

SADC STRATEGY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GREAT GREEN WALL INITIATIVE





Baobab tree near the Chobe River in Botswana.

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Rural farmer tills land in Cabinda, Angola.

Foreword

Land degradation, climate change and biodiversity loss are critical challenges that continue to affect the SADC Region. The establishment of the Great Green Wall Initiative as an African flagship programme is a concept that has been well received by the Member States to address the above triple challenges of our region. The implementation of this programme in the Sahara-Sahel region for over a decade provides the SADC region with important lessons to learn, to improve on or to accelerate for the betterment of our environment and our economy.

The SADC Region has a Sub-regional Action Programme to combat desertification (SRAP), a revised Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan and is currently revising the Regional Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. All these strategies complement each other and will contribute to the implementation of the Great Green Wall Initiative in the region.

The success of this flagship project in the region will be measured by an improvement in our ecological landscapes, improvement in food security, improvement in climate change adaptation and mitigation and reduction of greenhouse gases through mitigation efforts using forests and other forms of biodiversity. We envisage good collaboration with SADC Member States and partners, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to ensure the realization of this Pan African flagship programme in the SADC Region, which is dominated by arid and semi-arid conditions.

Elias M Magosi

Executive Secretary
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Abbreviations and acronyms

AFF	Africa Forest Forum
AMCEN	African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
AUDA-NEPAD	African Union Development Agency – New Partnership for Africa’s Development
AUC	African Union Commission
AUC-DREA	African Union Commission – Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
CBO	community-based organization
CIRAD	French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development
CSO	civil society organization
DLDD	desertification, land degradation and drought
EROS	Earth Resources Observation and Science Center
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GGW	Great Green Wall
GGWI	Great Green Wall Initiative
GGWSSI	Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative
GWP	Global Water Partnership
HFA	Hyogo Framework for Action
ICRAF	International Council for Research in Agroforestry (World Agroforestry Centre)
ICP	international cooperating partner
IGO	intergovernmental organization
IIED	International Institute for Environment and Development
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
LADA	Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands
LDN	Land Degradation Neutrality
MEAs	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
MEF	Monitoring and Evaluation Framework
NAP	National Action Plan
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa’s Development
NGO	non-governmental organization
PRI	Principles for Responsible Investment
RAP	Regional Action Programme

RFD	Results Framework Document
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SLM	sustainable land management
SRAP	Sub-regional Action Programme to Combat Desertification
STC-ARDWE	Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment
TFCA	Transfrontier Conservation Area
UN	United Nations
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
USGS	United States Geological Survey
WOCAT	World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies



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Villagers in Nampula, Mozambique.



Cattle and goats in Mucheni, Zimbabwe, are led into secure kraals at the end of the day to protect them from lions and hyaenas.

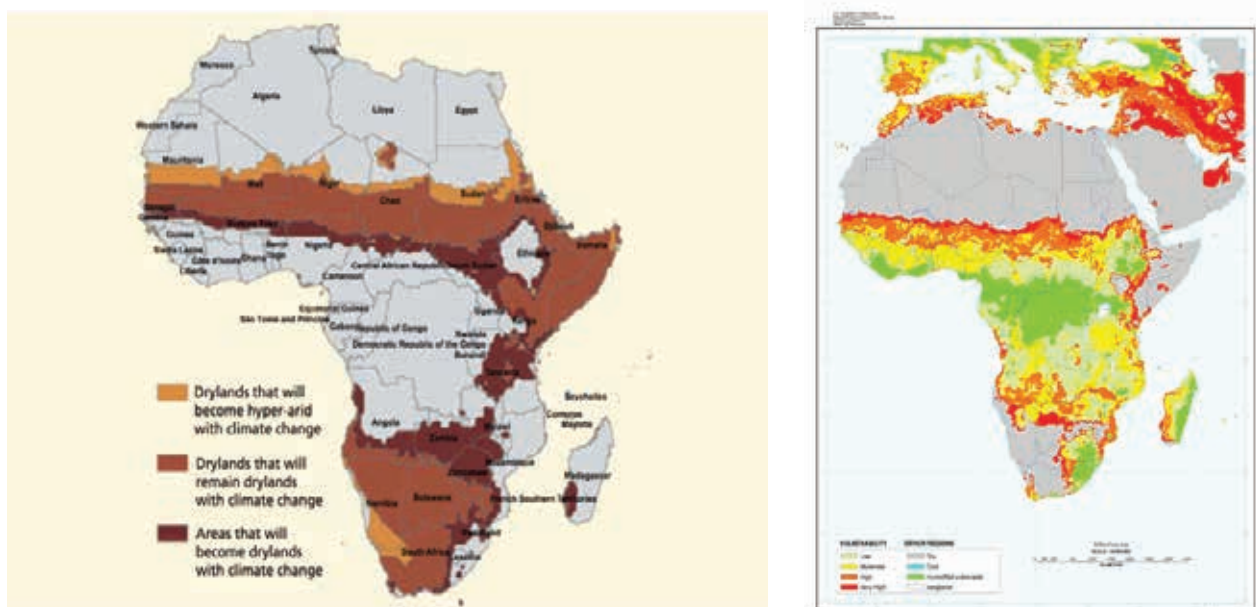
1. Introduction

The Great Green Wall Initiative (GGWI) resulted from the following three observations:

1. Desertification, climate change and loss of biodiversity are crucial problems for arid regions in Africa, where they combine to exacerbate food insecurity and adversely affect the countries' development efforts and the livelihoods of the poorest populations on the planet.
2. Climate predictions for Africa show a serious risk of extension of arid areas, which put at risk prevention efforts to fight poverty on the continent.
3. Efforts made to implement the provisions of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Agenda 2063 (Aspiration 01) and other multilateral environmental and development agreements to improve the resilience of human and natural systems to climate change have not been attained at the level expected, in both the conservation of natural resources and the reduction of poverty.

Climate forecasts for Africa

Shift and expansion of dryland areas by 2050 >> Semi-arid, arid and hyperarid



These observations resulted in a strong political will in the African continent to create an **African partnership**, supported by international solidarity, to halt and reverse land degradation trends (water, soil, vegetation)¹ in Africa's drylands through a coherent and shared set of actions with the following **three simultaneous aims**:

1. The conservation, development and management of renewable natural resources and ecosystems;
2. Reinforcing infrastructures and maximizing rural potential;
3. Consolidating and diversifying economic activities and improving the living conditions of local rural communities.

