



**AFRICAN UNION**  
Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA  
P. O. Box 3243  
Telephone: 517 700  
Fax : 517844



**COMMUNITY OF SAHEL-SAHARAN STATES**  
Tripoli, LIBYA  
P.O.Box 4041  
Telephone: +218 21 333 23 47  
Fax: +218 21 444 00 76

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**PLAN OF ACTION  
FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GREAT GREEN WALL  
FOR THE SAHARA AND SAHEL INITIATIVE**

Draft for submission to  
the AU Executive Council  
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With the contribution and the inputs  
of the Republic of Senegal

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## INTRODUCTION

For the past many decades, with the exception of a few years of standard rainfall, the Sahel-Saharan countries have been facing continuing rainfall shortages which is generally indicative of a southwardly shift of isohyets.

The drought phenomenon coupled with anthropogenic factors (such as one-crop farming, bush fires, lack or shortage of manure, overgrazing etc.) has seriously disrupted the great ecological balances, resulting in the degradation of natural resources, soils and a fall in agricultural productions all of which are indicative of an almost inexorable process of desertification.

Faced with sharply declining agricultural production mainly due to lower soil productivity, the populations have often reacted with migratory movements and new forest land clearing. Forests are disappearing from the Sahel zones at a disquieting pace.

The Green Wall for the Sahel and Sahara Initiative (GWSSI) was originally conceived by the former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Chief OLUSEGUN OBASANJO, who proposed it to the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD) Conference of Leaders and Heads of State of June 2005 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso and subsequently to the Fifth Ordinary Summit of the African Union in July 2005 in Sirte, Libya. Based on the recommendations and decisions of the said meetings of the Leaders and Heads of State and Government, actions were initiated at various levels to address the situation:

- The African Union Commission (AUC) developed a Concept Paper in close collaboration with numerous partners including the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS) and the World Food Program (WFP).

The African Union Concept Paper was later launched in the margins of the Food Security Summit that took place in Abuja, Nigeria in December 2006. Subsequently, the African Heads of State and Government at their 8<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in January 2007 endorsed the Initiative. The African Leaders welcomed the Initiative as an appropriate strategy for effectively leveraging national, regional and international efforts to address the menace of land degradation, desertification and the accompanying social deprivation in the Sahara and Sahel zones of the continent and called upon the Commission to develop an implementation plan. In September 2007 the Commission, with assistance of an experts group, developed a draft implementation program for discussion with partners.

- The CEN-SAD Secretariat, in collaboration with the Sahel and Sahara Observatory (OSS) also developed a concept paper and later a plan of action (2008 - 2010)

based on a series of studies and technical consultations with member States and partners.

- At the Summit of the Conference of Leader and Heads of State of CEN-SAD (Niamey, Niger), the Republic of Senegal was requested to assist in giving substantive content to the ambitious idea of implementing the ‘green wall’. In this framework, Senegal organized several experts and Ministerial meetings as well a round table (2008) that allowed to finalize several documents: (i) Concept Note; (ii) Conceptual scheme (pre-project document); (iii) Criteria for demarcation of the green wall zone and an indicated list of adapted vegetal species; (iv) Role of small dams and ponds in the green wall; (v) Term of reference for the elaboration of the project document; and (vi) Indicative cost for the implementation of the project.

This draft “Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Great Wall for the Sahel and Sahara” was generated from the synthesis of the various actions and initiatives undertaken so far at a meeting of the representatives of AUC, CEN-SAD, Senegal, OSS and *Comité Inter-Etats de Lutte contre la Sécheresse au Sahel* (CILSS) organized by the CEN-SAD General Secretariat in Tripoli on May 15<sup>th</sup> 2008. It seeks to ensure the implementation of the GWSSI under one umbrella in a synergistic manner. Furthermore, it is designed to strengthen the implementation of national action plans under the United Nation Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and action plans targeting sustainable development and poverty reduction in the desert margins north and south of the Sahara, which have been adopted by all the countries concerned with the initiative.

This ambitious program of the Green Wall needs to be implemented as soon as possible. It would request significant investment of financial and human resources and political commitment of the States concerned and is bound to several decades.

