Sustainability
Stability
Security
Initiative

# A RISING AFRICA IN A FRAGILE ENVIRONMENT

## THE INITIATIVE ON SUSTAINABILITY, STABILITY AND SECURITY

Africa is a continent facing daunting challenges but blessed with huge untapped potential. Climate change, population growth and increasing economic uncertainty put many communities across the continent under immense pressure. In very tangible ways, land degradation, desertification and drought are undermining lives and livelihoods, peace and stability.

At least eleven million young Africans enter the job market every year. In rural areas, where they are reliant on a degrading natural resource base for employment, far too many young people see their hopes for the future evaporating. As environmental and economic pressures combine, vulnerable young people, who cannot move away for a better future, are increasingly trapped. Trapped on degraded land, in a cycle of increasing desperation, frustration and social exclusion, at risk of exposure to extremist activity and conflict.

We must rise to these challenges – no matter how daunting they seem. If we truly want sustainable and resilient societies, a transformation is needed. In particular, a different vision for Africa's rural youth. The *3S Initiative – for Sustainability, Stability and Security in Africa* – is an inter-governmental initiative helping to transform the narrative and unlock Africa's potential.

Countries participating in the 3S Initiative believe that social inclusion can be achieved hand-in-hand with environmental stewardship. If we harness Africa's great strengths – its land, its traditions and its people - we can create at least 2 million job opportunities on 10 million hectares of rehabilitated land in the next few years. By reducing vulnerability and building a future from the ground up, the 3S initiative will show how we can offer young people a chance to both set down roots and a chance to soar.

## WHY FOCUS ON LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES?

Stability and security are directly linked to sustainability in Africa. Land degradation, desertification and drought, in particular, have a profound effect on the availability of natural resources. With less productive land and water available, economic opportunity is vanishing in rural areas. Competition over access to the remaining productive resources is growing. As the population continues to rise and the demand for resources continues to expand, tension over land can be expected to accelerate in both rural and urban settings.

So it is increasingly clear that unequal and inadequate access to healthy and productive natural resources can trigger instability. Poorly managed or degraded land and natural resources are an ecological, social and economic liability. Land dependent communities are having their choices taken away. Migration or conflict over land and resources are often the only options left. Climate change further exacerbates these trends.

However, there is a growing understanding that the good management of land and other shared natural capital can be the basis for cooperation and confidence-building in unstable societies. For much of Africa, land is essential for the creation of future wealth. Preserving and revitalizing the natural resource base and creating sufficient decent jobs for the continent's growing workforce will be vital in the years to come. It can be the basis for a new sustainable economic model for future generations.

## WHAT IS THE INITIATIVE ON SUSTAINABILITY, STABILITY AND SECURITY (3S) IN AFRICA?

It is an inter-governmental initiative launched by Morocco and Senegal that works to address the underlying causes of instability and prevent the emerging threats linked to the depletion and mismanagement of natural resources leading to chaos.

By tackling conditions such as land degradation and scarcity, rural unemployment, insecurity of tenure and competition for resources in a joined up way, the 3S Initiative is adopting an innovative approach. The bold, innovative and ambitious approach has been widely acknowledged and welcomed by the international community.

At the First African Action Summit (Marrakesh, 16 November 2016), the Heads of State and Government launched the initiative and committed to accelerate its implementation building on their own resources and mobilizing multilateral and bilateral donors.

The Migration Dialogue for West Africa (MIDWA) held in Abidjan in August 2016, the Agadir Commitment towards a Mediterranean Regional Initiative on Forest and Landscape Restoration adopted in March 2017 as well as the "Ouagadougou Call for Action on land-based jobs in Africa" launched on the 15th June 2017 all highlight African leadership.

## THE 3S INITIATIVE AIMS TO:

1. Create two million green jobs for vulnerable groups, in particular young people, migrants, displaced populations and individuals targeted by extremist groups, through the investment in the restoration and sustainable land management of ten million hectares of degraded lands by 2025;
2. Strengthen access to land and tenure rights to increase the sense of belonging to a specific community and place, particularly in fragile areas;
3. Prevent displacement by improving preparedness and early warning systems for drought and other natural disasters.

