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**THIS ACTION IS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**ANNEX 10**

to the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the multiannual action plan in favour of Sub-Saharan Africa for 2022-2026 Part 2

**Action Document for EU Regional Support to the Great Green Wall**

**MULTIANNUALANNUAL PLAN**

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

## 1 SYNOPSIS

### 1.1 Action Summary Table

<b>1. Title</b> <b>CRIS/OPSYS</b> <b>business reference</b> <b>Basic Act</b>	Action Document for EU Regional Support to the Great Green Wall OPSYS number: ACT-61404 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument ( <u>NDICI-Global Europe</u> ).
<b>2. Team Europe Initiative</b>	No
<b>3. Zone benefiting from the action</b>	The Action shall be carried out in Sub-Saharan Africa, in particular in the following countries:  Mauritania, Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria, Chad, Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Djibouti  And wherever possible in the following additional countries: Cameroon, Ghana, Benin, Cape Verde, Gambia, South Sudan, and Somalia
<b>4. Programming document</b>	Multi-Annual Indicative Programme for Sub-Saharan Africa 2021-2027
<b>5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results</b>	The Action contributes to Priority Area 3 (Green Transition), specifically to Biodiversity Protection, Climate Action and Governance. The Action will also contribute to reaching a number of Results in relation to sustainable agri-food systems, sustainable energy (Result 2.3.), as well as biodiversity and environment (Result 4.1.).
<b>PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION</b>	
<b>6. Priority Area(s), sectors</b>	General Environment Protection, Agriculture, Forestry, Other Multi-Sectors, Energy
<b>7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)</b>	Main SDG (1 only): SDG 15, in particular target 15.3 on Land Degradation Neutrality Other significant SDGs (up to 9) and where appropriate, targets: SDGs 1, 2, 5, 7, 13 & 17
<b>8 a) DAC code(s)</b>	41010 – (Environmental Policy and Administrative Management): 25%

	31130 – (Agricultural Land Resources): 20% 31220 – (Forestry Development): 20% 43040 – (Rural Development): 35%			
<b>8 b) Main Delivery Channel</b>	Research Insitute - 51000 UN Entity - 41100			
<b>9. Targets</b>	<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			
<b>10. Markers (from DAC form)</b>	<b>General policy objective @</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Principal objective</b>
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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"/>
	Trade development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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"/>
	<b>RIO Convention markers</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Principal objective</b>
	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"/>
<b>11. Internal markers and Tags:</b>	<b>Policy objectives</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Principal objective</b>
	Digitalisation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital connectivity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	digital governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	digital entrepreneurship	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	digital skills/literacy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	digital services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

	Connectivity @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Migration @ (methodology for tagging under development)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reduction of Inequalities @ (methodology for marker and tagging under development)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>BUDGET INFORMATION</b>				
<b>12. Amounts concerned</b>	Total estimated cost for 2022: EUR 13 000 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution for 2022: EUR 13 000 000 B2022-14.020120-C1-INTPA: EUR 6 500 000 B2022-14.020121-C1-INTPA: EUR 6 500 000			
<b>MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION</b>				
<b>13. Type of financing<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Indirect management</b> with the entity(ies) in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.3.1.			

## 1.2 Summary of the Action

The Great Green Wall (GGW) is a lighthouse African initiative to regreen the Sahel from Senegal to Somalia. The GGW has ambitions to become a comprehensive rural development and sustainable land management initiative, aiming to transform the lives of Sahelian populations by supporting a mosaic of green and productive landscapes. It leverages a diversity of projects, with the potential to contribute to several EU and African objectives, including on those pertaining to food security, sustainable agri-food systems, water, addressing desertification, climate change and biodiversity loss, sustainable energy, decent job creation, and, more broadly, resilience, stability and sustainable and inclusive development. The EU has pledged to support the GGW, primarily through its country programmes, complemented and supported by a light regional Action, described hereunder. The EU's support to the Great Green Wall holds the status as a 'Flagship'.

The overall objective of this regional Action is to **enable sustainable land management<sup>2</sup> and livelihoods in support of the Great Green Wall initiative and to accelerate progress towards its objectives<sup>3</sup>**. The Action will focus primarily on the eleven countries that are members of the Pan-African Agency of the Great Green Wall

<sup>1</sup> Art. 27 NDICI

<sup>2</sup> Sustainable land management was defined by the UN 1992 Rio Earth Summit as "the use of land resources, including soils, water, animals and plants, for the production of goods to meet changing human needs, while simultaneously ensuring the long-term productive potential of these resources and the maintenance of their environmental functions." Degradation of water, soil and vegetation, as well as the emission of greenhouse gases (GHGs) that contribute to climate change, can all be addressed by SLM practices that simultaneously conserve natural resources, reduce emissions, and store carbon, among other benefits.

<sup>3</sup> As mentioned in the GGW Accelerator Framework.

(Mauritania, Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria, Chad, Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Djibouti). Wherever possible, this Action will also offer support to the additional seven countries implementing GGW-related activities with EU support (Cameroon, Ghana, Benin, Cape Verde, Gambia, South Sudan and Somalia). Together, this forms the broader area of the Great Green Wall.

The Action is designed to complement and strengthen action by a diversity of stakeholders at country and regional level. It will do so through employment of three Specific Objectives:

1. **Enhanced uptake and effectiveness of sustainable land management, land restoration and integrated landscape management practices** within the broader Great Green Wall area
2. **Improved land health and vegetation monitoring and intervention targeting** within the broader Great Green Wall area
3. **Enhanced policy and institutional enabling environment for sustainable land management and livelihoods** within the broader Great Green Wall area

It is envisaged to task the Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to implement the Action, working with a range of relevant regional stakeholders, including the Commission of the African Union, the Pan-African Agency of the Great Green Wall, national and sub-national governments, non-governmental and civil society organisations (including women's organisations), the private sector, and working in close collaboration with European Union Delegations in the respective partner countries.

The proposed Action will contribute to the Green Transition priority (Priority Area 3) of the MIP for Sub-Saharan Africa, specifically to Biodiversity Protection, Climate Action and Governance. The Action will also help reach a number of sustainability objectives in the fields of agri-food systems, sustainable energy (Result 2.3.), and biodiversity and environment (Result 4.1.). The Action will contribute to the pursuit of a number of SDGs in the Sahel, in particular SDGs 1, 2, 5, 7, 13, **15 (notably target 15.3 on Land Degradation Neutrality)** and 17.

