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ANNEX 11

to the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the multiannual action plan in favour of Sub-Saharan Africa for 2024-2025

Action Document for Regreening Africa – Phase II

MULTIANNUAL PLAN

This document constitutes the multiannual work programme within the meaning of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation, and an action plan within the meaning of Article 23 of the NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

1 SYNOPSIS

1.1 Action Summary Table

1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act	Regreening Africa – Phase II OPSYS number: ACT-62349 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe)
2. Team Europe Initiative	No
3. Zone benefiting from the action	The Action shall be carried out in Senegal, Mali, Ghana, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Somalia and Niger ¹ .
4. Programming document	Multi-Annual Indicative Programme (MIP) for Sub-Saharan Africa 2021-2027 (Regional MIP)
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results	Regional MIP SSA 2021-2027 The Action contributes to Priority Area 3, ‘Green Transition’ . -- Specific Objective 1: “Strengthen climate resilience at continental level and support African climate action in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement” <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Result 1.1:</i> More effective regional policy frameworks, strategies and systems aiming at reducing GHG emissions and enhance resilience vis-à-vis climate change- <i>Result 1.2:</i> The capacity to anticipate, manage and respond to recurrent shocks (pest outbreak threats, food crises, natural hazards-related disasters) is strengthened Specific Objective 3: “Support the transition towards more resilient and sustainable aquatic and agri-food systems (including for more affordable and healthier diets)

¹ Based on a continuous assessment of the post-coup political environment and its impact on EU-Niger relations.

	Specific Objective 4: “Improve biodiversity conservation, sustainable use and governance”			
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION				
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	General Environment Protection, Agriculture, Forestry, Other Multi-Sectors			
7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Main SDG (1 only): SDG 13 Other significant SDGs (up to 9) and where appropriate, targets: SDGs 1, 2, 5, 12, 15 and 16.			
8 a) DAC code(s)	31130 – Agricultural Land Resources – 40% 43040 – Rural Development – 20% 41010 – Environmental Policy and Administrative Management – 25% 41082 – Environmental Research – 15%			
8 b) Main Delivery Channel	Research Institute - 51000			
9. Targets	<input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate <input type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance			
10. Markers (from DAC form)	General policy objective @	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and women’s and girl’s empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disaster Risk Reduction @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Nutrition @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Biological diversity @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
11. Internal markers	Policy objectives	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective

and Tags	Digitalisation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship digital skills/literacy digital services	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Connectivity @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	digital connectivity energy transport health education and research	YES <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Migration @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Reduction of Inequalities @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BUDGET INFORMATION				
12. Amounts concerned	Budget line(s) (article, item): 14 02 01 20: EUR 7 500 000 14 02 01 21: EUR 7 500 000 -- Total estimated cost: EUR 15 000 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution: EUR 15 000 000			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
13. Type of financing²	Indirect management with the entity(ies) to be selected in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.4.1.			

1.2 Summary of the Action

Restoring agricultural livelihoods in Africa's drylands is inextricably linked to the restoration of the land itself. Land is the foundation for food and nutritional security, human well-being, and overall development. It is also the engine of economic development in many African countries. The role of land restoration in both capturing carbon for climate change mitigation and in enhancing resilience and capacity for communities to adapt to a changing climate are widely acknowledged.

This Action builds on concrete and accessible **tools and approaches for regreening** (land restoration, farm diversification and livelihood improvements) implemented under 'Regreening Africa – Phase 1'. Lessons from the first phase form the basis of this second phase, including the need for an enabling policy environment, rural

² Art. 27 NDICI

enterprises/tree-based value chains/green jobs, a more diverse mix of restoration practices, stronger consideration of climate change and the need to create and share evidence to support rapid adaptation, scaling, and investment.

The Overall Objective of this Action is to **strengthen the resilience (adaptive capacity, land health, diverse production, and livelihoods) of communities across the Sahel and Horn of Africa in the face of climate change, land degradation, and food/nutritional insecurity through regreening.**

This will be achieved through three Specific Objectives:

1. Additional 200 000 smallholder farming and pastoral households **adopt and refine diverse, appropriate, and profitable regreening practices** and hundreds of thousands more are incentivised to do the same through a supportive policy environment, conducive local governance, women and youth empowerment and enhanced knowledge and investment.
2. Smallholder farmers and pastoralists, local and national governments, civil society, and private sector partners increasingly **use restoration evidence to enhance and adapt their decision-making.**
3. Green and restoration-focused **rural enterprises**, youth/women-oriented **employment opportunities** and **tree-based value chains upscaled and strengthened.**

The Action serves Priority Area 3 – Green Transition, SO1: “Strengthen climate resilience at continental level and support African climate action in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement” (Results 1.1 & 1.2) of the Sub-Saharan Africa Regional Multi-Annual Indicative Programme (RIP). It furthermore contributes to the RIP’s SO3: “Support the transition towards more resilient and sustainable aquatic and agri-food systems (including for more affordable and healthier diets)”; and SO4: “Improve biodiversity conservation, sustainable use and governance” of the same RIP. The Action will contribute to the pursuit of a number of SDGs in the Sahel and Horn of Africa, in particular SDGs 1, 2, 5, 12, **13**, 15 (notably target 15.3 on Land Degradation Neutrality) and 16.

1.3 Zone benefitting from the Action

The Action shall be carried out in Senegal, Mali, Ghana, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Somalia and Niger³.

2 RATIONALE

2.1 Context

The population of the Sahel and Horn of Africa regions – today – face a multitude of intertwined emergencies and thorny crises. The ‘double whammy’ of COVID-19 and the Russian invasion of Ukraine are aggravating persistent issues of climate change, governance, and instability. Vulnerability to the adverse impacts of environmental degradation, climate change and food insecurity has been laid bare over the past months and urgently requires action to foster resilience of the population in the medium- to long-term. Land plays a key factor in this equation, given that employment in the agricultural sector averages 75% (of total employment) in the regions mentioned.

At the same time, at least 65 percent of Africa’s productive land is currently degraded⁴, resulting in reduced agricultural productivity, livelihoods, resilience, and capacity to deal with climate shocks. Addressing land degradation on the continent is thus paramount.

African nations have demonstrated their commitment to restoring land through several important regional initiatives, including the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR 100) and the Great Green Wall. AFR100, a part of the Bonn Challenge, aims to restore 100 million hectares of land by 2030, while the Great Green Wall aims to restore 100 million hectares across the Sahel and the Horn of Africa in particular by 2030 under its

³ Based on a continuous assessment of the post-coup political environment and its impact on EU-Niger relations.

