

Countries: **Chad, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Mali and Niger**

Project Title: **Support for the mobilization of action to implement the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Programme in five selected countries**

Project Number: **TCP/RAF/3302 (D)**

Starting Date: **June 2010**

Completion Date: **May 2012**

Counterpart institution responsible for project execution: **African Union Commission (Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture) in collaboration with the national Governments of Chad, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Mali and Niger**

FAO Contribution: **USD 460 000**

Signed:

Signed:

(on behalf of the Government)

(on behalf of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations - FAO)

Date of Signature:

Date of signature:

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 General Context

In 2005, His Excellency Olusegun Obasanjo, the former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, proposed to the Summits of the Heads of State of the Community of Sahel and Saharan States (CEN-SAD) and the African Union (AU Commission), an initiative to develop and implement a 'Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative (GGWSSI). Both Summits supported the initiative. As a follow up, the AU Commission, the Secretariat of CEN-SAD and the Government of the Republic of Senegal developed separate concept papers for the initiative. The African Union Concept Paper was 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 8th Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in January 2007, endorsed the Initiative by Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.137(VIII). 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 and poverty in the Sahara and Sahel zones of the continent. Through the said Decision, the AU Assembly inter alia:

- “MANDATES the African Union Commission to facilitate and coordinate the implementation of the Initiative by Member States and Regional Economic Communities;
- CALLS UPON the development partners to support the affected Member States, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and the Commission to ensure the effective implementation of the Initiative at national, regional and continental levels”

In January 2009, the AU Summit endorsed a joint implementation plan developed by the AUC, CEN-SASD Secretariat and Senegal, which is now available for execution by Member States of CEN-SAD and development partners as requested in the AU Summit Decision of 2007.

The sixteenth Session of the FAO African Forestry and Wildlife Commission held in Khartoum from 18 to 21 February 2008 recognized the importance of the Green Wall for the Sahara Initiative and urged its members to, through the initiatives, address the forestry, wildlife and water related problems.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is deeply concerned with the issue of the soaring food prices and is actively engaged in seeking a long-term solution to the problem. For the Sahel and Sahara zones of Africa, where crop production is low due principally to low rainfall and low soil fertility, and general land degradation, the GGWSSI and related interventions provide an opportunity for the inhabitants to create alternative sources of income, and thus increase their ability to buy food or invest in other productive ventures on a long-term basis.

The global challenge being posed by climate change, especially in Africa, provides an added impetus for integrating climate change concerns in attempts to address land degradation and poverty. Recognizing this, the AU Assembly in 2007 adopted a Declaration on Climate Change with a view to enhance Africa's adaptation to and contribution to mitigation of the phenomenon. The FAO also has elaborate programmes aiming at assisting countries to cope with the challenges of climate change especially for food security.

In the context of its work to increase agricultural production, food security and sustainable natural resources management, FAO has representation in all of the countries that will be involved in the implementation of the Green Wall for the Sahara Initiative. FAO has extensive experience in dry land forestry, which it could bring to bear on the successful implementation of the GGWSSI. These experiences include the establishment of plantations of *Acacia Senegal* and other species that are adapted to dry conditions and have fodder, environmental, social and economic values. In this context, FAO has a lot to offer to the Sahel and Saharan countries of GGWSSI from its dry land forestry experience. Similarly, most countries in the Sahel and Sahara have experience in soil degradation and desertification control as well as in the production and marketing of non-wood forest products originating from dry land species which could be shared with others and up-scaled.

1.2 Specific Context

Africa is a continent seriously affected by the phenomena of land degradation and desertification which have had significant negative social, economic and environmental impacts on its people. The increasing number of communities and countries that continue to suffer the negative impacts of land degradation and desertification is clearly a source of grave concern. Population explosion coupled with the current climate change phenomena are negating the efforts of Governments and development partners to improve livelihood systems in the Sahara and Sahel, which are heavily reliant on the already degraded soils, water and vegetation resources.

Since the coming into force of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in 1996, virtually all African countries became parties to the Convention in a bid to improve the livelihoods of their affected population and to ameliorate the environment. Most of them have developed National Action Plans (NAPs) to implement the Convention. Many of these plans are however yet to be fully implemented due to the lack of financial resources. Similarly, given the threats posed by the phenomenon of climate change, African countries have also signed up to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and are currently actively involved in the international negotiations for its implementation. One of the challenges the countries face is to exploit the synergy between the two conventions to mobilize resources for their joint implementation. The Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative provides such an opportunity through a multifaceted and multidisciplinary implementation plan to enhance the synergies between the various Rio Conventions.

Prior to the UNCCD many African countries undertook measures aimed at counteracting land degradation and desertification. Some examples include: 'the Green Dam' initiative launched in 1971 in Algeria; the 'Green Belt of Northern African Countries' in 1978 and the 'Green Belt for Nigeria' (1980s) initiatives. Work on these initiatives have either been discontinued or significantly scaled down due to lack of sufficient resources to sustain them. Some of the main reasons include insufficient involvement of the local communities or lack of qualified technical personnel and knowledge, e.g. in Algeria, insufficient integration of the ecological and social aspects and knowledge in some of the operation areas, tenure insecurity and insufficient community commitment and engagement can be cited as root causes for the lack of success from the 1970s to the 1980s. The revised plans and work since the 1990s show promising signs of success as a result of addressing some of the constraints of the earlier attempts. Niger, on the other hand, has had some success but, like any developing country, experienced some financial

technical staff constraints during the implementation of its programme. The North-African attempt did not score much success due to lack of coordination.

The Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative contributes to the achievement of a number of objectives related to global initiatives, including to:

1. enhance environmental sustainability (Millennium Development Goal 7 [MDG7]).
2. control land degradation and desertification (UNCCD).
3. promote integrated natural resources management.
4. conserve biological diversity (UNCBD).
5. contribute to poverty reduction (MDG 1).
6. enhance adaptation to climate change (UNFCCC).

The regional plan of implementation assigns the AU Commission and the CEN-SAD Secretariat with the responsibility for oversight and coordination of the programme. It further proposes the establishment of a coordination unit in the CEN-SAD Secretariat and the creation of a “Dedicated Trust Fund”. The latter two have yet to be realized. The implementation plan also foresees annual budgetary allocations by the countries. Senegal has already started to implement its national programme.

2. RATIONALE

2.1 Problems/Issues to be addressed

Efforts made by many African countries to combat land degradation and desertification and improve livelihoods have been limited and unsustainable. While several causes could be cited for such situation: lack of resources and inadequate policies, strategies and plans and lack of involvement of stakeholders are largely responsible. In many cases, institutional arrangements at national level for implementation of long-term environmental programmes as the Green Wall are, at best, weak.

The Governments are to take leadership in the implementation of the Great Green Wall for Sahara and Sahel Initiative within their national borders. Given the long-term nature of the foreseen engagement, the implementation would require carefully laid out strategy and well designed national plans of implementation. Furthermore, adequate institutional arrangements would need to be put in place at national and continental levels to ensure coordination of actions and sustained follow up.

Much experience has been gained by the countries in their earlier attempts to implement national greenbelts and other environment protection and natural resources development programmes. Some of the lessons learned and experiences gained have not been shared or up-scaled due to lack of resources and inability to develop sound project ideas that could be sold to development partners or donors for funding. Through this TCP project, it is hoped that selected countries will be assisted to develop strategies and implementation plans out of which projects could be developed for donor support. These projects could be used to upscale successful experiences on land degradation and desertification control that have positive impacts on poverty reduction.

2.2 Stakeholders and Target Beneficiaries

The AU Commission and the selected countries, namely Chad, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Mali and Niger, and their participating communities will be the principal stakeholders and beneficiaries. While the project will increase the capacity of the AU Commission in the context of its support to the implementation of the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative, it will enhance the capacity of the selected countries to prepare strategies and implementation plans as well as project proposal for on-the-ground activities related to upscaling of successful experiences and other innovations. At the same time, the local communities that will participate in the subsequent follow up projects for up scaling of the successful experiences will also directly benefit from the outcome through production of non-wood forest products and other agricultural products of commercial values and thus increased income in the medium term.

2.3 Project Justification

Land degradation in arid areas have put under threat the livelihood of millions of people around the world; 10 million hectares of arable land are being degraded per annum; of the 130 million hectares of land seriously affected, 50 percent is in Africa. Through the implementation of the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative, Africa will be making great strikes towards the regional implementation of the UNCCD. Furthermore, it would contribute to the implementation of the Environment Initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the Sirte Declaration on Agriculture and Water, and the international environment and sustainable development policies, such as provided for in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI), adopted by the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in 2002, as well as contribute to attaining the MDG objectives in the Sahel and Sahara zones.

The successful implementation of any project or programme hinges on the development of a good strategy and plan of implementation. The plan of implementation would advise activities to be undertaken in order to achieve the objectives of the programme or project. The Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative is a multi-sectoral livelihood programme which requires a landscape approach as well a multi-stakeholder participation in its implementation. This, therefore, calls for development of well thought out strategies and carefully developed implementation plans that would involve all relevant stakeholders in their formulation from the beginning. Many of the countries in the Sahara and Sahel zone experience difficulties in developing well-articulated plans, especially where this calls for inputs from different sectors as would be the case in the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative. FAO assistance in facilitating the development of strategies and implementation plans will not only enhance the mobilization of resources, but will also help to build or develop valuable planning capacity at the national level and ensure requisite monitoring and evaluation for the implementation of the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative.

Many of the countries in the Sahara and Sahel zone have undertaken projects similar to the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative and have built valuable experiences and achieved some successes. It is necessary to upscale these successes even if it would be at pilot level in order to demonstrate their viability and usefulness for environmental protection and socio-economic development. The TCP project will develop project proposals for upscaling of some successful experiences and assist with institutional arrangement to ensure proper coordination and ownership as well as for sustainable implementation.

In the context of its work to increase agricultural production, food security and sustainable natural resources management, FAO has extensive experience in dry land forestry, and sustainable livelihood systems which it could bring to bear on the successful implementation of the GGWSSI through assisting countries to elaborate adequate strategies and plans, as well as the field execution of the development plans.

3. **PROJECT FRAMEWORK**

3.1 **Impacts**

The TCP Project is aimed at enhancing the capacity of the AU Commission to provide assistance to five (5) selected Member States to develop sound strategies, plans and project proposals for the successful implementation of the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative. In this context, it will develop capacity of the Commission and the five selected countries in programme planning at national level. Furthermore the project will contribute to poverty reduction through the development of project proposals that could upscale the implementation of successful income generating land degradation and desertification control measures benefiting to the local communities.

3.2 **Outcomes and Outputs**

Outcome 1: the capacity of the African Union is enhanced to provide technical support to selected Member States to develop national strategies, plans and project proposals for the implementation of the GGWSSI.

Output 1. The AU Commission's capacity to provide assistance to its Member States to implement the GGWSSI is enhanced.