## 2 RATIONALE

### 2.1 Context

The **Great Green Wall (GGW)** is a flagship African initiative to regreen the Sahel from Senegal to Somalia, through a mosaic of initiatives that offers the potential to contribute to several EU and African objectives, including those pertaining to food security, sustainable agri-food systems, water, addressing desertification and biodiversity loss, mitigating and adapting to climate change, sustainable energy, decent job creation, and, more broadly, resilience, stability and sustainable and inclusive development. Eleven countries are currently part of the Pan-African Agency of the Great Green Wall (PAGGW): **Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sudan and Chad**. Six additional Sub-Saharan African countries are implementing GGW-related activities, notably with EU support, without being part of the PAGGW (**Cameroon, Ghana, Benin, Cape Verde, Gambia, and Somalia**). Given its proximity, **South Sudan** has also expressed interest in being associated with this initiative.

The Great Green Wall Initiative is the result of a collaborative response by the Sahel-Saharan and Horn of Africa countries to some of the regions' most pressing problems: desertification, land degradation, the worsening impact of droughts, food and nutrition insecurity, energy access, water scarcity, biodiversity loss, climate change and poverty, instability, food insecurity and malnutrition.

The GGW has evolved from its initial focus on tree planting towards a comprehensive rural development initiative aiming to transform the lives of millions of people in the Sahel region by supporting a mosaic of green and productive landscapes across Sahelian and Horn of Africa countries. A multi-actor **"GGW Accelerator"** strategy

has been launched to strengthen and scale the implementation of the Great Green Wall over the coming decade. The GGW Accelerator is coordinated through the PAGGW with support from the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and aims to accelerate its implementation, enhance resource mobilisation, and help all actors to better coordinate, monitor and measure the impact of their actions. It defines a broad common strategic framework for action structured around **six objectives and five pillars**:

Objectives (by 2030):

1. Restore 100 million hectares of degraded land
2. Create 10 million jobs in rural areas
3. Sequester 250 million tons of carbon
4. Improve food security for 20 million people
5. Support the millions of people living in communities across the Sahel
6. Provide access to 10 million smallholder farmers to agricultural technologies resilient to climate change

**Pillar 1:** Investment in small and medium-sized farms, promoting agro-ecological approaches resilient to climate change, and strengthening of value chains, local markets, and the organisation of exports.

**Pillar 2:** Land restoration and sustainable management of ecosystems, in order to improve livelihoods directly dependent on natural resources, and increase stability and climate resilience.

**Pillar 3:** Climate resilient infrastructures and access to renewable energy in order to alleviate rural poverty and youth unemployment, and support prosperity and security.

**Pillar 4:** Favourable economic and institutional framework for effective governance, sustainability, stability and security that lead to greater climate resilience and an enabling environment for investments and secured livelihoods.

**Pillar 5:** Capacity building to implement integrated landscape approaches, monitor and evaluate results, support NGOs, the private sector and other actors, as well as mainstream these activities and approaches into national policies.

The 2030 GGW Vision is fully in line with the African Union Agenda 2063 and consistent with the objectives of the three United Nations Rio Conventions and the Sustainable Development Goals. The Action will contribute to several SDGs, in particular SDGs 1, 2, 5, 7, 13, **15** and 17. **Furthermore, this Action is strongly contributing to the Land Degradation Neutrality target.**

Following a first decade of implementation with mixed results, the Great Green Wall initiative gained fresh momentum in recent years and in particular at the One Planet Summit in January 2021 in Paris. It is a key initiative that demonstrates that our mobilisation for biodiversity goes hand-in-hand with social and economic objectives. During the Summit, the multi-actor GGW Accelerator Strategy was launched. Donors collectively pledged to provide 19 billion USD in support of the Great Green Wall Accelerator Strategy Initiative.

On the EU side, the President of the Commission pledged to ***“mobilise even more than the €700 million per year already raised for the Great Green Wall project”***, in the framework of the EU’s regular partnerships and geographic programmes with countries in the region across the sectors of the Accelerator Strategy. This is to be complemented by the light regional programme described in this action document. Support for the Great Green Wall also features as a flagship in the Investment Package for the ***EU-AU Summit***. France, Belgium, the European Investment Bank, a number of other EU Member States, the World Bank, IFAD and several other UN agencies have also expressed their commitment to support the initiative.

This Action is aligned with the priorities of the EU-Africa Global Gateway Investment Package, which includes Africa’s Great Green Wall Initiative, and with EU strategic priorities for the Sahel and in the Horn of Africa. It is also aligned with the climate change commitments announced at the UNFCCC COP 26 in Glasgow and reflects the EU’s ambitions regarding sustainable soil and land management expressed by the EU Soil Strategy. This Action will furthermore likely support the EU’s engagement under a new Global Biodiversity Framework that is to be agreed upon at UNCBD COP15 in Montreal in December 2022. Finally, it supports European Green Deal priorities, such as promoting sustainable food systems (Farm-to-Fork Strategy) and protecting and restoring biodiversity (Biodiversity Strategy 2030).

This Action will respond to priorities identified by regional institutions and their member countries themselves, including those found in the Accelerator’s Strategy and the 10 year Priority Investment Plan developed by the

Great Green Wall agencies. At national level, the Action will contribute to the agriculture and rural development plans, the Nationally Determined Contributions, the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, and the National Action Plans to combat desertification of member countries, as well as to the commitments countries took in the framework of the African Union-led African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100). Finally, the Action would also allow aligning with the priorities of regional organisations such as the ‘Comité Permanent Inter-États de Lutte contre la Sécheresse dans le Sahel (CILSS)’ and its specialised agency AGRHYMET.

A country-level technical needs survey carried out between November 2021 and January 2022 by the UNCCD identified the following among the priority support areas: the development of national data platforms, support to foster dialogue, and capacity building on advisory services.

In response to the expressed needs and in alignment with the Accelerator strategy, this Action will provide regional support for policy, outreach and advocacy efforts, enhance capacities, reinforce impact monitoring systems, share and boost knowledge and expertise, and encourage sharing of lessons, innovation and best practices between GGW-related projects and stakeholders.

This Action aims to complement and strengthen country-level actions and to add value to existing investments, including the work of the Accelerator and of the Pan-African Agency of the Great Green Wall. This Action will build on previous EU support to the GGW, in particular large scale restoration approaches such as ‘Regreening Africa’, ‘FLEUVE’ and ‘Action Against Desertification’, use-and-deploy methodologies and technologies for small scale farming and their associated value chains, and will assist and disseminate best practices in large-scale restoration interventions in the GGW countries.

## 2.2 Problem Analysis

### Short problem analysis:

Land is the foundation for food security, human well-being and overall development. It is also the engine of economic growth for almost all countries on the African continent. However, **land is a finite resource**, and is subject to growing and competing pressures from an increased demand for food, feed, fuel, fibre and timber, urbanisation and infrastructure development. These factors are exacerbated in the African context by rapidly growing populations, climate change and extensive land degradation.