⁴ Mansourian, S., & Berrahmouni, N. 2021. Review of forest and landscape restoration in Africa. Accra. FAO and AUDA-NEPAD. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb6111en>

‘Accelerator Strategy’. The importance of addressing land degradation has also been highlighted in several African policy frameworks, including the ‘African Union Green Recovery Action Plan’. The Outcome Document of the Africa Climate Summit, convened in September 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya, expressed a commitment by African leaders to actions that “*halt and reverse biodiversity loss, deforestation, and desertification, as well as restore degraded lands to achieve land degradation neutrality; and implement the Abidjan Declaration on achieving gender equality for successful land restoration*”. Furthermore, agriculture, land, and forestry feature widely in African partner countries’ ‘Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)’.

‘Regreening Africa – Phase II’ builds on concrete and inexpensive tools and approaches to restore and regreen land developed under ‘Regreening Africa – Phase I’, such as farmer-managed natural regeneration (FMNR), agroforestry, as well as soil and water conservation techniques. ‘Regreening Africa – Phase I’ managed to reach over 500 000 households and almost 1 million hectares of land for regreening with these tools and restoration techniques. The program operated in 8 countries (Ethiopia, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Somalia, Ghana, Kenya and Rwanda). ‘Regreening Africa – Phase II’ seeks to further scale existing interventions and spread the successful approach across the region, with a focus on Great Green Wall countries.

The Action contributes to the EU’s support of the Great Green Wall and synergises well with the ‘Team Europe Initiative (TEI) on Adaptation and Resilience in Africa’ and ‘NaturAfrica’ – all are Flagships under the AU-EU Global Gateway Investment Package. It furthermore enables the external dimension of key European Green Deal strategies such as the ‘EU Adaptation Strategy’, the ‘Biodiversity Strategy 2030’ and the ‘Farm-to-Fork Strategy’. It supports fulfilment of the NDICI-Global Europe target on climate change and the 2021-2027 MFF target on biodiversity, as well as the EU’s and partner countries’ commitments under the Paris Agreement and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The Action also connects to global restoration initiatives such as the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and the Bonn Challenge.

2.2 Problem Analysis

The population of the Sahel and Horn of Africa regions is facing a multitude of intertwined emergencies and challenging crises. The multiple disturbances caused by COVID-19 and the Russian invasion of Ukraine are exacerbating longstanding issues related to food insecurity, acute poverty, climate change, land degradation, governance, insecurity, and instability. The vulnerability of these regions to the adverse impacts of environmental degradation, climate change and food insecurity has become increasingly evident, necessitating urgent action to build resilience within the population in the medium to long term. It is therefore in the interest of both partner countries and the EU to secure rural livelihoods and the natural resource base that sustains countries in the Sahel and Horn of Africa.

Restoring agricultural livelihoods in Africa is inextricably linked to the restoration of the land itself. Land is the foundation for food and nutritional security, human well-being, and overall development. It is also the engine of economic development in many African countries. However, land is a fragile and finite resource facing mounting pressures from an increased demand for food, fibre, feed, and fuel. Trends in urbanisation, population growth, poor land management practices, tree-based energy demands and shifts in agro-pastoral dynamics are impacting land, exacerbated by a changing climate.

Land degradation renders entire landscapes more susceptible to the increasingly extreme weather events brought about by the climate crisis, such as unpredictable rainfall patterns, high temperatures, severe droughts, intense rainfall events and floods. Effective integrated land restoration interventions, addressing the nexus of land and water linkages, like those from ‘Regreening Africa – Phase I’ are therefore urgently needed at much larger scale considering the need to adapt to current and future impacts of climate change. Landscape restoration is also key to climate change mitigation by increasing carbon stocks in soil and trees, shrubs, and grass. More productive land where communities have food security and decent jobs have also been linked with stability and reduced displacement of people.

Integrating land restoration interventions effectively by linking trees, water, land, and livelihoods demonstrates that

adopting systemic approaches yields multiple benefits. The restoration of local and indigenous species, whether through regeneration or planting, results not only in increased biodiversity on land and in the soil but also in greater carbon storage in soil, trees, shrubs, and grasslands, improved water and nutrient retention, and more bountiful and regular harvests. Consequently, this leads to improved food security, livelihoods, and potential for improved incomes, as well as reducing conflicts, instability and forced migration.

In an effort to address these pressing challenges, ‘Regreening Africa – Phase I’, an ambitious land restoration programme, ran from 2017 to 2023. During this period, the program provided support to over 500 000 households, empowering them to improve their livelihoods and resilience by scaling up sustainable land management practices covering nearly 1 million hectares of land across eight sub-Saharan African countries. This benefited both people and environment, while addressing climate-related concerns. A dynamic partnership between communities, development actors, governments, and research institutions enabled the rapid and extensive scaling of contextually adapted practices, generated the evidence, and facilitated the exchange of knowledge to further enhance impact.

At the community level, ‘Regreening Africa – Phase I’ collaborated with farmers and land managers, engaging women and youth, and leveraging local community-based organisations. By capitalising on these powerful local networks, ‘Regreening Africa – Phase I’ established strong connections and harnessed synergies between on-the-ground implementation and the provision of technical support that continuously evolved based on new evidence. At the sub-national and national levels, the programme worked with a diverse range of stakeholders to offer contextually tailored technical support and create an enabling policy environment, as exemplified by the Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) decree in Niger. Institutional structures, including improving access to land for women⁵ and establishing pastoral corridors and grazing coordination structures were also supported. This concerted effort aimed to effectively scale restoration practices for the benefit of communities. The programme included soil and water conservation practices and agroforestry approaches such as FMNR (a cost-effective approach to managing the natural regeneration of trees and shrubs in agricultural landscapes), as well as tree growing, grafting, improved grazing management, and soil and water conservation. These practices are just a few of the scalable solutions that simultaneously restore land while enhancing livelihoods and resilience. Additionally, they address climate change- (adaptation and mitigation), biodiversity, security, and water availability.

The programme pioneered state-of-the-art monitoring tools and approaches that combined scientific research with citizen science data collection, using the Regreening Africa App to evidence where restoration was taking place and assess changes over time. The user-friendly app, available for free download and used by local land users and farmers, is currently in use by over 150 000 farmers, covering more than 350 000 hectares as part of ‘Regreening Africa – Phase I’. This represents a global innovation in monitoring, allowing for a better understanding and support of restoration activities at the farm level. The app connects these activities to assessment of soil and land health, mapping, satellite imagery time series data, and household surveys. This integration of geo-referenced, biophysical, and socio-economic data has provided powerful evidence on the programme’s impacts, ranging from the farm to regional scales. This evidence has guided interventions, supported adaptive management, and influenced policy decisions. Moreover, it has the potential to assist stakeholders in reporting restored areas, thereby contributing to the generation of national statistics. Recent discussions with the Great Green Wall Accelerator suggest the potential for accelerated adoption by a wider array of actors.