## PARTNERSHIPS FOR 3S IMPLEMENTATION

To achieve its ambitious goals, the 3S Initiative will work to promote partnerships between its African members and the international community.

Twelve African countries have requested to be part of the 3S Initiative so far. Benin, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, The Gambia, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Zambia and Zimbabwe are refining their project ideas and targets.

**Critical targets for 3S projects include the number of jobs to be created and a clear plan for where degraded land can be revitalized and allocated to vulnerable communities.**

In particular, there is massive demand from countries for land-based jobs that support the reintegration of unemployed rural youth, returning and stranded migrants, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and former combatants. 3S Initiative countries are also drawing on their ambitions to halt and reverse land degradation trends as set out under Sustainable Development Goal 15 – Life on Land.

## THE 3S TASK FORCE

The *"Task Force"* is composed of fourteen countries, co-chaired by the Kingdom of Morocco and the Republic of Senegal.

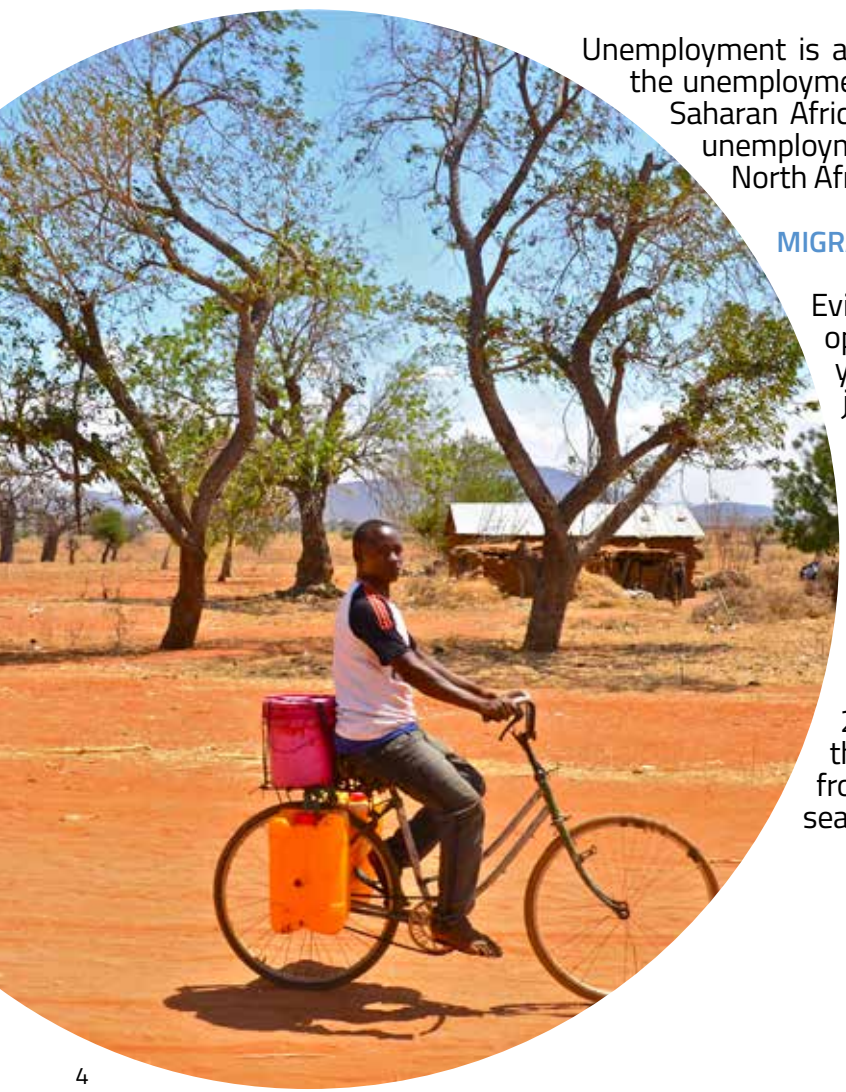
The Task Force guides and promotes the initiative putting forward key elements of the 3S approach in key African and international processes. The Task Force also coordinates efforts to mobilize the necessary expertise and financial resources for project implementation. Due to its cross-cutting nature, the 3S Initiative has the potential to catalyze resources across sectors -public and private - and funds. The secretariat of the Task Force has been entrusted to the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

More information can be found at: **www.3S-Initiative.org**

## EMPLOYMENT

The natural resource-based sectors such as agriculture, the mineral sector, forestry and fisheries are the largest job providers in Africa. Together, these sectors account for 80 % of employment. Tourism, which relies primarily on the continent's natural and cultural wealth, employs 6.3 million people.[1]

Land degradation poses considerable risks to Africa's socio-economic development. 65 % of Africa's cropland is affected by land degradation and recent estimates show that between four and twelve er cent of Africa's GDP is lost due to environmental degradation, increasing poverty and unemployment.



