



**SUPPORT TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GREAT GREEN
WALL FOR THE SAHARA AND THE SAHEL INITIATIVE**

Second Project steering committee meeting

30th August, 2012, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

Draft REPORT

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AFF	African Forest Forum
AMU	Arab Maghreb Union
AUC	African Union Commission
CILSS	Comité permanent Inter Etats de lutte contre la sécheresse dans le sahel (Inter State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel)
CTA	Chief Technical Advisor
ECA	UN Economic Commission for Africa
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FAO RAF	FAO regional office for Africa
FAO SFE	FAO sub regional office for Eastern Africa
GGW	Great green wall
GGWSSI	great green wall for Sahara and Sahel initiative
GM	The Global Mechanism of the UNCCD
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority for Development
LTO	Lead Technical Officer
MDG Centre	Millennium Development Goals Centre
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NFP	National Focal point of the great green wall
OSS	Observatoire du Sahara et du Sahel / Sahara and Sahel Observatory
PAGGW	Pan African agency for the great green wall
PAFO	Pan African Farmers Organizations
PCT	Project coordination Team
PSC	Project Steering Committee
RECs	Regional Economic Communities
ToR	Terms of Reference
UN	United Nations

1. Introduction

The second steering committee meeting of the project entitled « support to the implementation of the great green wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative » was organized on 30th August 2012, at Hotel Palm Beach, in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

Funded and supported by the European Union, FAO and the Global Mechanism of the UNCCD, this African Union Commission's project aims at contributing to a successful implementation of the GGWSSI and at making this initiative a powerful tool for poverty alleviation, desertification control and resilience to climate change. Specifically, it aims at supporting eight countries (Algeria, Burkina Faso, Egypt, The Gambia, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal and Sudan) to prepare national investment plans, as well as national and cross border projects for the implementation of the GGWSSI. It also aims at building regional and sub-regional capacities (African Union Commission, the Pan African agency for the great green wall, Regional Economic communities, including Censad Secretariat, ECOWAS commission, AMU General Secretariat and IGAD Executive Secretariat) for a coordinated and harmonized implementation of the GGWSSI.

The meeting was attended by most of the project's steering committee members : representatives of the African Union Commission and of the Pan African Agency of the Great Green Wall; representatives of the eight participating countries, representatives of the five participating countries to the FAO TCP funded project which are expected to benefit from the cross-cutting activities of the project (Djibouti, Ethiopia, Mali, Niger, Chad); representatives of the observers (EU, FAO, GM/UNCCD and World Bank). Unfortunately, the Regional Economic Communities (ECOWAS, IGAD, AMU, CEN-SAD Secretariat) were not represented. In addition to the statutory members and observers, other stakeholders fully attended: Eritrea, CILSS and OSS... Participants' list is attached in annex 1.

The meeting objectives were to :

- a. Review and adopt the project implementation report for the period September 2011 – August 2012 ;
- b. Review and adopt the Work Plan September 2012 – August 2013 and the associated budget;
- c. To discuss some specific issues, such as the platforms and web sites developed by FAO, the GM and OSS, the methodology note for the development of the capacity development strategy and action plan, and to share information on the ROM mission and the next COFO meeting.

The meeting agenda is attached in Annex 2.

2. Main conclusions of the meeting

2.1. Project implementation report for the period September 2011 – August 2012

The Chief Technical Advisor made a presentation of this agenda item, based on the three documents sent to the participants two weeks before the opening of the meeting:

- i. The Technical implementation report;
- ii. The document on the project achievements, based on the logical framework of the project;
- iii. The Document/Table on the implementation status of each of the activities of the work plan October 2011 – September 2012.

Discussions points and decisions were made on the followings:

- a. Discrepancies regarding the recruitment of the project Coordinator who should also act as a Coordinator of all AUC activities, projects and programmes regarding the implementation of the GGWSSI. The meeting was informed about the fact that no one of the candidatures received was meeting the expected standards. Participants were called to encourage suitable candidatures when the position is re-advertized on the AUC Website. Participants asked for the new Terms of Reference of the position, but AUC recalled that by the time being, what is available is a draft copy until it is cleared by Human Resources.
- b. Resources mobilization. Participants asked the project coordination team and AUC to consider this matter as a priority area of intervention for the coming year and to help countries and the PAGGW to formulate and implement national and regional resources mobilization strategy. The project should also help in organizing round tables at national and regional level.
- c. Monitoring and evaluation. The project coordination team was encouraged to facilitate the use of the Niger Workshop by the four participating countries, and to upscale the results to the other GGWSSI participating countries. The tools to be developed should not only focus on LADA and Land Use Land Cover's tools, but also on tools developed in other countries and regions like Eastern and Northern Africa.
- d. Improving flow of information between national focal points and the project coordination team. AUC and the CTA should give more support to the National Focal Point in raising awareness of the National Governments. Information on the project activities and on the project implementation status must also be given to the countries in a timely manner.
- e. Need for involving more the RECs in the Project's implementation. AUC ensured that it shares these concerns, but called upon on the need to consider the capacity issues that

some RECS (AMU, IGAD and ECCAS) are facing. Some of them have only one person dealing with all issues related to Environment.