Land is also a resource whose mismanagement brings deleterious, although often reversible, consequences. About **65%** of all agricultural land in Africa has been affected by degradation since 1950, while **25%** risks becoming completely unusable. Land degradation brings a litany of undesirable outcomes, from instability and insecurity to mass emigration. Land degradation also reduces the productive capacity of agricultural systems and hence contributes to increased food insecurity, while simultaneously reducing the resilience of agro-ecosystems to the impacts of climate change.

Land degradation can and does occur in all climatic zones, but drylands are particularly vulnerable. For that reason, amongst others, Africa is the continent most vulnerable to, and most affected by, land degradation and desertification. Africa’s drylands face a combination of tough biophysical challenges that include water scarcity, irregular precipitation, low soil fertility and high erosion risks. In the Sahel’s drylands, poverty and food insecurity combine with the world’s fastest population growth rates and unsustainable land use practices to cause growing over- and mis-exploitation of natural resources. That leads to rapidly worsening land degradation and desertification, which deepens poverty and food insecurity, all of which leads to growing instability.

Having experienced recurrent, severe droughts, an accelerating deterioration of soil quality, and a rapid loss of vegetation cover in the last decades, the Sahel is now among the world’s most severely degraded and desertified regions. Food, water and energy insecurity are major barriers to development. Communities are frequently exposed to serious environmental hazards, particularly droughts. The number of people in the Sahel whose livelihoods depend on degraded lands has been estimated to be around 135 million. A major part of this population is poor, and since the economy is closely linked with agricultural production systems, the need for sustainably managing land resources, rehabilitating degraded lands and preventing further land degradation is vital.

On top of this, insecure land tenure undermines progress. Secure land tenure is critical for long-term investments in land, income generation, accessing credit, and transferring wealth to younger generations. As such, inequalities in land tenure often go hand-in-hand with inequalities in economic opportunities. Property is very low among women, especially on the African continent. Land rights tend to be held by men or kinship groups controlled by

men, and women have access mainly through a male relative – usually a father or husband. Moreover, such limited access is tenuous and can quickly be lost.

Equipping national projects, initiatives and other efforts with the necessary knowledge and tools to help the Great Green Wall countries break out of this vicious cycle is the guiding ambition of this regional Action.

The Great Green Wall Initiative is a pan-African response to some of the most pressing problems in the Sahara-Sahel region, including land degradation and desertification, drought, food and nutrition insecurity, energy access, water scarcity, biodiversity loss and reduced resilience to climate change. Ultimately, the initiative aims to reverse current trends of increasing poverty, food insecurity, malnutrition and instability through rural development and the restoration of degraded land.

At its launch in 2007, the initiative set itself the narrowly defined objective of planting a 15 km wide vegetative barrier between the Sahara and the Sahel to halt desertification. In these first years, substantial investments did not deliver the hoped-for impacts. These mixed results partly reflected the initially narrow scope and focus of the initiative. However, lessons were learnt, and the Great Green Wall has since evolved into a comprehensive, integrated rural development initiative.

Despite the welcome progress documented in the past 5 years, several challenges were identified in a Great Green Wall (GGW) evaluation conducted in September 2020. Of these challenges, this Action aims to address the following:

- The need to promote the wider vision of the GGW, shifting from “simply” planting a barrier of trees to halt the desert, to a broader rural development approach, promoting a mosaic of initiatives for diversified land use, sustainable land management and restoration systems.
- Governance issues causing institutional challenges such as:
  - The lack of high-level political support for an environmental policy agenda from the governments of the GGW member states, leading to a lack of needed supportive legislation and of the political mandates to establish and properly resource the required institutional structures and processes that the GGW would benefit from.
  - A lack of coordination and engagement with other relevant sectors. The implementation of GGW activities should not only be carried out by the GGW agencies, but also importantly by organisations and agencies from other relevant sectors operating at various scales and from various land-based perspectives. The GGW agencies should coordinate the implementation efforts of the many different local, national, regional and international partners contributing to GGW activities and objectives.
  - Little mainstreaming of GGW objectives and practices into relevant sector strategies, policies, action plans and programmes and consequently low reach to the local level. A full mainstreaming is needed for the impact to reach the local level through a multiplicity of relevant sector and local policies, plans and actions.
  - The difficulty of implementing a “landscape approach”: an inter-sectoral approach that goes beyond jurisdictional borders and usual sectoral boundaries.
  - A lack of coordination and information exchange at the regional and national levels and between the respective GGW structures. There is a lack of proper knowledge management, sharing and coordination mechanisms at the regional and national levels, which would facilitate building on lessons learnt and on success stories to encourage a rapid and efficient expansion of the GGW.
- The lack of proper measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) systems and related challenges such as the general absence of monitoring and evaluation expertise, which obstructs the objective of establishing proper MRV systems at project and national levels as well as at the level of the GGW Initiative as a whole.
- A number of technical challenges affecting the survival rates of tree-planting projects; and to ensure that local populations and governments have the full ownership of projects over long periods of time.
- The difficulty to mobilise finance and investment at scale for sustainable land management and land restoration, and the low financial profitability and inherent investment risks of land management projects across the GGW region.

Many donors and organisations are now coming together to address these challenges. Significant funds have been pledged to support the GGW, with the Green Climate Fund, African Development Bank and private sector committing especially large investments. The EU has also pledged its support to the GGW, primarily through

country programmes complemented and supported by the light regional support programme outlined in this Action.

The Action is a direct response to some of the issues above and to the needs expressed by the partner countries and key GGW stakeholders, who requested support to enhance their knowledge management and sharing, develop national GGW data platforms, to foster dialogues among GGW stakeholders at national and regional levels, as well as to strengthen institutions and enhance the capacity of national and regional GGW agencies.

This Action is designed to contribute to the broad objectives of the GGW by building on existing initiatives through a lens that:

- strengthens the knowledge base to inform GGW action;
- addresses the drivers of land degradation, including socioeconomic (e.g. gender issues) and ecological factors, and promotes action across relevant sectors;
- focuses on the incentives that encourage land restoration at community, sub-national and national scales by integrating the development and growth of value chains that depend on restored ecosystem function to boost rural incomes and livelihoods;
- scales sustainable land management approaches adapted to both pastoral and cropping systems, including communal lands;
- develops the right enabling environment by tackling governance issues and enabling policy environments that build on the use of evidence to develop and implement effective interventions at scale.

**Identification of main stakeholders and corresponding institutional and/or organisational issues (mandates, potential roles, and capacities) to be covered by the action:**

The GGW Initiative involves a range of stakeholders, including national governments, international organisations, the private sector and civil society (including women's rights), who all work together to pursue a common vision. Key partners for this Action include the Pan-African Agency for the Great Green Wall (PAGGW), the African Union Commission, national and sub-national governments and the European Union Delegations in countries contributing to the GGW. Non-government organisations and Civil Society Organisations and regional organisations such as the CILSS/AGRHYMET, the West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD/ICPAC), and the Network for Natural Gums & Resins in Africa (NGARA) may also be involved along with SOS Sahel and the Global Landscapes Forum Africa. The Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission will be an important partner for earth observation-based monitoring and for capacity building.