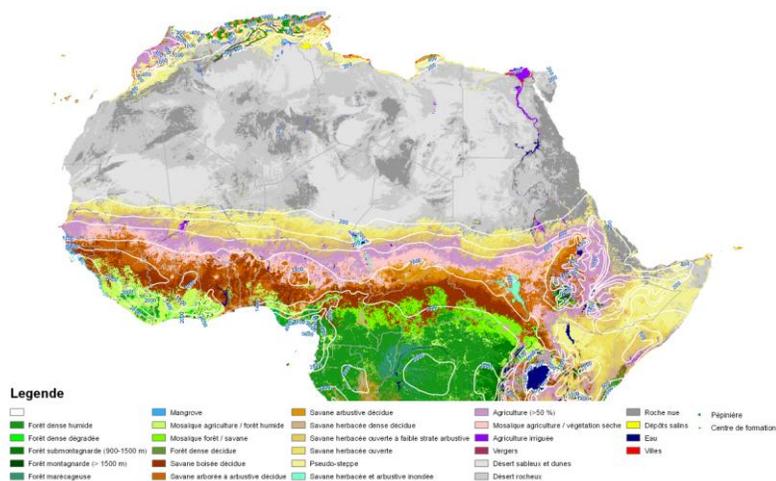
## I - THE CONTEXT

### Geography and Climate

The Sahel-Saharan Zone is primarily savannah and steppe and extends from the Atlantic Ocean to the Horn of Africa. The area covered by the Great Green Wall project for the Sahara and the Sahel zone is given on the map below.

Rainfall in the zone is less than 400 mm a year. The rainfall is characterized by great variation from year to year and from decade to decade. The most important limitations to land

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productivity in the zone are water and soil fertility. Studies of long-term climate patterns show that while droughts have been common in the zone for at least 2,500 years, the droughts of recent years have increased in frequency and duration. Records also show that annual rainfall has decreased and that the sands of the Sahara have shifted some 60 miles (100 km) south into the zone.

### **Economy**

The Sahel-Saharan Zone economy is largely based on agriculture and livestock production. Physical scarcity of water is the common characteristic in most of the zone. Population pressures and increased permanent settlement and pastoralism in the fertile areas of the zone combined with the absence of good zone-specific technological options for boosting agricultural and livestock productivity are now leading to downward spirals of agricultural and livestock production, rising food insecurity, poverty and natural resource degradation.

### **Poverty**

Because of a deteriorating natural resource base, fragile soils, and high population pressure, the inhabitants of the Sahel-Saharan Zone are now among the poorest of the poor in Africa. It is estimated that over 30 percent of the population of these areas, the overwhelming majority of who are found in the rural areas, live in absolute poverty. Their households are characterized by low levels of physical and financial capital, limited asset levels, low or non-existent savings, limited market infrastructure and outlets, and high marketing costs.

### **Food Security and Nutritional Status**

Most of the countries in the Sahel-Saharan Zone are food deficient and food insecure and malnutrition is prevalent throughout the zone. Poor crop yields and loss of livestock continue to reduce household assets and income-generation capacity. In addition, high food prices are forcing many households to incur high levels of debt.

### **Agricultural Production**

The two fundamental defining features of agriculture in the Sahel-Saharan Zone are: (1) limited and variable rainfall that decreases in amount and predictability from south to north across the zone; and (2) low fertility and fragile soils which are particularly deficient in phosphates and nitrogen. These features have combined with a number of economic, institutional and socio-cultural factors to negatively impact on agricultural production and productivity.

### **The State of Land and Water Resources**

The state of the land and water resources of the zone has been steadily deteriorating as a result of expanding human settlement and the consequent pressure to produce more food and more fuel wood. This has led to drastic reductions in vegetation cover. As a result, the natural vegetation of most of the Sahel-Saharan Zone has been dramatically altered and the ecosystem degraded. The net result has been less annual rainfall, more soil erosion, increased desertification, frequent crop failures and low production of fodder. Many countries in the Sahel-Saharan Zone are also confronted

with serious scarcity of water and access to water is often seen as the most limiting bottleneck in the zone.

## **II - THE GREAT GREEN WALL FOR THE SAHARA AND SAHEL INITIATIVE**

### ***II.1 - Strategic Approach***

Given the alarming situation within the southern and the northern limits of the Sahara, it is envisaged to act on both sides of the band and to establish the Great Green Wall below 400 mm of rainfall annually.

### ***II.2 - The Goal***

The Green Wall for the Sahel and Sahara Initiative intends to strengthen the implementation of existing continental frameworks and plans addressing the menaces of land degradation and desertification in the margin of the Sahara desert. Such frameworks include the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Program (CAADP), the Regional, Sub-regional and National Action Programs to combat desertification (RAP, SRAPs and NAPs). The aim is to encourage a synergistic approach in the implementation of the activities of the various sub-regional and national bodies aimed at combating land degradation and desertification in Africa. This way, the African Union and CEN-SAD's relative strengths in advocacy and coordination can be capitalized upon. It is, however, clearly understood that the ultimate ownership and responsibility for the design and implementation of these activities lie within nation states and specific communities. The expectation is that collaborative efforts would enhance the achievement of the common goals of arresting further degradation of soils and land resources within the desert margins north and south of the Sahara. The purpose of this Plan of Action, therefore, is to promote synergies and optimal mobilization and utilization of resources, which would otherwise be difficult for each country or region.