Unemployment is already high, particularly among young people. In 2016, the unemployment rate was 29.3 % and 10.9 % in North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa, respectively[3], compared to the world average youth unemployment of 13.1 %[4]. This means that unemployment among North African youth is among the highest in the world.

## MIGRATION

Evidence clearly shows that lack of adequate work opportunities is a significant driver of migration. Every year, young people migrate from rural areas to cities in search of jobs even in the informal economy of urban areas. Of the ten million more people added to the urban population of Sub-Saharan Africa each year, two-thirds, or seven million live in informal settlements or slums and only two million can expect to ever move out of them.[5]

The highest inclination to move abroad, at 38 % , is found in sub-Saharan Africa. As of 2015, there were almost 51 million international migrants aged between 15–29 years around the globe, accounting for over 21 % of the 243 million migrants worldwide.[6] Over the next decade, this number could increase further, as a larger pool of youth from emerging and developing countries cross borders in search of education and employment.

## EXTREMISM

Extremist groups seize the chance to capitalize on this sense of hopelessness – ISIS, al-Shabaab and Boko Haram offer lucrative opportunities as part of their recruitment campaigns.[7]

## CONFLICT AND COMPETITION

Almost 80 % of fragile states in Africa have experienced armed conflict in the last 20 years. Over the last 60 years, up to 60 % of internal armed conflicts have been linked to natural resources. Natural resources have contributed to the cause or financing of at least 14 conflicts in fragile states in Africa.[8]

Competition and competing claims over scarce resources such as land, grazing areas and water have given rise to localized conflicts in many fragile states. Moreover, conflict in one country can reduce the annual rate of growth in a neighboring country by 0.5 %.[9] The neighboring countries may receive an influx of refugees, experience disrupted trade, get involved in the arms race, provide a haven for rebels, and in turn themselves become a theatre of a new war.

Land and natural resource-based conflicts commonly become violent when linked to wider processes of exclusion, social discrimination, economic marginalization, and the perception that peaceful action is no longer an effective strategy for change.[10]

## POST-CONFLICT SITUATIONS

The sound and effective management of land and natural-resource sectors can aid recovery in post-conflict situations.[11] It supports the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) process in many ways.[12]

Land and natural resources are critical assets in humanitarian operations that provide food, water, construction materials, and renewable energy. They also support coping strategies and basic survival in the absence of sustainable livelihoods. Moreover, natural resource and land management offers distinct entry points for immediate post-conflict income generation and creation of sustainable employment during reintegration and recovery process.

Delays in the effective management of natural resources following the end of conflict may allow former members and commanders of armed groups to continue profiting from the exploitation of natural resources and even lead to the creation of organized crime syndicates.[13]

Land restoration can already contribute to the achievement of many of the Sustainable Development Goals.[14] Yet, the most vulnerable will be left behind unless there is a significant and coordinated action that also addresses youth employment and reintegration of vulnerable individuals in migration prone, fragile and conflict-sensitive areas.

Land restoration to promote sustainability, stability and security, is a bold step towards an inclusive green growth approach. It will reduce the environmental impact of several economic sectors while creating jobs that conserve and rehabilitate the environment. It could lift tens of millions of vulnerable young people out of poverty. It is estimated a global transformation to a greener economy could generate up to 60 million additional jobs globally[15] over the next two decades.

Africa, in particular, has enormous potential to achieve a positive development trajectory if it adopts a green economic model. New horizons will open up. With its rapidly expanding labour supply, complemented by fast-growing domestic markets and a rich supply of natural resources and diverse ecosystems, economic and social progress can be achieved – for all.