The partnership idea was translated into the "Great Green Wall" by former President Obasanjo of Nigeria, based on various experiments conducted in Africa to protect human systems against sand dune encroachment (green belt, green barrier, earth front) and on popular (sometimes misleading) perceptions, according to which "deserts shift and therefore advance and trees are the best or the only means to protect, save and green the ecosystems and halt desert encroachment".

¹ According to UNCCD, "land" means the terrestrial bio-productive system that comprises soil, vegetation, other biota and the ecological and hydrological processes that operate within the system.

From 2005 onwards, the Great Green Wall concept has evolved considerably to become a planning tool for the sustainable development of drylands, complementary to ongoing regional and continental initiatives such as TerrAfrica and the Environmental Action Plan of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). It is expected to attract a significant flow of financial resources for the restoration of degraded lands, thereby enhancing peace and food security in the area.

The GGWI is thus not solely aimed at creating a forest from East to West Africa, despite being strongly focused on increasing vegetative land cover. It mainly and principally comprises a set of integrated actions addressing the multisectoral problems affecting the lives of people in arid and semi-arid zones. These multisectoral and multidimensional actions transversally address a wide range of concerns such as drought management, natural resource management, sustainability of rural production systems (including agriculture, livestock breeding and forestry) and the development of rural production and trade infrastructures, diversifying economic activities and wealth creation and with due consideration to gender and youth issues in development.

The Great Green Wall is a metaphor for:

- *Raising awareness among development actors, especially decision-makers, of the characteristics of and urgency for drylands development.*
- *Enhancing and upscaling the use of local best practices in natural resources management, drought control and sustainable development.*
- *Promoting an integrated approach to achieving the goals of stronger resilience and risk management.*
- *Implementing a multitude of integrated responses addressing the multisectoral problems affecting the lives of people in semi-arid and arid regions of Africa (restoration of production systems and improvement of ecosystem functions and services, improvement of human and ecosystem resilience and development of sustainable development hubs, especially in rural areas).*
- *Finding long-term solutions to the urgent problems of desertification/land degradation and drought.*
- *Shifting drought management from **crisis** management to **risk** management.*

2. Why the Great Green Wall matters for SADC countries

2.1 A window of opportunity to maintain or enhance the land-based natural capital and associated ecosystem functions and services (Land Degradation Neutrality and Aichi Targets)

In response to environmental problems and development challenges in southern Africa, the SADC member countries have adopted a coordinated regional approach to deliver on the UNCCD's programmes in the region. This is complementary to other regional outputs such as the Regional Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, the SADC Protocol on Environment and elaboration of the Regional Climate Change Programme.

The SADC Sub-regional Action Programme to Combat Desertification (SRAP) provides a roadmap through which the SADC regional structures, Member States, relevant stakeholders and relevant partners can collaborate to promote sustainable development within the subregion. The GGWI is relevant to the SADC region as it faces development challenges similar to those of the Sahel, the Horn of Africa and the Sahara regions. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), drylands occupy 18 percent of the total land area in **southern Africa**. The SRAP SADC² stresses: "The phenomena of desertification and drought, with the attendant degradation of land and other resources, have long been identified as major impediments to sustainable development in southern Africa."

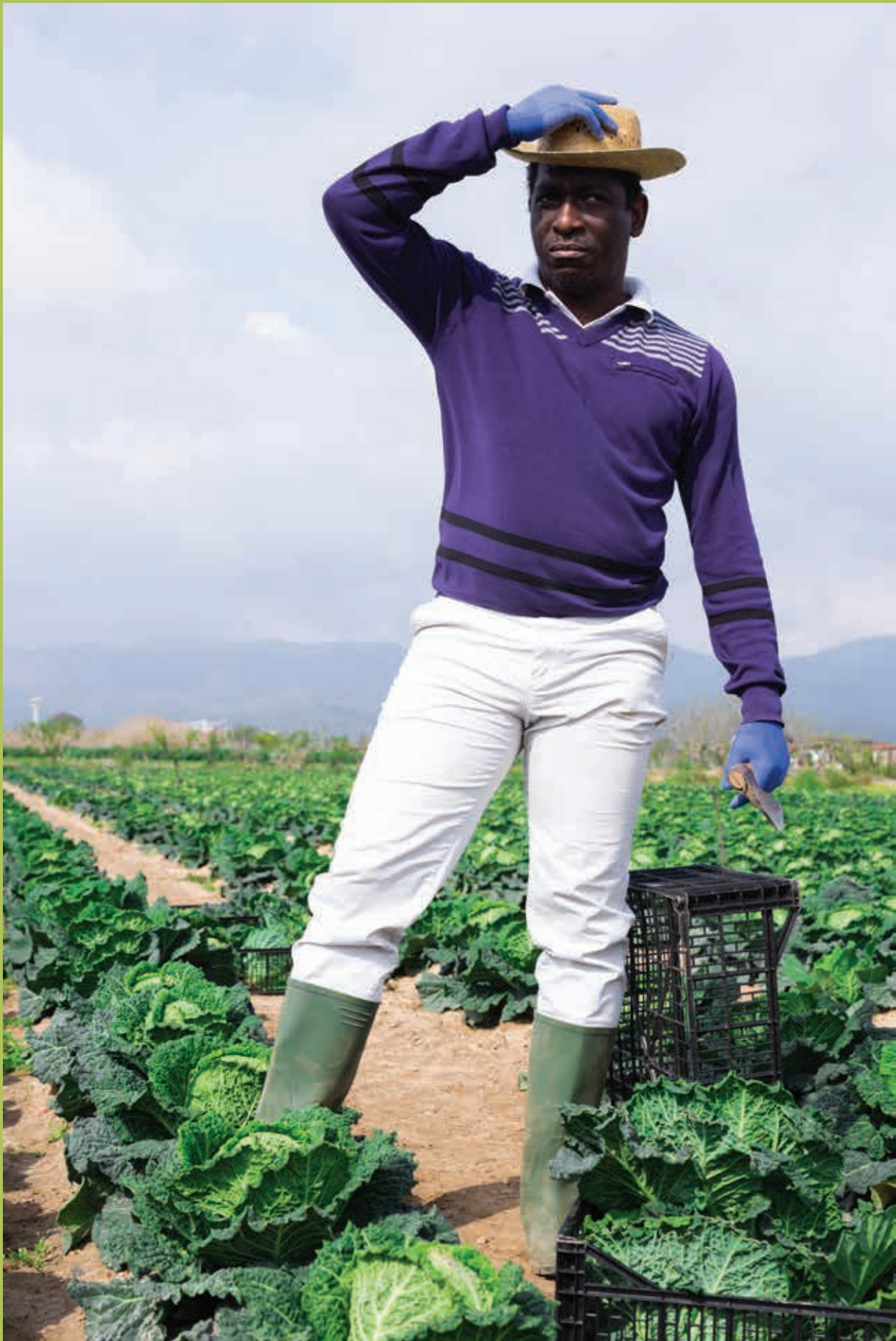
In southern Africa, the process of desertification is marked by forage and soil degradation, especially in arid and semi-arid lands which are used beyond their capacity for sustained production. Whereas overcultivation, overgrazing and deforestation have been identified as the three major causes of desertification in the subregion, they are in fact the result of much deeper underlying forces of a socio-economic nature, such as a general overdependence on natural resources.