### ***II.3 - Expected Effects and Impacts***

The building of the Green Wall in these arid and deprived regions will have very positive effects and impacts on the populations and their living environment. More specifically, GGW will ensure integrated development and produce various effects and impacts on its coverage area. The expected effects and impacts include:

- slowing soil erosion: the presence of vegetal cover slows winds speed and favors rain water infiltration;
- degraded soil restructuring: an increase in organic matter of vegetal and animal origin entails soil restructuring;
- higher reforestation rate in countries crossed by GGW: in order, among others, to restore eco-climatic balances and biodiversity;
- revival, development and diversification of agriculture and stockbreeding, both in terms of vegetal and animal production volumes and size of the active population employed in these sub-sectors;

- vegetal and animal biodiversity restoration, conservation and development, the deferred grazing and other privately-owned wooded areas contribute to natural vegetation regeneration and return of wildlife: birds, small game, snakes, etc.
- increasing coverage of local needs in forest products, especially firewood, lumber and also ligneous and non-ligneous products: gum, resins, roots, leaves, barks, fruits, pharmacopeia etc.
- improved living standard and health due to noticeable improvement in nutrition, living environment and more easily available household needs ( water, energy, social infrastructures etc);
- reversal of rural migration phenomenon, gradually, “ecological migrants” and the bones and sinews looking for employment will repopulate these zones that have been rehabilitated by GGW proximity.
- control of water resources, through water retention pond, artificial lakes and hydraulic schemes that will contribute to enhanced production system

#### ***II.4 - Beneficiaries***

The programme of great green wall effects and impacts will benefit various categories of actors including:

- international community, as indeed, GGW perfectly intersects international concerns for Clean Development Mechanism: reduction of greenhouse gas, carbon sequestration, reducing ecological and economic migrations;
- States: find in it an opportunity to reactivate their ecosystem conservation and restoration programs, especially forests and soils, but also those on poverty reduction and food security;
- local communities: regions, municipalities and rural communities find in GGW a tool to boost local development through the recovery of agricultural productions, reduced unemployment, and more generally, through higher income;
- primary producers: farmers; herdsman; coalmen; gum, honey and resin harvesters; healers; hunters; wood carvers; etc. While for farmers, GGW will expand cultivable zones and productivity of cultivated zones, for the remaining primary actors, more importantly it will increase the availability of raw materials.
- private businessmen: who are initiators of safari parks, modern farming, ecotourism sites find in it some economic opportunities etc ;
- educational, training and research structures: GGW will be a privileged site for regional multidisciplinary research allowing great mobility of African scientists and increased synergy in program implementation;
- populations living in GGW coverage area: in addition to offering greater possibilities of fuel wood, gathering, fodder and water access, they find important opportunities to reduce under-employment, migration and poverty.

## ***II.5 - The Scope***

Contrary to what the name may suggest, the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative is not about creating a belt of forest from east to west across Africa, though the issue of increasing vegetation cover will receive high attention. It consists of a set of integrated interventions addressing multi-sectoral issues that affect the lives of the people in the Sahel and Sahara areas of Africa. These interventions, which are multi-sectoral and multi-dimensional, cut across a wide range of aspects including: land, water and forest resource management; soil conservation; pastoral development; sustainable agricultural production as well as gender and youth mainstreaming into development.

The geographic scope of focus of the program will be the vulnerable areas in the Sahel and the Sahara. Indeed, the priority will be given to the belt defined by isohyets lines below 400 mm in southern and northern margins of the Sahara desert. However countries may wish to operate outside of this zone with a view to combat land degradation and improve livelihood for poverty alleviation.

## ***II.6 - The implementation framework***

The implementation of the Great Green Wall for the Sahel and Sahara Initiative Program will be a sophisticated and therefore a long term and challenging engagement given the variety of issues involved. The following phasing may be considered.

### ***2.6.1 - Phase I: Initial phase***

The objective of the initial phase is to prepare the appropriate environment for the implementation of the Great Green Wall Program. This phase is expected to produce and validate the following:

- an investment plan (national and regional);
- documentation and valorization of knowledge and know-how;
- definition of actions that would qualify a project as ‘great green wall’ project;
- regional zoning/characterization and maps;
- definition and implementation of pilot projects;
- setting up the institutional arrangement for implementation;
- launch activities of the program.