Activity 1: AU Commission-level Focal Point is assigned to give effect to project implementation.

Activity 2: a team of three international consultants recruited to assist the five selected countries to prepare their strategies and national plans of action.

Activity 3: a regional training and planning workshop is organized involving representatives from the AUC, the five selected countries, the international consultants as well as other experienced countries (GGWSSI) such as Senegal to share experiences, lessons learned, as well as present, discuss and agree on a common working approach and project work and monitoring plans.

Activity 4: three(3) retiree/TCDC (Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries) consultants recruited to help countries prepare project proposals aiming at implementing priority actions defined in the national plans and strategies.

Outcome 2: five (5) countries' national strategies and plans for GGWSSI implementation are prepared, validated and adopted.

Output 1: national strategy, plan of implementation and project proposal produced.

Activity 1: five (5) National Project Coordinators (NPCs) identified and appointed by the selected countries.

Activity 2: a national consultant will be hired to lead the consultative process in each country at the national level and support the NPC and the international consultant in their assignment.

Activity 3: national consultative workshops organized and implemented with stakeholders at all levels.

Activity 4: five (5) national strategies and plans of implementation developed by the team of consultants in collaboration with the NPCs.

Activity 5: a sustainability and fundraising multicountry framework developed to mobilize resources (domestic sources, AUC partners and international sources).

Activity 6: five (5) national workshops undertaken to validate the strategy and plans of implementation.

Activity 7: strategy and plan of implementation approved by responsible government Ministry or Agency.

Output 2: NPC facilitates the establishment of multidisciplinary National Project Steering Committee (NPSC), under the Ministry or Agency responsible for the GGWSSI in each of the selected five (5) countries, to ensure integrated approach to implementation and wider ownership at national level and monitoring and evaluation of the project.

Activity 1: a two-(2) day national workshop to launch the Multidisciplinary Steering Committee held.

Activity 2: monitoring and evaluation framework developed and validated and implemented by NPSC.

Outcome 3: five (5) countries enabled to prepare projects for country-wide implementation of the GGWSSI

Output: Five (5) GGWSSI project implementation proposals produced.

Activity 1: consultants recruited to develop draft project proposals.

Activity 2: project proposals reviewed, adopted and submitted to identified donors for funding (relevant donors being identified through the fundraising plan cited above (outcome 2, output 1).

3.3 Sustainability

The sustainability of the TCP project will be assured through a strong institutional framework that is sufficiently supported through government budgets. The elaboration of a good national implementation plan, which will be updated on a regular basis, depending on economic and social developments, will help attract donor support for further project implementation. The Governments would need to ensure that the institutional framework put in place can ascertain this. Project sustainability will also be enhanced through proper advocacy and community awareness and empowerment to engender sustained interest. This interest can be ensured through awareness and knowledge sharing amongst all stakeholders as well as their close involvement in the preparatory activities and subsequent implementation of the projects..

3.4 Risks and assumptions

Being an environmental project involving a strong participation of different sectors, its success would be determined by the level of commitments at local and government levels and climatic conditions. Also given some uncertainties in the project context and in the region, assumptions about the operationalization are made. The table below gives some of these risks and assumptions as well as measures undertaken to address those risks.

Table 1: Risks and assumptions

| Risks | Possible impacts | Probability | Measures | Assumptions |
|---|--|--------------------|---|---|
| Low commitment at political level in the countries | Governments give less priority to the Projects | Very low | Ensure Governments' commitment before the beginning of the project. and during its execution. Guarantee favourable conditions for the national ownership of the project AU collaboration is a key of success in addressing this issue | Political stability exists during and beyond the TCP project phase. |
| Local communities not attracted by the project | Input into the workshops from the local communities fall short of expectations | Low | Undertake community sensitization and awareness creation especially regarding the economic and social values of the GGWSSI Plans and strategies address local concerns and priorities | Community interest exists |
| The African Union Commission has less capacity to manage the project | Project implementation schedule and timeframes not respected | Low | Ensure the engagement of the CEN_SAD Secretariat and other relevant organs of the AUC in the management of the project. Ensure an understanding of the project and a realistic planning as well as monitoring at the onset of the project through the organization of a regional workshop. | The regional coordination arrangement foreseen in the Regional Plan of Implementation is in place |
| No donor support for implementation of the project proposals beyond the TCP | Implementation of the GGWSSI at the country levels hampered | Medium | Develop a multi-country funding framework for resource mobilization | Donors committed to funding environmental and income generation project |
| Political instability in the participating countries | Project implementation and timely completion hampered | Low | - | Political stability exists during and beyond the TCP project phase. |

4. IMPLEMENTATION AND MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Institutional Framework and Coordination

The AU Commission and FAO will be jointly responsible for the execution of the project, FAO having the technical responsibility. The Forest Management Division (FOM) will be the Lead Technical Unit for the implementation of the project within the FAO set up.

The TCP project will be located at the AU Commission, which will designate a “Coordinator” in the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture for the project and through whom liaison will be established with the Coordination Mechanism of the GGWSSI at the CEN-SAD Secretariat as necessary. The AU Commission will be consulted for the identification of international consultants. Consultants will be recruited by FAO for the provision of required technical assistance.

At the level of the selected five countries, the Ministry or Agency responsible for the GGWSSI will designate an NPC to be responsible for the coordination of the activities of the project in his/her country. Being a multidisciplinary project, a National Steering Committee will be established to ensure the input of relevant stakeholders, from the environmental, economic and social sectors as well as the private sector and civil society, in the planning and execution of the project. The Governments may wish to look into the possibility of using existing similar committees, such as those set up in the framework of UNCCD, in order to avoid duplication of efforts and to save on the time of the members.