- f. Equity in benefit sharing. The point was raised on the fact that the activities related to cross borders' projects and Civil Society participation were concentrated in ECOWAS Region. It was recalled that the cross borders projects are under the responsibilities of the RECS and Regional organizations (CILSS – OSS). For the time being, only ECOWAS and CILSS agreed on the projects to develop (Niger – Burkina Faso) or to support (Niger – Nigeria). In North Africa, this work was done by OSS but it still needs to be endorsed by AMU. Unfortunately in East and Central Africa, the RECs are not Active in the implementation of the initiative. AUC will continue sensitizing the RECs to be more active in the implementation of the Initiative, but called upon also the countries to do the same with their respective RECs.
- g. The adopted document is presented in Annex 3.

2.2. Work Plan September 2012 – August 2013 and the associated budget

The session was chaired by the representative of the PAGGW. The CTA made a presentation of the related document sent to the participants two weeks before the opening of the session. This presentation was complemented by the representative of FAO budget holder who gave information on:

- a. The total amount of the budget managed by FAO 1,907,356
- b. Total expenditures for the last eighteen months (March 2011 – August 2012): 1,242,256
- c. Balance available for activities for the period September 2012 – August 2013: 665,100
- d. Efforts made by FAO to make cash advance to support the payment of 543,439 Euros in order to ensure the implementation of the project's activities (March 2011 – August 2012).

Participants made the following comments and proposals:

- a. Need to involve the countries in the organization of the field missions for cross border-projects' formulation, as it is already done in the case of Niger – Burkina with the project led by the municipalities of Dori in Burkina Faso, Tillabéri and Terra in Niger.
- b. Need to focus more on resources mobilization strategies and actions.
- c. Importance of giving support to the PAGGW to use the national action plans developed under the aegis of AUC (FAO TCP and EU funded project) to adjust/improve its five year action plan.
- d. Need to give more details on the expenditures occurred during the first eighteen months, particularly on salaries and contracts.
- e. Concentrate the project proposal for a second phase of the project on the implementation of the Action plans developed during the first phase.

The adopted document is attached in annex 4.

2.3. Specific issues

Specific issues discussed include :

- a. Presentation and discussion of the methodology for developing a capacity building strategy and action plan;
- b. Platforms and websites planned for the project;
- c. The ongoing ROM Mission;
- d. Information on the GGWSSI at the next COFO meeting.

The presentation of the methodology note for the formulation of the capacity building strategy and action plan presented by the international consultant insisted on the need to consider both formal level and informal level, in view of helping people and communities living in the GGWSSI intervention area to effectively influence decision making on rural development. The strategy, as well as the action plan will target all the levels (local, national and regional) and build on the capacity development needs for the implementation of the action plans, the priorities defined in the ANCR process (capacity building for MEAs implementation at country level). The process and timeline for preparation and validation of the strategy and action plan was presented and agreed upon. Results/outcomes of the consultancy will be ready by June 2013.

OSS, the GM/UNCCD and FAO presented the GGWSSI platform concept. A joint presentation introduced the (i) Platform for knowledge management and experience sharing concept, otherwise called the “umbrella GGWSSI platform (presentation made by OSS); (ii) a web-based interactive tool - “ SLM – Finance” - to support the GGWSSI platform for partnership development, coordination, mainstreaming and resource mobilization (developed by the Global mechanism of the UNCCD, to be adapted and integrated in the umbrella platform); and (iii) communications including project visibility and awareness raising (FAO). The presenters informed the participants that a meeting was to be organized during a dedicated workshop on 6-7 November 2012 in Tunis, with the aim to analyze the concept , and agree on the best options for development, management, hosting, etc.. The main objective of the platform is to be a tool supporting the implementation of the GGWSSI by promoting exchange of information and knowledge and best practices, mobilization and commitment from all stakeholders and building partnerships. Participants encouraged to consider the issue of sustainability by including a capacity analysis, especially at AUC and PAGGW’s levels.

Participants were informed about the organization of a side event on the GGWSSI during the next session of Committee on Forestry (COFO) to be held in Rome at FAO headquarters from 24 to 28 September 2012. This event is co-organized by the AUC, FAO and the Global Mechanism of the UNCCD. Burkina Faso and Niger are 2 countries engaged in the GGWSSI that are invited to showcase the progress achieved so far in the implementation of the initiative.

The meeting ended with a statement of thanks by AUC representative.

3. Annexes

3.1. Annex 1: list of participants

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3.2. Annex 2 : Program of work of the second project steering committee meeting

GCP/INT/120/EC: PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Responsible</i>	<i>Presenter</i>
Day IV, Morning	08:30 – 10:00	Presentation and review of the project implementation report for the period September 2011 – August 2012	AUC	CTA
	10:00 – 10:30	Coffee Break	Hotel	
	10:30 – 12:30	Presentation and review of the Work Plan September 2012 – August 2013 and the associated budget	PAGGW	CTA
	12:30 – 14:00	LUNCH	Hotel	
Day IV, Afternoon	14:00 – 16:00	Specific issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of Methodology note for the formulation of Capacity development strategy and action plan. • Presentation and review of the platforms and web sites developed by FAO, the GM and OSS; • ROM mission • Next COFO meeting 	Egypt	FAO, GM, OSS
	16:00 – 16:30	Coffee break	Hotel	
	16:30	Wrap Up and closure	AUC	