The Great Green Wall concept has been identified as a suitable model for addressing the problems and challenges identified above, building on existing land-based initiatives, programmes, partnerships and human capital in the subregion.

Southern Africa has been engaged in implementing the UNCCD's programmes since 1997 and notable strides taken in the implementation of the convention in the subregions include (but are not limited to) the following:

- Accelerate the implementation of the SADC SRAP, a coordinated approach towards achieving the sustainable management of land in the region.
- Improve resource mobilization for multidisciplinary and multifocal or multi-thematic purposes and to tap from various platforms or sources of funding (internal, external and innovative sources) towards optimal resource mobilization and utilization.
- Strengthen political buy-in towards sustainable land management and restoration initiatives.
- Facilitate harmonization of policies at regional, national and subnational levels.
- Facilitate delivering against commitments to combat desertification, including achieving land degradation neutrality, while simultaneously conserving biodiversity, mitigating climate change and strengthening climate change adaptation.
- Develop synergies and complementarities in the implementation of the three Rio Conventions.
- Upscale current initiatives and mobilize decision-makers and donors for the implementation of the SRAP.
- Improve the living conditions of affected populations.

² Sub-regional Action Programme to Combat Desertification in southern Africa.



Communities in multipurpose garden projects where fruits and vegetables are grown, have reduced hunger and malnutrition.

The GGWI offers a unique opportunity to bring ongoing restoration mechanisms and other related commitments together under one umbrella. For some ecosystems in the region, such as the Miombo ecosystem and its seven countries, the GGWI opens numerous opportunities to advocate for better management and restoration of the woodlands as part of the GGWI and to pledge a transboundary commitment on Miombo woodlands. The GGWI could enable the Miombo countries to restore the woodlands at a very low cost given their natural regenerative capacity.

2.2. A window of opportunity to achieve Agenda 2063 aspirations and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030 in Africa's drylands

African Agenda 2063 and the global 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development offer a unique opportunity for Africa to achieve inclusive, transformative and sustainable development, aspirations that are urgent in order to put the continent on a sustainable development path. The imperative of adopting an integrated and coherent strategy for the effective and coordinated implementation of the two is therefore compelling.

2.3. A window of opportunity to improve implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 was adopted at the Third United Nations (UN) World Conference in Sendai, Japan, on 18 March 2015. It is the outcome of stakeholder consultations initiated in March 2012 and intergovernmental negotiations from July 2014 to March 2015, supported by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction at the request of the UN General Assembly. The Sendai Framework is the successor instrument to the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters. The HFA was conceived to give further impetus to the global work under the International Framework of Action for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction of 1989 and the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation and its Plan of Action, adopted in 1994, and the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction of 1999.

The Sendai Framework was adopted at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, which represented a unique opportunity for countries to:

- (a) adopt a concise, focused, forward-looking and action-oriented post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction;
- (b) complete the assessment and review of the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters;
- (c) consider the experience gained through the regional and national strategies/institutions and plans for disaster risk reduction and their recommendations, as well as relevant regional agreements for the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action;
- (d) identify modalities of cooperation based on commitments to implement a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction; and
- (e) determine modalities for the periodic review of the implementation of a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.

During the World Conference, States reiterated their commitment to address disaster risk reduction and the building of resilience to disasters with a renewed sense of urgency within the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and to integrate, as appropriate, both disaster risk reduction and the building of resilience into policies, plans, programmes and budgets at all levels and to consider both within relevant frameworks.



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Taking home fuelwood from a forest in Mozambique. The forest is an important source of timber and fuelwood for 600 families that live in the area.

3. Lessons learned from the Sahel and Horn of Africa region

The mission of the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative (GGWSSI) in the Sahara and the Sahel region, including the Horn of Africa, is “to take effective and urgent action to end or reverse land degradation, loss of biodiversity and to ensure that, by 2025, ecosystems are resilient to climate change, continue to provide essential services and contribute to human well-being and the elimination of poverty”.

Various ongoing programmes, mechanisms and projects share the same vision. The aim of the GGWSSI is not to duplicate them but to improve their efficiency in the dry and humid (oasis) areas of the Sahara and the Sahel. These mechanisms include the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), NEPAD’s environment programme as well as regional, subregional and national action programmes to combat desertification (National Action Programme and SRAP). The aim is to promote synergies and effective coordination between the activities of various national and subregional bodies working to combat land degradation, desertification and loss of biodiversity and mitigate the effects of drought.

New mechanisms versus existing mechanisms

In the Sahel region, most of the countries have put in place specific mechanisms to coordinate the implementation of the initiative, while in the Horn of Africa and North Africa regions, countries use existing mechanisms. Where specific mechanisms are put in place, the initiative has more visibility but lacks inclusiveness, as it is competing with existing initiatives and prevents public servants from embracing a broader vision of a Great Green Wall that expands beyond individual sectors.

What is important is to have a mechanism that enables landscape restoration and sustainable management, including adequately resourced and mandated intersectoral coordination mechanisms and local institutions with access to technical and financial resources and capacity building.

The activities include:

Land restoration, using certified seeds of indigenous and endemic species for direct sowing and seedlings, applying and spreading traditional (Zai, half-moon) and modern (Delfino plough) techniques.

Capacity building, awareness-raising and policy guidance to achieve more equitable local resource governance and secure tenure, and to encourage all stakeholders to build bridges over individual sectors.

The initiative supports managing biodiversity and soil organic carbon to achieve more efficient dryland soil and water management.

Land is managed simultaneously for its multiple benefits to society.

The initiative promotes sustainable land management and restoration on a vast scale.