‘Regreening Africa – Phase I’ serves as compelling evidence of the feasibility of large-scale and effective restoration. Its implementation, led by a unique partnership between a research institute, communities, and NGOs, has provided a robust evidence base and forged delivery mechanisms across eight diverse country contexts. The programme demonstrated that it is indeed possible to address the nexus of land degradation, climate change and poverty by combining technological innovations with strong, inclusive community engagement, cross-country learning, and solutions tailored to specific challenges faced by local communities. Integrating an inclusive approach to land restoration was essential for success by supporting the livelihood activities of both men and women of all ages and backgrounds, which, in turn, benefited the wider community. This approach has effectively built resilience within the landscapes that communities rely on for their livelihoods.

‘Regreening Africa Phase – I’ identified a range of levers in advisory, outreach, policy, local governance, and value

⁵ Land restoration must be anchored in policies and frameworks that support women’s land rights and provide for their full participation – Gender and Land Restoration. UNCCD Global Land Outlook Working Paper. 2021.

chain development to expedite large-scale land restoration across the continent. The current Action can build upon these insights while consolidating and ensuring sustainability of Phase I. 'Regreening Africa - Phase II' will promote an enabling policy environment and local governance, support local enterprises and green jobs and ensure access to quality information on regreening options and inputs as levers for large scale adoption. Central to this second phase will be further collection and synthesis of evidence, including the capacity to create and use evidence at multiple scales to inform decision-making and rapid adaptation. Cross-learning and sharing of lessons to inform other EU Delegation programmes, civil society and governments will be important. As before, field-level activities, driven by communities, will be the heart of this programme.

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Moving forward, there are specific areas that require increased attention, as highlighted during 'Regreening Africa Phase I':

- **Equitable incentives:** Incorporating incentives that are equitable and motivate and benefit those involved in landscape restoration is essential. This can be achieved by providing opportunities for participation in value chains and granting greater use rights through enabling policies. Early emphasis on value chains can lead to improved livelihood outcomes, particularly for producers, small rural processors, and local agri-food sales operations.
- **Enabling policy environment:** this will create an incentive for land managers to restore land as they will be guaranteed to access the benefits.
- **Inclusive governance building:** The deployment of new methodologies is needed to involve formal and informal stakeholders, including state authorities and farmers/pastoralists organisations at different levels and as participants/supporters of local governance-building initiatives. These initiatives should ensure that the explicit and implicit interests of all stakeholders are considered and integrated from the outset.
- **Community engagement in monitoring:** Engaging communities in the monitoring and evidence generation process can increase stakeholder engagement, capacity development, policy influence, and the scaling of land restoration efforts.
- **Enhancing biodiversity:** There is a need to intensify efforts to boost biodiversity and its associated livelihood benefits. This entails increasing species diversity and restoring various biomes such as grasslands, and forests. It is crucial to consider incentives that promote biodiversity.
- **Gender and equity integration:** Mainstreaming gender and equity considerations in restoration efforts is crucial, as well as the deliberate inclusion of these aspects in programme design while considering local socio-cultural and power dynamics.
- **Expanding practices:** There is a need to integrate a broader range of practices, particularly for rangelands and soil health improvement. This includes ensuring the availability of quality germplasm for tree input systems, establishing rural resource centres, and implementing robust capacity-building and training approaches.
- **Innovative monitoring:** Monitoring restoration progress using innovative approaches like the Regreening App and its linked dashboard are important, and dedicated time and capacity for evidence interpretation should be allocated.
- **Stakeholder engagement methodology:** Sustaining efforts with a dedicated stakeholder engagement methodology can facilitate adaptive learning and structured inclusive engagement. Emphasis should be placed on enhancing evidence accessibility, interpretation, and inclusion.

This Action will further strengthen the contribution of 'Regreening Africa' to the Great Green Wall. It will establish strong linkages and evidence-based scaling strategies for landscape restoration to enhance climate change resilience in both the countries and the region at large. This will include a broad dissemination of regreening as a strategy for climate adaptation and mitigation, including understanding the potential of regreening to sequester carbon.

This Action will yield multiple cross-sectoral benefits, including: (i) more diverse and resilient farming and pastoral systems through agroforestry and agroecology practices, contributing to improved soil and land health and increased water availability; (ii) increased biodiversity of land and soil through soil/water conservation, as well as planting/regeneration of local and indigenous species; (iii) opportunities for carbon sequestration in

rehabilitated soil, trees, shrubs, and grasslands; (iv) increased land productivity and the production of nutritious crops, leading to improved food security, nutrition, and job creation. These outcomes will contribute to sustainable development in partner countries and, to some extent, address the root causes of conflict and migration. This programme will therefore contribute to several political goals - economic, environmental, and social - of both partner countries in the Sahel and Horn of Africa and the EU simultaneously.

MAIN STAKEHOLDERS

Key stakeholders are local communities, MSMEs, as well as national and local governments of the countries in which this programme will operate.

Local communities, women & youth

Rural communities, primarily consisting of smallholder farmers and pastoralists, are the main end beneficiaries of this Action. Many of the Action's sites will be located in arid and semi-arid landscapes, where these local communities are at elevated risk of climate change impacts, further exacerbated by land degradation, inadequate policies, limited market opportunities, and growing insecurity. Special attention will be given to women and youth, who are important and diverse members of the community, that while often in the majority, face barriers to equal engagement and benefit sharing. A focus will be on community-level natural resources governance and management structures, ensuring that communities lead and co-design interventions.

Micro-Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs)

MSMEs are vital for rural market and enterprise development. They connect land managers to value chains and markets, provide rural employment opportunities for women and youth, and provide essential services. However, MSMEs are vulnerable to regulatory, market, policy, and societal shocks. This Action will collaborate with promising MSMEs at the local level, focusing on identified value chains and enterprises, considering processing, packaging, market access, and finance/insurance as well as inputs, such as nurseries.

Larger companies and investors will also be engaged, particularly for investment and links to commodities and markets.

Community Based Organisations (CBOs)

Farmer-, pastoralist- and other land user groups and organisations will be engaged as critical knowledge sharing, aggregation and advising bodies.

National and local governments

National Governments usually include ministries in charge of Environment and/or Agriculture and the national Great Green Wall agencies but contacts should be extended to a broader number of relevant ministries (e.g. Rural Development, Employment, Education, Energy, Economy/Finance, Planning, amongst others). Any existing coordination or cross-sectoral platforms (such as the Great Green Wall National Coalitions) will also be identified and utilised for sharing lessons, evidence, and policy engagement. The strategic direction of the Action will be guided by the national governments of the partner countries through engagement with the Great Green Wall focal points, coalitions, and through representation in the project oversight committees.

