



NIGERIAN GREAT GREEN WALL PROGRAMME

IN BRIEF



Background

Desertification has emerged as a 'major planetary threat' with particularly daunting challenges for Africa. Desertification affects about 40% of the African Continent and according to UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) Report; two-thirds of the continent's arable land could be lost by 2025 if the trend persists unabated. Although numerous initiatives have been enunciated and implemented to trounce these challenges, both poverty and desertification are persistently gaining ground in Africa and eroding the few economic gains that some countries on the continent have managed to attain.

Given the alarming prevailing situation, the African Union (AU) in 2007 adopted Declaration 137 VIII, approving the "Decision on the Implementation of the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative" as a set of actions to tackle the detrimental social, economic and environmental impacts of land degradation and desertification in the Sahel-Saharan region of Africa.

Former President of Burkina

Faso, late Thomas Sankara in 1980s, first conceived the Great Green Wall for the Sahel Initiative and this was reechoed about 20 years later by the former President of Nigeria, Olusegun Obasanjo, and presented to the African Union (AU) in 2005. Since 2005, the concept has gradually shifted from a thematic project focusing on erecting a 15km wide tree barrier from Senegal to Djibouti a distance of 7,100km in order to halt "desert encroachment" to a more holistic and integrated vision of sustainable land management (SLM). In other words, the GGW Initiative is not entirely aimed at creating a wall of trees from West Africa to East Africa but a set of integrated actions, addressing the multisectoral problems affecting the livelihoods of the people in African Sahel-Saharan areas. These multisectoral and multidimensional actions transversally address a wide range of concerns, including among others natural resources management, sustainability of rural production systems, rural infrastructural development, diversifying economic activities and wealth creation.



Overall Objective

The overall objective of the Great Green Wall is to improve the resilience of human and natural systems in Sahel-Saharan areas facing challenges of climate change, land degradation and desertification through sustainable ecosystem management and sustainable development of natural resources, protection of tangible and intangible rural heritage, the development of rural production and sustainable

development hubs, improvement of living conditions and livelihoods of people living in these areas.

The GGW Initiative is expected to lead to the sustainable management of land, water and on up to 2 million hectares of croplands, rangelands and dry land forest ecosystem per country, protection of threatened dry land biodiversity and the sequestering of 0.5 to 3.1 million tons of carbon per year.

Participating Countries

Eleven African countries are presently participating in the programme and these include Burkina Faso, Chad, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Sudan.



Nigerian Initiative and Activities

The Great Green Wall Initiative was launched in Nigeria in 2005 and the country signed the GGW Convention in 2010. Implementation of the programme in the 11 Frontline States of Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Jigawa, Katsina, Kano, Kebbi, Sokoto, Yobe and Zamfara commenced in 2013. The Programme through a coherent set of actions aims to combat land degradation and desertification in the affected States targeting the following objectives:

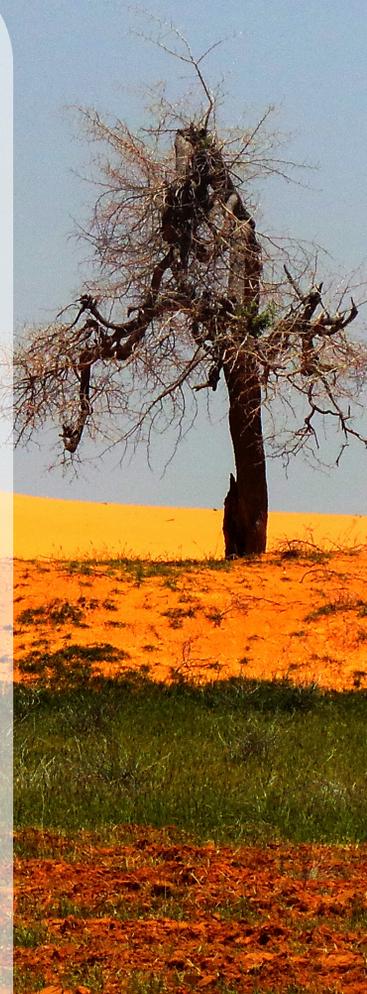
- Natural resources conservation and development;
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Strengthening of social infrastructure, especially in rural areas; and
- Diversification of economic activities and improvement of living conditions of the rural communities.

Programme Components

- I. Establishment of 1,550km long and 15km wide Contiguous Greenbelt to cut across seven frontline states of Kebbi, Sokoto, Zamfara, Katsina, Jigawa, Yobe and Borno.
- II. Establishment of woodlots and mosaic shelterbelts in Adamawa, Bauchi, Gombe and Kano states.
- III. Farmers Managed Natural Regeneration to restore and improve agricultural, forested and pasture lands by encouraging the sys-

temic re-growth of existing trees or self-sown seeds.

