



**GREAT
GREEN
WALL**



United Nations
Convention to Combat
Desertification

With funding from

 **Austrian
Development
Cooperation**



FIVE

**Years of the
Great Green Wall
Accelerator**

**A JOURNEY OF
RESTORATION,
RESILIENCE,
AND REGIONAL
COLLABORATION**

Acknowledgements

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY



Yasmine Fouad

*Under-Secretary-General and
Executive Secretary
United Nations Convention
to Combat Desertification
(UNCCD)*

The Great Green Wall has always been more than a line of trees stretching across Africa.

It is a bold vision born from the belief that restoring land can restore livelihoods, strengthen economies, and create hope for millions of people living on the frontlines of climate change, land degradation and drought.

Five years ago, the Great Green Wall Accelerator was launched to help transform that vision into coordinated action. Since then, governments, development partners, financial institutions, local communities and regional organizations have worked together to strengthen one of the world's most ambitious landscape restoration initiatives.

This report tells that story.

It highlights important progress, from stronger regional coordination and improved monitoring systems to new financing opportunities, enhanced national ownership and innovative tools that are helping countries turn commitments into implementation. It also reflects the remarkable commitment of the people and institutions working every day to build a more resilient Sahel.

But perhaps the greatest achievement of the past five years has not simply been what we have delivered—it has been what we have learned.

Large-scale landscape restoration is complex. It cannot be measured only by the number of trees planted or hectares restored. Experience has reinforced an important lesson: lasting restoration depends on healthy ecosystems, resilient communities, strong institutions, sustainable financing, reliable data, and long-term political commitment.

The Great Green Wall has evolved alongside these lessons.



Today, it is increasingly understood not simply as a restoration initiative, but as a platform for building resilience across the Sahel. Restoring land means strengthening food systems. It means creating opportunities for young people. It means empowering women, improving water security, supporting sustainable livelihoods, reducing vulnerability to drought, and helping communities remain on their land with dignity and hope.

The Accelerator has played an important role in supporting this evolution. By improving coordination among partners, strengthening monitoring and accountability, supporting national coalitions, developing common reporting frameworks, and creating the Great Green Wall Observatory, it has helped lay the foundations for more effective implementation and greater transparency. These are investments that will continue to benefit the Great Green Wall well beyond the lifetime of the Accelerator itself.

At the same time, this report reminds us that much work remains ahead. The challenges facing the Sahel continue to grow, and the next five years will be decisive. Accelerating implementation will require stronger partnerships, greater investment, better data, deeper community engagement, and continued innovation.

This is not simply about achieving numerical targets.

It is about improving people's lives.

Every hectare restored represents more than healthier land. It represents a farmer harvesting again after years of declining productivity. A young entrepreneur finding new opportunities close to home. A pastoralist securing water for livestock. A woman building a more resilient livelihood for her family. Ultimately, restoration is about restoring hope.

As we look ahead, we do so with confidence, not because the journey has been easy, but because it has made us stronger. The lessons of the past five years are already shaping a smarter, more integrated approach to restoration that will inform not only the future of the Great Green Wall, but landscape restoration efforts around the world.

The Great Green Wall is not simply a project.

It is a long-term commitment to resilience, prosperity and peace.

Together, let us build on what we have learned, accelerate what works, and continue investing in healthy land as the foundation of healthy food systems, thriving communities and a more resilient future for Africa and the world.





**“ECOLOGY IS
THE PERMANENT
ECONOMY”**

- Sunderlal Bahuguna

GLOSSARY

ADA	Austrian Development Agency
AfDB	African Development Bank
AFD	Agence Française de Développement
AU	African Union
CEN-SAD	Community of Sahelo-Saharan States
CIFOR-ICRAF	Centre for International Forestry Research – World Agroforestry
CILSS	Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (Comité permanent Inter-État de Lutte contre la Sécheresse dans le Sahel)
CIPREL	Compagnie Ivoirienne de Production d'Électricité
CO₂EQ	Carbon dioxide equivalent
COP	Conference of the Parties
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EIB	European Investment Bank
ESEGGWI	Enhancing Sustainability and Expansion of the Great Green Wall Initiative
EUC	European Union Commission
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FFA	Food Assistance for Assets
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GGW	Great Green Wall
HRMF	Harmonized Results Management Framework
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IRP	Integrated Resilience Programme
ISBN	International Standard Book Number
K4GGWA	Knowledge for Great Green Wall Action
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
LOGMe	Sahelian Landscapes Project
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MPTF	Multi-Partner Trust Fund
OMVS	Organisation for the Development of the Senegal River (Organisation pour la Mise en Valeur du fleuve Sénégal)
OSS	Sahara and Sahel Observatory (Observatoire du Sahara et du Sahel)
PAGGW	Panafrican Agency of the Great Green Wall
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
ProDAF	Family Farming Development Programme (Programme de Développement de l'Agriculture Familiale)
RESILAND	Resilient Landscapes Programme
SAMS	Smallholder Agricultural Market Support
SAWAP	Sahel and West Africa Program
SCIGGWI	Strengthening Coordination and Implementation of the Great Green Wall Initiative
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SME	Small and Medium-sized Enterprise
TALSISIGGWI	UNEP/GEF GGW Regional Support Programme
TFP	Technical and Financial Partners
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
WFP	World Food Programme

GREAT GREEN WALL OF AFRICA: THE WORLD'S LARGEST LIVING STRUCTURE

Imagine all the great wonders of the world. Amidst these structures of historical, social and cultural value, the Great Green Wall (GGW) of Africa is a 'living' structure made up of fertile lands, thriving agricultural economies, and resilient communities.

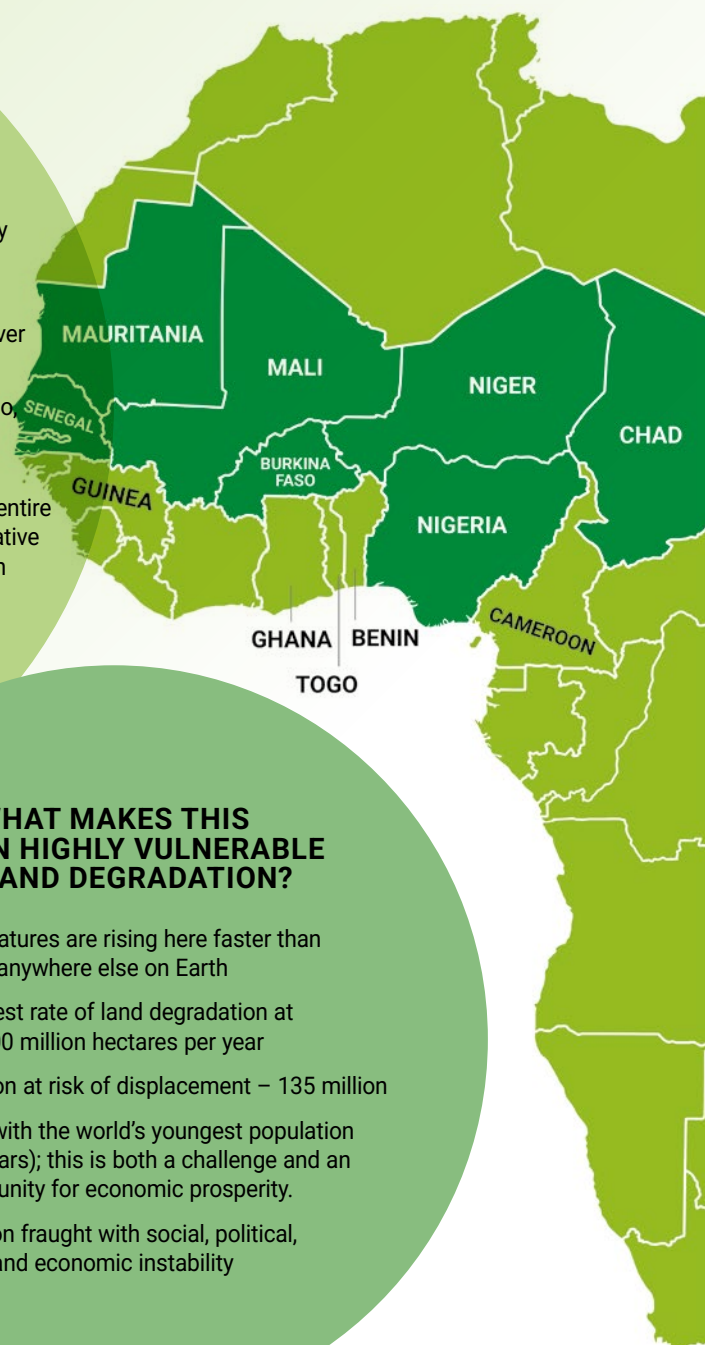
Stretching across the largest width of the African continent, from Senegal in the west to Djibouti in the east, the GGW is a powerful witness of resilience through collaboration, having achieved about a third of its 2030 targets in terms of land restoration, job creation, and global carbon absorption.

THE GGW OF AFRICA: A FORCE MULTIPLIER FOR LAND DEGRADATION NEUTRALITY

- In 2007, Panafrican Agency of the GGW (PAGGW) was founded by member states through the Community of Sahelo-Saharan States (CEN-SAD) and the African Union (AU).
- The GGW extends across 156 million hectares from the Senegal River Basin to the Horn of Africa, including the Chad River Basin.
- The 11 founding member countries of the PAGGW are Burkina Faso, Chad, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Sudan.
- In 2024, the updated AU-GGW Strategy was adopted, inclusive of the entire continent with an emphasis on the Sahel as the foundation of the initiative and the Southern GGW as an expanded area. Many circum-Saharan countries have expressed interest in joining the PAGGW as well, boosting the reach, breadth, and scope of the overall initiative.
 - The 2030 targets of the GGW are:
 - Restore 100 million ha of degraded land
 - Create 10 million jobs
 - Sequester 250 million tons of carbon

WHAT MAKES THIS REGION HIGHLY VULNERABLE TO LAND DEGRADATION?

- Temperatures are rising here faster than anywhere else on Earth
- Fastest rate of land degradation at ~100 million hectares per year
- Total population at risk of displacement – 135 million
- Countries with the world's youngest population (under 20 years); this is both a challenge and an opportunity for economic prosperity.
- Region fraught with social, political, and economic instability



THE GGW ACCELERATOR: SUSTAINING THE STRUCTURE THROUGH COORDINATION AND MONITORING

In response to the need for a centralized impact coordination and fund monitoring agency for the GGW Initiative, the Accelerator was announced in 2021 during the One Planet Summit where more than \$19 billion was pledged by the Technical and Financial Partners (TFPs). The following pages demonstrate the on-ground impact of these commitments.

In addition to partnering with these TFPs and GGW countries, the Accelerator works closely with the Panafrican Agency of the Great Green Wall (PAGGW) to coordinate regional implementation and foster collaboration across borders. These efforts play a crucial role in turning financial commitments into tangible, measurable results across Africa's drylands.

FIVE FUNCTIONS OF THE GGW ACCELERATOR



Improved coordination: To create impactful synergies between project generators, funders, implementers, and beneficiaries. The Accelerator supported National Coalitions in nine of the 11 countries.

Enhanced monitoring: To establish a common framework for tracking progress, measuring impact, and ensuring accountability among the various stakeholders. The Accelerator assisted ten of the 11 countries to develop and validate the Harmonized Results Management Framework (HRMF).