4.2 Strategy/Methodology

A team of three international consultants, with one serving as leader, will be used to assist the countries develop strategies, implementation plans and multicountry frameworks for resource mobilization. Additional three retiree/TCDC consultants are foreseen for project proposals development.

Year 1

4.2.1 Project launching

A project launching workshop will be organized in the first few months of the start of the project. It will involve the five (5) selected countries and two (2) others that have experience in the implementation of GGWSSI, such as Senegal. The purpose of this workshop will be to engender a common understanding amongst the participating countries concerning the purpose and roll out of the project.

A two-(2) day meeting between the team of international consultants, AUC and FAO will be organized to strategize their approach for the production of the various outputs and agree on working procedures and planning.

4.2.2 Country Situation Analysis (one month)

The first month will be used to recruit a team of international consultants by FAO to help the selected countries to undertake a situation analysis to guide the preparation of the national

strategies and plans of implementation. It will involve in-country analysis through consultations with stakeholder in the Government; review of existing policies and legislation as relevant; and review of current institutional structure(s) for the subsequent implementation of the plan.

4.2.3 Identification and recruitment of a national consultant to lead the national consultation process in each country

A national consultant will be recruited in each country to support the NPC in the compilation of national-level information, plan and organize a series of consultations based on available funding. He/She, under the supervision of the FAO and with the close collaboration of the NPC, will make all necessary arrangements for and execute the consultative workshops and write a report on the outcome of the consultations for the use of the international consultant to develop the draft implementation plan.

4.2.4 National workshop(s) to identify elements of the implementation plan (eight months)

Two (2) to three (3) national consultation workshops will be organized by the national consultant. These workshops will be conducted in the urban and rural areas in order to get views and inputs from the various stakeholders regarding aspects of the GGWSSI that could be effectively implemented at national level. The workshop will also be used to explain the Great Green wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative concept. This consultative process at the national level may last up to eight months.

4.2.5 Elaboration of the draft strategy and national plan of implementation (two months)

Based on a review of the existing information and strategies and plans as well as based on the national workshops results, the international consultants will develop a draft strategy and plan of implementation in close collaboration with NPC. The strategy and plan development process will be guided by the information from the stakeholders' workshops and the personal knowledge and experience of the consultant(s). It is likely to last for three (3) months considering the need for review by NPC and revision by the consultant.

4.2.6 National Validation Workshop

Once the draft Strategy and Implementation plan are completed, they will be presented and validated at a national workshop of government officials and representatives of other categories of stakeholders and later submitted to the Ministry/Agency concerned for approval.

4.2.7 Establishment of National Project Steering Committee

A third activity during this first year will be the establishment of a National Steering Committee and the definition of its roles and responsibilities in each participating country. NPC will be responsible for ensuring its setting-up and for the preparation of detailed work plans for national level activities.

Year 2

4.2.8 Development of multi-country resource mobilization frameworks

Following the development of the strategy and implementation plans for GGWSSI in the selected countries, a team of consultants will look and review potential funding schemes and options for the implementation of GGWSSI in each country. The consultants will develop multicountry resource mobilization frameworks that will guide the countries in mobilizing funding.

4.2.9 Assistance to countries for development of project proposals

Based on funding prospected identified in 4.2.8, most of the second year will be used to assist the countries to develop project proposals that could be submitted to their and/or FAO's as well as AU development partners for funding. This process will also use consultants to work with NPC to develop the projects. The nature and types of the projects will be determined at the national level through consultation with the National Steering Committee and experiences borrowed from other countries.

Consultants will be recruited to develop draft project proposals (three (3) months) which will be reviewed, adopted and submitted to relevant donors for funding.

4.3 AU Commission Contribution

The AU Commission is the counterpart of the project. It will provide the following:

- designate a coordinator to coordinate the implementation of the project and ensure that it is within the framework of the regional implementation plan;
- ensure the engagement of the regional and subregional stakeholders such as the CEN-SAD Secretariat; the NEPAD Secretariat as necessary and other institutions provided for in the regional implementation programme and plan;
- ensure that countries to be involved are fully engaged from the very onset;
- make necessary budgetary provisions to support its own participation in the project activities as it may wish, including the salaries of its staff;
- ensure monitoring and evaluation of the project jointly with FAO and Government counterparts;
- submit regular project implementation reports to FAO as may be agreed;
- organize the initial regional workshop covering the costs of the logistics (meeting room, translation facilitation and documentation) and of the participation of its staff with technical and financial support of FAO.

4.4 Government Inputs

Government commitment to the project is crucial for its success. To this end, the participating Government, through the institution responsible for the GGWSSI, will:

- designate an appropriate Ministry/Agency under which the project will be implemented;

- designate a National Project Coordinator (NPC) to facilitate the coordination of the implementation of the project in his country;
- provide office space and facilities for the consultants and the NPC;
- provide local transport for the NPC;
- provide all relevant information as may be required for the execution of the project;
- facilitate all country consultations;
- ensure the commitment and engagement of the local authorities/administration in the project planning and execution;
- exempt project equipments, whether imported or locally purchased, from all forms of sales or other taxes;
- make necessary budgetary allocation to meet its counterpart cost needs;
- be responsible for the payment of allowances for the government employees involved in the project implementation;
- cover the cost of the organization of the four meetings of the Project National Steering Committee in each of the five countries.

