihoods Resilience (2024-2034)*

## SUMMARY BRIEF



### Strategic Intervention Axis 4: Leveraging existing efforts

#### BACKGROUND

The Great Green Wall Initiative (GGWI) is a flagship project of the African Union (AU), launched in 2007 to combat desertification and land degradation in the Sahel and Sahara regions. Initially, it was conceived as a narrow belt of trees stretching across Africa to halt the spread of the desert. However, the initiative has since evolved into a broader land restoration and sustainable development programme, aiming to revitalise degraded ecosystems, support agriculture, pastoralism, and forests, while improving livelihoods and resilience in affected communities.

Originally focused on 11 countries, the initiative has now expanded to include 25 additional nations from across Africa, with South Sudan, Kenya, and Uganda also expressing interest. Recognising the need for a more comprehensive and coordinated approach to land degradation, desertification and climate change, and cognisant of the need for its urgent revision, the African Union Commission (AUC) developed a revised strategy and ten-

year implementation framework. This new GGWI Strategy encourages an integrated and holistic approach to land rehabilitation and climate-resilient development among its Member States, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), Agencies and partners. It emphasises ecosystem restoration, climate resilience, and economic opportunities for smallholder farmers, pastoralists, and local communities, positioning itself as a transformative continent-wide solution for achieving land restoration at scale.

The revised GGWI Strategy is a ten-year strategic planning document (2024-2034) that defines the vision, specific objectives, intervention and action areas required to scale up land restoration and resilience building activities associated with agricultural, grazing, and forest landscapes across the African continent. The new GGWI Strategy drew upon the findings and key recommendations of the independent evaluations which have been conducted since its inception in 2012.<sup>1</sup>

**This brief presents Strategic Intervention Axis 4 of the new GGWI Strategy.**



1. **UNCCD. 2020.** The Great Green Wall implementation status and way ahead to 2030. Pan African Agency of the Great Green Wall and Government of Ireland.

**UNCCD. 2023.** Independent Evaluation of the GGW Accelerator. UNCCD.

**Transparency International. 2023.** Governance mapping and assessment of the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative.



## STRATEGIC FRAMING OF THE GGWI STRATEGY

The new GGWI Strategy comprises four strategic intervention axes, designed to support the achievement of the GGW vision and objectives. Within the GGWI Strategy, specific suggested priority actions are articulated for each of the intervention areas identified under Strategic Intervention Axes 1-4.

### Aspirations and objectives of the Strategy



#### VISION

By 2034, Africa's dry regions are transformed into socially, economically, and environmentally resilient and stable regions.



#### OVERALL OBJECTIVE

Enhance the resilience of communities, ecosystems, and economies in the African drylands by improving the living conditions of populations, improving the state and health of ecosystems, advocating and mobilising resources, strengthening institutional collaboration and promoting policy coherence.



#### SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

Promote locally led land planning, land restoration and resilience building initiatives and nature-based entrepreneurial and livelihood activities that improve the well-being and incomes of communities, as well as empower them, particularly women and youth.

Catalyse inclusion, alignment, cooperation and ownership of land restoration and resilience-building in related strategies, policies, programmes and plans.

Promote policy coherence, alignment and a common narrative in strategies, policies, programmes and plans.

Invest in, and scale up, nature-based practices and inclusive landscape approaches to sustainable land, water and biodiversity restoration and management to support resilient value chains.

Enhance Africa's capacity to mobilise resources at multiple scales.

Develop, invest in, and support, economic and environmental infrastructure facilitating the move to a green and circular economy.

Enhance the linkage and effective collaboration among community, practice, science, policy and private sector stakeholders fostering knowledge sharing and learning from experience and building upon a harmonised knowledge management system.

Encourage systems-oriented, cross-sectoral and coordinated decision-making and adaptive management environments that facilitate the integration of activities across all stakeholders, sectors and scales.



#### AXIS 1

Enhancing leadership, governance and political commitment



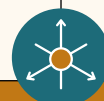
#### AXIS 2

Co-design and deliver pathways toward transformative restoration, resilience and development



#### AXIS 3

Enhancing the means of implementation for resilient landscape restoration



#### AXIS 4

Leveraging existing initiatives





## AXIS 4

### Leveraging existing initiatives

Strategic Intervention Axis 4 focuses on existing and upcoming efforts, initiatives and strategies that can be capitalised upon and that can readily contribute to GGW goals and objectives and with which the GGW should work closely for effective coordination and synergies. This axis maps the identified initiatives and strategies according to ten themes.