In the countries where the GGWI is implemented, the following impacts have been witnessed:

- ✓ Communities in multipurpose garden projects in Nigeria and Senegal, where fruits and vegetables are grown, have reduced hunger and malnutrition. Women have increased revenues, leading to increased school attendance for their children, especially the girls.

- ✓ Restoration in Burkina Faso, Niger and Senegal has considerably improved the quantity, quality and availability of fodder for animals all year long.
- ✓ In The Gambia, community forest management has reduced bush fires and induced the reappearance of bamboo trees.
- ✓ Reintroduction of species that have disappeared from the area (*Gazella dorcas*, *Gazelle dama mhor*, *Oryx algazelle* and terrestrial turtles) offers the opportunity to promote ecotourism in the Great Green Wall routes in Senegal.



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Reintroduction of species that have disappeared from the area, such as this *Gazelle dama mhor*, offers the opportunity to promote ecotourism in the Great Green Wall routes in Senegal.

4. A specific approach for the SADC region

4.1. Vision

Productive landscapes in the southern Africa region that contribute to regional socially inclusive economic prosperity and environmental sustainability.

4.2. Mission

To promote sustainable land management approaches that retain ecological integrity and provide a range of ecosystem goods and services to drive economic growth and support sustainable development in southern Africa.

4.3. Overall objectives

To combat desertification and land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought to achieve land degradation neutrality (LDN) through effective and efficient implementation of the UNCCD, the African Union's Agenda 2063 in Africa's drylands and the SADC Sub-regional Action Programme to Combat Desertification.

4.3.1. Specific objectives by 2030 are to:

- Develop and operationalize drought risk management, monitoring, and early warning systems and safety net programmes;
- Promote sustainable land management and restoration at regional and national levels;
- Harmonize policies, strategies and methodology to assess, manage and monitor land degradation (drivers of land degradation and LDN at regional and national levels);
- Restore and rehabilitate degraded lands and biodiversity in southern Africa;
- Mobilize resources for the implementation of sustainable land management programmes and projects;
- Establish systems for sharing information and knowledge and facilitate networking on best practices and approaches;
- Raise awareness, build capacity, and conduct training on sustainable land management initiatives and programmes in the region;
- Enhance the resilience of vulnerable communities and ecosystems against the effects or impact of climate change;
- Assess the extent and cost of land degradation in southern Africa;
- Quantify the area of land degradation in the southern African region;
- Promote sustainable land management and restoration at transboundary and regional scales;
- Mainstream sustainable land management in other sectors such as agriculture, water and wildlife;
- Strengthen coordination of UNCCD activities in the region such as the implementation of the SRAP;
- Strengthen research, development and innovation support programmes; and
- Strengthen networks for cooperation among stakeholders.

4.4. Expected outcomes and outputs

Expected outcomes

- The participation of civil society, researchers and the private sector is increased.
- The vulnerability of ecosystems to the effects or impact of climate change is reduced.
- The resilience of communities is increased against the impact of climate change.
- The institutional and policy support is effective.
- The livelihoods of people are diversified and improved.
- Synergies with other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and processes are enhanced.
- The area of land degradation in southern Africa is quantified and the extent of the cost is assessed.
- Drought risk management is operational, with early warning systems and safety net programmes in place.
- Systems are established for sharing information and knowledge facilitating the networking on best practices and approaches for being mainstreamed in sustainable land management (agriculture, water and wildlife, and restoration initiative across the region).

Expected outputs

- Sustainable funding for desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD);
- Sustainable community-level incentive schemes;
- Adequate data on the extent of degradation to inform restoration activities;
- Harmonized policies and tools for data management;
- Monitoring and evaluation system in place;
- Measures for sustainable land management and combating of DLDD are shared, promoted and implemented;
- Safety net programmes secured;
- Integrated sustainable land management (agriculture, water and wildlife) and restoration initiatives are implemented across the region.



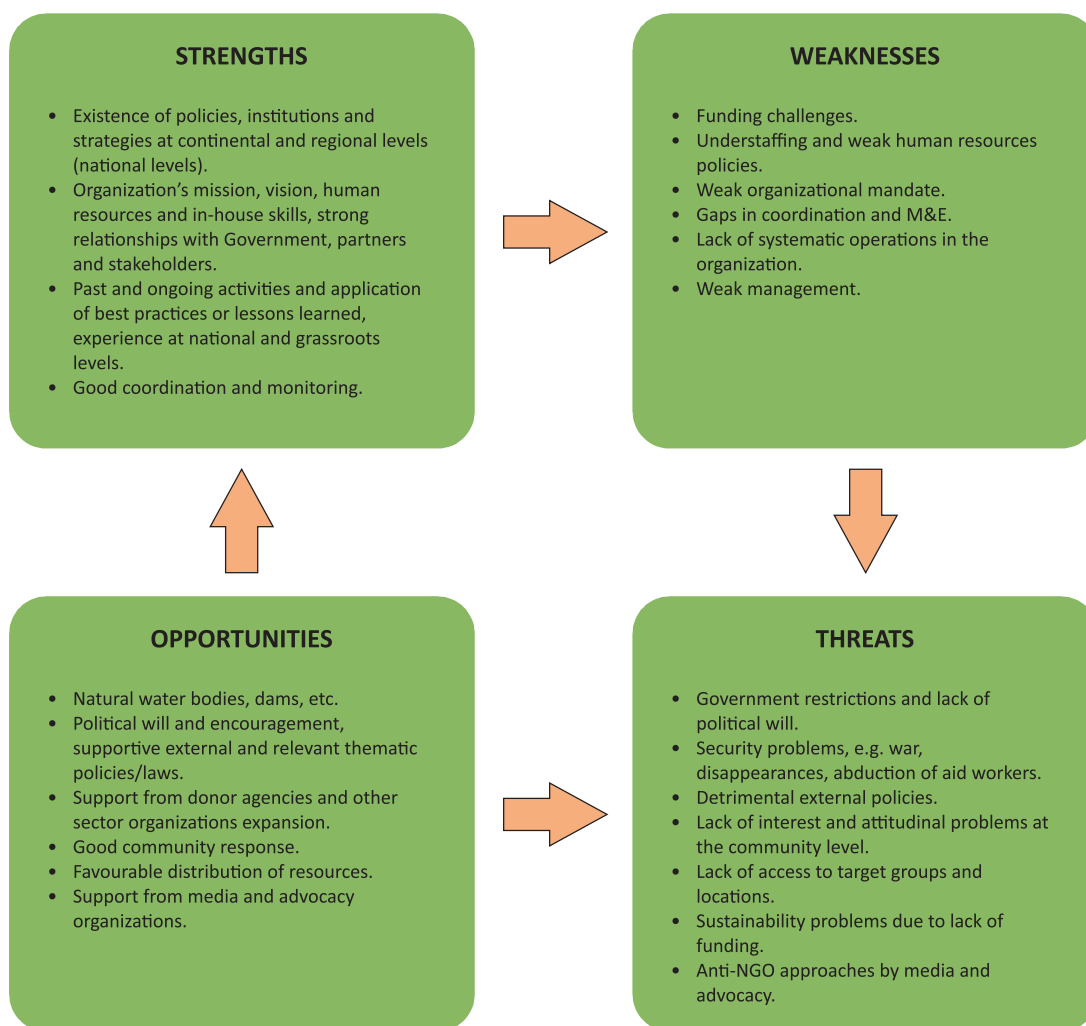
A cassava farmer next to her crops near a village in northeast Mozambique.