- IV. Promotion of alternative livelihood activities to reduce dependency on the scarce natural resources, enhance rural economy and generate employment.
- V. Promotion of alternative sources of energy to reduce deforestation.
- VI. Promotion of dryland agriculture to strengthen food security and rural economy.
- VII. Establishment of fodder farms to reduce over grazing, enhance livestock production and increase rural income
- VIII. Sand dune fixation to protect agricultural lands and infrastructures.
- IX. Oasis rehabilitation to enhance livelihood activities.
- X. Water resources management to ameliorate the impact of drought and enhance irrigation practices.
- XI. Sensitization and awareness campaign to mobilize the people towards the implementation of the programme.





a. National strategic Action Plan

A National Strategic Action Plan in line with the relevant provisions of the GGW Convention has been developed in 2012 to serve as framework for the implementation of the programme. The major pillars of the Action Plan are as follow:

- Improvement of the management of land and water resources and their sustainable use;
- Enabling policy, legal and institutional framework for sustainable land management and desertification control;
- Improvement of critical infrastructure for enhanced and socio-economic development and environmental sustainability;
- Enhancement of private sector investment in sustainable land management;
- Sustainable financing for desertification control;
- Effective communication for improved land management;
- Monitoring and Evaluation System; and
- Eco-regional approach for improved trans-boundary sustainable land management.

b. Communication Strategy and Initiative Visibility

Effective communication strategy is fundamental

for supporting the GGW implementation, including strengthening the commitment of actors through advocacy, awareness raising and education to support resource mobilization efforts. The Communication strategy developed for the implementation of the Programme aims to:

- Involve all stakeholders in the programme implementation and finance;
- Inform the main interest groups on progress and performance in implementation of the programme and on the results and impact of the programme; and
- Obtain continuous political support for the programme.

c. Capacity Building

Capacity building is fundamental to the success and sustainability of the GGW programme. Capacity building for the programme is therefore to be carried out at the following three levels:

- System level (enabling environment) to facilitate coordination of the GGW actions;
- Institutional level to facilitate streamlining of frameworks for concerted action and increase their efficiency and effectiveness;
- Individual level to strengthen and develop the scientific and technical skill of each individual actor.





d. Participation of Local Communities

Participation of local communities is fundamental in the success and sustainability of the programme. It is believed that the sustainability of the programme will remain a mirage as long as the local communities are not involved in the planning, implementation and post-investment stages.

e. Partnership and Collaboration with Development Partners

Collaboration with Development Partners is essential for sustainability of the programme. The main roles of these partners include among others:

- Supporting the development and implementation of projects;
- Participating in mobilizing necessary resources for programme development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation; and
- Providing relevant technical assistance for systemic, institutional and operational capacity development.

f. Private Sector Participation

Framework has been evolved for private sector participation in the programme through Public-Private Partnership (PPP). The Programme provides enabling environment for Private Sector Operators to invest in the huge economic potentials of the natural resources abound in the drylands to generate employment, ensure environmental sustainability and derive economic benefit.

g. Monitoring and Evaluation

Formulating common goals, objectives and baseline criteria to measure progress and the exchange lessons learned among actors is at the heart of any serious multisectoral effort to improve the quality and quantity of investments. Monitoring and evaluation of the GGW Programme implementation should have the following functions:

- Strengthening knowledge management and benchmarking;
- Guiding the design and implementation of individual investment operations on the ground;
- Strengthening adherence and alignment around shared goals and a common vision of the GGW, as well as the climate of trust between the actors.

Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for the GGW Programme has been developed. The Framework outlines minimum set of strategic indicators for each project centered on the following aspects linked to the GGW National Strategic Action Plan objectives, impacts and expected outcomes:

- Improvement of the livelihoods of people likely to be affected by Drought, Land Degradation and Desertification;
- Maintenance or increase in ecosystem functions, including net primary productivity;
- Increase in carbon stock (surface and soil);
- Surface area of forest, agricultural and aqua-cultural ecosystems under sustainable management;
- Plant and animal biodiversity.

Institutional Framework

- **National Council on Shelterbelt and Afforestation (NCSA)**

NCSA provides policy guideline for the Programme implementation. Membership of the Council includes the Vice President (Chairman), Secretary to the Government of Federation (SGF), Honourable Ministers of the line Ministries, Permanent Secretary, Ecological Fund Office and representatives of the Private Sector and NGOs.

- **National Technical Committee**

National Technical Committee provides technical backstopping for the programme and its membership includes the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Environment (Chairman), all line Ministries and Agencies, Representatives of Frontline

States, NGOs and private Sectors.

- **Programme Implementation Unit (PIU)**

The PIU coordinates the implementation of the programme and has among others the following mandates:

- Sensitization and awareness campaign
- **Prepare annual work plan and budgets**
- Define, monitor and evaluate project activities
- Prepare tender documents and manage the procurement process
- Prepare quarterly and annual reports based on information provided by the states and monitoring teams, summarizing the status of programme implementation, financial status and major outputs