Engagement with government representatives will focus on generating ownership and sharing opportunities, promising approaches, evidence, and the necessary investment and policy shifts, including the design of enabling policies and the integration of land restoration measures and objectives into key policy areas and plans. The need to optimise the governance of natural resources and their management at local and sub-national scales will be an important topic of engagement. At the local level, sub-national governments, local authorities, committees, and traditional authorities will be the main government stakeholders. As a fundamentally rural initiative, these local authorities will be crucial for the successful implementation of this initiative. In the first phase of this programme, significant progress was achieved in fostering collaboration between local authorities and smallholder farmers to develop more sustainable land-use practices and related local policies and plans; such collaboration will be further strengthened in the second phase of the programme, including with government advisory services (thereby ensuring institutional sustainability).

Regional stakeholders

The African Union, the Pan-African Agency of the Great Green Wall, and the African Development Bank will be the most important regional stakeholders for engagement on lessons and tools for scaling. Other regional stakeholders such as the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) will be engaged. Linkage to the Great Green Wall will be through the EU funded Knowledge for Great Green Wall Action (K4GGWA) Programme.

United Nations

UN bodies such as UNEP, IFAD, FAO, WFP, UNDP, UNECA and others will be engaged as they are supporting regional programmes and work in the Great Green Wall zone.

Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)

Local and international CSOs will be heavily involved in the execution of this programme and regional and global research institutes will also hold an important stake. CSOs (incl. women's organisations) will play a major role, as they are key for community engagement. In the first phase of the programme, NGOs implemented the Action on the ground and were a key enabler of success due to their ability to navigate local contexts and act as a conductor between local/indigenous and technical/scientific knowledge generation.

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The **Overall Objective** of this Action is to:

Strengthen the resilience (adaptive capacity, land health, diverse production, and livelihoods) of communities across the Sahel and Horn of Africa in the face of climate change, land degradation, and food/nutritional insecurity through greening.

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The **Specific Objectives (SOs)** of this Action are as follows:

SO1: Additional 200 000 smallholder farming and pastoral households **adopt and refine diverse, appropriate, and profitable greening practices** and hundreds of thousands more are incentivised to do the same through a supportive policy environment, conducive local governance, women and youth empowerment and enhanced knowledge and investment.

SO2: Smallholder farmers and pastoralists, local and national governments, civil society, and private sector partners increasingly **use restoration evidence to enhance and adapt their decision-making.**

SO3: Green and restoration-focused rural **enterprises**, youth/women-oriented employment **opportunities** and tree-based **value chains upscaled and strengthened.**

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The **Outputs** to be delivered by this Action contributing to the corresponding Specific Objectives are:

Output 1.1: Stakeholders at multiple levels exposed to targeted outreach and awareness-raising campaigns, as well as capacity-building interventions to shift attitudes and behaviors to greening practices, investments, and policies.

Output 1.2: Quality planting material systems and related infrastructure in support of prioritised options upscaled and strengthened, considering current and future climates. Including input supply and skills to develop such systems embedded in the local community and establishing community-based nurseries.

Output 1.3: Smallholder farmers and pastoralists including women and youth supported to adopt, test and refine systems enhancing regreening practices using gender transformative approaches.

Output 1.4: Additional resources mobilised and private sector linkages secured to support further scaling and sustainability through diverse investment options as well as dialogues with governments and donors.

Output 1.5: Community, civil society, and government supported to identify and overcome policy/institutional bottlenecks (e.g. in land governance) by equipping them with evidence, opportunities and support to develop new or strengthened institutional and governance arrangements at local, sub-national and national levels.

Output 2.1: Demand-driven and inclusive options to bolster the resilient productivity of smallholder farming and pastoral systems identified, taking into account climate adaptation/ resilience and food security outcomes.

Output 2.2: Communities, partners, private sector and government capacitated to use scientific, local and monitoring data for option design and adaptive management.

Output 2.3: Evidence base on restoration including what regreening practises work where, for whom and at what cost strengthened at multiple levels. Evidence base on restoration including climate change adaptation, carbon sequestration, food security, livelihoods, nutrition, biodiversity, local knowledge, cost efficiency and benefits and adaptation collected, analysed, and synthesised.

Output 2.4: Data, knowledge, lessons and innovation shared with various stakeholder groups including through digital systems, tools, and cross-learning. Knowledge and experience disseminated systematically.

Output 3.1: Market-driven, inclusive and diverse value chain and enterprise development options for restoration identified and promoted. Diverse value chains, entrepreneurship opportunities in rural spaces, and an enabling business environment are promoted in each country for enhanced livelihood benefits and jobs, particularly amongst women and youth.

3.2 Indicative Activities

Activities related to **Output 1.1:**

- Awareness raising and outreach with tailored contextual messages
- Radio programmes and social media campaigns on regreening practices
- Community field days around rural resource centres on regreening (incl. agroforestry and agroecology) and tree growing campaigns
- Engagement with youth groups and schools
- Link with, and communicate through, identified local champion farmers who experiment with regreening practices

Activities related to **Output 1.2:**

- Development of high value climate adapted tree germplasm sources and nurseries (incl. in communities) supporting women home gardening practices, food nutrition sources, fodder and wood construction materials and water harvesting.

Activities related to **Output 1.3:**

- Co-develop guides/brochures for implementation of selected/prioritised regreening practices with translation support into local languages where needed.
- Provide training and capacity-building on regreening practices
- Embed Gender Transformative Actions in initial community engagements
- Establish/refine scaling models

Activities related to **Output 1.4:**

- Provide information to and liaise with business development teams in each partner organisation for collaborative resource mobilisation

- Investigate the voluntary carbon market and other possible markets as an additional source of resources for local communities

Activities related to **Output 1.5:**

- Carry out policy root cause analysis as well as assessment of local institutions/governance arrangements and social norms to identify bottlenecks and needs
- Implement advocacy and engagement actions to shift policies and local institutions/governance arrangements and track associated changes
- Support strategic policy actors/decision makers to mainstream sustainable land, water and forest management /development
- Collect local level evidence to support advocacy and feed into national level and regional dialogues

Activities related to **Output 2.1:**

- Conduct community visioning, restoration action planning, and embed plans for sustainability at local level in selected sites
- Review regreening practices to understand what may work under future scenarios
- Site scoping to match practices and regreening options to the local environment and social/economic/policy conditions