5. Implementation framework

5.1. Guiding principles

- **Institutional arrangements:** Capitalizing on existing mechanisms and making them more inclusive by deleting borders among sectors and promoting the participation of civil society organizations (CSOs), community-based organizations (CBOs), private sector actors and development partners. It is vital that all initiatives supporting the implementation of the GGWI be coordinated right from the inception phase, with the SADC Secretariat and the African Union Commission collaborating with the African Union Development Agency – NEPAD and all significant partners.
- **Capitalizing on existing projects and programmes, developing synergies and effectively coordinating interventions.**
- **South–South cooperation** is essential to enable all countries involved to build on past successes and share lessons. It allows a less costly transfer of technologies developed by various countries in areas such as assisted natural regeneration; production and genetic improvement of plant material; and restoration and management of agrosilvipastoral systems. In addition, it allows for sustainable agriculture, water harvesting and management systems, gender mainstreaming, diversification and marketing of forest and agroforestry products and sustainable approaches to pastoralism.
- **Ownership of the process** and strengthening local communities' management of interventions.
- **Applying a more integrated and comprehensive approach and clarifying and strengthening links between the different environmental aspects and sectors of intervention.**
- **Participation of local communities, whose role remains fundamental.**
- **Partnerships.** In this context, 'partnership' refers to a contract of trust between the different stakeholders involved in implementing the initiative, to reach an objective defined collectively on the basis of their respective land-use concerns. The GGWI is a long-term vision addressing development issues in African drylands. Each partner (not only governments but all stakeholders, including technical and financial partners) therefore needs to agree and commit to the initiative in the long term and should bear in mind that this long-term obligation depends primarily on:
 - (a) mutual trust and recognition of the rights of each partner;
 - (b) defining an exit strategy from the outset;
 - (c) each partner agreeing that sharing responsibilities in programme implementation must depend on the abilities and capacity of each and every person and not on some wanting to do what others might know how to do better (subsidiarity);
 - (d) the power of the leading national partnership or managing institution to prioritize what brings partners together.

SWOT ANALYSIS



5.2. Implementation based on the effective commitment of stakeholders

The GGWI has many interested parties; therefore, all stakeholders can and must contribute to its implementation. According to their level of responsibility and field of expertise, each party develops operational objectives leading to various projects, plans, programmes and, as far as possible, outcome indicators.

5.2.1. Role of partners at the operational level

5.2.1.1. National governments

- Facilitate the development of National Action Plans (NAPs)
- Mobilization and management of national resources
- Awareness raising and advocacy
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Reporting
- Project proposals
- National coordination
- Capacity development
- Project management

5.2.1.2. Scientific community

- Scientific support for data generation, decision-making and implementation
- Target setting and performance in line with LDN and Aichi Targets

5.2.1.3. Implementing partners

- Mobilization of resources
- Formulation of project proposals
- Coordination/implementation of projects and programmes

5.2.1.4. Financial and technical partners

- Technical and financial support
- Mobilization of resources
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Capacity development

In this context, the term “technical and financial partners” refers to all bilateral, multilateral and international cooperation institutions supporting African countries and institutions in implementing the GGWI. It involves not only those intervening in the rural sector but all those whose actions influence (in one way or another, directly and indirectly) how rural and poor people interact with their environment as well as lands, government structures and rural sector support mechanisms.

Also included are:

- * international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) or intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) such as the World Bank Group, UN Agencies, UN Environment, International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Global Water Partnership (GWP); and
- * research institutes working on sustainable land management background data and technological packages adapted for land resource use, including the Africa Forest Forum (AFF), World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT), Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands (LADA) project executed by FAO, Agriculture Research for Development (CIRAD), United States Geological Survey (USGS)/Earth Resources Observation and Science Center (EROS), International Council for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF), International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) and Tree Aid.

The main role of these partners is to:

- * participate in political dialogue with African governments and institutions and collaborate with the various stakeholders;
- * support the formulation and implementation of GGWI investment programmes;
- * participate in mobilizing the necessary resources for GGWI formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation; and
- * if necessary, and at the request of governments and/or the SADC Secretariat, provide relevant technical assistance for systemic, institutional and operational capacity development.

It is crucial that these stakeholders coordinate their efforts in the context of the GGWI and avoid initiating or encouraging duplication of efforts and initiatives. The “One UN” directive applied by the institutions and agencies of the United Nations system could serve as an example of such coordination in GGWI territory when implementing the “Global Drylands: a UN system-wide response”, which was launched in October 2011 during COP.10/UNCCD in Changwon, Republic of Korea.

The SADC GGWI will also consider the development of fisheries and aquaculture, waste management and disposal, empowerment initiatives focusing on designated groups, and a legal framework for informed and rational utilization of forest resources and sustainability.

5.2.1.5. Civil society organizations

Active participation of civil society organizations (CSOs) is vital in the implementation of the GGWI in the southern Africa region's response to the UNCCD article identifying them as a key beneficiary and an agent in the performance of the convention.

CSOs are indispensable partners in implementing various UN Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) at national, regional and international levels; thus they are often consulted on policy and programme matters.

Therefore, implementation of the initiative in southern Africa should also lie with grassroots communities including community-based organizations (CBOs), NGOs, CSOs and devolved territorial communities, principally rural communes. Government entities should give the necessary support to these local institutions, including strengthening their capacity, to enable them to fulfil their role in its entirety. The GGWI implementation strategy must clearly be based on an upstream approach and include the involvement of all stakeholders. It should also enable the strengthening of project management by local communities. It is essential that actors master all operations resulting from the planning process, including funding mechanisms and activities, selection procedures and support structure control, to guarantee the sustainability of adopted interventions. This should lead to the formation of a SADC GGWI CSO Platform, the establishment of a complementary coordinating structure and the creation of a coalition/movement of CSOs for the implementation of the GGWI.