This phase may last for two years. During this period, all the necessary studies and consultations such as experts meetings on types of projects and their development could be addressed. Countries would be expected to continue and strengthen activities that may contribute to the attainment of the objectives of the GGWSS and are encouraged to determine and undertake new activities as may be relevant.

### *2.6.2 - Phase II: Implementation*

The implementation phase should be spread over a longer period of sub-phases of ten years with provision for mid-term and end of phase reviews of progress on implementation. Every succeeding phase could build on the outcome of the review and develop activities for the next ten years. Overall the completion of the Program could be targeted for 30 years assuming that simultaneous actions would be possible in all countries within the belt. The activities of the phase would include (on-going) research. The activities for this phase (national and trans-boundary) will be implemented principally by the countries concerned. Support may be provided as necessary by the regional, sub-regional and national actors. The indicated priority activities are given at the back of this document.

### *2.6.3 - Principles*

Given the situation in the Sahel-Saharan Zone and the need for coordinated and effective implementation of the GGWSS, it is anticipated that the programs, projects and activities of all the stakeholders will be guided by the following principles:

- contribute to regional integration in all its relevant aspects;
- follow a “pro-poor” and sustainable livelihoods approach which contributes to increased food security and poverty reduction, and is in line with the principles of the Rio Conventions and Millennium Development Goals;
- pursue a coordinated and integrated approach to agricultural and livestock production and land and water resource management and development and address the environmental and energy aspects of interventions based on principles of sustainability;
- integrate technical approaches with those that facilitate community ownership and development and the empowerment of vulnerable groups especially women and youth;
- promote income diversification and crop-livestock integration strategies and activities and consider the special needs of pastoralists, women and youth;
- promote public-private sector partnerships, avoid actions that undermine the private sector, and address the infrastructural and institutional development needs of end-users;
- collaborate closely with all the relevant partners and stakeholders, respecting each other’s roles and responsibilities, and follow subsidiary principles .
- Promote local know-how and valorize all success stories in term of combating actions against the desertification

From the operational perspective, programs or projects should target well defined areas, have a long term investment character, with orientation towards land degradation and desertification control, biodiversity conservation and adaptation to climate change. Implementation does not necessarily have to be contiguous but

should focus on priority areas. Furthermore, it should be of a character that would allow it to be mainstreamed in the national and sub-regional programs.

#### *2.6.4 - Priority Areas of Interventions*

The following priority areas for intervention have been identified:

- create an appropriate environment for implementation;
- promoting forestry and sustainable agricultural development including crops, livestock, fisheries;
- promoting revenue activities within the perspective of sustainable natural resources management;
- promoting integrated land and water resource development, including rangeland management, forestry and land management, and water and soil management;
- putting in place an effective communication strategy;
- establishing an effective institutional framework;
- putting in place an enabling policy and legal framework;
- building appropriate capacities;
- establishing an effective coordination, monitoring and evaluation system;
- addressing important cross-cutting issues in all interventions, including gender and youth mainstreaming, early warning and disaster risk management, conflict management and resolution, and capacity strengthening.

These strategic areas of intervention are further elaborated on the logical framework presented below.

### **III - IMPLEMENTING THE STRATEGIC PLAN**

#### ***III.1 - Forge Partnerships and Build on On-going Initiatives***

The GGWSSI recognizes the various efforts at both regional and national levels that have been and are still being made to improve livelihoods in the Sahel-Saharan Zone. The main actors believe that for the GGWSSI to succeed, it must be linked and incorporated into existing national and regional programs that are addressing issues of land degradation and desertification. In this regard, the laudable efforts and achievements of countries like Algeria, Tunisia, Niger, Mauritania, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Libya, Mali and Egypt will serve as useful implementation practical guides. The active preoccupation of the Regional Economic Communities such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Inter-governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), with sustainable management of natural resources will serve as valuable sources of shared learning. Likewise, the Initiative will build on the tremendous amount of work being done by national and sub-regional organizations in the field of desertification control.

The GGWSSI will also be streamlined with other ongoing processes including those of UNCCD, UNCBD, UNFCC, TerrAfrica Initiative, NEPAD Environment Initiative and the Global Environment Facility Operational Program 15. In this regard, the Initiative must be implemented over an extended period of time to realize the desired effects. The Initiative would, therefore, be carried out in phases.