Better resource mobilization: To increase the financial flows to GGW by connecting available resources with project opportunities and mobilizing new public and private funding. Since the 2021 One Planet Summit, the Accelerator has helped track additional commitments totalling \$19 billion and inspired larger financial engagement by demonstrating on-ground impact.

Accelerated efforts: To fast-track the ambitious goals of the initiative, the Accelerator launched the GGW Observatory in 2024 to provide real-time data, geospatial maps, and best practices to all stakeholders (front line communities, academia, industry, and governments) worldwide.

Capacity building: To create a pipeline of bankable projects and strengthen capacities of the National Coalitions and the PAGGW, the Accelerator developed the following three resources:

- Transboundary land and water management strategy
- Resource mobilization strategy
- Communication strategy for the GGW

HOW FAR HAVE WE ACHIEVED THE GGW 2030 TARGETS?

The GGW Observatory helps us track country-wise key achievements across projects by technical and financial partners. This critical data highlights not only the power of coordination and monitoring but the long road to meaningful on-ground impact through validation by National Coalitions.

Out of the 389 projects reported in the GGW Observatory as of 31 December 2025, the following figures are compiled from fewer than 90 projects, which are the only ones with relevant data reported according to the harmonized reporting structure's indicators. Further work is needed to improve reporting and data quality of projects identified as 'GGW projects'.

To further strengthen GGW progress reporting, GGW Member States must validate the presented figures through official decisions from their National Coalitions, including missing data from GGW projects and missing data from unidentified GGW projects at the National and Regional levels.

Target 2030 vs Achievement as of 2025

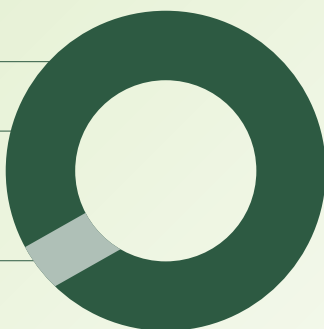
HECTARES UNDER RESTORATION

Target

100 million ha

Achieved

1.66 million ha



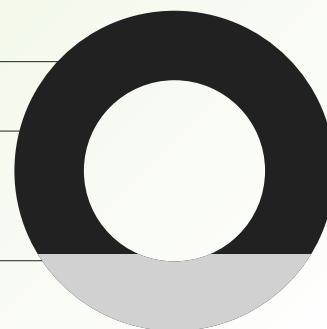
CO₂EQ SEQUESTERED

Target

250 million tons

Achieved

24 million tons



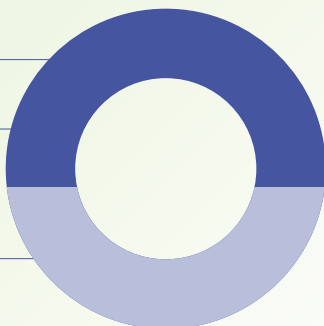
JOBS CREATED

Target

10 million jobs

Achieved

4.6 million jobs



CLEAN ENERGY

2,315 megawatt-hours (MWh)



NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES (EXCLUDING EMPLOYMENT)

46 million people



These are the trackable progress indicators of the 11 GGW countries, as validated by technical and financial partners.



BURKINA FASO

Hectares Under Restoration 217,222 ha

Job Creation 982,835 jobs

Number of Beneficiaries 14 million

Clean Energy 314 MWh



CHAD

Hectares Under Restoration 29,306 ha

Job Creation 291,653 jobs

Number of Beneficiaries 116,155

Clean Energy 0.25 MWh



DJIBOUTI

Hectares Under Restoration 199,320 ha

Job Creation 727 jobs

Number of Beneficiaries 77,007

CO₂EQ Sequestered 398,019 tons



ERITREA

Hectares Under Restoration 2,830 ha

Number of Beneficiaries 103,785



ETHIOPIA

Hectares Under Restoration 416,962 ha

Number of Beneficiaries 1.1 million

CO₂EQ Sequestered 8.1 million tons



MALI

Hectares Under Restoration 32,573 ha

Job Creation 339,801 jobs

Number of Beneficiaries 11 million

Clean Energy 2,000 MWh



MAURITANIA

Hectares Under Restoration 10,275 ha

Job Creation 34,688 jobs

Number of Beneficiaries 60,096

Clean Energy 0.0175 MWh



NIGER

Hectares Under Restoration 367,618 ha

Job Creation 2.7 million jobs

Number of Beneficiaries 987,680

Clean Energy 0.41 MWh



NIGERIA

Hectares Under Restoration 67,541 ha

Job Creation 254,295 jobs

Number of Beneficiaries 1.3 million



SUDAN

Hectares Under Restoration 285,729 ha

Job Creation 13,817 jobs

Number of Beneficiaries 4 million

CO₂EQ Sequestered 5 million tons



SENEGAL

Hectares Under Restoration 8,770 ha

Job Creation 15,980 jobs

Number of Beneficiaries 1.7 million

CO₂EQ Sequestered 7,260 tons

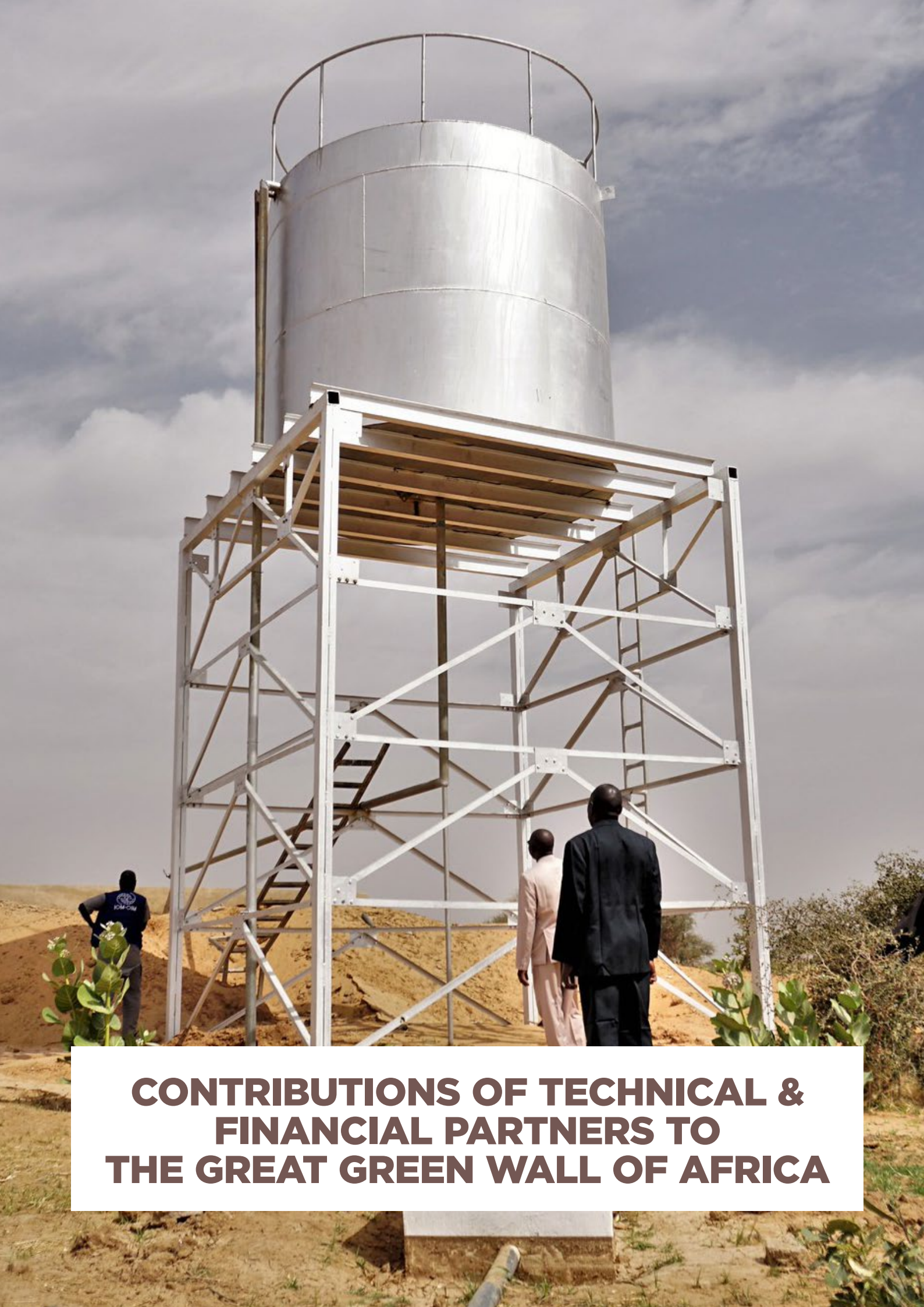


REGIONAL GGW PROJECTS

Hectares Under Restoration 22,145 ha

Number of Beneficiaries 732,934

CO₂EQ Sequestered 6.8 million tons



**CONTRIBUTIONS OF TECHNICAL &
FINANCIAL PARTNERS TO
THE GREAT GREEN WALL OF AFRICA**

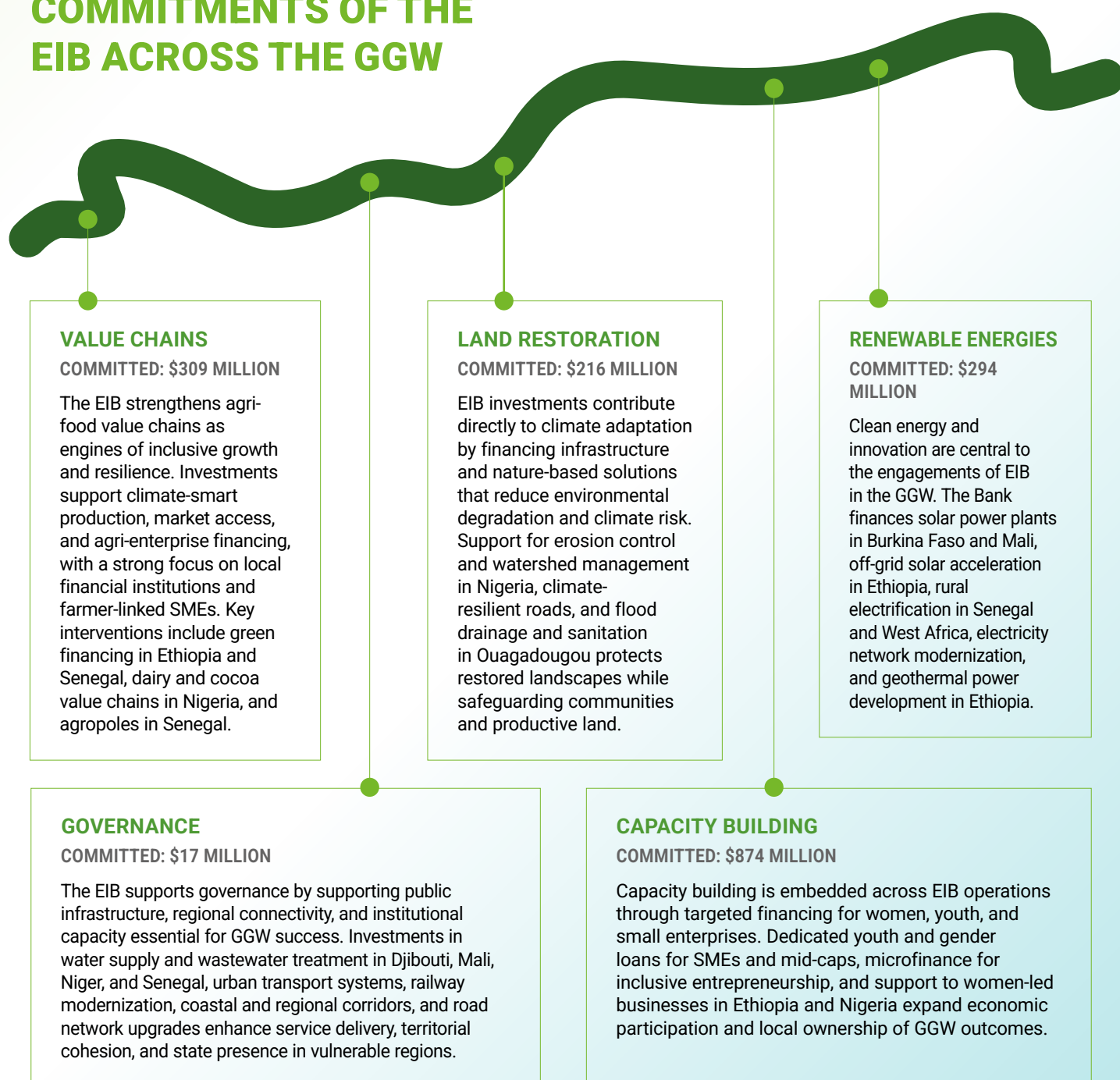
MOBILIZING CAPITAL FOR PEOPLE, PLANET, AND PROSPERITY