International partners such as the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Secretariat, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Bank (WB), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD) Secretariat, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the European Investment Bank, the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank at the regional level, have together mobilised substantial investments to advance the implementation of the GGW Initiative and will be important partners to forge links and to develop complementary activities with.

The final beneficiaries will be those benefiting from effective biophysical impact monitoring, knowledge acquisition, evaluation and sharing systems, and policy, advocacy and outreach support. This includes organisations implementing local and national actions, the national and sub-national authorities of the participating countries, local communities, land users, farmer organisations, NGOs and other civil society organisations, and private sector players at local, sub-national, national, regional and international levels. The logic is straightforward: The Great Green Wall will be grown by the land users (particularly smallholder farmers and pastoralists, rural communities and MSMEs), so equipping these many millions of final beneficiaries and the organisations that support them, with as much practical and actionable knowledge and incentives as possible is essential to the success of the whole initiative.

In many African countries, *women* are the major workforce in agriculture and are key to ensuring the sustainable use of the land. They play a critical role in ensuring food security and nutrition, and collect water and fuelwood for their households and communities. Profound gender differences in terms of access and control over land and



natural resources should be challenged by supporting gender-transformative approaches and integrating gender-specific actions wherever relevant.

The *private sector*, including farmers, (agro)-pastoralists, other producers and their organisations, constitutes the main users and custodians of land. The private sector also plays a key role in establishing public-private partnerships, investing in agribusinesses, improving innovation and technology, and helping to create and develop responsible value chains (respecting the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights) – an essential pull factor to promote sustainable land use. Power differentials between larger and more sophisticated private sector players and less resourced land users can lead to challenges which must be squarely and carefully addressed to ensure an equitable distribution of the benefits of land use and prevent the alienation of land and natural resources.

*Local authorities* are key partners, as they are responsible for managing their jurisdiction and bear the responsibility as the primary authority in charge of the environment and protection of natural resources.

Finally, *national authorities* in target countries are responsible for land use planning and defining and implementing national land-related policies, ensuring fair and equitable access to land for both women and men, and the respect for related human rights.

### 3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

#### 3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The **Overall Objective (Impact)** of this Action is to **enable sustainable land management<sup>4</sup> and livelihoods in support of the Great Green Wall initiative and to accelerate progress towards its objectives<sup>5</sup>**.

The **Specific(s) Objective(s) (Outcomes)** of this action are:

1. **Enhanced uptake and effectiveness of sustainable land management, land restoration and integrated landscape management practices** within the broader Great Green Wall area
2. **Improved land health and vegetation monitoring and intervention targeting** within the broader Great Green Wall area
3. **Enhanced policy and institutional enabling environment for sustainable land management and livelihoods** within the broader Great Green Wall area

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

**1.1 contributing to Outcome 1 (or Specific Objective 1):** GGW actors are equipped with actionable knowledge and technical support, including on land restoration, sustainable land management, inclusion policies, governance mechanisms, agroforestry, agroecology, and associated value chains. Tailored knowledge products and a digital knowledge platform raise awareness on new approaches and innovations that can support design and implementation of GGW initiatives.

**1.2 contributing to Outcome 1 (or Specific Objective 1):** promising innovations to advance land restoration identified, supported and relevant lessons learnt disseminated.

**2.1 contributing to Outcome 2 (or Specific Objective 2):** the state of land health and vegetation in the GGW countries is assessed and available through a co-designed web-based interface that supports the regional GGW platform. Concurrently, capacity of GGW stakeholders is boosted at national and regional

<sup>4</sup> Sustainable land management was defined by the UN 1992 Rio Earth Summit as “the use of land resources, including soils, water, animals and plants, for the production of goods to meet changing human needs, while simultaneously ensuring the long-term productive potential of these resources and the maintenance of their environmental functions.” Degradation of water, soil and vegetation, as well as the emission of greenhouse gases (GHGs) that contribute to climate change, can all be addressed by SLM practices that simultaneously conserve natural resources, reduce emissions, and store carbon, among other benefits.

<sup>5</sup> As mentioned in the GGW Accelerator Framework.

level to better monitor and report on biophysical indicators and to better target GGW interventions and policies.

**3.1 contributing to Outcome 3 (or Specific Objective 3):** GGW-relevant institutions and organisations are supported with advocacy and outreach products, such as analyses of policy/legal frameworks and incentive pathways. Enhanced cross-sectoral collaboration and stakeholder coordination for the GGW at national and regional level.

The Action will support GGW actors at country and regional level, in line with both Pillar 4 and Pillar 5 of the GGW Accelerator.

## 3.2 Indicative Activities

Below are the main planned indicative activities that will be further defined and detailed at the contracting and inception phases.

Activities under Output 1.1:

- Map and analyse key stakeholder knowledge needs and gaps to enable action and deliver on GGW targets, including how knowledge should be tailored, structured and made accessible, in collaboration with other facilitating and delivery entities implementing the GGW to encourage synergy.
- Develop and operationalise a knowledge management, sharing and learning ecosystem and digital platform documenting best practices, innovations, approaches and policies including blended learning, digital campus and networking spaces for smallholder farmers, pastoralists and entrepreneurs, with a special focus on youth and women's empowerment.
- Prepare and disseminate knowledge resources and training modules on topics of importance for the GGW, for example on agroforestry, agro-sylvo-pastoral resources and associated value chains, land restoration, farmer managed natural regeneration, soil and water conservation, productive use of energy in farming activities, dryland nutritious food, fibre and feed preparation, value addition, non-timber forest products (NTFPs) and tackling the drivers of land degradation.
- Support regular cross-learning events and dialogues between GGW actors on best scalable practices, innovations, approaches, incentives and policies.
- Strengthen the knowledge management and coordination capacity of key GGW regional and national actors.
- Co-develop and/or adapt a mobile application (app) to provide knowledge support to strengthen advisory services at national, sub-national and local levels.
- Train and strengthen capacity of GGW actors at regional and national level and work with civil society, producer organizations and Farmer Field Schools (FFS) where possible on relevant practices, innovations, incentives, approaches, and policies.
- Provide on-demand technical and advisory support for the identification, development, implementation and reporting of GGW projects.

Activities under Output 1.2

- Establish an innovation and acceleration facility to identify and reward promising and scalable initiatives, approaches and innovations (including those with a gender focus) that support objectives of the GGW, including practices, approaches, technologies, business models and new institutional arrangements.
- Provide seed funding, technical assistance and promotional support for the selected scalable initiatives, approaches and innovations, then document and share lessons learnt.