### ***III.2 - Institutional/Implementation Arrangements***

#### ***3.2.1 - Political coordination***

The African Union Commission and the CEN-SAD Secretariat will provide overall oversight and coordination for the implementation of the Initiative. For this purpose they will put in place an appropriate institutional mechanism. Furthermore, AUC and CEN-SAD will liaise with the relevant Regional Economic Communities (RECs) such as ECOWAS, IGAD and MAU to achieve this. The latter will then be responsible for monitoring and reporting on the performance of the programs' implementation in their relevant area. The Commission and CEN-SAD will further be responsible for organizing the coordination meetings of the Technical and Steering Committees.

The Republic of Senegal as mandated by the Summit of the Leader and Heads of State will continue to assist program preparation and coordination under the umbrella of the AUC and CEN-SAD General Secretariat.

#### **The Steering Committee**

The Steering Committee will be composed of Ministers, who will be designated as appropriate by the participating countries. The Commission of the African Union and CEN-SAD General Secretariat will also be members. The Steering Committee will provide policy guidance for the implementation of the Program.

The Steering Committee may meet once per year to consider annual reports of the Technical Committee and to follow up on policy issues. For efficiency, the meeting of the Steering Committee may be held immediately after a sector meeting of Ministers in charge of agriculture, water and environment of CEN-SAD. The Secretariat service of the Steering Committee will be provided by AUC and CEN-SAD General Secretariat.

#### **Technical Committee**

Experts from the participating countries will form the members of the Technical Committee. In addition, the Committee will also have relevant experts from other African States, representatives from AUC, CEN-SAD General Secretariat, relevant RECs, technical institutions and development partners as relevant. The Technical Committee will provide technical oversight for the on-the-ground implementation and advice to the Steering Committee on needed policy orientation.

The Technical Committee could meet half yearly to guide the program. The meetings of the Committee will be organized by AU and CEN-SAD with the support of sub-regional technical organizations such as OSS and CILSS that may be designated by their relevant RECs. A sub-committee of the Technical Committee may be constituted for a closer and more frequent follow-up of programme implementation.

Given the importance of the Initiative and the potential for its replication in other parts of the continent, the AUC will be responsible for reporting on the progress of its implementation to its relevant Organs for sustainable continental ownership.

### *3.2.2 - Coordination of Implementation*

At the national level, the Governments would need to ensure the creation of effective national coordination mechanisms. Given the existence of such mechanisms in the context of the Rio Conventions, the Governments, for purpose of efficiency and effectiveness, should strengthen and use these structures to coordinate implementation.

The Regional Economic Communities through relevant technical institutions such as CILSS, ICPAC<sup>1</sup> and OSS, in collaboration with Senegal, will provide support in preparation and coordination of the regional, national and trans-boundary implementation programs. To this end, the RECs should ensure that the GGWSSI is integrated into their existing environmental programs and activities, such as the Sub-regional Action Programs of the UNCCD and other programs on biodiversity and climate change as appropriate. They will also need to ensure that a mechanism is established for regular reporting to and decision-making by their policy organs.

### *III.3 - Resource Mobilization*

Whereas participating countries would need to ensure annual budgetary allocations for the implementation of the Initiative, these national resources will need extra budgetary support. Therefore, there would be need for a ‘Dedicated Trust Fund’, to which each could contribute either voluntarily or by assessed contribution. The resources from this Fund, complemented by external development assistance, would ensure the un-interrupted implementation of the programme. The Initiative may also wish to explore public-private partnership for resource mobilization

For effective resource mobilization, countries concerned will need to develop concrete investment programmes for national and trans-boundary projects which will address the various objectives areas as defined in the attached framework.

In collaboration with the CEN-SAD and NEPAD Secretariats as well as RECs, the AUC will assist trans-boundary and national programmes with resource mobilization. However, this does not make resource mobilization the exclusive purview of these organizations. The national governments will have the principal responsibility for raising financial resources for their respective activities as well as for trans-boundary projects. It is, nevertheless, expected that by presenting this strategic plan to development partners, the latter will take it into account, when reviewing and approving funding for their interventions, at all levels. It is also expected that development partners will use this strategic plan in developing calls and requests for proposals.

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<sup>1</sup> IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Center

### ***III.4 - Budget of the action plan***

The attached indicative budgets are for the (facilitation) first preparatory phase activities for a period of two years. At the end of this phase, more budget precisions can be given relative to the National and trans-boundary projects, and regional investment program.

The budget evaluate for this first phase is about **2,7 millions of US dollars**.