The European Investment Bank (EIB), the European Union's climate bank, plays a catalytic role in advancing the objectives of the GGW by mobilizing long-term finance for climate resilience, sustainable infrastructure, inclusive value chains, and human development across the Sahel and neighbouring regions. Through sovereign

lending, private-sector finance, and innovative blended instruments, the EIB translates GGW ambitions into bankable investments that restore land, strengthen food systems, expand clean energy access, and improve quality of life, especially for vulnerable groups.

COMMITMENTS OF THE EIB ACROSS THE GGW



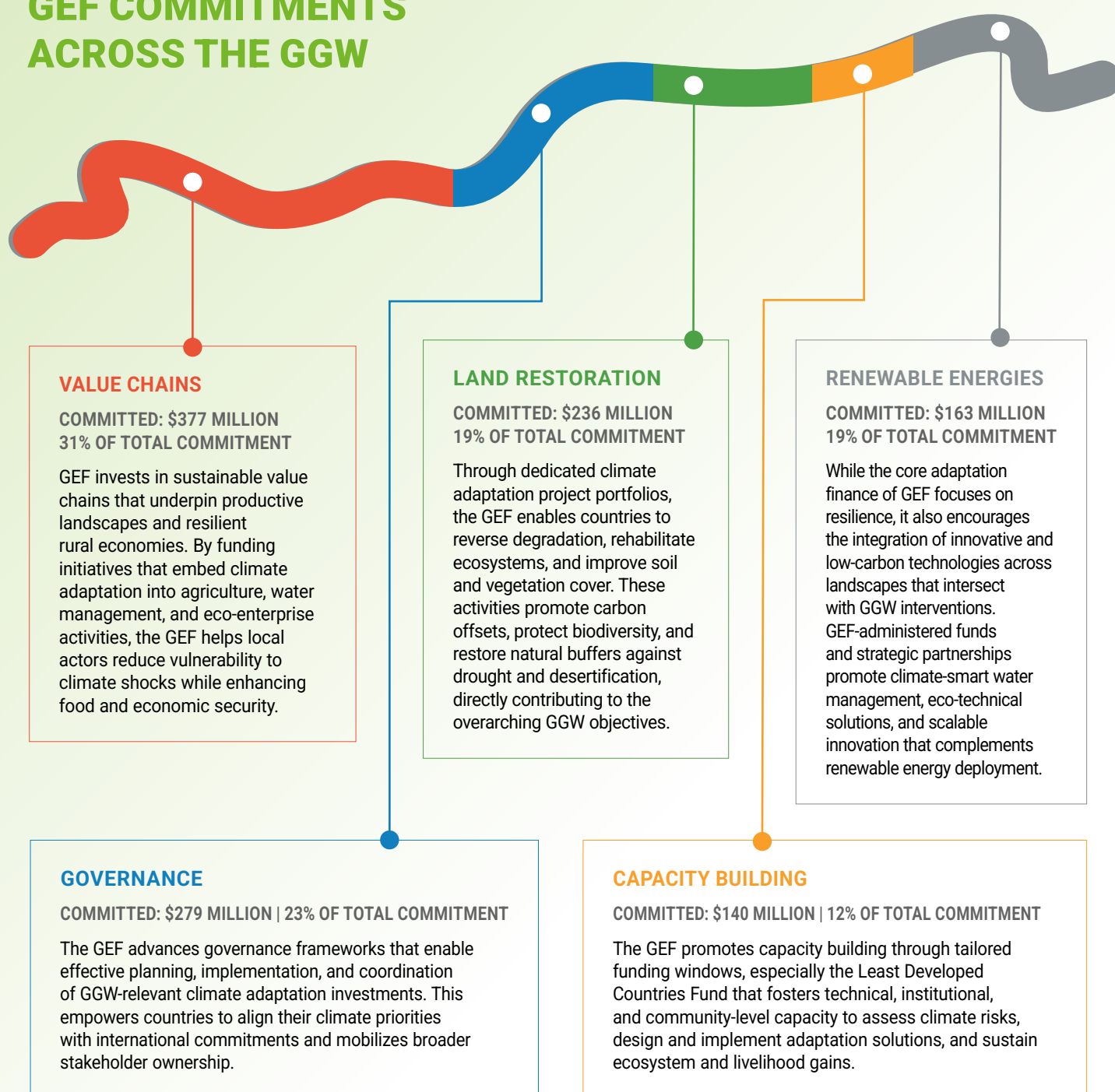
CLIMATE FINANCE MEETS LIVING LANDSCAPES



The Global Environment Facility (GEF) serves as a core multilateral climate and environmental finance mechanism, mobilizing and deploying finance to confront land degradation, climate change, and ecosystem loss in partnership with developing countries. In the context of the GGW for the Sahara

and the Sahel, the GEF champions resilience financing, ecosystem stewardship, and locally led adaptation, building on its broader mandates to support Least Developed Countries and integrate climate adaptation into sustainable development pathways.

GEF COMMITMENTS ACROSS THE GGW



LEVERAGING THE POWER OF AGRICULTURE TO EMPOWER COMMUNITIES

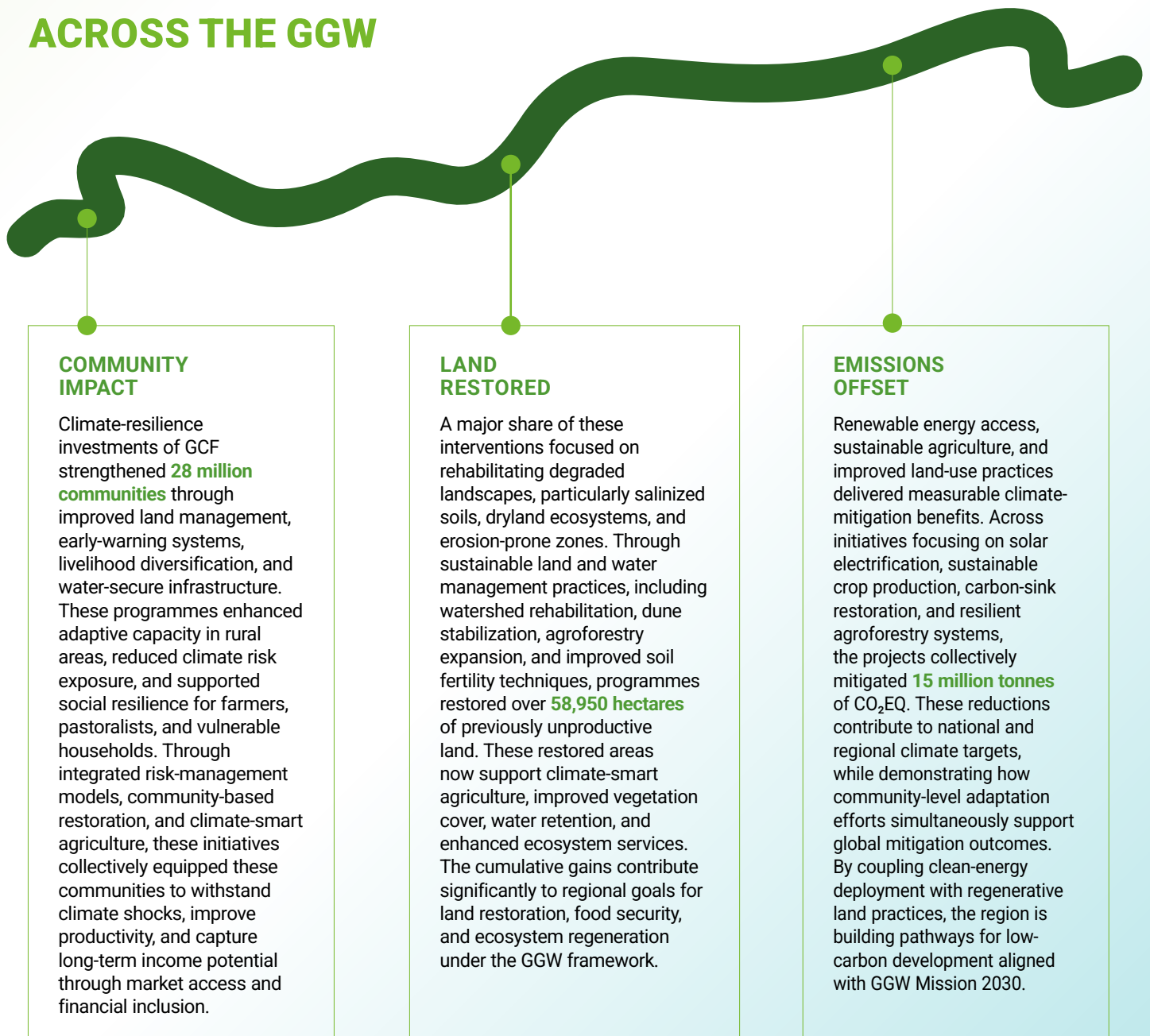


The Green Climate Fund (GCF) is one of the world's largest dedicated climate finance mechanisms, designed to shift global development toward a low-emission, climate-resilient future. With a mandate to catalyze transformational change, the GCF has been investing in the Great Green Wall countries through bold, high-impact

solutions, ranging from hydro-agricultural development and renewable energy to financial inclusion, agroforestry, drought response, and ecosystem restoration.

By bridging climate ambition with real-world action, the GCF is reshaping how Sahelian communities build resilience, prosperity, and sustainability for generations.