4.5 FAO Contribution

Personnel

International and retiree/TCDC Consultants:

- one (1) international consultant, team leader and responsible for development of strategies and plans of implementation of one country - forty (40) days including two missions of five (5) days each (in one of the selected countries) and one mission of three days in Addis Ababa (Terms of Reference in Annex 3) ;
- two (2) international consultants for development of strategies and plans of implementation - forty (40) days each including four missions of five (5) days each (in two of the selected countries) and one mission of three days each in Addis Ababa (Terms of Reference in Annex 3) ;
- two(2) retiree/TCDC consultants for development of project proposals and multi-country framework for resource mobilization – forty-five (45) days each. Each consultant will undertake two (2) missions of five (5) days in two (2) of the selected countries (four missions in total for each consultant) (Terms of Reference in Annex 4);
- one retiree/TCDC consultant for development of project proposals and multi-country framework for resource mobilization –twenty-three (23) days (including two (2) missions of five (5) days in one of the selected countries) (Terms of Reference in Annex 4);

National Consultants:

- five national consultants, experts in natural resources management and workshops facilitation – seven months each with one mission of three days in Addis Ababa.

FAO Technical Support Services (TSS)

The backstopping and technical supervision will be provided by the Forest Management Division (FOM)/Forest Conservation Service (FOMC) at FAO Regional Office for Africa (RAF) in collaboration with technical staff of FAO headquarters, subregional and national offices. This will entail: a) undertaking of at least five missions of an average of five days (one for each beneficiary country) at the mid term of the project and at least two missions to Addis Ababa (AUC headquarters); b) participation to workshops and meetings as required; c) promoting facilitation and coordination with AU Commission and other partners; d) undertaking desk work for review and commenting the project planning, technical deliverables as well as reports. The officer responsible (RAFO/FOM) in collaboration with AU Commission, consultants and the FAO Representatives will prepare the fundraising strategies and plans and support mobilization of funds for the resulted projects developed and implementation of GGWSSI strategies and action plans. The detailed TORs are provided in Annex 5.

Duration: thirty-one (31) days in five (5) missions of five (5) days in each country and two (2) missions of three (3) days in Addis Abeba.

Training

See in Annex 6 a table summarizing roles and responsibilities for each entity, partner for the implementation of the training activities.

- Two (2)-day regional workshop (USD sixteen thousand (16 000):
FAO will participate to the costs of the organization for a maximum total amount of USD sixteen thousand (16 000) (technical documentation, cost of one invited speaker to present the successful case study presentation on GGWSSI). In addition, FAO will cover the travel and DSA costs of his staff, those of the national and international consultants. A provision of USD eight (8 000) is foreseen to cover the participation of national project coordinators (BL 5698);
- national consultations USD seventy thousand (70 000):
FAO will participate to the cost of the following meetings in each of the five (5) countries (four (4) workshops/country for a total of USD 14 000/country or a total of 20 workshops for a maximum total amount of USD seventy (70 000):
 - a launching workshop for the project (USD 4 000/country);
 - two (2) local consultative workshops USD three thousand (3 000/workshop (a total of USD six thousand (6 000/country);
 - one validation workshop for the strategy and plan of implementation (USD 4 000/country).

Expendable equipment

A maximum of USD ten thousand (10 000) (USD 2 000/country) is foreseen to cover the cost of miscellaneous expenses (printing material, CD) required in the field for the operation of the project.

Non expendable equipment

A maximum of USD thirty thousand (30 000) USD five thousand (5 000/country and USD 5 000 for the regional coordination in AU Commission) is foreseen to cover the cost of the following equipment: one desktop and one lap top computer, printer and scanner for the office of NPCs and support the coordination Unit at the AU Commission will be provided. The purchased equipment will be located within the project national coordination unit and will be used for the successful implementation of the planned project activities.

General Operating Expenses

- To cover miscellaneous expenses (telephone communications, photocopies, etc.) required in the field for the operation of the project.

Direct Operating Costs

- To cover FAO's administrative and operational costs related to the implementation of the project.

Provision of Office space at SFE

- FAO (Sub-Regional office for East Africa based in Addis Ababa – SFE) will provide office space and facilities to host the Coordinator of the project and the consultants during their mission in Addis Ababa.

5. OVERSIGHT, MONITORING, EVALUATION, MANAGEMENT AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING

5.1 Monitoring and Evaluation

The project will be continuously monitored by FAO, the AU Commission and by the National Steering Committees and a strategy established for the intermittent evaluation of the performance of the project using an established FAO framework or other framework as may be agreed with the national authorities.

5.2 Reporting

Each international or national consultant, including FAO personnel providing technical support services will prepare a mission report containing the main results, conclusions and recommendations of his/her missions.

The preparation of the terminal statement will be under the responsibility of one of the international technical consultants (the team leader) who will send it to FOM for their technical review and clearance.

The Regional Coordinator designated by the AUC and the National Project Coordinators (NPC) will submit six (6) monthly reports and a final project report.

All reports will be submitted to the Lead Technical Unit of FAO. Following established procedures, the final project report will present the main results and conclusions of the project in addition to FAO's recommendations to the AU Commission and the Governments. It is the responsibility of the FAO technical unit (FOM) to ensure that this terminal statement is issued in a timely manner and is of a suitable quality. FAO will send through the FAO Representative the final report to the AU Commission and Governments.