Activities related to **Output 2.2:**

- Build capacity at local level for adaptive management, based on community-identified indicators and monitoring
- Deliver SHARED capacity development modules to country implementation lead teams
- Co-design and implement incremental adaptive management at the programme level with partners including, through Joint Reflection and Learning Missions (JRLMs) annually
- Build on established community of practice and strengthen wider network for knowledge sharing and evidence-based development
- Facilitate inception-, closing- and update meetings at national level with evidence based on SHARED approach and principles

Activities related to **Output 2.3:**

- Establish collaborative monitoring at community level
- Map land health for targeting and impact evaluation
- Monitor adoption of regreening practices and understand drivers of adoption
- Assess carbon sequestration potential and generate robust evidence on below ground carbon mapping for carbon market linkages
- Tracking food, nutrition, water and fuelwood security as well as biodiversity trends over time
- Analysis on the economic value of various value chains to households

Activities related to **Output 2.4:**

- Compile regreening successes and communicate to policy makers, government and programme stakeholders
- Facilitate topical within- and cross-country learning events among community/farmer leaders, scientists, development and technical practitioners, and policy makers
- Share data through the Regreening App reporting system and established dashboards and other digital systems

Activities related to **Output 3.1:**

- Identify the needs and gaps in private sector actors and local producers/groups and create demand-driven market action plans for each country
- Local-level scouting of nature-positive (land-based) market opportunities, with youth and women as priority leads and actors and select value chain- and enterprise options
- Provide direct support (technical and financial assistance) to communities/MSMEs to develop tree-based value chains and the related businesses

- Support to business linkage forums, registration, licensing and certification issues
- Support to access to finance for local community members through, e.g., local saving and lending groups and linking those to more formal financial institutions

3.3 Mainstreaming

Environmental Protection & Climate Change

Environmental sustainability, alongside climate change adaptation and mitigation are central objectives of this Action. Due to the nature of the programme, environmental aspects will be promoted across its activities. It fundamentally seeks to support rural livelihoods by preserving and enhancing the natural resource base that underwrites those livelihoods. No SEA, EIA or CRA is therefore required/foreseen.

Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls

As per the OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as G1. This implies that aspects of gender equality and inclusion of youth will receive specific attention under the programme. Activities will seek to support women's access to land and resources, as well as elevating their role in decision-making processes through Gender Transformative Action. Therefore, it will contribute markedly to the implementation of the Gender Action Plan III (Green Transition Pillar).

According to the Great Green Wall Accelerator, addressing gender gaps through investment in women's technical and leadership skills, and ensuring their equal participation in the land restoration and management projects, will be essential⁶. The European Green Deal and the EU Farm-to-Fork Strategy⁷ also recognise the crucial role played by women in the reduction of poverty and malnutrition, as well as agri-food systems transformations as producers, entrepreneurs, and consumers.

Human Rights

A Human Rights-based Approach (HRBA) is applied to this Action, especially through the specific focus on land governance and tenure issues in the sustainable land management practices it will support and propose⁸. It is also guided by the Human Right to Water and Sanitation and the five HRBA working principles: (i) applying all human rights for all; (ii) meaningful and inclusive participation and access to decision-making; (iii) non-discrimination and equality; (iv) accountability and rule of law for all; (v) transparency and access to information supported by disaggregated data.

Disability

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D0. However, the Action will ensure that rights of persons with disabilities will be respected. The Action will also encourage partners and programme participants to always consider persons with disabilities.

Reduction of inequalities

The Action notably targets vulnerable rural communities. The envisioned activities will provide these communities with technical and financial assistance, as well as new income streams, through the adoption of regreening practices and the establishment/strengthening of related value chains. The Action will also seek to elevate the voice of vulnerable rural communities in decision making processes that directly affect their livelihoods.

Democracy

Addressing land and natural resource governance and tenure issues, facilitating dialogue and networking between concerned stakeholders and land users, partnerships, inclusiveness, community-based management schemes, etc., are all guiding principles of this Action and compulsory elements for the upscaling of sustainable land management practices. They can have a marked positive impact on the fostering of democratic societies.

⁶ [Regional Policy Coherence Analysis to Scale Up Action and Achievements of the Great Green Wall Initiative. CIFOR - ICRAF. 2022](#)

⁷ [Farm to Fork Strategy](#)

⁸ Taking into account the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (FAO).

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

The Action is implemented in a region affected by political and climatic challenges. In this context, activities will target areas where these impacts are not affecting the proper operationalization of the Action's objectives. Nonetheless, fragility remains a constant reality for rural communities in the potential target countries, which the greening approach specifically aims to mitigate. As such, the Action will contribute to implementing adaptive practices in the face of climate-induced risks, with resilience co-benefits for the communities.

Disaster Risk Reduction

By supporting the fight against desertification and climate change, as well as the promotion of environmental data and information in support of decision-making, this Action can contribute to the fight against both fast-onset weather events such as droughts/floods, as well as slow-onset events such as increased temperatures, desertification, or loss of biodiversity. Building resilience through greening is at the core of this Action, this helping to reduce disaster risk.

3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating measures
Category 1	Conflicts and insecurity in the region that could hamper access to field operations	High	High	Mitigation measures will be developed based on a wealth of experience generated under the programme's first phase. In the first phase, approaches such as using locally-based staff and citizen science apps for monitoring and in extreme cases shifting programme sites were applied as mitigation measures. Additionally, during site selection, some more stable sites will be selected to reduce the overall risk.
Category 2	Sudden change of government could negatively affect proper dialogue with key institutional actors at national and local level	High	Medium	Past experience has shown that with time, new relationships can be forged, and dialogue can resume. This may set back activities by months but can usually be overcome with additional effort and engagement.
Category 1	Climate change and land degradation pose major risks to the region	High	Medium	<p>This action will be addressing land degradation and climate change mitigation and adaptation. If rains fail in sites during the programme timeframe, this will limit some restoration activities and may slow down the process.</p> <p>Low-rainfall-demanding practices will be encouraged alongside those requiring more water to reduce the impacts of this possible risk.</p>
Category 2	Insufficient or inadequate gender mainstreaming could reinforce gender inequalities and the non-realisation of	Medium	High	Knowledge and tools of gender mainstreaming are available. Gender transformative approach, gender-sensitive monitoring, use of sex-disaggregated data,

	human rights in the sector			and gender-sensitive indicators. Gender mainstreaming is applied in all phases of the project cycle.
Category 2	Insecure land tenure regimes can negatively impact progress of field operations	Medium	Medium	Launch dialogue processes at community level and/or with relevant authorities to clarify tenure regimes and/or to confirm access rights – even if informal.