GCF ACHIEVEMENTS ACROSS THE GGW



EMPOWERING PEOPLE, LAND AND LIVELIHOODS ACROSS THE SAHEL



The Agence Française de Développement (AFD) is one of the foundational partners of the GGW initiative, channeling long-term finance across the Sahelian countries. AFD Group finances and supports sustainable development projects and partnerships by mobilizing sovereign loans, grants, private sector finance and technical expertise for

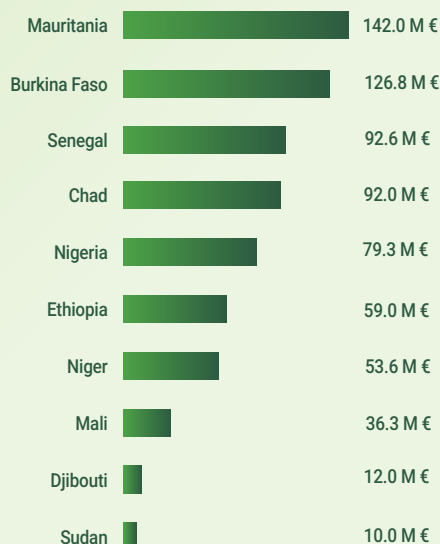
on-ground impact. Together, these instruments translate the GGW's ambitions into achievements like avoiding land degradation and restoring degraded ecosystems, strengthening food systems, accelerating clean energy access, and building the resilience of rural communities most vulnerable to climate change and conflict.

AFD ACHIEVEMENTS ACROSS THE GGW COUNTRIES



FROM SEED TO STABILITY IN THE SAHEL

AFD's contributions to GGW related projects in GGW countries



TOTAL GGW ELIGIBLE AMOUNT 2020–2025:

EUR 704 million

MAURITANIA

In the biodiverse wetlands of Tamourt Naaj, Projet Ennema protects ecosystems and food sovereignty by converting family farms to agroecology, extending irrigation, and strengthening local natural resource governance.



SENEGAL

Projects across two cross-border zones spanning the Falémé river and the Maghama region bring agropastoralists and local institutions together to govern shared land and water resources peacefully, while restoring degraded land and strengthening legume value chains.



NIGER

In the conflict-affected Tillabéri region, this project restores degraded land, develops pastoral corridors and strengthens groundnut, cowpea and sesame value chains – with a dedicated gender action plan ensuring women build economic autonomy alongside 90,000 direct beneficiaries.



ETHIOPIA

In the densely populated mountain zones of southern Ethiopia, this project scales up proven soil-and-water conservation techniques, expands access to water and fodder, and empowers women through grassroots associations to break cycles of land degradation and food insecurity.

NIGERIA

In nine northern states where poverty, climate stress and conflict intersect, this programme promotes climate-resilient, nutrition-sensitive agriculture and empowers women, youth and displaced people through inclusive integration into sustainable agricultural value chains.

CHAD

Projects in the Lake Chad basin strengthen community governance of shared natural resources while supporting plant-protein value chains.

The second phase of the Bahr Linia Hydro-Agricultural Development extends irrigation infrastructure around N'Djamena to expand agricultural land, diversify food production and create income opportunities for peri-urban farming communities.

In 2024, AFD-funded projects across all GGW countries:

- provided support to 3.3 million people in vulnerable situations
- enabled 104,183 family farms to improve their economic condition
- enabled 1.5 million hectares to benefit from sustainable resource and/or land management programmes
- supported 192,165 family farms in their transition to agroecological systems

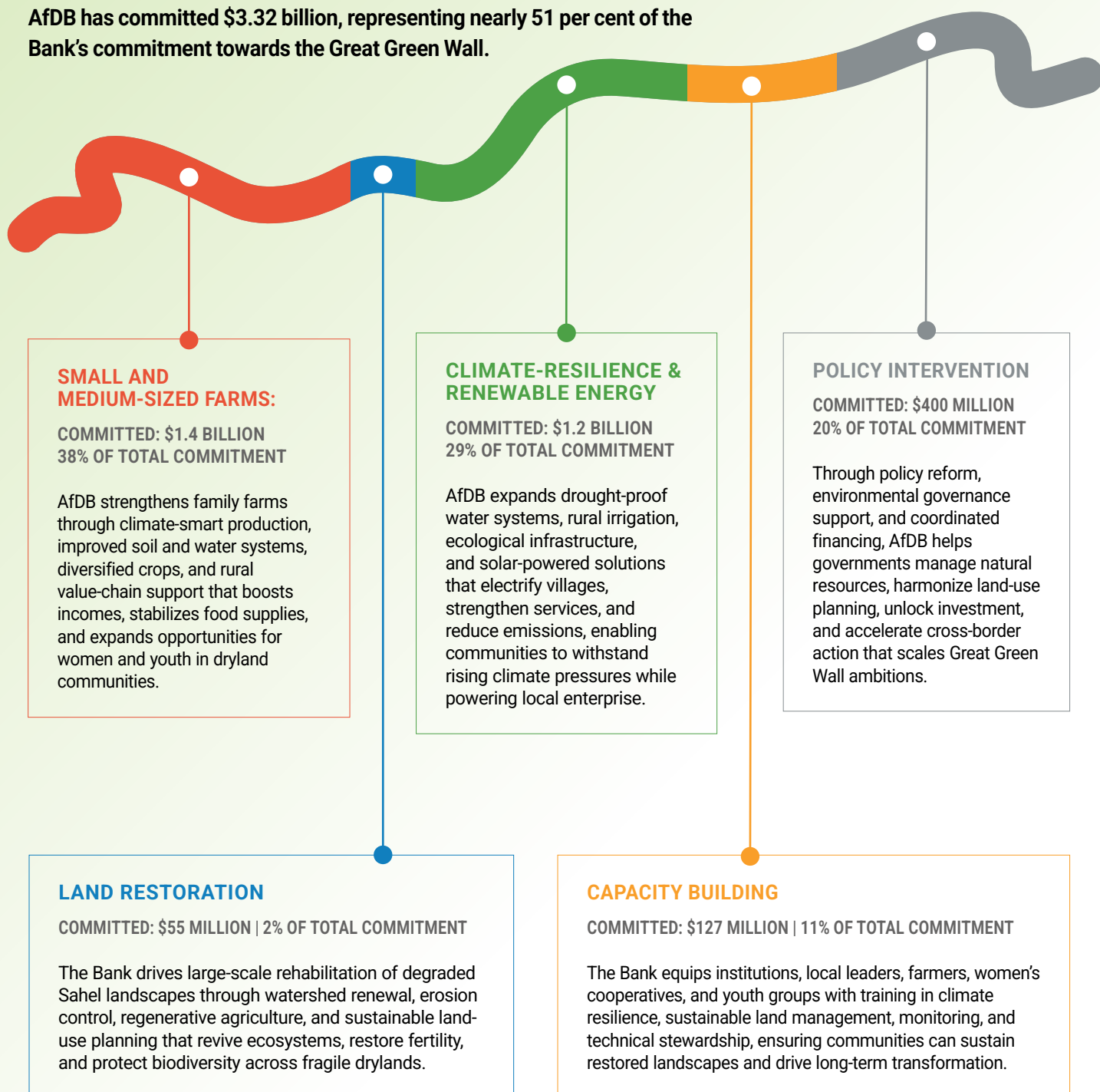
ACCELERATING TRANSFORMATION THROUGH LAND, LIVELIHOODS & CLIMATE RESILIENCE



The African Development Bank (AfDB) is a founding and long-standing partner of the Great Green Wall Initiative, working with Sahelian countries to restore degraded landscapes, build resilient rural economies, expand climate finance, and improve community well-being. Through major programmes such as Desert-to-

Power, Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program, Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation, Africa Infrastructure Resilience Accelerator, and many others, AfDB drives large-scale transformation across land restoration, agriculture, water management, energy access, and environmental governance.

Through 83 national and 29 multinational projects from 2021 to date, AfDB has committed \$3.32 billion, representing nearly 51 per cent of the Bank's commitment towards the Great Green Wall.



“OUR FAMILIES ARE PROUD OF OUR WORK, AND WE NOW FEEL SECURE TO PLAN FOR THE FUTURE”

ZACCARON RAHAMATOU, FIRST FEMALE ENGINEER IN IVORY COAST

When I look at Côte d'Ivoire's energy future, I see a landscape full of possibility. Working as an engineer at the Compagnie Ivoirienne de Production d'Électricité (CIPREL) has shown me how reliable, affordable power can transform entire communities. On my part, I come from a large family of modest means. However, my parents realised early on that the best gift they could give their children is education. At CIPREL, I am responsible for scheduling and planning new power projects. I have acquired new skills in this role and benefitted from the exposure at local and international trainings. My parents are proud of my work, and this role allows me to make plans for the future. The African Development Bank's commitments, including initiatives like Desert to Power, align with my belief that energy is the foundation for education, health, entrepreneurship and dignity.



SALIMATA KABORÉ, MOTHER-OF-THREE, FROM THE VILLAGE OF SARIA IN BOULKIEMDÉ PROVINCE OF CENTRAL WEST BURKINA FASO

I built the pen myself with four animals – two ewes and two rams – through help from the Bank's food resilience programme. I take good care of my animals because I hope to have a dozen of them in two or three years, and to gradually become a larger sheep farmer, like the men of my village. Meanwhile, I can meet my family's needs with my maize and cowpea crops. For years, many of us women in rural communities carried the double burden of poverty and malnutrition. We worked on the land, yet our families often lacked the nutrition and income needed to live with dignity. The African Development Bank's support has changed that reality. With new tools, training in sustainable production, and opportunities to process and sell local foods, our work now creates real value.



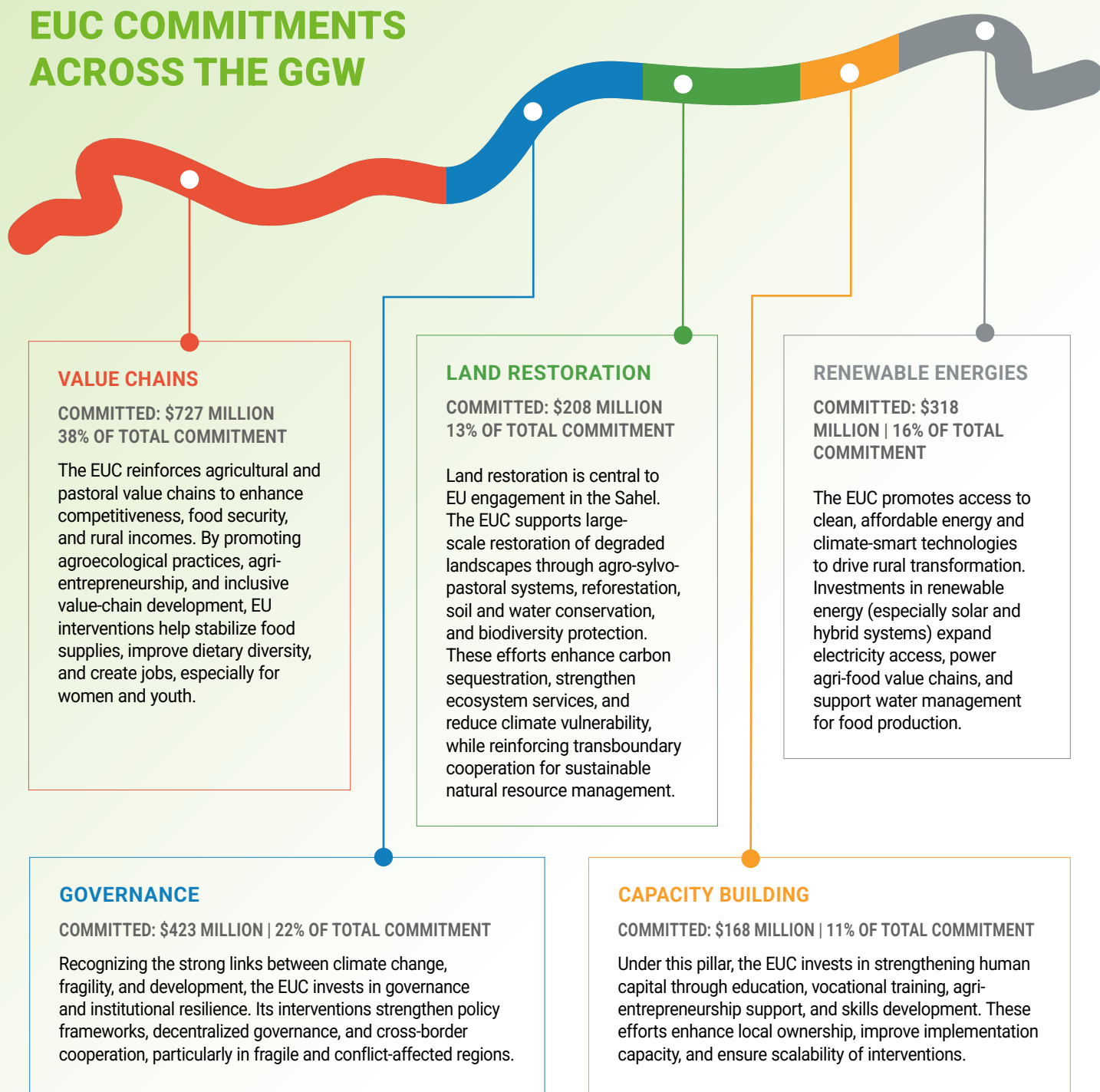
INVESTING IN COMPETITIVENESS AND SUSTAINABLE TRANSFORMATION



The European Union Commission (EUC) is a long-standing partner in Africa's transition toward resilient food systems, restored landscapes, clean energy access, and inclusive economic growth. Through a wide portfolio of national, regional, and multi-country interventions, the EUC advances integrated solutions that connect