PROJECT BUDGET – FAO CONTRIBUTION
(in USD)

Organization: **African Union Commission**
 Project Title: **Support for the mobilization of action to implement the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Programme in five selected countries**
 Project Number: **TCP/RAF/3302 (D)**

| Accts | Input Description | Sub Component | Main Account |
|--------------|---|----------------------|---------------------|
| 5013 | Consultants | | 144 975 |
| 5542 | Consultants – International | 45 600 | |
| 5543 | Consultants – National | 73 500 | |
| 5544 | Consultants – TCDC/TCCT | 10 575 | |
| 5545 | Consultants – (Retired Experts) | 15 300 | |
| 5014 | Contracts | | |
| 5650 | Contracts Budget | | |
| 5021 | Travel | | 109 876 |
| 5661 | Duty travel (FAO staff only) | 5 000 | |
| 5684 | Consultants – International | 41 976 | |
| 5685 | Consultants – National | 7 620 | |
| 5687 | Consultants – Retired Experts | 24 980 | |
| 5692 | Travel TSS | 22 300 | |
| 5698 | Travel – Non staff (e.g. counterparts) | 8 000 | |
| 5023 | Training | | 86 000 |
| 5920 | Training Budget (national and regional consultations and workshops) | 86 000 | |
| 5024 | Expendable Equipment | | 10 000 |
| 6000 | Expendable Equipment Budget (materials for office, w/shop) | 10 000 | |
| 5025 | Non Expendable Equipment | | 30 000 |
| 6100 | Non Expendable Equipment Budget | 30 000 | |
| 5027 | Technical Support Services | | 27 771 |
| 6111 | Report Costs | 2 250 | |
| 6120 | TSS (Honorarium) | 25 521 | |
| 5028 | General Operating Expenses | | 21 285 |
| 6300 | General Operating Expenses Budget | 21 285 | |
| 5029 | Support Cost | | 30 093 |
| 6118 | Direct Operating Costs | 30 093 | |
| Total | | - | 460 000 |

Terms of Reference for National Project Coordinator

The National Project Coordinator (NPC) will be designated and covered by the beneficiary country. Under the directive of the Government and in close collaboration with the FAO Representative in the country and the officer of the Forest Conservation Service (FOMC), NPC will, amongst other things:

- be responsible for the day-to-day management of the project;
- prepare work plans and ensure the timely execution of activities;
- provide logistical and administrative support to project consultants and FAO technical staff on project mission to the country;
- in collaborate with the FAO Representative, help to identify and recruit the national consultant(s);
- support the national consultant in organizing in-country workshops for the preparation of the national plan of action;
- provide support to all international consultants to the country on GGWSSI;
- assist the international consultants in information gathering for their work and provide them with other support as necessary;
- ensure the timely establishment of the National Project Steering Committee and assure its functionality;
- ensure that equipment purchased by the project is secure and kept in good working condition throughout the project period;
- ensure that the national authorities and the FAO Representative are kept informed about project implementation on a regular basis.

Qualifications and Experience

The Project coordinator should:

- be a senior officer with five (5) or more years of work experience in the Government;
- have a B.Sc. degree (or higher diploma) in natural resources management or in agriculture;
- have experience in land degradation and desertification control;
- be knowledgeable with the use of computers;
- have a team spirit;
- be able and willing to travel in the country; and
- have ability and good report writing skills.

Duration: twenty-four (24) months (full length of the project).

Duty Station: in-country and one (1) mission in Addis Abeba.

Terms of Reference for five (5) National Consultants
Experts in natural resources management and workshops facilitation

Under the overall supervision and guidance of FAO Representative, and the technical supervision of the Forest Management Division (FOM) and in close collaboration with the National Coordinator, the national consultant will:

- be responsible for and provide leadership for overall organization of country consultations/workshops on the preparation of the National Plan of Implementation of the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Project;
- identify, in collaboration with the National Project Coordinator (NPC) and the FAO country Representative, all relevant stakeholders to be invited to the consultations or workshops;
- make all necessary plans for and convene the national consultation workshops;
- ensure that all necessary arrangements for the workshops are made and facilitate the workshops;
- review and gather information on the state of affairs in the country on activities related to GGWSSI and make this information available to the workshop participants;
- ensure the preparation and availability of all workshop materials in a timely manner;
- collaborate with NPC, in the preparation of all necessary documentations for the workshops;
- collaborate with NPC ensure the timely programming of all workshop activities;
- prepare the workshop report and make them available to the FAO Lead Technical Officer (LTO) within a week of the completion of any workshop and communicate them to NPC;
- prepare six-monthly and a terminal report on project implementation;
- undertake any other activity as may be requested by FAO (LTO) and in collaboration with the FAO Representative related to the workshops;
- support the international and retiree/TCDC gathering national level background information in the preparation of the national strategies and plan of action;
- provide comments to the draft documents produced by the international and retiree/TCDC consultants;
- participate in the regional workshop.

Qualifications and Experience

The National consultant should:

- have a degree in community development or in natural resources management or agriculture;
- have proven skills in facilitation of workshops and multi-stakeholder processes;
- at least five (5) years' experience working with government or with community/civil society organizations;
- be computer literate and have good report writing skills.

Duration: seven (7) months including one mission of three days in Addis Abeba.

Duty Station: in-country and one (1) mission of three days in Addis Abeba.