Activities under Output 2.1 [will link, where possible, to European tools and knowledge platforms, notably Copernicus, and collaborate with other impact monitoring efforts in the GGW]

- Support regional and national actors to strengthen the GGW monitoring (field and digital) and reporting systems, using spatial observation tools and data.
- Prepare annual state of land (use change) and vegetation maps and knowledge products, building on existing tools and analysis, where relevant, including the Africa Knowledge Platform and FAOs Hand in Hand Geospatial platform.
- Establish regional knowledge exchange forums to interpret the state of land health, land use change and

vegetation, assess progress and inform GGW implementation.

- Strengthen the capacity of regional and national GGW bodies to assess, map and monitor a wide range of biophysical and land health indicators, responding to country needs, including to track the effectiveness of land restoration implementation, target interventions and to guide policy, using a range of available tools, including citizen science apps and relevant FAO tools.
- Establish a web-based interface co-created with national and regional actors (linked to and supporting development of the GGW regional knowledge and monitoring platform) to facilitate access to biophysical impact monitoring data and evidence.
- Prepare actionable guidance documents on monitoring, evaluation and reporting tools, protocols and standards to support reporting for the Accelerator Results Framework, in close collaboration with donors, GGW countries and stakeholders.

*Land and vegetation impact monitoring will contribute in particular to core indicator 1, 'land cover change', under the GGW Accelerator Results Framework as well as indicators under pillar 2 on 'land restoration'.*

#### Activities under Output 3.1

- Strengthen relevant GGW national and regional institutions for policy, advocacy, outreach and coordination, based on a needs analysis.
- Support countries in their efforts to mainstream the GGW objectives in key policies, plans and investments and to create enabling environments that accelerate GGW implementation and create meaningful impact, including by promoting cross-sectoral dialogues, addressing policy gaps, removing regulatory bottlenecks, and redesigning misaligned incentive systems.
- Analyse legal frameworks and policy reform scenarios at multiple scales and conduct a dynamic mapping of the interactions between institutions affecting land users at multiple scales and incentive pathways.
- Provide on-demand support to national and regional civil society and other relevant stakeholders for targeted evidence-informed policy engagement and advocacy activities in and across GGW countries.
- Help GGW stakeholders to co-develop and disseminate targeted advocacy and outreach products to raise the profile and political support for the GGW
- Support a broad GGW community of practice including land users, civil society, technical advisors, policy makers and the interested public, using for example social networks, local media and community videos to share across and within countries.
- Support evidence-based planning, policymaking and investments in the GGW through training, foresight and other analysis
- Recognise and publicise GGW champions (or communities), for example through an annual award to showcase ground-breaking GGW related initiatives and innovations.

*Activities under this component will include a specific focus on inclusion, and the key role of smallholder farmers and pastoralists, women and youth empowerment in achieving the GGW objectives.*

### 3.3 Mainstreaming

#### **Environmental Protection & Climate Change**

**Environmental and climate change** considerations are at the core of the action and are explicitly mainstreamed in the results framework: the action will systematically support environmental sustainability issues and address the inter-relation between climate change adaptation and mitigation, desertification/land degradation, and ecosystem services preservation and sustainable use. No Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA or Environmental Impact Assessment). EIA is therefore required/foreseen.

#### **Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls**

As per OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as G1. This implies that gender issues will be addressed systematically, and the action will contribute to a gender-transformative approach to the Great Green Wall by promoting women's voices, agency and participation.

Women play a key role in managing natural resources, ensuring food security, and as holders of knowledge and

expertise on indigenous plants, medicines, food and water. Nevertheless, they often face discrimination regarding their rights and access to natural resources, and they are the most exposed to the consequences of climate change and food shortages. This action will pay particular attention to recognising the role and rights of women in relation to land use, ecosystems preservation, livelihoods and tackling climate change, in order to fight gender inequalities. It will do so by promoting the active engagement of national and regional women's organisations, platforms and initiatives in the overall governance of the GGW initiative. This action will, thereby, contribute to the new EU Action Plan on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in External Action 2021–2025 (GAP III).

### **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 propose. 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.

The Action will take into account the human rights aspects of land affecting a range of issues including poverty reduction and development, peacebuilding, humanitarian assistance, disaster prevention and recovery, and urban and rural planning.

### **Disability**

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D0. This implies that integration of persons with disabilities is not among the goals of the project. Nevertheless, the action aims to benefit a variety of stakeholders, regardless of their status.

### **Democracy**

Addressing land governance and tenure issues, as well as improving the overall governance system, by facilitating dialogue and networking between concerned stakeholders and land users, partnerships, inclusiveness, community-based management schemes, etc., are guiding principles of this Action and compulsory elements for the upscaling of sustainable land management practices. This can hence have a positive impact on the fostering of democratic societies.

### **Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience**

By regulating and addressing tensions over competing land uses, as well as access to other natural resources, and providing alternative livelihood opportunities that increase human and ecosystem resilience to climate change and other natural disasters and to food security, the Action will contribute to the stability and security of targeted populations, as well as to land-related conflict prevention and management. A conflict-sensitive approach would therefore be promoted where appropriate.

### **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, etc., as well as slow onset events such as increased temperatures, desertification, or loss of biodiversity.

## **3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Risks</b>	<b>Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)</b>	<b>Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)</b>	<b>Mitigating measures</b>
Category 1	Conflicts and insecurity in the	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	Actions are mostly implemented at regional and multi-country level, and

	region			<p>involve a variety of stakeholders and approaches, therefore limiting impact in certain countries/areas, or due to unforeseen events.</p> <p>Should interactions with authorities of a specific country deteriorate (or even cease) due to expanding conflict, support to relevant actors from civil society will be ramped up to secure continuation of activities to the extent possible.</p> <p>Relevant information networks (e.g with EUDs, partner governments, CSOs) will be built and maintained throughout the programme that enable the implementing partner to respond quickly to shifting circumstances induced by conflict.</p>
Category 2	Weak governance in key regional and national institutions	<b>Medium</b>	<b>High</b>	Key stakeholders will be involved in the development of the Action and where possible building on existing relationships and project successes. The Action will contribute to strengthening institutions through capacity strengthening and policy advocacy work.
Category 3	Low attention/priority to GGW in key ministries (finance, agriculture, research) and poor coordination	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Medium</b>	Targeted national actions, as well as regional knowledge-sharing and capacity-building and support to mainstreaming GGW objectives in key policies and action plans.
Category 2	Lack of favourable national policies and legislation for sustainable and inclusive land management	<b>Medium</b>	<b>High</b>	<p>Targeted national actions, as well as regional knowledge-sharing and capacity-building.</p> <p>Support for countries to strengthen policy, baselines and targets for sustainable land management, by providing data, information and knowledge.</p>

#### Lessons Learnt:

- Many land restoration initiatives have failed to achieve impact at scale and long-lasting results for a diversity of reasons, including a narrow focus on tree planting; a lack of attention to the socio-economic drivers and incentives that encourage land users to restore and sustainably manage their lands; low knowledge levels leading to the use of inappropriate techniques, practices and approaches; tree species choices not matching local conditions or needs; a lack of attention to governance issues; policy and or regulatory bottlenecks; and consequently a broad failure to effectively tackle the drivers of land degradation at scale. However, while progress across the GGW region has been mixed, strong results have been achieved in several countries and regions. Although solutions need to be tailored to specific contexts (no “one size fits all”), cost-effective and scalable models exist. It is essential to document successful

techniques, practices, approaches and policies; and to disseminate knowledge on what works and what does not work in order to inform future efforts.