value chains, land and water management, renewable energy, governance, and human capital, particularly among climate vulnerable communities. Together, these investments strengthen livelihoods, protect ecosystems, and build long-term resilience across the Sahel.

EUC COMMITMENTS ACROSS THE GGW



“WE EMPLOY RURAL WOMEN AND TRAIN THEM IN BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT”

MARIAMA DAOUDA OF ZAMANY ACCESSORIES

“What if a forgotten, wild plant became the foundation of sustainable innovation, modernity, and social impact? The doum plant is found abundantly across the arid terrain of the Sahel. We use fibres from this plant to make sustainable fashion accessories, with respect for the natural environment, cultural traditions, and modern aspirations of the local communities. We employ rural women, and train them in traditional crafts of basketry but also in business and financial management so they are empowered to create more opportunities for their community. With support from the Knowledge for Great Green Wall Action (K4GGWA) programme, we can extend our reach and distribution and spotlight the efforts of our artisans where they truly belong.



JOSEF GARVI OF SAHARA SAHEL FOODS



“We specialise in working with plants in arid regions that are largely neglected. These plants are excluded from the local economy because they are prickly to touch, having rough features. However, these plants have developed such features to adapt to the water-scarce, arid environment. Although they are stigmatised, they produce leaves, fruits and seeds which are very nutritious and beneficial to local communities. We are working to bring them back and popularize their valuable, delicious products. We are proud K4GGWA laureates and we are using the funds from this programme to set up franchises and collaborations across the GGW region. This will help us replicate our success and revitalize the whole region.”



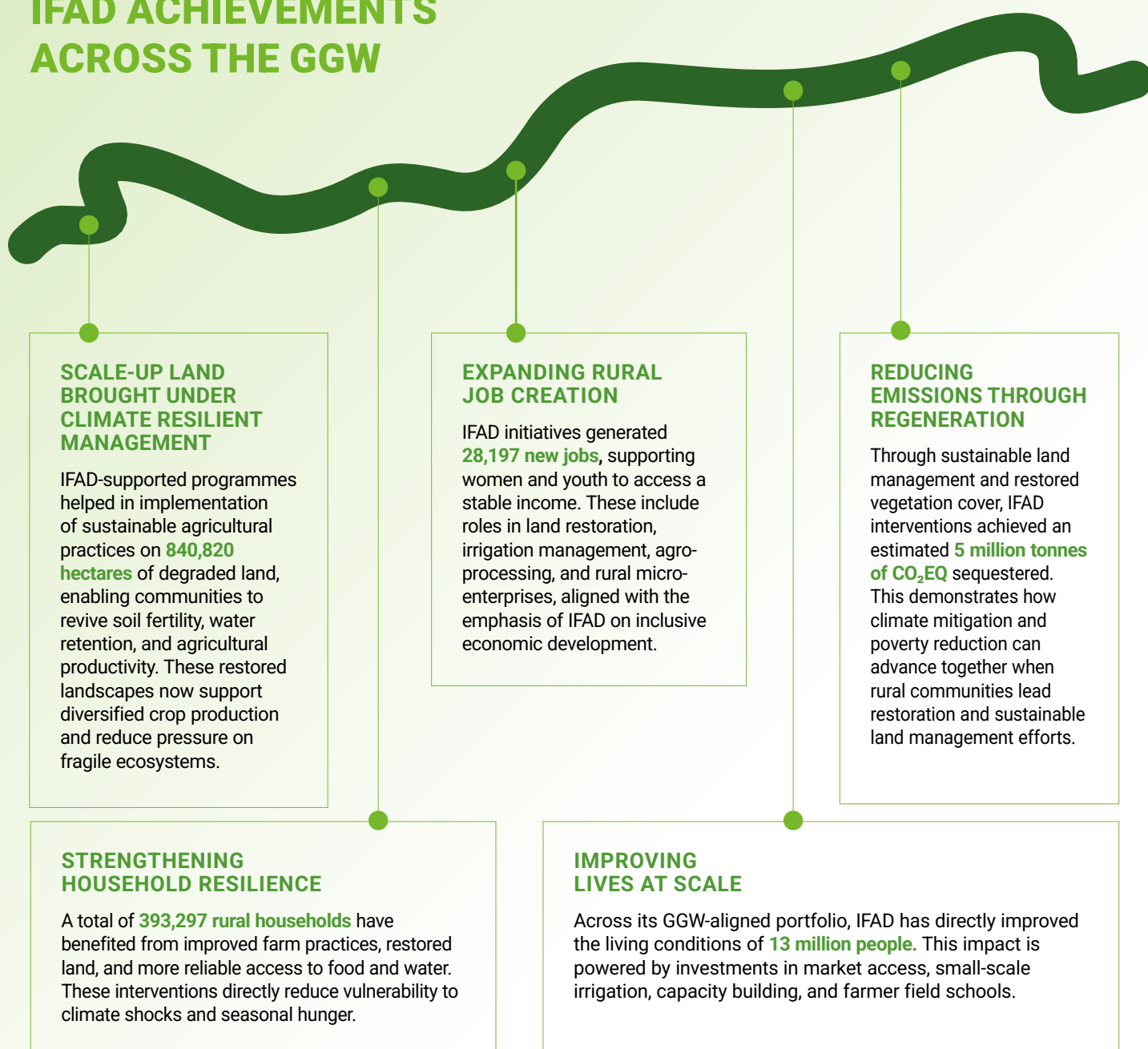
DRIVING RURAL PROSPERITY THROUGH LAND-BASED SOLUTIONS



As a long-standing partner in the GGW ecosystem, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) continues to deliver measurable impact through large-scale investments that tackle land degradation, rural poverty, and food insecurity. Working alongside national governments, local partners

and financial institutions, IFAD-supported programmes such as the Family Farming Development Programme (ProDAF) in Niger demonstrate how climate-resilient agriculture and community-led land restoration can fundamentally reshape rural economies towards resilient livelihoods.

IFAD ACHIEVEMENTS ACROSS THE GGW



“FOOD STORAGE SYSTEMS ALLOW US TO GET THROUGH LEAN PERIODS WITHOUT FEAR”

AICHA AMBOUKA

In Niger's Sarkaké region, the lean season felt like an endless struggle. With our food stores empty before harvest and many of the men away on exodus, worry was a constant companion. But through the family farming initiative (ProDAF) that helps us build and store food reserves, my family now faces these months with a little more confidence. Our stocks protect us from hunger and uncertainty. For the first time, I feel relief knowing we can get through hard periods without fear.

ABDOULAYE ABOUBACAR

In Garaké, Niger, our pond was once choked with useless plants, leaving the land unproductive. I never imagined it could become a source of life. But ProDAF changed everything. They cleared the pond and made space for crops like rice, maize, sugar cane, potatoes and sweet potatoes. Today, I not only feed my family from this land, I also sell the surplus and use the income to invest in other small businesses. This transformation has given me stability and hope. Restoring our land has truly changed my life, allowing me to support my family and seize new opportunities for the future.

KOUBARA SALIFOU

As a widow raising six children, I once survived by taking high-interest loans just to feed my family. The burden was constant and exhausting. But through the farming and food security initiatives, I now have reliable access to stored food, which means I can focus on my fields instead of worrying about debt. Little by little, this support has helped me stabilize our finances and regain control of my life. For the first time in years, I feel hopeful about my family's future.



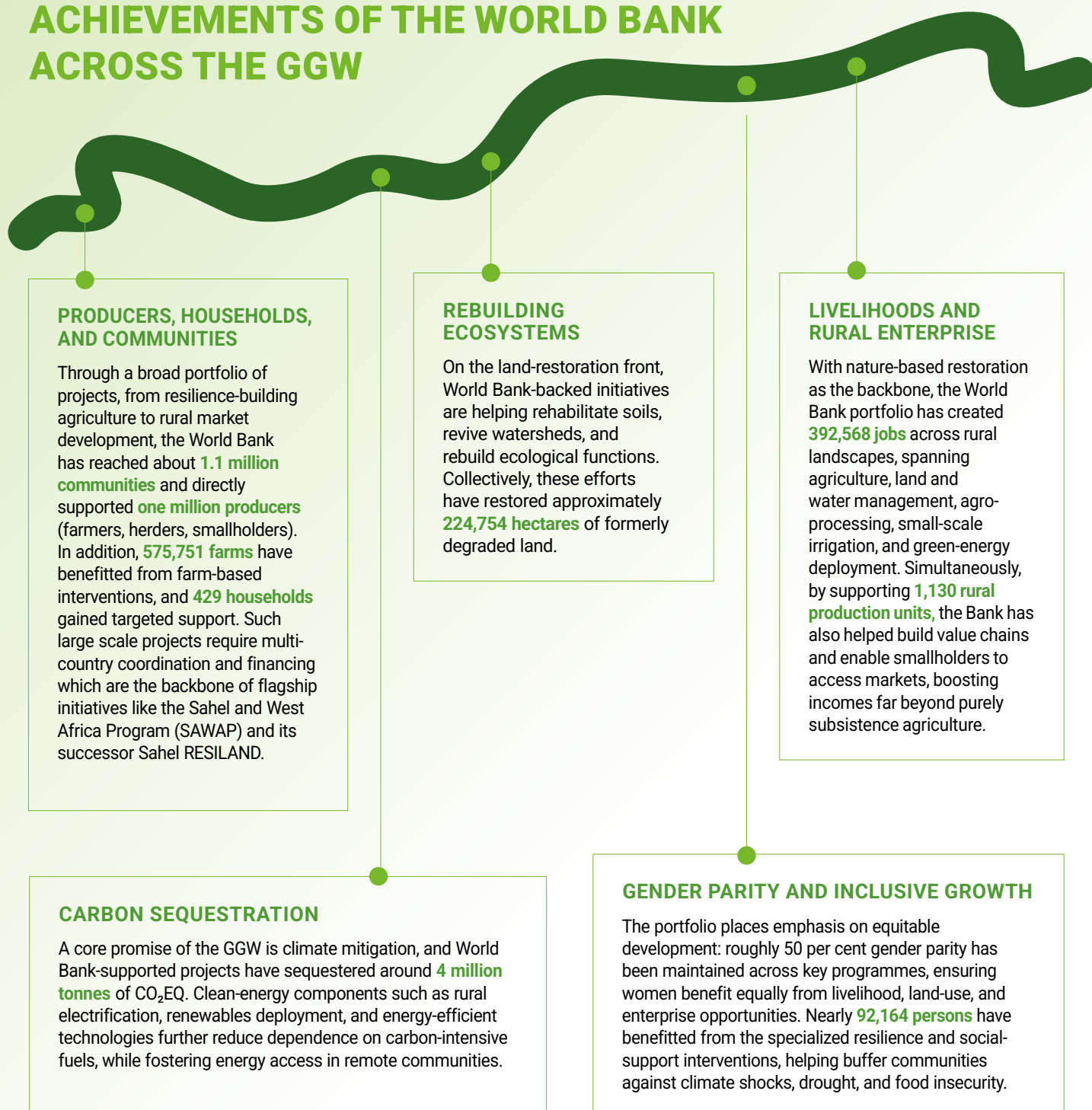
CATALYZING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE THROUGH A GENDER LENS