#### Intervention Area 4.1

Landscape restoration, watershed management and resilience building



#### Intervention Area 4.2

Healthy soil and water



#### Intervention Area 4.3

Pastoral and silvopastoral systems



#### Intervention Area 4.4

Renewable energy



#### Intervention Area 4.5

Climate change and climate resilient agriculture



#### Intervention Area 4.6

Biological diversity



#### Intervention Area 4.7

Green cities



#### Intervention Area 4.8

Scientific and academic support



#### Intervention Area 4.9

Risk management



#### Intervention Area 4.10

Scaling approaches and projects



## Intervention Area 4.1

### Landscape restoration, watershed management and resilience building



#### Key efforts and initiatives:

- United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration
- World Restoration Flagship Programme
- EverGreening the Earth Campaign
- Global EverGreening Alliance
- Restore Africa
- Reversing Land Degradation by Scaling-up Evergreen Agriculture (Regreening Africa)
- Knowledge for Great Green Wall Action (K4GGWA) Programme
- Sahel Mosaic
- Bonn Challenge
- AFR100
- Restore Local
- African Resilient Landscape Initiative (ARLI)
- WFP Sahelian Integrated Resilience Programme and Scale up
- Sahel University Network for Resilience (REUNIR)
- African Development Bank
- Desert to Power
- Africa Adaptation Acceleration Programme
- Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation
- Adaptation Benefit Mechanisms
- Global Environmental Facility (GEF):
  - GEF's Integrated Approach Programme on Fostering Sustainability and Resilience for Food Security in SSA (FS-IAP)
  - Impact Programmes in the 7th GEF Replenishment Cycle
  - Food Systems, Land Use, and Restoration Impact Programme (FOLUR)
  - Dryland Sustainable Landscapes
  - Sustainable Forest Management Impact Programme on Dryland Sustainable Landscapes
  - Harnessing the GGWI for a Sustainable and Resilient Sahel
- Green Climate Fund (GCF)
  - GGW Climate Change Adaptation Regional Support Project
  - GCF Scaling-Up Resilience in Africa's GGW (SURAGGWA)
- Palladium's Regeneration
- Economics of Land Degradation (ELD) Initiative
- Futures Agribusiness (FAGRIB)
- African Regenerative Carbon Stewardship (ARCS)
- One Billion Trees for Africa
- Tree Aid
- 1000 Landscapes for 1 billion People (1000L)





### Intervention Area 4.2

#### Healthy soil and water



#### Key efforts and initiatives:

- Soil Initiative for Africa (SIA)
- Coalition for Action on Soil Health (C4ASH)
- WOCAT
- Global Soil Partnership (GSP)



### Intervention Area 4.3

#### Pastoral and silvopastoral systems



#### Key efforts and initiatives:

- AU Policy Framework for Pastoralism in Africa
- International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (2026)
- Sustainable Investments for Large-Scale Rangeland Restoration (STELARR)
- Resilience and Intensive Reforestation Project for the Safeguarding of Territories and Ecosystems in Senegal (RIPOSTES)
- Savory Institute Holistic Management
- World Bank Regional Sahel Pastoralism Support project (PRAPS-2)



### Intervention Area 4.4

#### Renewable energy



#### Key efforts and initiatives:

- Africa Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI)
- Desert to Power (DtP Initiative)



## Intervention Area 4.5

### Climate change and climate resilient agriculture



#### Key efforts and initiatives:

- AU Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan (2022-2032)
- African Climate Summit
- GCF Inclusive Green Financing Initiative (IGREENFIN Phase I): Greening Agricultural Banks and the Financial Sector to Foster Climate Resilient Low Emission Smallholder Agriculture in the GGW countries
- GCF Africa Integrated Climate Risk Programme: Building the resilience of smallholder farmers to climate change impacts in seven Sahelian countries of the GGW
- Conservation International Exponential Roadmap for Natural Climate Solutions
- CGIAR Agricultural Adaptation Atlas



## Intervention Area 4.6

### Biological diversity



#### Key efforts and initiatives:

- African Union Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2023 -2030)
- Expert working group (EWG) on Biodiversity, Climate, One Health and Nature-based Solutions



#### Intervention Area 4.7

##### Green cities



##### Key efforts and initiatives:

- Green Cities for the Restoration of the GGW Ecosystems project



#### Intervention Area 4.8

##### Scientific and academic support



##### Key efforts and initiatives:

- Alliance for Accelerating Excellence in Science in Africa (AESA)
- Global Monitoring for Environment and Security and Africa (GMES and Africa)
- University of Agricultural Sciences, University of Sassari in Italy



#### Intervention Area 4.9

##### Risk management



##### Key efforts and initiatives:

- African Risk Capacity (ARC)



#### Intervention Area 4.10

##### Scaling approaches and projects



##### Key efforts and initiatives:

- Scaling Scan
- GCF SURAGGWA





For additional information about the meeting and how you could get involved, please contact:

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