Terms of Reference for three (3) International Consultants for the Preparation of National Strategy and Plan of Action

Under the overall supervision and guidance of the Regional Office for Africa (RAF) and the FAO Representative, and the technical supervision of the Forestry Management Division (FOM) and in close collaboration with the Regional and National Coordinators, the international consultants, with one serving as leader, for the preparation of national strategies and implementation plans will undertake the following tasks:

- participate in the regional workshop;
- prepare the national strategy and plan of implementation for an assigned country; and in so doing:
- the international consultant acting as team leader will undertake two missions of five (5) days each (in one of the selected countries) to consult with the national authorities and the FAO country Representative and prepare a mission report;
- the additional two consultants will undertake four (4) missions of five (5) days each (in two of the selected countries) to consult with the national authorities and the FAO country Representative and prepare a mission report;
- study the African Union (Concept on the Green Wall for the Sahara and the Regional Plan of Implementation);
- study the report of the country consultation workshop(s);
- undertake a brief country assessment regarding policy, legislation and institutional arrangements on issues related to natural resources and environment management;
- using the information from the country situation analysis and stakeholders' workshop, and based on own knowledge, develop a draft strategy and plan of implementation for the country level implementation of the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative (GGWSSI) in close collaboration with the National Project Coordinator (NPC);
- present the strategy and action plan to a national validation workshop and finalize them based on views and comments from the workshop;
- submit the report to FAO (LTO), the FAO country Representative and to RAF with copy to the AU Commission.

Qualifications and Experience

The consultant for preparation of the country strategy and plan of implementation should have the following qualifications and experience:

- M.Sc. degree (or higher diploma) in forestry, land management or agriculture;
- ten years' experience working with FAO, government or other international organization dealing with land management;
- good working knowledge of French and /or English;
- good computer literacy.

Duration for the team leader: forty (40) days including two missions of five (5) days each (in one of the selected countries) and one(1) mission of three (3) days in Addis Ababa

Duration for the additional two consultants: Forty (40) days each including four missions of five (5) days each (in two (2) of the selected countries) and one mission of three (3) days each in Addis Ababa.

Duty Station: home base and three (3) missions for the team leader; and home and five missions each for the additional two (2) consultants.

**Terms of Reference for three (3) retiree/TCDC Consultants for Country Project
Preparation and Multi-Country Fundraising Plans and Frameworks**

The retiree/TCDC consultants for the preparation of country project proposals will be recruited through the FAO Lead Technical Officer (LTO). They will therefore operate under the direct supervision of FAO (LTO) with support of the African Union Commission (AUC) and the FAO representative. Their responsibilities will be to:

- undertake two (2) missions of five (5) days in two (2) of the selected countries (four (4) missions in total for each consultant) and one (1) additional consultants will undertake two missions of five (5) days in one (1) of the selected countries to consult with the national authorities and the FAO Representative and prepare a mission report;
- study the country strategy and plan of implementation as well as the overall AU regional concept and Plan of Implementation for the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative (GGWSSI);
- study the outcome of the national consultative workshop (including the national strategies and action plans for implementation of GGWSSI of the selected countries) and identify key needs and proposals for intervention in the country-level implementation of GGWSSI;
- undertake an assessment of potential relevant funding mechanisms to be used for implementation of strategy/action plans based on an overview of existing initiatives and donors as well as past and current collaborative agreements.
- develop multi-country fundraising frameworks/plans for mobilizing fund for the GGWSSI strategy and action plans implementation;
- based on priority needs identified in the action plans, prepare a draft project proposal, complete with detailed activities, institutional arrangements, logical framework and detailed budget, for the country-level implementation of GGWSSI;
- submit the project proposal to the FAO (LTO), the FAO Country Representative and the Regional Office for Africa (RAF) for review and comments with copy to the AU Commission;
- finalize the Project proposal, based on the comments received, and submit to the FAO (LTO), the FAO Country Representative and to RAF with a copy to the AU Commission.

Qualifications and Experience

The consultant for the preparation of the country project proposal and multi-country fundraising plans and frameworks should have the following qualifications and experience:

- M.Sc. degree (or higher diploma) in forestry, land management, rural development or agriculture.
- 10 (ten) years' experience working in a government or international organization dealing with land management, or at least five (5) years' experience in project development and management, funding mobilization and working with donors and funding agencies;
- good working knowledge of French and /or English;
- good computer literacy.

Duration for two (2) of the retiree/TCDC consultants: forty-five (45) days including two missions of five (5) days in two(2) of the selected countries (four (4) missions in total for each consultant).

Duration for an additional one (1) retiree/TCDC consultant: twenty-three (23) days including two missions of five days in one of the selected countries.

Duty Station: home base and two(2) missions two (2) of the selected countries (4 missions in total for each consultant) for two (2) retiree/TCDC consultants; and home base and two (2) missions for the additional one consultant.

Terms of Reference of FAO Technical Support Services (TSS)**Forestry Officer (Arid Zones) Lead Technical Officer,
Forestry senior officers (RAF), (SFE) and office for West Africa**

Under the overall guidance of the Chief, Forest Conservation Service (FOMC), and coordination with FAO representatives at regional, subregional and national levels, the backstopping and technical supervision will be provided by the Forest Management Division(FOM)/FOMC at FAO headquarters in collaboration with technical staff of FAO regional, subregional and national offices.

This will entail the implementation of the following tasks:

- undertake at least five (5) missions of an average of five(5) days (one for each beneficiary country) at the mid term of the project;
- undertake at least two missions to Addis Ababa (African Union headquarters);
- participating in workshops and meetings as required;
- promote facilitation and coordination with AU Commission and other Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative (GGWSSI) partners for the successful implementation of the project;
- undertake the deskwork needed including :
 - finalization of ToRs for international and national consultants and follow-up on selection of consultants;
 - review and comment the project outputs/technical documents (draft versions – action plans, fundraising plans, project proposals);
 - review and comment project technical progress reports;
 - provision of technical support to the AU Commission for the organization of the project regional launching workshop (including preparation of agenda, identification of list of speakers and participants, guidance for presentations preparation, etc).