Since the founding of the GGW, the World Bank has played a central role in transforming the initiative from a symbolic 'wall of trees' into an integrated investment platform. In recent years, this effort has translated into impressive quantifiable achievements in terms of producers

supported, jobs created, expansive land rehabilitation, and significant emissions sequestration. Behind these successes lie dozens of validated World Bank-financed projects spanning agriculture, water, energy, land tenure and rural development.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE WORLD BANK ACROSS THE GGW



“I WANT MY SISTERS TO LEARN AND BECOME INDEPENDENT”

ALIMATOU IDRISSE, NIGER

“I used to give birth at home. In case of a problem, I had no assistance. Since the women’s health project was set up in Niger, I have been giving birth at the clinic because I know that in case of a problem, I will be taken care of. With the support of this initiative, the health workers encourage us to attend prenatal visits, and when it’s time to deliver, a trained midwife is there to help. I feel safer and more confident. This change has brought not just better health but also peace of mind for mothers and families. We are grateful because our children and we are healthier than before, and more women in our community are choosing to deliver in the clinic where help is ready if needed.”



ADOUIA BREMA, CHAD



“Since solar panels have come to Chad, families have benefitted a lot, and women’s lives have been transformed. I love electricity but always believed it was a man’s job. When the opportunity arrived to get trained in the installing, maintenance, and repairs of solar panels, I put my heart into it and learned the trade within two weeks. Together with the women and girls of my village, we started a business of electricity installation through solar panels. When a customer is happy, we feel like we have achieved something good too. Before, I depended on my husband. But today, we make a profit from each installation. Ever since I learned this job, I’ve wanted my sisters to follow my example. If they learn skills, they will be able to work and earn money too.”



PROMOTING LAND RESTORATION THROUGH FOOD SECURITY



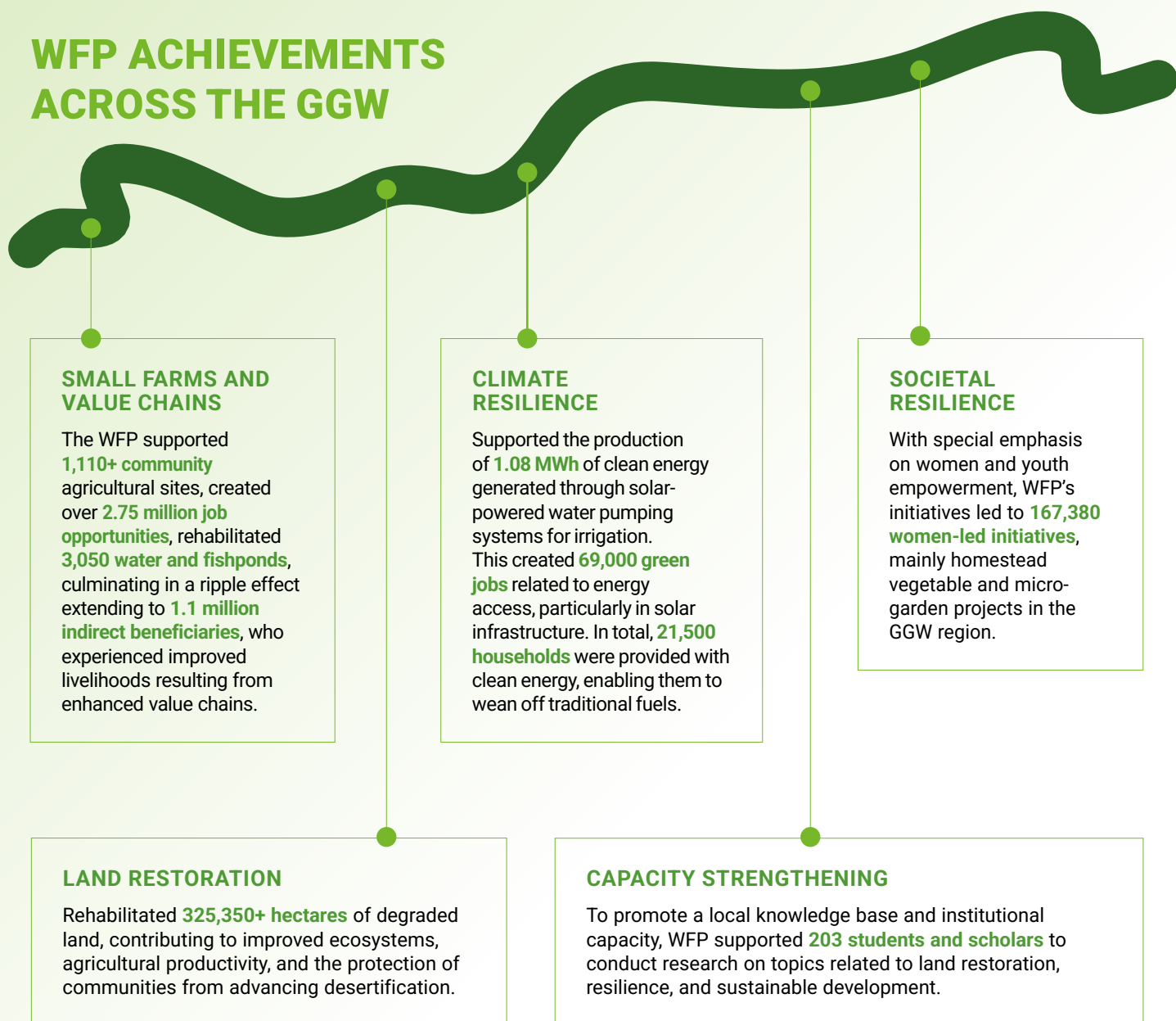
One of the original collaborators on the GGW with the Accelerator since 2021, the World Food Programme (WFP) has pledged close to \$300 million, and has delivered tangible results across the five strategic pillars between 2021 and 2025 in eight African countries.

With a particular focus on the five Sahel countries Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger, WFP also supported resilience building activities in Nigeria, The Gambia, and Benin.

Through the Integrated Resilience Programme (IRP) interventions, including Food Assistance for Assets (FFA), Smallholder Agricultural Market Support (SAMS), and green job creation initiatives, WFP has contributed significantly to land restoration, climate adaptation, food security, and sustainable livelihoods across dryland areas in Western and Central Africa.

The following summarizes its key achievements during this period.

WFP ACHIEVEMENTS ACROSS THE GGW



**“WE ARE LEADERS,
INNOVATORS, AND
PROVIDERS.
OUR DAUGHTERS
NOW SEE
A FUTURE”**



- Florence Banou, 55-year-old leader of the AMAKENE women's cooperative

I have spent most of my life in Bandiagara, central Mali, working the land alongside other women from my community who share my determination to provide for our families. For several years, the 35 women of our cooperative, AMAKENE, carried heavy buckets of organic fertilizer on our heads to reach our fields. It was exhausting work and a daily reminder of how limited resources weigh on women's shoulders in more ways than one.

In August 2024, our story began to change. The Integrated Resilience Programme (IRP) supported us with essential agricultural tools — including a tricycle that transformed our routine. What may seem like a simple vehicle became a symbol of freedom. It gave us back precious time, energy, and dignity.

But the real change went beyond equipment. We received training in cooperative management, new farming techniques, and ways to diversify our income. For the first

time, we were not just participants in a project; we were decision-makers shaping our own future.

By mid-2025, our cooperative expanded to processing local crops into enriched flour, improving local nutrition and creating new sources of income. This step gave us economic independence and pride. Today, our daughters see women leading businesses, managing finances, and contributing to community development. They no longer imagine a future defined by struggle, but one shaped by opportunity.

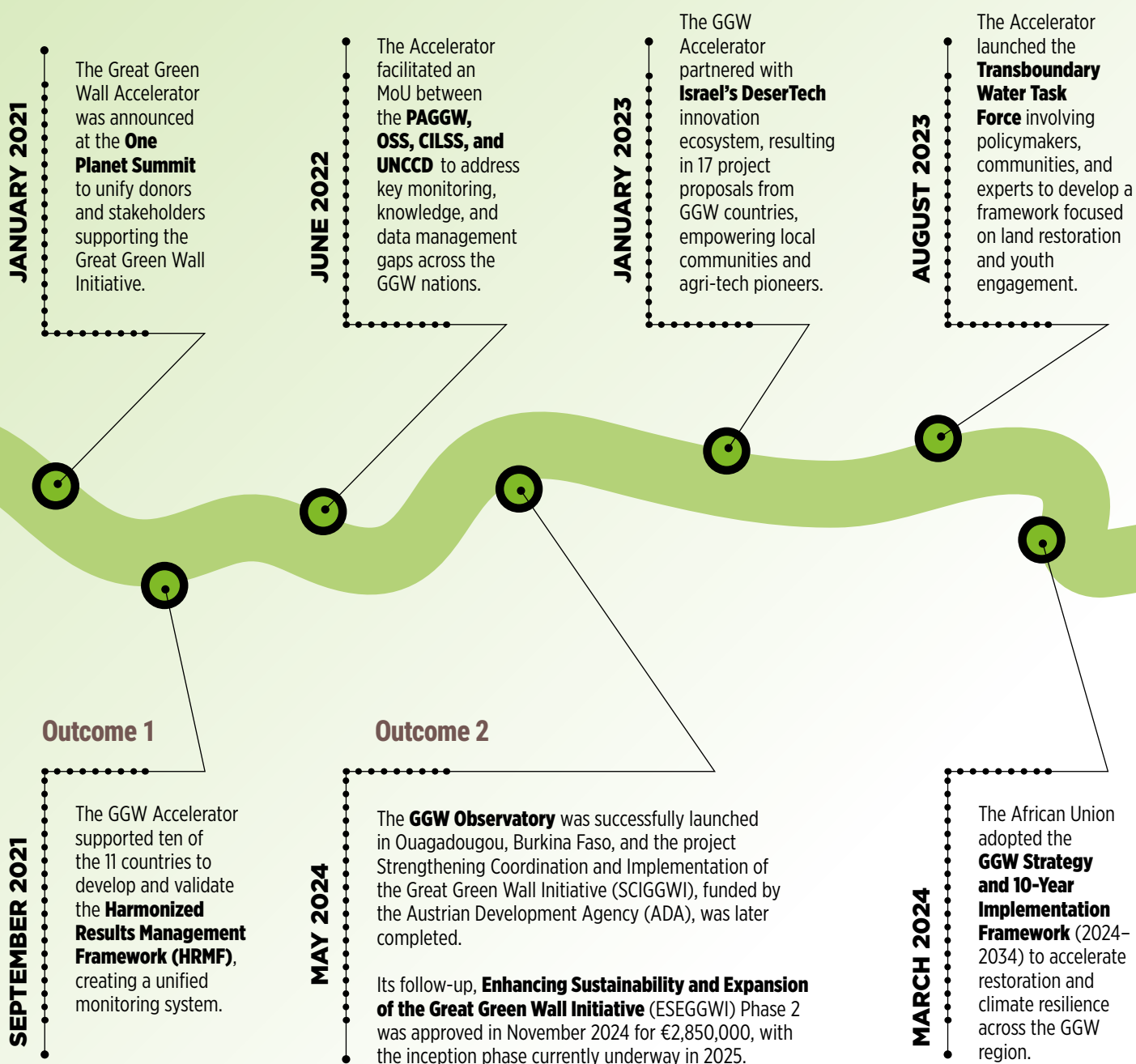
The support from WFP and its partners also encouraged local institutions to believe in us. Our municipality recognized our progress by granting us four hectares of land to scale up production. This is proof that women's leadership can inspire trust and collective action.