- Sustainable land management must be addressed first and foremost as a rural economic development opportunity and cannot be addressed from a purely environmental perspective. An initiative like the Great Green Wall will not receive the required support without a proper integration of its objectives into the wider strategies, policies, action plans and programmes in key sectors relevant to the GGW, including agriculture, land use, rural development and energy.
- Several efforts at upscaling sustainable land management in the Sahel and Horn of Africa, including through the EU-funded ‘Regreening Africa’ or ‘Action Against Desertification’ projects, have shown that there is a need for knowledge-led platforms on sustainable land use, the further strengthening of governance and a sustained effort to improve policy and regulatory frameworks.
- Lessons from ‘Regreening Africa’ indicate that through partnerships and structured stakeholder engagement including multiple information sources, shifts in land restoration planning, investment, implementation and enabling policy environments can be achieved. Integrating science with practice and policy has shown to be of great value. Also critical is addressing the drivers of land degradation while creating incentives for restoration, such as through the development of value chains and greater tenure and/or usage rights by the community and its gender-disaggregated members of the restored land and its products.
- ‘Action Against Desertification’ has devised a large-scale land restoration model in support of the implementation of the GGW, which includes technical support of interventions on the ground to improve: (i) degraded lands; (ii) plant science to support resilient planting seeds and seedlings of wild species for restoration to be successful; (iii) agroecological and climate-smart agriculture approaches; and (iv) gender-responsive and resilient value chains for agriculture and forest products. Using its digital tools (e.g. Collect Earth), FAO has developed capacities in 11 GGW national coordinating agencies of the PAGGW on data collection and utilization. This resulted in collaborative national baseline assessments of land use and land use change for future monitoring and tracking progress/impact of the GGW.
- Growing pressures and competing demands on land call for more integrated approaches and stronger coordination, as well as good polycentric governance systems taking into consideration the various needs and interests of the actors and the incentive pathways within which they act.

Repeated UNFCCC COP decisions have stressed the key role of land in achieving the objectives of the Paris agreement, for example through the Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) component of the UNFCCC. Furthermore, as the most recent Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity has pointed out, land is also key to the implementation of a future global framework agreement on biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.

### 3.5 The Intervention Logic

**The underlying intervention logic for this action is that:**

IF (i) GGW actors are equipped with actionable and tailored knowledge and technical capacity on land restoration, governance, sustainable agriculture and land management, and associated value chains practices, inclusion, approaches, incentives, policies and innovations, (ii) promising innovations to advance land restoration are identified, supported and lessons disseminated, (iii) the state of land and vegetation dimensions in the GGW countries are better assessed and available through co-designed, web-based and mobile interfaces and capacity-strengthening events are held with GGW actors to support assessment and monitoring of biophysical indicators, and (iv) the enabling environment is appraised and relevant policies, institutions and organisations are provided with advocacy and outreach products and support, and other tools to co-develop optimised incentive pathways, disseminate evidence to promote a shift in high-level political support and generate investment, increase cross-sectoral collaboration and enhance enabling policies AND if GGW actors are open to collaboration and learning,

THEN the Action will contribute to (1) Enhanced uptake and effectiveness of sustainable land management, land restoration and integrated landscape management practices (2) Improved land health and vegetation monitoring and intervention targeting, and (3) Enhanced policy and institutional enabling environment for sustainable land management and livelihoods within the broader Great Green Wall area.

IF knowledge and evidence is used by people for action and innovations are celebrated and shared across countries, and,

IF impact monitoring is improved and linked to knowledge for action and advocacy and,

IF through enhancing knowledge and an understanding of impact combined with targeted outreach and advocacy an enabling policy and investment environment is established AND there is high-level political commitment, sufficient capacity and favourable national policies and legislation in partner countries,

THEN the Action will contribute to the enabling of sustainable land management and livelihoods in support of the Great Green Wall initiative and to accelerate progress towards its objectives.

This is BECAUSE the important challenges to achieving the GGW ambitions that have been identified as being drivers, incentives, attitudes and behaviors, governance, political support, coordination, knowledge and capacity, narrow technical approaches and lack of mainstreaming in key policies, resource mobilization and monitoring issues are addressed by this Action and have not been sufficiently addressed by other stakeholders to date. This is also BECAUSE past experience has shown that knowledge support, capacity strengthening, and monitoring that is linked to targeting, peer-learning and policy, advocacy and outreach efforts to create an enabling policy environment for scaling are critical elements of successful and large scale land restoration.

### 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.



PROJECT MODALITY (3 levels of results / indicators / Source of Data / Assumptions - no activities)

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
<b>Impact</b>	Strengthened sustainable land management and livelihoods in support of the Great Green Wall initiative and accelerated progress towards its objectives	1 Improved progress of GGW implementation linked to land restoration, sustainable land management, integrated landscape management, inclusion, governance, agroforestry, agroecology, associated value chains and nutrition.	TBD	1 20% improvement on average GGW implementation by 2030 in target countries	1 GGW implementation assessment  2 Land and vegetation mapping of GGW intervention areas	
<b>Outcome 1</b>	1. Enhanced uptake and effectiveness of sustainable land management, land restoration and integrated landscape management practices	1.1 # of regional, national and sub-national GGW actors applying accessed knowledge and evidence on drivers of degradation and best practices, approaches, and innovations.	1.1 0	1.1 70% of targeted actors (disaggregated by sex, level and role) reporting use of knowledge and evidence on practices, approaches, and innovations	1.1 Evidence use tracking survey	High partner interest to participate in knowledge access, sharing and building events and to use acquired knowledge