Under the authority of local districts and with the support of advisory structures, rural populations and other village and rural community development stakeholders will have the following primary responsibilities:

- Ensure that civil society is part of implementing the GGWI–SADC programme from its inception to finalize the draft regional strategy and to be part of the concrete actions that implement the strategy to the benefit of the environment and the people of the SADC region.
- Ensure networking among CSOs and other actors to share experiences and best practices across the SADC region.
- Create a SADC GGWI-SA CSO Platform, a coordinating structure that will lead the CSOs coalition or movements and represent them in the GGWI–SADC Steering Committee.
- **Express communities' needs in sustainable land management** concerning the specific constraints and potential of their lands given the increasing challenges of land degradation, desertification, biodiversity loss, climate change vulnerability and negative impacts on the livelihoods of the people of southern Africa.
- Intensify advocacy and awareness creation to mainstream GGWI implementation in national and regional policies, programmes and priorities.
- Support all initiatives that promote inclusiveness through the participation of all stakeholders in the programme's implementation, including the public, governments, civil society, local communities and the private sector.
- Support all initiatives that promote gender-responsive measures by ensuring the full and effective participation of men, women and youth in planning, decision-making and implementation at all levels and enhance the empowerment of women and youth in the affected areas.
- **Participate** in the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the regional and national programmes through membership in the relevant implementation organs of the GGWI–SADC, including the Steering Committee.
- Assist SADC Member States to develop their National Action Plans (NAPs) for the implementation of the GGWI and, as appropriate, align these to the GGWI–SADC Strategy. The NAPs would align with their national policies, programmes, plans and processes relating to desertification/land degradation and drought, including their UNCCD National Action Programmes, LDN Target Setting and Transformative Programmes.
- **Initiate local** development micro-projects and engage in strategic, collaborative partnerships with local and national leaders, corporate sectors and faith-based organizations.

- Support the SADC Secretariat, African Union Commission (AUC), SADC Member States and existing GGWI partners (multilateral and bilateral) in the mobilization of resources (through domestic, private and external sources) to support civil societies and other stakeholders in capacity building for effective implementation of the GGWI–SADC.
- **Oversee and undertake project management** in various initiatives that promote:
 - * enhanced biodiversity economies, conservation and ecosystem restoration;
 - * improved ecosystem goods and services;
 - * sustainable food production and consumption systems;
 - * efficient and affordable energy systems;
 - * enhanced land capital based on indigenous knowledge systems;
 - * reduced challenges associated with invasive species; and
 - * protection of endangered biodiversity species.
- Participate in research and knowledge management programmes to upscale land restoration programmes and projects, following best practices outlined in the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries, Livestock, Crops, and Forests in the context of national food security and recognizing their potential.
- Participate in local and national programmes that seek to **manage land resources in an agreed/coherent manner** to overcome land tenure challenges within most SADC Member States' present barriers to sustainable land management.
- **Promote income-generating**/economic opportunities in rural areas to cushion the citizens of southern Africa from the impacts of increasing land degradation, desertification and biodiversity loss while reducing their vulnerability to climate change.
- Share experiences and best practices across the SADC region using existing networks, including advocacy and awareness-raising.
- Be part of the SADC–GGWI Steering Committee.
- Participate in developing and implementing national policies, programmes, plans and processes relating to desertification/land degradation and drought, including in the GGWI National Action Plans, LDN Target Setting and transformative programmes, as appropriate.

5.2.2. Role of partners at the political and strategic levels (AUC/SADC Secretariat)

5.2.2.1. African Union Commission – Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture

- Overall coordination and facilitation
- Advocacy
- Resource mobilization
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Reporting to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) Specialized Technical Committee on **Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment (STC–ARDWE)**, AU Summits
- Capitalization on and sharing of best practices
- Scaling up of best practices
- International and continental networking

5.2.2.2. SADC Secretariat

- Advocacy
- Information, communication and knowledge services
- Direct and effective coordination and facilitation

- Reporting to AUC
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Resource mobilization
- Project management
- Reporting to SADC Ministers of Environment and Natural Resources, Council and Summit



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Aerial landscape in Okavango Delta, Botswana.

6. Institutional/implementation arrangements

Political coordination

The AUC is the overarching overseer of GGWI implementation, ensuring the facilitation and coordination at the apex level.

The SADC Secretariat will provide coordination, monitoring and evaluation for implementing the initiative in the region, working closely with the Member States and meso-level partners to ensure the adequate performance of activities within the GGWI framework. For this purpose, the AUC and SADC Secretariat will put an appropriate institutional mechanism to ensure proper functioning and inclusiveness in implementing the initiative.

The AUC and SADC Secretariat will further be responsible for organizing the coordination meetings of the Technical and Steering Committees. The Republic of Namibia, as mandated by the Specialized Technical Committee (STC), will continue to assist in programme preparation and development under the umbrella of the AUC and SADC Secretariat.

6.1. Steering Committee

The Steering Committee will provide policy guidance for the implementation of the programme. The Steering Committee will be composed of Ministers designated as appropriate by the participating countries. The AUC and SADC Secretariat will be members and conveners of the meeting. CSOs and the private sector will also form part of the Committee.

The Steering Committee may meet once a year to consider the Technical Committee's annual reports and follow up on policy issues. For enhanced efficiency, the Steering Committee meeting may be held immediately after a sector meeting of SADC Ministers in charge of agriculture, water and the environment. The AUC and SADC Secretariat will provide the Secretariat service for the Steering Committee, and other Stakeholders could be invited.

The Minister would appoint Observer Committee members based on the issues under discussion and when needed.

6.2 Technical Committee of Experts

Experts from the participating countries will essentially constitute the Technical Committee. The Committee will also have relevant experts from other African States, representatives from the AUC, AU Development Agency, SADC Secretariat, appropriate regional environmental centres (RECs), technical institutions and development partners. Governments, CSOs, researchers and the private sector should also be eligible for membership of the Committee.

The Technical Committee will provide technical oversight for the on-the-ground implementation of the GGWI and advice to the Steering Committee on policy orientation when required.

The Technical Committee could meet half-yearly to guide the programme. The meetings of the Committee will be organized by the AUC and SADC Secretariat, with the support of subregional and international technical organizations such as FAO, AUDA-NEPAD, IUCN, GWP, CSOs and CBOs.