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## **IV - Conclusion**

The GGWSSI is an important example of regional and continental cooperation initiative basis on the African need to appropriate themselves the actions to combat against the desertification in the vulnerable areas in the Sahel and Sahara Africa on a couple of levels, political and technical. As it is mentioned above, this ambitious program of Green Wall would request significant investment of financial and human resources and needs to be implemented as soon as possible according to the negative impacts that the rural populations have been facing. The budget of the present action plan is evaluated as **2,7 millions of US dollars** and needs to be mobilized with the efforts of all concerned countries to enable the launching of the program as it was requested by the State Instances.

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## ANNEXES

**ANNEXE 1: Table 1: Provisional Budget for Phase 1 (2 years)**

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Budget US\$</b>
Develop of eligibility criteria and indicators	50 000
Development of questionnaires and country visits	75 000
Capitalization of scientific and technical information and knowledge	150 000
Regional zoning through land use and soil classification	175000
Countries Sensitization/mobilization	130,000
<b>Pilot activities</b>	<b>755 000</b>
▪ Identification and citing of activities	25 000
▪ Implementation of activities	500 000
▪ Institutional support to Focal Point	230,000
<b>Program Coordination</b>	<b>425 000</b>
▪ Regional Coordination	150 000
▪ Technical committee	105 000
▪ Regional committee (for trans-boundary activities)	105 000
▪ Regional workshop	82 000
Identification and initiation of trans-boundary activities and programs	200 000
Development of regional investment program	150 000
<b>Accompanying programs</b>	<b>300, 000</b>
▪ Formulation and implementation of regional scientific research program	100 000
▪ Conception and implementation of regional training networks	70 000
▪ Conception and implementation of mechanisms for consultations and exchange of views	70 000
▪ Development of stakeholder platform, resources mobilization and creation of a dedicated trust fund	60 000
Launching program	150 000
<i>Total</i>	<i>2, 572, 000</i>
Contingency of 5%	128, 000
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>2, 700, 000</b>

ANNEXE 2: Table 2: Priority Areas of Intervention

Priority areas of intervention	Purpose	Activities	Expected Outcomes
Creating conducive environment for implementation	a. Ensure sustainability and ownership of the program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop strategic partnership</li> <li>• Create a sustainable funding mechanism (Fund)</li> <li>• Develop a comprehensive investment program</li> <li>• Establish eligibility criteria to access common funds</li> <li>• Undertake relevant studies to capitalize on successful experiences and identify technical packages</li> <li>• Develop relevant maps for zoning and priority areas</li> <li>• Identify and implement pilot projects</li> <li>• Develop guidelines for GGWSSI implementation</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>√ Sure funding arrangement (Source)</li> <li>√ Focussed and coordinated implementation</li> <li>√ Successful experiences identified for up-scaling</li> </ul>
Promoting Sustainable Agricultural Development	<p>a. To improve the sustainability, integration and adaptability of SSZ agriculture including, crops, livestock and fisheries</p> <p>b. To increase commercialization and marketing of SSZ agricultural products</p> <p>c. To increase accessibility of SSZ men and women crop farmers, pastoralists and fisher folks to agricultural inputs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote agricultural intensification, diversification and integration activities using appropriate technologies</li> </ul> <p>Promote oasis and small scale river basin irrigation development activities</p> <p>Promote investments in land reclamation and development activities</p> <p>Promote urban and peri-urban agriculture</p> <p>Put in place storage, preservation and processing facilities</p> <p>Facilitate market development for SSZ commodities at the national and regional levels</p> <p>Encourage land tenure reforms and land use planning</p> <p>Facilitate access to key inputs including credit, extension and production inputs</p> <p>Facilitate access to basic resources especially for rural women</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>√ Food and nutrition security status of the people of the Sahel-Saharan Zone, especially women and children improved</li> <li>√ Livelihoods of the people of the Sahel-Saharan Zone improved and poverty reduced especially for rural women and youth</li> <li>√ The Environment conserved</li> <li>√ Crop, livestock and fisheries productivity increased and sustained</li> </ul>