Lessons Learnt:

Five overarching lessons emerged from ‘Regreening Africa – Phase I’ that can inform future regreening efforts:

1. **Think big:** Large-scale, impactful restoration is achievable. Regreening Africa has shown us that large-scale land restoration is possible at a much lower cost for return than was previously thought possible. Restoring livelihoods through landscapes delivers on climate, biodiversity, and land objectives.
2. **There’s no magic bullet:** No single practice works in all situations, and we must match options to local contexts. It is essential to adapt and tailor restoration practices to the specific conditions and needs of each area.
3. **Break down silos:** Close working partnerships across the science-practice-policy interfaces are crucial. We need to collaborate with civil society, community, government, private sector, research, and donors, as each brings something valuable to the effort. It is important to work at the local level, utilising local structures, community groups, and farmer trainers.
4. **Integrate science and evidence for learning:** Scientific tools and evidence integrated into the process make it far more effective and efficient. Science and evidence from multiple sources have a central role to play in enhancing implementation and informing wider practice and policy. Adaptive management and flexibility, based on evidence and engagement, lead to greater impact.
5. **Provide fair economic, livelihood, and policy incentives:** Working directly with communities, smallholders and MSMEs at the grass-root level is paramount, as they are the managers of the land. Inspiring people and communities to engage requires fair economic, livelihood, and policy incentives. Enabling policies and equitable value chains that enhance livelihoods are critical drivers of restoration efforts.

Lastly, an explicit focus on **scale** and **stronger inclusion of gender and youth** is needed from the onset of regreening interventions.

3.5 The Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this Action is that:

IF demand-driven and inclusive options to bolster the resilient productivity of smallholder farming and pastoral systems are identified,

AND IF market-driven, inclusive, and diverse value-chain- and enterprise development options for restoration are identified and promoted,

AND IF smallholder farmers and pastoralists, including women and youth, are supported to adopt, test, and refine systems enhancing greening practices using gender transformative approaches,

COMBINED with a) upscaled and strengthened quality planting material systems and related infrastructure, b) the evidence base on restoration including what greening practises work where, for whom and at what cost, c) data, knowledge, lessons and innovations that are shared with various stakeholder groups, including through digital systems and tools, d) stakeholders at multiple levels that are exposed to behavioural evidence-informed awareness raising, attitude and capacity development interventions, e) communities, partners, private sector and government capacitated that use scientific, local and monitoring data for option design and adaptive management, f) community, civil society, and government that are supported to identify and overcome policy/institutional bottlenecks and g) additional resources that are mobilised, and private sector linkages that are secured to support further scaling and sustainability,

THEN male and female smallholder farmers and pastoralists will actively engage and adapt agriculture and market-based innovations,

AND national, sub-national and local government will adopt new policy measures to enhance the enabling environment,

AND women will be better able to access and exert greater control over land and tree resources,

AND donors, governments and the private sector will invest more in landscape restoration,

THEN 200 000 smallholder farming and pastoral households will adopt and refine diverse, appropriate, and profitable greening practices and hundreds of thousands more will be incentivised to do the same through a supportive policy environment, conducive local governance and enhanced rural entrepreneurship and investment,

AND smallholder farmers and pastoralist, local and national governments, civil society, and private sector partners will increasingly use restoration evidence to enhance and adapt their decision-making,

AND green and restoration focused rural enterprises, youth/women-oriented employment opportunities and tree-based value chains will be upscaled and strengthened,

THEN there will be more productive, profitable, diverse, inclusive, resilient and nutrition enhancing farming, pastoral and livelihood systems that are well linked to lucrative markets and advisory support services,

RESULTING IN strengthened resilience of communities across the Sahel and Horn of Africa in the face of climate change, land degradation and food and nutritional insecurity.

3.6 Logical Framework Matrix

This indicative logframe constitutes the basis for the monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the intervention.

On the basis of this logframe matrix, a more detailed logframe (or several) may be developed at contracting stage. In case baselines and targets are not available for the action, they should be informed for each indicator at signature of the contract(s) linked to this AD, or in the first progress report at the latest. New columns may be added to set intermediary targets (milestones) for the Output and Outcome indicators whenever it is relevant.

- At inception, the first progress report should include the complete logframe (e.g. including baselines/targets).
- Progress reports should provide an updated logframe with current values for each indicator.
- The final report should enclose the logframe with baseline and final values for each indicator.

The indicative logical framework matrix may evolve during the lifetime of the action depending on the different implementation modalities of this action.

The activities, the expected Outputs and related indicators, targets and baselines included in the logframe matrix may be updated during the implementation of the action, no amendment being required to the Financing Decision.

Results	Results chain (@): Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (@): (at least one indicator per expected result)	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact	To strengthen the resilience (adaptive capacity, land health, diverse production, and livelihoods) of communities across the Sahel and Horn of Africa in the face of climate change, land degradation and food and nutritional insecurity through greening.	1 – # of communities using new skills/knowledge or practices to improve resilience to climate-related security risks (EU65902)	0	7	Project M&E data	Not applicable
		2 – Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area (EU67749)	TBD	5% reduction	RS-LDSF	
		3 – % of families with livelihood support who have materially improved living conditions (EU65753)	TBD	10%	Project impact assessment	

Outcome 1	Additional 200,000 smallholder farming and pastoral households adopt and refine diverse, appropriate, and profitable regreening practices and hundreds of thousands more are incentivised to do the same through a supportive policy environment, conducive local governance and enhanced investment, women and youth empowerment and enhanced knowledge and investment.	1.1 – #HHs that have adopted new regreening practices in intervention areas	1.1 – 0	1.1 – 200 000	1.1 – Baseline and endline surveys and App data	Political support and engagement with the project sustained throughout the programme cycle. To match with GGW Accelerator indicator: # of GGW producers using sustainable land and water management practices.
Outcome 2	Smallholder farmers and pastoralists, local and national governments, civil society, and private sector partners increasingly use restoration evidence to enhance and adapt their decision-making.	2.1 – # of stakeholders who have used project generated restoration evidence in their decision-making.	2.1 – 0	2.1 – 10 000	2.1 – HH surveys; outcome mapping/tracking	Evidence is considered a valuable contributor for decision-making