For me, empowerment is no longer a distant goal. It is in the hands of women who lift each other up — one solution, one harvest, one dream at a time.

“Our municipality recognized our progress by granting us four hectares of land to scale up production. This is proof that women's leadership can inspire trust and collective action”

FROM VISION

Important milestones in the GGW Accelerator's



Photos credit: Pape Camara | UNCCD

TO ALIGNMENT

journey of weaving regional collaborations

DECEMBER 2022

The Accelerator supported the establishment of the **National Coalitions** by nine of the 11 countries (excluding Eritrea and Ethiopia). These coalitions, comprising Finance, Planning, Environment, and Forestry ministries, are central to resource mobilization and effective implementation.

The **Data Management Taskforce** was set up by the GGW Accelerator with technical and financial partners to support the PAGGW's data priorities. It aims to build knowledge-based alliances and boost national and regional capacity.

Outcome 3

OCTOBER 2024

The GGW **Resource Mobilization and Communication Strategies** were validated, introducing green bonds and trust funds, and outlining a roadmap to boost stakeholder engagement.

Outcome 4

MAY 2025

The **Sahelian Landscapes** project (LOGMe) was completed. And after the Riyadh COP 16 announcement of €11 million for five Sahelian countries, the regional launch of the LOGMe II – Widen Proven Furrows Project took place in Dakar, Senegal.

Outcome 5

JULY 2024

A pilot project in Burkina Faso and Mali benefited **2,553 women** in shea-producing communities using agroforestry and **five solar boreholes** to restore **160 hectares of land** and improve livelihoods.

AUGUST 2024

The **transboundary land and water management strategy** was presented and validated by the Transboundary Water Task Force. It was supported by national agencies and the World Bank.

MARCH 2025

The **GGW Technical Support Group** was created to improve coordination and support national agencies. It drives reforms and scales Great Green Wall efforts across the Sahel.



Photos credit: Gilles Amadou | UNCCD

Outcome 1

Building One Monitoring System

How the GGW Accelerator unified 10 countries through the HRMF

The challenge

Before 2021, GGW countries used fragmented, incomparable monitoring tools. Data gaps, inconsistent indicators, and weak reporting systems limited regional coordination and donor confidence.

The Accelerator's Solution: A Harmonized Results Management Framework (HRMF)

A unified results system comprising common indicators, shared definitions, and aligned reporting cycles, all co-designed with the 10 GGW countries.

How the GGW Accelerator facilitated HRMF?

1. Technical design & co-creation

Through multi-agency consultations, indicator mapping, and alignment with UNCCD/SDGs, the HRMF was designed as a standardized results architecture.

2. National validation support

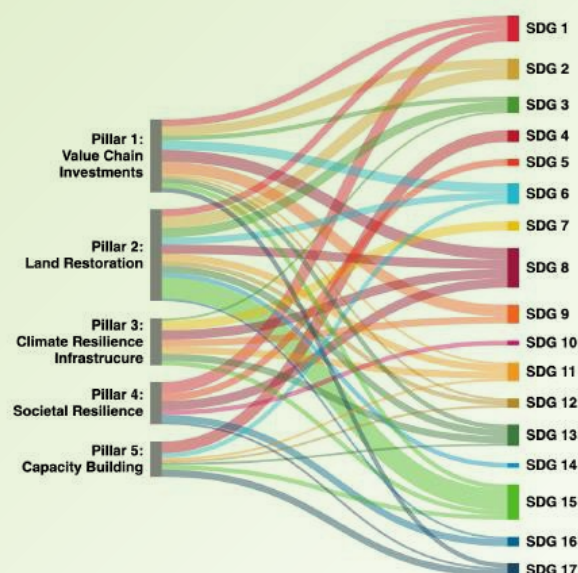
The GGW Accelerator facilitated workshops in 10 countries, cross-ministerial reviews, and participatory approval processes ensuring buy-in from national coalitions.

3. Capacity building & knowledge transfer

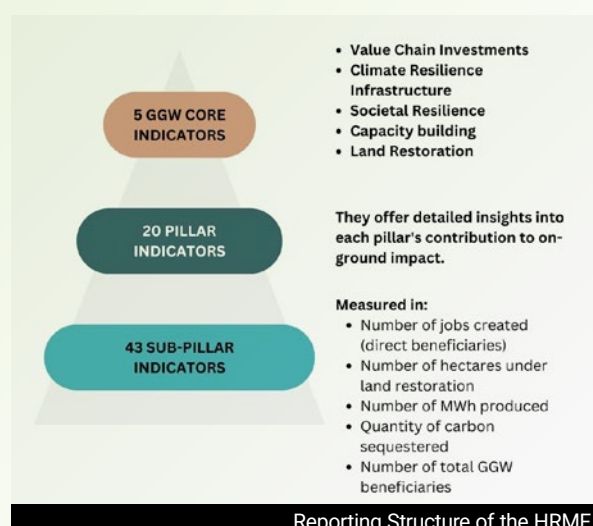
The Data & Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Taskforce deployed training, user guides, and digital tools; further on-ground adoption and rollout supported by UN volunteers.

4. Integration with the GGW Observatory

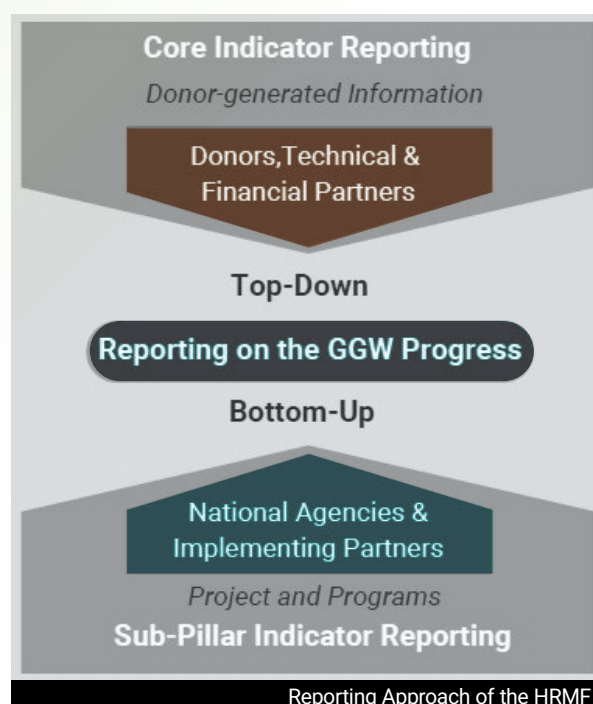
The HRMF indicators feed directly into the Observatory, enabling real-time tracking, donor transparency, and regional dashboards.



Core indicators intersect with the UN SDGs



Reporting Structure of the HRMF



Reporting Approach of the HRMF

Outcome 2

Supporting National Coalitions through Knowledge Mechanisms

How the GGW Accelerator built and equipped National Coalitions across the Sahel

Problem statement

Prior to 2021, GGW implementation suffered from weak national coordination, fragmented actors, and limited engagement beyond environment ministries. On-ground impact in most countries was held back due to the absence of coherent national strategies and stakeholder coordination.

Rationale behind the National Coalition model

The GGW Accelerator, through funding from Austria, provides strategic and institutional support to the GGW National Coalitions, enabling the continuous and autonomous coordination of national GGW contributions from government, civil society, private sector, media, academia, technical partners and science stakeholders.

The GGW National Coalitions facilitate consistent reporting against the HRMF indicators. Key priorities include the organization of regular annual meetings, and the promotion of cross-country learning exchanges to strengthen implementation and share best practices.



Four pillars of support for high functioning National Coalitions



1. High-level political support

The GGW Accelerator facilitated coalition meetings with Heads of State and engagement with Ministries of Finance and Planning in several GGW countries. This anchors the GGW impact into the national development strategy.



2. Broad, inclusive stakeholder base

Through the involvement of NGOs, researchers, innovation actors, local government, and private sector, the National Coalitions have shifted from government-only to whole-of-society platforms.



3. Tools, systems & technical support

National Coalitions are provided with HRMF training, data systems support, and access to monitoring platforms. UN volunteers are placed in each country to strengthen monitoring, evaluation, and resource mobilization.



4. Knowledge sharing and cross-country learning

The GGW Accelerator supports annual coalition meetings and promotes regional exchange mechanisms to share best practices and strengthen implementation.

National Coalitions' Outcomes

The Accelerator supported the establishment of the National Coalitions in nine of the 11 countries (excluding Eritrea and Ethiopia). These coalitions now serve as the backbone of GGW governance, institutionalizing coordination, improving reporting, mobilizing resources, and ensuring national ownership of the Great Green Wall vision.

Outcome 3

One powerful platform – The GGW Observatory

11 GGW countries, 13 donors, one single source of truth for data intelligence

Problem statement

Prior to the launch of the GGW Accelerator in 2021, progress data from the GGW countries was fragmented across donors and project portfolios, making it difficult to track funding, evaluate impact, or trace accountability.

How was the GGW Observatory envisioned?



1. Designing the new monitoring architecture

In 2021, the GGW Accelerator and PAGGW introduced a new framework for monitoring progress in the Sahel, working closely with technical partners to build a digital platform capable of aggregating multi-country, multi-donor data.



2. Integrating the HRMF into the digital system

The GGW Observatory collects and displays results aligned with the HRMF through inputs such as land restored, CO₂ mitigated, jobs created, beneficiaries, energy generated.

Four functionalities of the GGW Observatory



1. Donor data tracking

Tracks commitments from all major donors by country and pillars. The donor page consists of downloadable profiles showcasing the total commitments disaggregated by countries, pillars, and projects.



2. Country reporting dashboard

Shows pledges, projects, and results per country. The country data page is a summary of the GGW pledges disaggregated by donors, country, and pillars.



3. Results-based monitoring

Real-time reporting on hectares restored, carbon sequestration, jobs, renewable energy, beneficiaries. The results page is a summary of the outcomes and outputs of GGW interventions in line with the HRMF.