A subcommittee of the Technical Committee of Experts may be constituted at subregional and thematic levels for a closer and more frequent follow-up of programme and project implementation. Given the importance of the initiative and the potential for its replication in other parts of the continent, the SADC Secretariat will be responsible for reporting progress at regional level, while the AUC will be responsible for reporting on the progress of GGWI implementation to its relevant organs for sustainable continental ownership.

7. Capacity development

One commonly accepted definition of “capacity” is the “ability of individuals, organizations, and society as a whole to manage their affairs successfully”. It encompasses the ability to create, understand, analyse, develop, plan, and reach set objectives, reflect on results of actions, have and work towards a vision, and change and transform. It is a process whereby “people, organizations and society as a whole unleash, strengthen, create, adapt and maintain capacity over time”. Capacity development addresses political, social and technical aspects, among other things.

Capacity development needs

- Simple mapping exercise (regional to transboundary) – current activities, leveraging, future activities.
- Strengthening institutional capacity within SADC (at least one programme officer dedicated to land degradation [GGWI]).
- Capacity to develop bankable project proposals at continental, regional and national levels. SADC can mobilize resources internally or through agencies and civil society (e.g. explore partnerships with accredited entities).
- Capacitate Member States to implement SLM (e.g. standardize methods for data collection, assessment and analysis, landowners and farmers).
- Monitoring and assessment (evidence-based best practices to feed into policy development), including knowledge management and systems thereof.



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Early morning on the way to the sand dunes of Sossusvlei and Dead Vlei, Namibia.

8. Resource mobilization

The GGWI is an African initiative, and financial resources for its implementation should first and foremost come from national and even local sources. Therefore, the resource mobilization policy for the GGWI should be based on an integrated approach to financial management. Given that the GGWI has been designed as a cross-sectoral regional initiative, it should be integrated into the national and/or local development frameworks and, specifically, federal resource allocation. To achieve this, the initiative must be perceived as an integral part of national environmental and natural resource management priorities, together with other state priority sectors.

The rapid evolution and complexity of international finance means that local, national and regional actors must put in place resource mobilization strategies that are increasingly integrated and from diverse financing sources, particularly in the light of international cooperation policies of recent years. These include the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, the Accra Declaration, the Green Climate Fund and, more recently, the Chang Won Initiative and resulting Busan Declaration.

At the national level, it is first necessary to identify ongoing and planned investments with financial, human and technological resources to assess financial gaps and to ensure the effective application of an integrated ecosystem approach by the GGWI. Establishing such an investment framework for the GGWI also allows the necessary phases to be defined and a roadmap to be planned for mobilizing additional resources. Compacts signed by African countries under CAADP form the main national agricultural investment channels through which donors support rural development in Africa, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. To benefit from these funds, the GGWI action plans should therefore be integrated into or derive from these investment plans.

Aligning the GGWI with the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategy and developing transformative projects and programmes offer opportunities to explore additional complementary funding sources, including those linked to climate change, South-South cooperation, microfinance and many others. Such an alignment also allows for the promotion of the essential role of the state and non-state actors in GGWI implementation. These innovative funding sources could help to increase available resources significantly, diversify sources of funding and supplement traditional resources. In the SADC region, GGWI is also a mechanism for implementing the SRAP.

GGWI implementation needs to be accelerated by drawing up projects and programmes in countries based on their GGWI action plans.

Competition over access to national resources is high and it is important for GGWI stakeholders to:

- improve coordination at national level – hiring national-level coordinators under national focal points if resources permit;
- interface with regional and national institutions (e.g. institutional arrangements);
- explore different models for co-financing such as incentive schemes and market-based incentives; and
- establish national focal points to facilitate mainstreaming of GGWI/SLM into national policies, strategies and other initiatives to ensure GGWI inclusion in the national budget.

Regional level

In 2017, SADC and the IUCN formulated a framework for resource mobilization in the region in support of the SADC SRAP. The resource mobilization framework promotes regional initiatives that build on Member States' efforts to access national and international sources of funding for environmental investments. The national sources are mainly from the governments through treasury allocations to environment-related actions and the private sector through direct investment using public-private partnership arrangements.

The private sector is increasingly encouraged by the UNCCD to take an active role in the development of land degradation solutions that are aimed at developing either long-term service provision or production of economically viable products out of the land degradation prevention process or the land restoration process. The framework also identifies diverse possible sources of funding that can be tapped into in tackling the challenge of reducing land degradation in the region. These include signatory organizations to the Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the World Bank.

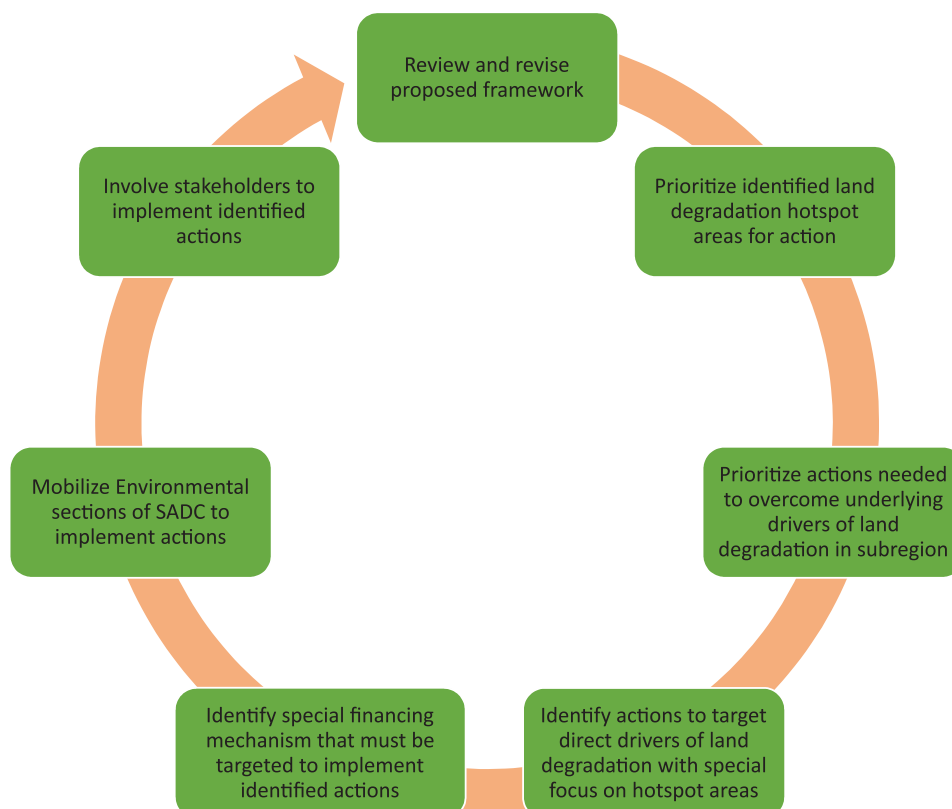
National level

Among other funding opportunities, the GEF and GCF offer significant potential for resource mobilization for the implementation of the GGWI Strategy.