Outcome 3	Green and restoration-focused rural enterprises, youth/women-oriented employment opportunities & tree-based value chains upscaled & strengthened.	<p>3.1 – #HHs reporting new income sources thanks to support of the EU-funded intervention (EU72701)</p> <p>3.2 – # of jobs supported/sustained (EU16754) [disaggregated by sex, age, and disability where possible]</p>	<p>3.1 – TBD</p> <p>3.2 – TBD</p>	<p>3.1 – 100 000</p> <p>3.2 – 10 000</p>	<p>3.1 – Project impact assessment data</p> <p>3.2 – Project M&E data</p>	<p>Finance and other inputs for enterprises can be accessed.</p> <p>Security situation does not disrupt local enterprises and jobs.</p> <p>3.2 to match with GGW Accelerator indicator: # of employment opportunities created through GGW value chains.</p>
Output 1.1 relating to Outcome 1	1.1 – Stakeholders at multiple levels exposed to targeted outreach, awareness raising campaigns, and capacity-building interventions to shift their attitudes and behaviors to regreening practices, investments and policies.	<p>1.1.1 – # of outreach campaigns/events per country</p> <p>1.1.2 - # of stakeholders reached with interventions</p>	<p>1.1.1 – 0</p> <p>1.1.2 – 0</p>	<p>1.1.1 – 4</p> <p>1.1.2 – 100 000</p>	<p>1.1.1 – Reports</p> <p>1.1.2 – Reports and surveys</p>	<p>Ability to reach stakeholders in person or through media</p>
Output 1.2 relating to Outcome 1	1.2 – Quality planting material systems and related infrastructure in support of prioritised options upscaled and strengthened, considering current and future climates. Including input supply and skills to develop such systems embedded in the local community and establishment of community-based nurseries.	1.2.1 – # of regreening systems and infrastructure supported per country (RRCs, community-based nursery enterprises, high value germplasm inputs packages)	1.2.1 – 0	1.2.1 – 20	1.2.1 – partner reports	Availability of land and water to support nurseries

Output 1.3 relating to Outcome 1	1.3 – Smallholder farmers and pastoralists including women and youth supported to adopt, test, and refine systems enhancing greening practices using gender transformative approaches.	1.3.1 – #HHs of smallholders reached with EU-supported interventions aimed to increase their sustainable production, access to markets and/or security of land (GERF 2.1)	1.3.1 – 0	1.3.1 – 300 000	1.3.1 – Surveys and partner reports	High level of motivation by households to engage in greening work
		1.3.2 – Area (ha) of agricultural- and pastoral ecosystems where sustainable management practices have been introduced with EU support (GERF 2.2)	1.3.2 – 0	1.3.2 – 500 000	1.3.2 – Surveys, partner reports and Regreening App	
Output 1.4 relating to Outcome 1	1.4 – Additional resources mobilised, and private sector linkages secured to support further scaling and sustainability.	1.4.1 – # of additional resource opportunities secured	1.4.1 – 0	1.4.1 – 3	1.4.1 – Annual reports	Investors are interested in the regreening work and countries of implementation
Output 1.5 relating to Outcome 1	1.5 Community, civil society, and government supported to identify and overcome policy/institutional bottlenecks.	1.5.1 – # of stakeholders who participated in efforts to identify and devise solutions for addressing bottlenecks affecting the scaling of greening practices disaggregated by stakeholder type per country	1.5.1 – 0	1.5.1 – 5	1.5.1 – Reports	Policy/ institutional bottle necks can be identified and addressed at the site/programme level
		1.5.2 – # of countries where efforts to overcome policy/institutional bottlenecks are supported	1.5.2 – 0	1.5.2 – 6	1.5.2 – Reports	
Output 2.1 relating to Outcome 2	2.1 Demand-driven and inclusive options to bolster the resilient productivity of smallholder farming and pastoral systems identified.	2.1.1 – # of communities for which context appropriate greening options tailored for different social groups and agricultural systems (including women and youth) have been identified	2.1.1 – 0	2.1.1 – 7	2.1.1 – Partner reports/annual reports	Regreening options are demanded by local communities and stakeholders

Output 2.2 relating to Outcome 2	2.2 Communities, partners, private sector and government capacitated to use scientific, local and monitoring data for option design and adaptive management.	2.2.1 – # of stakeholder/partner teams trained and exhibiting competencies for the understanding and use of evidence and facilitation processes per country.	2.2.1 – 0	2.2.1 – 20	2.2.1 – Reports	Local facilitators are interested, and the importance of evidence is valued by engaged groups
		2.2.2 – # evidence-based facilitators trained per country	2.2.2 – 0	2.2.2 – 2	2.2.2 – Reports	
		2.2.3 – # of locally facilitated information sharing and cross-learning events per country	2.2.3 – 0	2.2.3 – 2	2.2.3 – Reports	
Output 2.3 relating to Outcome 2	2.3 Evidence base on what regreening practises work where, for whom and at what cost strengthened at multiple levels.	2.3.1 – # of countries for which evidence on what works where, for whom and at what costs is available	2.3.1 – 0	2.3.1 – 6	2.3.1 – Reports, surveys	Data analysis is completed in the programme timeframe
Output 2.4 relating to Outcome 2	2.4 Data, knowledge, lessons and innovation shared with various audiences/stakeholder groups, including through digital systems, tools, and cross-learning. Knowledge and experience disseminated systematically.	2.4.1 – # of countries for which knowledge and innovation sharing systems and tools have been customised and deployed	2.4.1 – 0	2.4.1 – 6	2.4.1 – Reports and systems	Communities and stakeholders can be reached through media and digital tools
Output 3.1 relating to Outcome 3	3.1 Market-driven, inclusive, and diverse value chain and enterprise development options for restoration identified and promoted.	3.1.1 – # of countries for which tree-based value chain and enterprise development options have been assessed, with strategic recommendations to support their development/strengthening	3.1.1 – 0	3.1.1 – 6	3.1.1 – Reports	Viable tree-based value chains exist in each site and enabling conditions for enterprise exist (e.g., security and finance)
		3.1.2 – # of MSMEs/groups supported to engage in targeted value chains & enterprises per country	3.1.2 – TBD	3.1.2 – 2	3.1.2 – Reports	

4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Financing Agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not envisaged to conclude a financing agreement with a partner country.

4.2 Indicative Implementation Period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 72 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Financing Decision.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's responsible authorising officer in duly justified cases.

4.3 Implementation of the Budget Support Component

N/A

4.4 Implementation Modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures.

4.4.1 Indirect Management with an entrusted entity

This action may be implemented in indirect management with the Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF). **This implementation entails all activities under Specific Objectives 1, 2, and 3 detailed in Section 3.**

CIFOR-ICRAF has been selected using the following criteria: (i) financial and operational capacity of the organisation; (ii) relevance of organisations' mandate to the objectives and activities of the Action; (iii) leading and complementary expertise/roles of the organisation on the issues tackled by the Action [land restoration and sustainable management, sustainable agriculture and land-use, agro-ecology, agroforestry and forestry, research, innovation, knowledge]; (iv) absence of conflict of interest and integrity of the organisation.