In coordination with AU Commission, FAO Representatives and governments, the LTU will:

- provide comments and inputs, guidance for fundraising strategies and plans preparation for the successful implementation of the resulted GGWSSI country strategies and action plans and identified pilot projects;
- provide support to AU Commission and beneficiary countries for the organization of meetings with potential donors and mobilization of funds.

Duration: thirty-one (31) days in seven missions (five (5) missions of five (5) days in each country and two (2) missions of three (3) days in Addis Ababa).

Table (Roles and responsibilities for each training activity)

| Participants | description of tasks | Responsible organization for each task | Total estimated cost to be covered |
|--|--|---|---|
| Regional workshop 2-days workshop in Addis Ababa (in addition to travel and DSA costs of national and international consultants, NPC, FAO staff, a total of USD 16,000 is foreseen to cover costs of this regional workshop (including the invited speaker). | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National project coordinators(NPC) • National consultants (assistant to NPC) • International consultants • AUC • FAO • EU (focal point of EU-AU partnership on GGWSSI) • GM/UNCCD • UNCCD • CEN-SAD • OSS • CILSS • GGWSSI (Senegal) • TerrAfrica • NGO representatives on desertification (to be identified) | <p>Technical preparation of the workshop :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - preparation of draft agenda - preparation of draft list of participants (including speakers) - preparing guidelines for speakers in view of preparation of their presentations - organization of a preparatory meeting with international consultants including team leader and AU Commission to discuss technical methodology and process for the work to be done in the project as well as the workshop - preparatory meetings with GGWSSI major partner organizations (GM/UNCCD,, UNCCD, CEN-SAD, TerrAfrica, EU, etc) to introduce the project and define their role, support to be provided along the project | <p>FAO</p> <p>FAO will pay travel cost of its staff to preparatory meetings as well as workshop as needed</p> | <p>FAO Budget contribution :</p> |
| | <p>Technical preparation :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - provide inputs to FAO (LTU) on the contents of the workshop and list of participants - support preparation and participate to the meetings with GGWSSI partners | <p>AU Commission</p> | <p>AU Commission budget contribution:</p> |

| Participants | description of tasks | Responsible organization for each task | Total estimated cost to be covered |
|--------------|---|---|---|
| | <p>Logistic organization of the regional workshop :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provision of facilities : meeting room, translation, documents printing, and copies - Booking hotel rooms for all workshop participants <p>Logistic organization of the regional workshop (hotel bookings for participants)</p> | <p>AU Commission will pay the following costs :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Room, translation, documentation - Participation costs of AU Commission staff <p>FAO will pay :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - travel and DSA costs for national and international consultants as well as national project coordinators and FAO staff - travel and DSA of one speaker (for the successful case study presentation on GGWSSI) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Budget foreseen in BL 5684 (international consultants) and BL 5685(national consultants) - Budget foreseen in BL 5920 (training) |
| | Country governments will participate to workshop through their national project coordinators and national consultants | Country governments will pay travel and DSA costs for additional participation if required | Country Government contribution estimated: |

| Participants | Description of tasks | Responsible organization for each task | Total estimated cost to be covered |
|--|--|--|--|
| | Preparation of the report of the workshop by international consultant (team leader) with support and input from FAO and AU Commission | International Consultant | |
| National consultations (workshops) in the five selected countries (FAO will cover a total of USD seventy-five thousand (70 000) for the organization of all workshops and consultations) | | | |
| Launching workshop for the project (one day) UNCCD committee representatives in the country, different public and private sectors (social, economic and environmental interest groups, NGOs, etc.), approx.fifty (50) persons. | National project coordinator to prepare agenda and list of participants National consultant to prepare report of the workshop | Country Governments (the National Project Coordinators assisted by national consultants) Country governments will contribute to the cost | FAO budget contribution : a max of USD 4,000 Country government contribution (facilities) |
| Four meetings of the Project National Steering Committee (members of the project national steering committee) | Preparation and validation of the TORs as well as meetings schedule for the Project National Steering Committee Identification and approval of the members list. Organization of the meetings and preparation of meetings reports Preparation of meetings reports | Country Governments (the National Project Coordinators assisted by national consultants) Country governments will cover the cost of the four meetings | Country government contribution |

| Participants | description of tasks | Responsible organization for each task | Total estimated cost to be covered |
|--|---|--|---|
| <p>Two local consultative workshops of two days (approx. Thirty (30) participants to be identified by NPC, national consultant with help from Steering committee)</p> | <p>preparation of the agenda of workshops, list of participants and invitations Schedule the meetings and preparation of workshops reports</p> | <p>Country Governments (the National Project Coordinators assisted by national consultants Country governments will contribute to the cost</p> | <p>FAO budget contribution : USD 3,000/workshop (a total of USD 6,000/country) Country government contribution</p> |
| <p>One validation workshop of one day for the Strategy and Plan of Implementation (approx. Sixty (60) persons)</p> | <p>Preparation of the agenda as well as the list of participants and invitations Logistic organization of the workshop and preparation of the workshop report</p> | <p>Country Governments (the National Project Coordinators assisted by national consultants) Country governments will contribute to the cost</p> | <p>FAO budget contribution : (a total of USD four thousand (4,000/ country) Country government contribution</p> |