<b>Outcome 2</b>	2. Improved land health and vegetation monitoring and intervention targeting	2.1 # of countries where land health and vegetation monitoring are used to target interventions and assess impacts.	2.1 TBC	2.1 11-18 countries	2.2 Monitoring reports from GGW countries	Openness of countries and other organisations working on monitoring in the GGW to work collaboratively and include land health and vegetation impact indicators
<b>Outcome 3</b>	3. Enhanced policy and institutional enabling environment for sustainable land management and livelihoods	3.1 # of countries where prioritised actions have been implemented as a result of targeted outreach, policy work and advocacy.	3.1 0	3.1. 11-18 countries	3.1 Outcome mapping outlining behaviour shifts and policy support actions	GGW countries are supportive of developing an enabling policy environment for land restoration which benefits land managers

<b>Output 1</b>  <b>related to Outcome 1</b>	1.1 GGW actors equipped with knowledge and technical support on land restoration, sustainable land management, inclusion policies, governance, agroforestry, agroecology, associated value chains and nutrition practices, approaches, and innovations	1.1.1 # of operational digital knowledge sharing, management and learning platforms	1.1.1 0	1.1.1 One regional platform established	1.1.1 Platform available online	GGW actors have the pre-requisite capacity and openness to acquire and make use of new knowledge and resources.
		1.1.2 # of knowledge resources developed and disseminated.	1.1.2 0	1.1.2 Five knowledge resources	1.1.2 Knowledge resources available	
		1.1.3 # cross-learning events and dialogues on best practices, innovations, and approaches.	1.1.3 0	1.1.3 Four regional and 10 national events	1.1.3 Event reports	
		1.1.4 # mobile app developed and implemented to provide advisory services.	1.1.4 0	1.1.4 One mobile application	1.1.4 App available on Google Play store	
		1.1.5 # GGW actors trained on relevant practices, approaches, innovations, and policies based on identified needs.	1.1.5 0	1.1.5 330 directly and 2000 through online tools	1.1.5 Training and event reports	
		1.1.6 # countries where on-demand technical and advisory support for project identification development is offered.	1.1.6 0	1.1.6 18 countries	1.1.6 Annual reports on country engagement	

<b>Output 2</b> <b>related to Outcome 1</b>	1.2 Promising innovations to advance land restoration identified, supported and lessons disseminated	1.2.1 # of innovation funds established.  1.2.2 # of innovations identified, supported and lessons disseminated.	1.2.1 0  1.2.2 0	1.2.1 1 fund  1.2.2 10-50 innovations	1.2.1 Document outlining the fund approach  1.2.2 Reports from supported innovations	Mechanisms to support promising innovations found and identified innovations willing to partner
<b>Output 3</b> <b>related to Outcome 2</b>	2.1 State of land health and vegetation in the GGW countries assessed and available through a web-based interface; capacity of GGW stakeholders is boosted to better monitor and report on biophysical indicators and to better target interventions and policies	2.1.1 # of state of land and vegetation maps and knowledge products produced.  2.1.2 # of regional knowledge exchange forums to interpret assessments and inform GGW implementation.  2.1.3 # of capacity strengthening events on how to assess, map and monitor biophysical indicators for targeting, impact monitoring and guide policy.  2.1.4 # of web-based interfaces co-created with regional and national GGW actors to facilitate access to biophysical impact monitoring data and evidence.  2.1.5 # of guidance documents on monitoring, evaluation and reporting tools developed with GGW actors	2.1.1 0  2.1.2 0  2.1.3 0  2.1.4 0  2.1.5 0	2.1.1 Four (produced annually)  2.1.2 Four, following state of land and vegetation mapping  2.1.3 Ten capacity strengthening events  2.1.4 One web-based interface  2.1.5 One guidance document in French and English	2.1.1 Country maps and knowledge products  2.1.2 Forum reports  2.1.3 Workshops reports  2.1.4 Web-based interface available online  2.1.5 Guidance document available	Openness to use land and vegetation mapping using earth observation-based information in member countries

<b>Output 4</b>  <b>related to Outcome 3</b>	3.1 GGW-relevant institutions and organisations are supported with advocacy and outreach products; enhanced cross-sectoral collaboration and stakeholder coordination for the GGW at national and regional level	3.1.1 # of countries where mapping of incentive pathways and policy status and reform scenarios were assessed.	3.1.1 0	3.1.1 Support to 11-18 countries	3.1.1 Policy and incentive pathway mapping reports	National level ministries and GGW actors are interested in cross-sectoral, inclusive and evidence-based decision making and addressing policy and regulatory bottlenecks
		3.1.2 # of countries where government and organisations are supported to address identified policy and regulatory bottlenecks through advocacy.	3.1.2 TBD	3.1.2 Support to 11-18 countries	3.1.2 Annual report outlining support and outcome mapping	
		3.1.3 # of advocacy and outreach products and support available for outreach, and coordination work by GGW national and regional institutions and non-governmental / civil society organisations.	3.1.3 0	3.1.3 At least 10 products.	3.1.3 Products available online	
		3.1.4 # of trainings to bring scientific evidence and foresight analysis to planning processes to inform policy and investment in the GGW.	3.1.4 0	3.1.4 Trainings to cover the 18 countries	3.1.4 Training reports	
		3.1.5 # of events to recognise GGW champions.	3.1.5 0	3.1.5 Three events	3.1.5 Event reports	
		3.1.6 # of communities of practice supported through social networks and community videos.	3.1.6 0	3.1.6 At least two communities of practice (one in French and one in English)	3.1.6 Social media and online presence	

## 4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

### 4.1 Financing Agreement

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

### 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 by amending this Financing Decision and the relevant contracts and agreements.

### 4.3 Implementation Modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate 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<sup>6</sup>.

#### 4.3.1 Indirect Management with a pillar assessed entity

A part of this Action may be implemented in indirect management with [1] the Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF) and [2] the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). **This implementation entails all activities under Specific Objectives 1, 2, and 3 detailed in Section 3.**

The envisaged entities have 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 a 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. This orientation of CIFOR-ICRAF fits neatly within the logic of the Great Green Wall's Accelerator Framework that the current Action seeks to support.

The FAO is the specialised agency of the United Nations leading international efforts to promote sustainable agriculture and food systems, sustainable land management and to combat hunger. With 195 members (194 countries and the European Union), FAO carries out work in over 130 countries, including its decentralized national offices in the 18 countries targeted by this Action. As such, it is a crucial partner to boost legitimacy of the Action on the ground and its regional outreach. Furthermore, working with the FAO on the Great Green Wall will lead to better multilateral coordination in activities across a large landscape that boasts a high number of stakeholders.

<sup>6</sup> [www.sanctionsmap.eu](http://www.sanctionsmap.eu). Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.

In both cases, choosing the respective organisations will enable the sustainability of successful past GGW-relevant programs financed by the EU ('Action Against Desertification' with FAO; 'Regreening Africa' with CIFOR-ICRAF). The current Action will be able to build on the important learnings from these programs and generally benefit from efficiency gains by keeping with known and established implementing partners.