4. Geospatial intelligence

Satellite imagery layered with project footprints to assess land-use change and ecosystem recovery. This functionality involves high-level data exploration features for users with visualizations in the form of maps.

Power of the GGW Observatory as the single source of truth

- * Enables governments, donors, and communities to access transparent, comparable data.
- * Strengthens accountability by linking commitments to measurable results.
- * Drives new investments and additional commitments towards high-potential impact projects.

Outcome 4

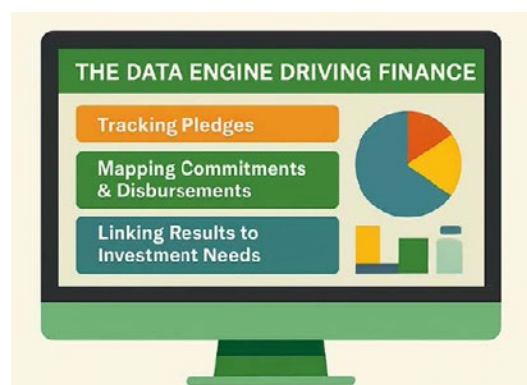
Driving additional financial commitments through a data-driven approach

The challenge

Before 2021, countries and donors lacked clarity on GGW funding flows, disbursement delays, and what portions of the \$19.6 billion pledge were new, reprogrammed, or not yet allocated. This created ambiguity and slowed additional investments.

Initiatives like the HRMF & GGW Observatory provide visibility of funding flows and inspire further commitments by:

1. Tracking pledges
2. Mapping commitments and disbursements
3. Linking results to investment needs



How the GGW Accelerator uses data visibility to track and drive financial commitments?



1. Tracking the \$19.6 billion pledge landscape

Through exhaustive consultations with all major technical and financial partners, the Accelerator mapped committed versus disbursed funds. These validated figures were presented to GGW country stakeholders to build trust through transparency.



2. Creating a continuous donor intelligence system

Through weekly outreach to donors and monthly tracking cycles, donor-by-donor financial dashboards were achieved, thus clarifying funds accessed, project impact, timelines, and future pipelines.



3. Linking finance to results

By equipping countries to report results in standardized HRMF indicators, the Accelerator created readiness for results-based financing and climate fund applications.



4. Building bankable pipelines

Intervention from the UNCCD Global Mechanism helped countries develop 'bankable' project pipelines, thereby enhancing donor engagement, and adopting innovative finance tools to secure predictable funding.

Achievements in driving additional financial commitments

Since the 2021 One Planet Summit, where \$14.3 billion was pledged, the Accelerator helped track additional commitments totalling \$19 billion.

The Accelerator has inspired more engagement in strategically funding GGW efforts such as the UN Decade for Ecosystems restoration, a flagship GGW project from the Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF), implemented by FAO and UNEP, for \$5 million.

Outcome 5

Three key strategies, one singular purpose

How the GGW Accelerator contributed towards finalizing the three strategic pillars essential for scaling the GGW – Communication, Innovative Finance, and Transboundary Water Management

Problem statement

Before these strategies were finalized in 2024, the Great Green Wall lacked a coherent communication narrative, a unified financing approach, and an actionable regional water and land management plan.

The GGW Accelerator was tasked with designing strategies that could improve coordination, strengthen governance, and unlock funding across the 11 countries.



Communication Strategy (2025–2030)

Purpose: To build a unified narrative that enhances awareness, donor confidence, and political engagement.

How was this developed?

Conducted communication capacity-building workshops across 11 countries

Mapped communication gaps at national and regional levels

Designed impact-focused messages centered around restoration, climate resilience, renewable energy, stability, and youth & gender inclusion

Developed KPIs (media reach, awareness, transparency metrics)

Impact:

Clearer messaging fostered political consensus as seen through the communication strategy adoption at the African Union Summit 2024

Improved visibility for donors and stakeholders, enabling resource mobilization dialogues as seen during COP 16 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia



Innovative Finance & Resource Mobilization Strategy (2025–2030)

Purpose: To facilitate a long-term financing ecosystem for the GGW beyond traditional development finance.

How was this achieved?

Conducted donor mapping, pledge verification, and fund-flow analysis for existing commitments
Identified financing gaps through national needs assessments

Designed a strategy including a conservation trust fund for the GGW

Blended finance, green bonds, carbon credits, public-private partnerships

Investment pipeline typology aligned with donor priorities

Impact:

Catalyzed new commitments such as Italy's €11 million for landscape restoration funding, FAO flagship (\$3 million), UNEP/GEF TALSISIGGWI programme, IFAD Regional Support Programme, and several others.

Equipped countries to produce bankable projects linked to HRMF metrics



Transboundary Land & Water Management Strategy (2024)

Purpose: To address shared water resources, climate shocks, and cross-border ecosystem degradation in the Sahel

How the Accelerator contributed?

Recruited regional expert teams to produce inception, analysis, and final strategy reports

Mapped river basins, aquifers, and restoration corridors using regional datasets

Convened validations with OSS, ECOWAS, OMVS, and World Bank

Established the Transboundary Water Task Force at COP 16 in 2024 to operationalize implementation awareness and transparency metrics

Impact:

Generated a region-wide scientific and political framework for water governance across 11 countries

Secured World Bank interest to integrate recommendations into regional investment programmes

Positioned vegetation and soil restoration as core water-storage mechanisms



What these three strategies enabled?

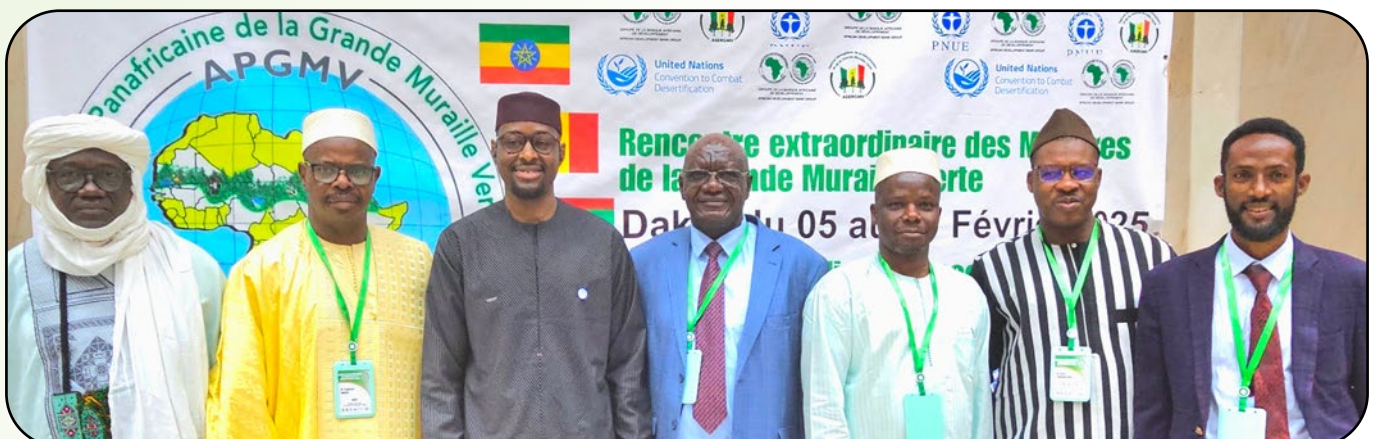
Unified messaging → stronger political leadership & public support

Financial readiness → credible pipelines attracting new investments

Regional water governance → climate resilience and restoration at scale

Combined impact through multiplier effects

These strategies form the operational backbone of the GGW, aligning communication, capital, and ecological planning into a coherent system capable of delivering Africa's largest land restoration effort.



“You cannot protect the environment unless you empower people, you inform them, and you help them understand that these resources are theirs, that they must protect them.”

- Wangari Maathai



RISKS, CHALLENGES, & FUTURE PROSPECTS

Ensuring collective impact of GGW stakeholders to
secure the future of the Great Green Wall



Political Commitment

The Challenge

Ensuring long-term leadership continuity remains a key priority for the GGW Accelerator with renewed vigour at the PAGGW owing to new leadership and its commitments to GGW targets.

Despite operational uncertainties, there is growing momentum to work together for shared success through on-ground impact, leveraging the African Union GGW 2.0 Strategy (2024–2034) as a binding continental mandate.

The Solution

A clearly articulated roadmap endorsed by heads of state will further help maintain strategic coherence and sustained implementation across the Sahel region.

The GGW Accelerator and PAGGW will continue using the COPs and Ministerial Councils to sustain political visibility and accountability, thereby ensuring stable leadership, renewed donor confidence, and a unified 'One Africa GGW' momentum.

National Coordination

The Challenge

As the Great Green Wall scales across countries, National GGW Agencies are navigating increasingly complex coordination environments.

Limited staffing, overlapping mandates, and evolving inter-ministerial arrangements mean that multiple actors often advance in parallel, sometimes without full visibility into one another's efforts.

The Solution

Building on strong existing tools such as the HRMF and the GGW Observatory, the GGW Accelerator, PAGGW, and national governments are strengthening coordination at scale. National GGW Coalitions are being institutionalized as permanent platforms to align ministries and partners.

HRMF indicators are being embedded into national planning and budget frameworks, while targeted investments in human resources, digital systems, and data-sharing are enhancing day-to-day collaboration.



Resource Mobilization

The Challenge

The Great Green Wall has mobilized strong financial commitments so far. The next frontier is translating these commitments into timely disbursements.

Considering that finance follows confidence, even the strongest technical solutions cannot scale without robust governance, clear pipelines, and institutional readiness that reassure donors and investors.

The Solution

To address this, the Accelerator is supporting countries to build bankable pipelines using GGW Observatory data and HRMF results, while advancing pooled and blended finance instruments to simplify access to capital.

By accelerating disbursements, diversifying funding sources, and creating more predictable financing flows, GGW stakeholders must now ensure that pledged resources translate into sustained action and measurable impact on the ground.



Closing the Great Green Wall's funding gap demands bold, coordinated commitments from governments, development banks, and multilateral partners in climate finance

Private investment in the Great Green Wall is not charity; it is a strategic opportunity to build resilience in one of the most youthful demographics on the planet



Private Sector Engagement

The Challenge

Private sector participation in the Great Green Wall is at an early but promising stage. While there have been notable successes, broader engagement is constrained by high perceived risk and limited aggregation of scalable opportunities across value chains and landscapes.

Without meaningful private capital, GGW financing remains overly donor-dependent and insufficient to cover the needs gap.

The Solution

Governments, development partners, and private investors are collaborating to create a more enabling environment through risk-mitigation tools such as guarantees, blended finance, and PPP frameworks.

The GGW Accelerator's work with DeserTech offers a strong model for mobilizing private expertise and capital. As investment clarity improves (particularly around land tenure and risk-sharing), the GGW is well positioned to unlock its full \$30 billion private investment potential in the immediate future.



***“I AM THE LAND AND THE
LAND IS ME.”***

- Māori proverb



FIVE

Years of the
Great Green Wall
Accelerator

***“WE DO NOT INHERIT
THE LAND FROM OUR
ANCESTORS;
WE BORROW IT FROM
OUR CHILDREN”***

- Native American proverb







United Nations
Convention to Combat
Desertification



**GREAT
GREEN
WALL**

With funding from

**= Austrian
Development
Cooperation**



**MINISTÈRE
DE L'EUROPE
ET DES AFFAIRES
ÉTRANGÈRES**

*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*