To access these resources, the strategy should consider the following:

- Assessment of ongoing multinational SLM-related projects – e.g. the Nexus approach to optimizing regional investments, priorities and benefit-sharing.
- Exploring existing GCF and GEF project examples which are transboundary in nature.
- Building on natural resource management programmes at SADC-level, such as Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs), transboundary water projects, fisheries and forestry.
- Sustainable financing that will move from projects to programmes.
- Skills to develop bankable and transformative projects/programmes (e.g. leveraging collaboration/ synergies from associated partners).
- Innovative funding mechanisms (such as seed funding/funding to unlock sustainable financing) and incentive schemes.
- Involving the private sector in land restoration initiatives.

Project cycle



9. Communication and visibility

The SADC Secretariat has instituted a corporate-wide communication and visibility structure anchored in the Public Relations Unit, facilitating all forms of public communication and visibility, including for this project.

This strategy's communication and visibility plan will be elaborated and implemented in the national action plans for Member States.

The SADC Secretariat will report on the implementation of the Communication and Visibility Plan to the relevant SADC structures such as the technical meetings for UNCCD National Focal Points, senior officials, and Ministers responsible for the Environment and Natural Resources, as well as Council and Summit meetings.

9.1 Communication partners

Partners	With whom to communicate	Mode of communication	Comments
AUC	SADC Secretariat, international cooperating partners (ICPs), media.	Reports, meetings, press conferences.	
SADC Secretariat	Member States' international partners, ICPs, AUC, media.	Meetings, letters, workshops, reports, notes verbales.	
Member States	SADC Secretariat, ICPs, other Member States, media, network of CSOs, the private sector.	Media, reports, letters, press conferences.	

9.2 Objectives of the communication and visibility plan

1. Ensure transparency and accountability;
2. Enhance understanding of the implementation of the GGWI;
3. Share lessons among stakeholders, Member States and project partners;
4. Promote the effective implementation of the initiative;
5. Sensitization and advocacy to garner support for resource mobilization;
6. Ensure political buy-in;
7. Inform the decision-makers (policy interface);
8. Promote synergies and complementarity;
9. Enhance coordination among stakeholders;
10. Ensure evidence-based design, decisions, project development and implementation, and results-based management.

9.3 Communication modes

1. Website;
2. Corporate identity;
3. Communication materials (pamphlets, policy briefs, documentaries);
4. Defining criteria for the GGWI SADC projects;
5. Translation;
6. Media networks;
7. Content development;
8. Goodwill ambassadors;
9. Commemoration of global events;
10. Digital communications.



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A young woman selling tomatoes in a local market.

10. Monitoring and evaluation

The Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (MEF) has been designed to capture performance information and data at two levels – through individual activities and through defined programme outcome areas.

Monitoring and evaluation for the GGWI–SADC is primarily about ensuring that the programme delivers quality activities through the appropriate selection of activities. It is imperative that the programme supports improved priority setting and investment to ensure appropriate resource allocation between thematic and sectoral areas. It is also important that accountable and transparent systems are encouraged and facilitated through the relevant structures around all activity selections for the GGWI–SADC.

The monitoring and evaluation will be based on the Results Framework Document (RFD). The RFD is part of the Harmonized Regional Strategy for the implementation of the GGWI, which serves as a blueprint for the initiative. The RFD provides broad indicators reflecting the multisectoral and thematic nature of the GGWI, enabling easy capture and measurement of results. The RFD is customized to align with activities envisaged under the GGWI–SADC programme.

Essentials of the Results Framework Document

A results framework is a graphic representation of a strategy to achieve a specific objective that is grounded in cause-and-effect logic. It provides a summary of the most important results that a programme/department/institution/ministry/country expects to achieve during a given period of time. This document has two main purposes: (a) to move the focus from process-orientation to result-orientation, and (b) to provide an objective and fair basis to evaluate overall performance of a programme at the end of a given period by drawing attention to the risks that projects may face during implementation.

A results framework seeks to address five basic questions:

- What are the main objectives for a given period of time in the implementation of a given programme?
- What actions are proposed by the different stakeholders to achieve these objectives?
- How would someone know at the end of a given period of time, the degree of progress and/or contribution made in implementing these actions?
- What are the risks that may adversely affect the achievement of desired results and what are appropriate mitigation measures; and
- What are the specific assumptions that must remain valid for the project to succeed?

The results framework for the GGWI seeks to:

- provide an opportunity to build consensus and ownership around shared objectives among the key stakeholders of the initiatives (countries, continental and regional organizations, partners, CSOs and CBOs).
- facilitate agreement on the expected results and resources necessary to achieve those results.
- function as an effective communication tool because it succinctly captures the key elements of the intent and content of the GGWI.
- establish the foundation to design monitoring and evaluation systems.
- identify the objectives that drive project design by stakeholders.

The GGWI Results Framework is directly derived from the Regional Harmonized Strategy adopted by AMCEN (September 2012) and endorsed by the AU Assembly (January 2013).

Notes

[illegible]



Matusadona National Park, Zimbabwe – sunset over Lake Kariba with a silhouette of a Grey Heron and Egyptian Geese in flight.



SADC/ECC-NRM&T/1/2019/5

SADC STRATEGY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GREAT GREEN WALL INITIATIVE

Project objective

The Great Green Wall Initiative comprises a set of integrated actions addressing the multisectoral problems affecting the lives of people in arid and semi-arid zones. These multisectoral and multidimensional actions transversally address a wide range of concerns such as drought management, natural resource management, sustainability of rural production systems (including agriculture, livestock breeding and forestry) and the development of rural production and trade infrastructures, diversifying economic activities and wealth creation and with due consideration to gender and youth issues in development.

Beneficiaries

Member States of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), namely: Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

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Victoria Falls on the Zambezi River, which forms the boundary between Zambia and Zimbabwe.