Priority areas of intervention	Purpose	Activities	Expected Outcomes
	<p>d. To increase security and accessibility to basic resources by SSZ populations, especially women</p> <p>e. To make better use of SSZ land</p>		
<p>1. Promoting Integrated land and Water resource development and management</p> <p>3.1. Rangeland management</p>	<p>a. To rehabilitate degraded rangelands</p> <p>b. To improve the quantity and quality of pastures</p> <p>c. To improve water management within rangelands</p> <p>d. To increase livestock productivity and diversification</p> <p>e. To improve national and regional preparedness for addressing climate</p>	<p>Develop water sources in appropriate points and promote the use of water conservation techniques</p> <p>Promote the use of appropriate improved technologies and practices and facilitate the creation of research and technology adaptation networks</p> <p>Promote fire management practices</p> <p>Promote diversification of livestock production especially targeting rural women</p> <p>Promote processing and marketing of livestock products at the national and regional levels</p> <p>Promote increased accessibility to veterinary services and facilitate the building of local capacity on animal health</p>	<p>√ Increased livestock productivity</p> <p>√ Improvements in livestock-related livelihoods</p> <p>√ Improvements in the socio-economic and cultural status of pastoral communities.</p>

Priority areas of intervention	Purpose	Activities	Expected Outcomes
	change and natural disasters	<p>Facilitate the establishment of effective early warning systems at all levels</p> <p>Strengthen existing national and regional institutions involved in disaster preparedness and encourage joint early warning systems</p> <p>Promote rangeland management techniques to cope with climate variability and climate change</p> <p>Promote effective dialogue for conflict management and resolution</p> <p>Encourage the establishment of national preparedness plans</p>	
3.2 Forestry and land management	<p>a. To improve forest ecosystem management, biodiversity, and forest production</p> <p>b. To increased carbon sequestration</p> <p>c. To achieve sustainable use of non-forest products</p> <p>d. To rehabilitate degraded forest areas</p> <p>e. To achieve sustainable management of fuel wood resources</p> <p>f. To accelerate integration in the management of trans-boundary</p>	<p>Promote increased use of renewable energy technologies including application of energy saving technologies</p> <p>Promote the use of improved forest management technologies, techniques and practices including the use of traditional knowledge</p> <p>Promote community and private forestry</p> <p>Promote the introduction of integrated land conservation activities</p> <p>Promote alternative utilisation of non-wood products with particular focus on rural women especially through the introduction of multiple value trees such as Pongamia piñata and other useful acacia trees</p> <p>Promote ecotourism</p> <p>Strengthen forest protection measures, including protection against wildfires and pests</p> <p>Promote reforestation activities and the development of woodlands</p> <p>Facilitate the conduct of forest resource mapping and assessment</p>	<p>Improvements in forestry-related livelihoods particularly for women</p> <p>√ Increases in forestry-related incomes</p> <p>√ Poverty reduction</p>

Priority areas of intervention	Purpose	Activities	Expected Outcomes
	resources	<p>Promote effective dialogues for conflict management and resolution involving the forest sector</p> <p>Encourage joint planning and management of trans-boundary forest resources</p> <p>Facilitate the building of capacity for carbon trading and the quantification of the carbon sequestered in the process</p> <p>Promote forest management techniques to cope with climate variability and climate change</p>	
3.3 Water and soil management	To improve water and soil conservation, soil fertility, water availability and water quality and use efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote joint/regional initiatives for sustainable management of shared/trans-boundary water resources and watersheds</li> <li>• Promote the adoption of improved soil and water management technologies, techniques and practices, including water harvesting techniques</li> <li>• Promote soil and water management techniques to cope with climate variability and climate change.</li> <li>• Promote water use efficiency techniques</li> <li>• Facilitate efforts aimed at improving capacity/knowledge of communities and institutions to conserve water/soil</li> <li>• Promote assessment and mapping of available and potential water and soil resources</li> <li>• Promote better use of climate information from contemporary and traditional sources for informed decisions</li> </ul>	<p>Improved soil and water productivity</p> <p>√ Sustained increases in agricultural, rangeland and forest productivity.</p> <p>Sustained water availability</p>
4. Putting in place an effective communication strategy	To institutionalize effective communication processes at different levels for advocacy,	<p>Facilitate the generation, gathering, packaging, and dissemination of relevant information</p> <p>Facilitate the creation of a web site for the Initiative</p> <p>Facilitate the establishment of mechanisms for strengthening</p>	<p>The Green Wall for the Sahara Initiative and its goals attained</p> <p>Decision making at all levels streamlined and improved</p>