In case the envisaged entities 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.

#### 4.3.2 Changes from indirect to direct management mode (and vice versa) due to exceptional circumstances (one alternative second option)

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). In this case, the Commission will select one (or multiple) ~~an~~adequate implementing partner(s) for its (their) specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competences, its high degree of specialisation, according to Art. 195(f) of the Financial Regulation. These implementing partners should have, to the extent possible, a regional reach so as to fulfill the geographic mandate of this Action.

#### 4.4. 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 subject to the following provisions.

The Commission's authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of services in the markets of the countries or territories concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where application of the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult (Article 28(10) NDICI-Global Europe Regulation).

For this multi-country action, natural persons who are nationals of, and legal persons who are effectively established in the following countries and territories covered by this action, are also eligible: Mauritania, Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria, Chad, Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti, Cameroon, Ghana, Benin, Cape Verde, Gambia, South Sudan, and Somalia.

#### 4.5 Indicative Budget

<b>Indicative Budget components<sup>7</sup></b>	<b>EU contribution (amount in EUR)</b>	<b>Third-party contribution, in currency identified</b> [(If not relevant please delete this column)]
<b>Objective 1 'Knowledge and Capacity' composed of</b>	<b>7 000 000</b>	N.A.
Indirect Management with CIFOR-ICRAF – cf. section 4.3.1	5 500 000	N.A.
Indirect Management with FAO – cf. section 4.3.1	1 500 000	N.A.
<b>Objective 2 'Impact Monitoring' composed of</b>	<b>3 000 000</b>	N.A.
Indirect Management with CIFOR-ICRAF – cf. section 4.3.1	2 000 000	N.A.
Indirect Management with FAO – cf. section 4.3.1	1 000 000	N.A.

<sup>7</sup> N.B: The final text on audit/verification depends on the outcome of ongoing discussions on pooling of funding in (one or a limited number of) Decision(s) and the subsequent financial management, i.e. for the conclusion of audit contracts and payments.

<b>Objective 3 ‘Policy, Outreach and Advocacy’</b> composed of	<b>3 000 000</b>	N.A.
Indirect Management with CIFOR-ICRAF – cf. section 4.3.1	1 600 000	N.A.
Indirect Management with FAO – cf. section 4.3.1	1 400 000	N.A.
<b>Evaluation</b> – cf. section 5.2 <b>Audit</b> – cf. section 5.3	may be covered by another Decision <sup>8</sup>	N.A.
<b>Totals</b>	<b>13 000 000</b>	N.A.

## 4.6 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

A joint Steering Committee will be established and will be responsible for the general oversight, policy guidance and monitoring of the Action. The Commission and the selected implementing partners are members of the joint Steering Committee. The joint Steering Committee may decide to include other stakeholder representatives, as appropriate. The main responsibilities of the Steering Committee are to: i) provide strategic direction on the operations of the Action; ii) receive information and give feedback on monitoring and evaluation exercises with regard to progress in meeting the objectives; iii) review and approve the annual progress and financial reports; iv) review and approve forecast budgets and work plans; v) provide guidance on operations.

Regionally, the joint Steering Committee would include, among others, representatives of the African Union Commission, the PAGGW and key regional implementation partners. Means to represent beneficiaries and key representative stakeholders would be identified during the inception.

CIFOR-ICRAF will have a lean Project Management Unit (PMU) based in Nairobi. A co-lead for the work will also be based in West Africa. CIFOR-ICRAF’s country offices (Mali/Burkina Faso, Benin, Cameroon and Ethiopia) will be engaged in providing local/contextual support. The connection of the Global Landscapes Forum to CIFOR-ICRAF will further be taken advantage of and a number of partners will be sub-contracted based on specific needs and using an adaptive management approach.

FAO will provide technical support and coordination from its HQ in Rome, and heavily mobilize its 18 country offices to effectively implement this Action. Sub-contracting is envisioned with CSOs and other relevant partners.

The Action will be, to the extent possible, embedded in existing institutional arrangements.

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.

# 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

<sup>8</sup> Where the action is not covered by a financing agreement (see section 4.1), but ‘will be covered by another Decision’ as it is unlikely that evaluation and audit contracts on this action would be concluded within N+1. These contracts have to be authorised by another Financing Decision.



reference the logframe matrix (for project modality) and the partner's strategy, policy or reform action plan list (for budget support).

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 are to be established in the individual contracts that are envisioned to be financed under this Action. Monitoring and reporting shall assess how the Action is taking into account the human rights-based approach and gender equality.

## 5.2 Evaluation

Having regard to the importance and nature of the action, a mid-term and a final evaluation may be carried out for this action or its components.

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 Action represents the EU's contribution to the Great Green Wall Flagship at regional level. Evaluations shall assess to what extent the Action is taking into account the human rights-based approach as well as how it contributes to gender equality and women's empowerment.

The Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least 4 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<sup>9</sup>. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, apply the necessary adjustments (including, if indicated, the reorientation of the project).

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 has adopted a new approach to pooling, programming and deploying strategic communication and public diplomacy resources.

Action Documents for specific sector programmes are no longer required to include a provision for communication and visibility actions promoting the programmes concerned.

However, in line with Article 46 and subject to Article 47 of the NDICI Regulation, all entities implementing EU-funded external actions shall take all reasonable measures to publicise the European Union's support. 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.

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<sup>9</sup> See best [practice of evaluation dissemination](#)

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## Appendix 1 REPORTING IN OPSYS

An Intervention<sup>10</sup> (also generally called project/programme) is the operational entity associated to a coherent set of activities and results structured in a logical framework aiming at delivering development change or progress. Interventions are the most effective (hence optimal) entities for the operational follow-up by the Commission of its external development operations. As such, Interventions constitute the base unit for managing operational implementations, assessing performance, monitoring, evaluation, internal and external communication, reporting and aggregation.

Primary Interventions are those contracts or groups of contracts bearing reportable results and respecting the following business rule: ‘a given contract can only contribute to one primary intervention and not more than one’. An individual contract that does not produce direct reportable results and cannot be logically grouped with other result reportable contracts is considered a ‘support entities’. The addition of all primary interventions and support entities is equivalent to the full development portfolio of the Institution.

The present Action identifies as:

Action level		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single action	Present action: all contracts in the present action

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<sup>10</sup> [Ares\(2021\)4450449](#) - For the purpose of consistency between terms in OPSYS, DG INTPA, DG NEAR and FPI have harmonised 5 key terms, including ‘action’ and ‘Intervention’ where an ‘action’ is the content (or part of the content) of a Commission Financing Decision and ‘Intervention’ is a coherent set of activities and results which constitutes an effective level for the operational follow-up by the EC of its operations on the ground. See more on the [concept of intervention](#).