CIFOR-ICRAF is chosen as an implementing partner due to its reputation as a world-class research and knowledge institution, with more than 65 years of combined expertise. It has an international mandate to build, disseminate, and apply evidence about the role of trees, forests and tree-based agriculture as pathways to solving global crises. These involve poverty, hunger, land degradation, climate change, and unsustainable supply- and value chains. CIFOR-ICRAF delivers actionable evidence and solutions to transform the way land and renewable resources are managed, and how food is produced. **Crucially, CIFOR-ICRAF carried out 'Regreening Africa – Phase I' with marked success and is therefore in a unique position to continue at the helm of operations for a second phase.**

In case the envisaged entity would need to be replaced, the Commission's services may select a replacement entity using the same criteria. If the entity is replaced, the decision to replace it needs to be justified.

4.4.2 Changes from indirect to direct management mode (and vice versa) due to exceptional circumstances

Where indirect management cannot be implemented with a pillar-assessed entity for the implementation of

(one of) the Action's activities (as per Section 3.2), or under any other circumstance outside of the Commission's control, the Commission may implement these activities under **direct management (grants)**. This will be carried out through a Call for Proposals (CfP) targeting NGOs and CSOs, research institutes and international organisations with the necessary regional reach to fulfil the geographic mandate of this Action and proven technical expertise in the field of greening/land restoration.

4.5. Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents shall apply.

4.6. Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components	EU contribution (amount in EUR)	Third-party contribution, in currency identified
Implementation modalities – cf. section 4.4		
Objective/Outputs 1 – Regreening Practices composed of	EUR 9 000 000	
Indirect management with CIFOR-ICRAF – cf. section 4.4.1	EUR 9 000 000	
Objective/Outputs 2 – Regreening Evidence composed of	EUR 3 000 000	
Indirect management with CIFOR-ICRAF – cf. section 4.4.1	EUR 3 000 000	
Objective/Outputs 3 – Regreening Value Chains composed of	EUR 3 000 000	
Indirect management with CIFOR-ICRAF – cf. section 4.4.1	EUR 3 000 000	
Evaluation – cf. section 5.2	may be covered by another Decision	
Audit – cf. section 5.3		
Totals	EUR 15 000 000	

4.7. Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

CIFOR-ICRAF will implement the Action as an 'adaptive learning rural development programme' by leading a sub-contracted consortium of international NGO members, drawn from 'Regreening Africa – Phase I'. CIFOR-ICRAF will ensure the overall management, coordination and technical support to the implementation through a dedicated Project Management Unit (PMU) and fulltime programme manager.

A Programme Steering Committee will be established to oversee the overall implementation of the programme and ensure that it can implement adaptive management principles to manage risks and optimise success. This will require it to regularly review and discuss progress and achievements, workplans, provide strategic guidance and propose adjustments to operational plans to accommodate changes that may arise during implementation, but without compromising objectives and actions set out in this document. It will be composed of representatives of the European Commission and all the main implementing partners, including CIFOR-ICRAF, and implementing NGO partners.

In country, close coordination with the EU Delegations and relevant government agencies is foreseen.

A National Oversight and Coordination Committee will be established in each partner country under the guidance of the Project Steering Committee. The National Oversight and Coordination Committee will include representatives of the EU Delegation, CIFOR-ICRAF, the project implementing organisations active in the

country, key government representative and others as appropriate.

As part of its prerogative of budget implementation and to safeguard the financial interests of the Union, the Commission may participate in the above governance structures set up for governing the implementation of the action and may sign or enter into joint declarations or statements, for the purpose of enhancing the visibility of the EU and its contribution to this action and ensuring effective coordination.

5 PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

5.1 Monitoring and Reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this Action will be a continuous process, and part of the implementing partner's responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (Outputs and direct Outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the logframe matrix.

The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

Roles and responsibilities for data collection, analysis and monitoring:

A host of programme-financed household surveys and verification missions for logframe indicators will be carried out periodically by the Implementing Partner and appraised during the National Oversight and Coordination Committees. This is based on existing structures developed under 'Regreening Africa – Phase I'. The programme-wide assessment of logframe indicators will subsequently be carried out by the responsible manager at Commission headquarters during annual reporting procedures.

Monitoring systems will be designed to ensure the gender-sensitivity of data collected, hence allowing the measurement of progress towards gender equality and women's empowerment.

5.2 Evaluation

Having regard to the importance of the Action, a(n) final evaluation may be carried out for this Action or its components via independent consultants contracted by the Commission.

It will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision), taking into account in particular the fact that the uptake-, scaling-, sustainability- and economic potential of regreening practices are necessary to be understood in order to adapt future interventions in land restoration.

The Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least 3 months in advance of the dates envisaged for the evaluation missions. The implementing partner shall collaborate efficiently and effectively with the evaluation experts, and inter alia provide them with all necessary information and documentation, as well as access to the project premises and activities.

The evaluation reports may be shared with the partners and other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and

recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, apply the necessary adjustments.

The financing of the evaluation may be covered by another measure constituting a Financing Decision.

5.3 Audit and Verifications

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this action, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audit or verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

6 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

The 2021-2027 programming cycle will adopt a new approach to pooling, programming and deploying strategic communication and public diplomacy resources.

In line with the 2022 “[Communicating and Raising EU Visibility: Guidance for External Actions](#)”, it will remain a contractual obligation for all entities implementing EU-funded external actions to inform the relevant audiences of the Union’s support for their work by displaying the EU emblem and a short funding statement as appropriate on all communication materials related to the actions concerned. This obligation will continue to apply equally, regardless of whether the actions concerned are implemented by the Commission, partner countries, service providers, grant beneficiaries or entrusted or delegated entities such as UN agencies, international financial institutions and agencies of EU member states.

However, action documents for specific sector programmes are in principle no longer required to include a provision for communication and visibility actions promoting the programmes concerned. These resources will instead be consolidated in Cooperation Facilities established by support measure action documents, allowing Delegations to plan and execute multiannual strategic communication and public diplomacy actions with sufficient critical mass to be effective on a national scale.

Appendix 1 REPORTING IN OPSYS

A Primary Intervention (project/programme) is a coherent set of activities and results structured in a logical framework aiming at delivering development change or progress. Identifying the level of the primary intervention will allow for:

Articulating Actions or Contracts according to an expected chain of results and therefore allowing them to ensure efficient monitoring and reporting of performance;

Differentiating these Actions or Contracts from those that do not produce direct reportable development results, defined as support entities (i.e. audits, evaluations);

Having a complete and exhaustive mapping of all results-bearing Actions and Contracts.

Primary Interventions are identified during the design of each action by the responsible service (Delegation or Headquarters operational Unit).

The level of the Primary Intervention chosen can be modified (directly in OPSYS) and the modification does not constitute an amendment of the action document.

The intervention level for the present Action identifies as (tick one of the 4 following options);

Action level (i.e. Budget Support, blending)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single action	Present action: all contracts in the present action