Priority areas of intervention	Purpose	Activities	Expected Outcomes
	awareness raising, sensitization, outreach and learning	<p>public and media relations</p> <p>Promote the creation and implementation of a framework for measuring progress and impact at all levels</p> <p>Establish an identity for the GWSI</p> <p>Put in place measures for mobilizing and motivating stakeholders including development partners and the donor community</p> <p>Develop and share communication strategies and packages for different targeted audiences/stakeholders, including women, the youth and other community groups</p> <p>Facilitate the development of communication skills of implementers of the Initiative for effective interaction with stakeholders</p> <p>Create/Identify and use various appropriate channels of communication</p> <p>Facilitate the harmonisation of communication policies</p> <p>Use the Initiative’s communication strategy to promote effective dialogue for conflict management and resolution at all levels</p> <p>Use GWSI communication system to promote networking and leveraging synergies and partnerships with major stakeholders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Put in place measures to streamline internal and external communication and to learn from existing and unfolding experiences</li> </ul>	<p>Ownership of the GWSI established at all levels</p> <p>Goodwill for GWSI implementation developed and sustained at all levels</p>
5. Establishing an effective operational institutional framework	To put in place effective institutional arrangements for the organization, management and implementation of the GWSI at all levels	<p>Establish coordination mechanisms at all levels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and help implement institutional capacity building programs at all levels</li> </ul> <p>Support institutional networking and partnership building</p> <p>Promote the development and use of joint frameworks for monitoring and evaluation of GWSI related activities in participating institutions</p> <p>Facilitate the establishment of coordination mechanisms with</p>	Effective coordination, engagement and motivation of all institutions for a coordinated execution of the Initiative established at all levels

Priority areas of intervention	Purpose	Activities	Expected Outcomes
		RECs and other GWSI-related institutional frameworks such as OSS, UNEP-GEF, UNCCD, NEPAD, UNFCCC, UNCBD, FAO and others	
6 Creating an enabling policy and legal environment	To provide a platform for the implementation of harmonized GWSI related policies, laws, decisions and agreements at all levels	<p>Identify and support forums for GWSI policy dialogues</p> <p>Encourage and promote development of common policies for natural resource management and utilization</p> <p>Promote studies that help harmonise, streamline and consolidate policies relevant to the GWSI</p> <p>Promote coherent national and regional policies on trans-boundary issues including transhumance and nomadic pastoralism</p> <p>Facilitate the creation of appropriate national and regional legal environments</p> <p>Encourage the inclusion of GWSI in national development plans including PRSPs and other plans and programs as appropriate</p>	Successful and sustainable implementation of GWSI and its components at all levels
7 Building relevant and appropriate capacities at all levels	To increase capacity in all areas of intervention and at all levels to tackle land degradation and desertification in the SSZ and improve the livelihoods of the people of the zone, including women and youths	<p>Gather and document information on existing experiences and know-how</p> <p>Organize training workshops for exchanging experiences and lessons learnt</p> <p>Develop and implement training programs at the national and regional levels for integrated execution of the activities of the various intervention areas</p> <p>Develop and strengthen networks of institutions and similar initiatives and thematic interventions</p> <p>Establish and strengthen links with research and academic institutions to support GWSI activities</p> <p>Facilitate retooling/updating/reorienting of individuals involved in the implementation of the Initiative at all levels, especially local communities, on relevant GGWSSI requirements.</p> <p>Promote programs and projects for empowering local</p>	<p>Human and institutional capacities increased at all levels for effective and sustainable implementation of GGWSSI</p> <p>Communities empowered/capacitated to initiate, implement and sustain GGWSSI interventions</p>

Priority areas of intervention	Purpose	Activities	Expected Outcomes
		communities	
8 Establishing an effective coordination, monitoring and evaluation system	<p>a. To put in place effective coordination and M&amp;E structures at all levels</p> <p>b. To establish an effective GGWSI information management system</p>	<p>Establish Technical and Steering Committees</p> <p>Setup operating M&amp;E systems at all levels</p> <p>Establish appropriate reporting mechanisms/processes for appropriate decision making</p> <p>Establish a GGWSI databank to facilitate information management</p>	<p>Reporting and accountability enhanced</p> <p>Implementation coordination enhanced</p> <p>Decision making and resource allocation streamlined</p>

**ANNEXE 3: Table 3: Indicate Programme Budget for the first ten Years**

	<b>Priority Area of Intervention</b>	<b>Ten Years Indicative Cost</b>
1	Promoting sustainable agricultural development	94, 500,000
2.	Promoting Integrated land and Water resource development and management	
	1. Rangeland management	115,500,000
	2. Forestry and land management	136,500,000
	3. Water and soil management	73,500,000
3	Putting in place an effective communication strategy	54,600,000
4	Establishing an effective operational institutional framework	52,500,000
5	Creating an enabling policy and legal environment	63,000,000
6	Building relevant and appropriate capacities at all levels	29,400,000
7	Establishing an effective coordination, monitoring and evaluation system	16,800,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>636,300,000</b>