By promoting the inclusion of marginalized and vulnerable groups of society, the 3S Initiative is a step in the right direction. It will stabilize "at risk" areas, provide an effective response to potential crises and create opportunities for a new start in life. It will give people choices and a new day will dawn for Africa.

Success will depend on political leadership at all levels, forward thinking investment, cutting edge knowledge and technology and capacity building. African governments will need partners and the involvement and support of stakeholders from across civil society, especially entrepreneurs and youth.

# THE 3S PROJECT PIPELINE (AS OF 1 JULY 2018)

**Benin**
Restoration of agricultural degraded lands for carbon emissions mitigation and ecosystems adaptation to climate change and green jobs creation in Alibori, Borgou and The Collines Departments
No of Jobs: 50,000
No of Hectares: 100,000

**Burkina Faso**
Transform the rural world through the creation of eco-villages: a model for the Sahel
No of Jobs: 400,000
No of Hectares: 2,000,000

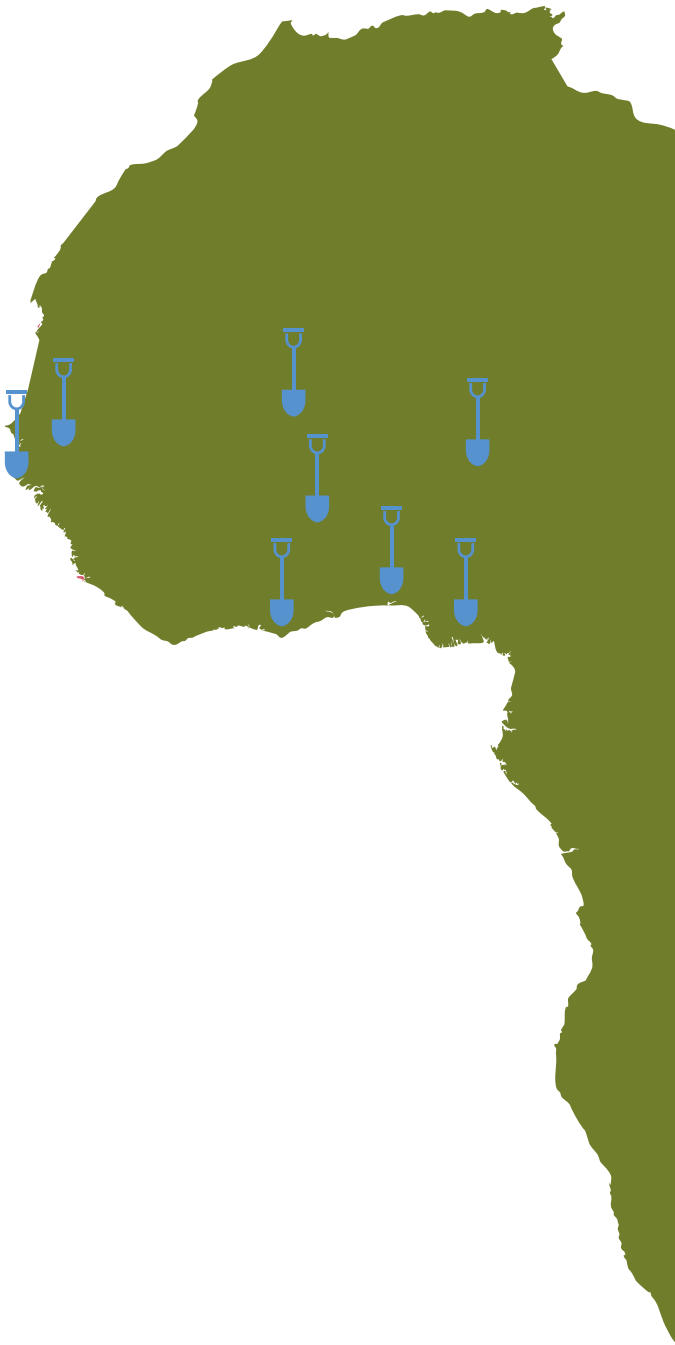
**Chad**
Protection and Management of the Kariary and Ourba Watershed in the Ennedi East and Wadi Fira Regions
No of Jobs: 40,000
No of Hectares: 100,000

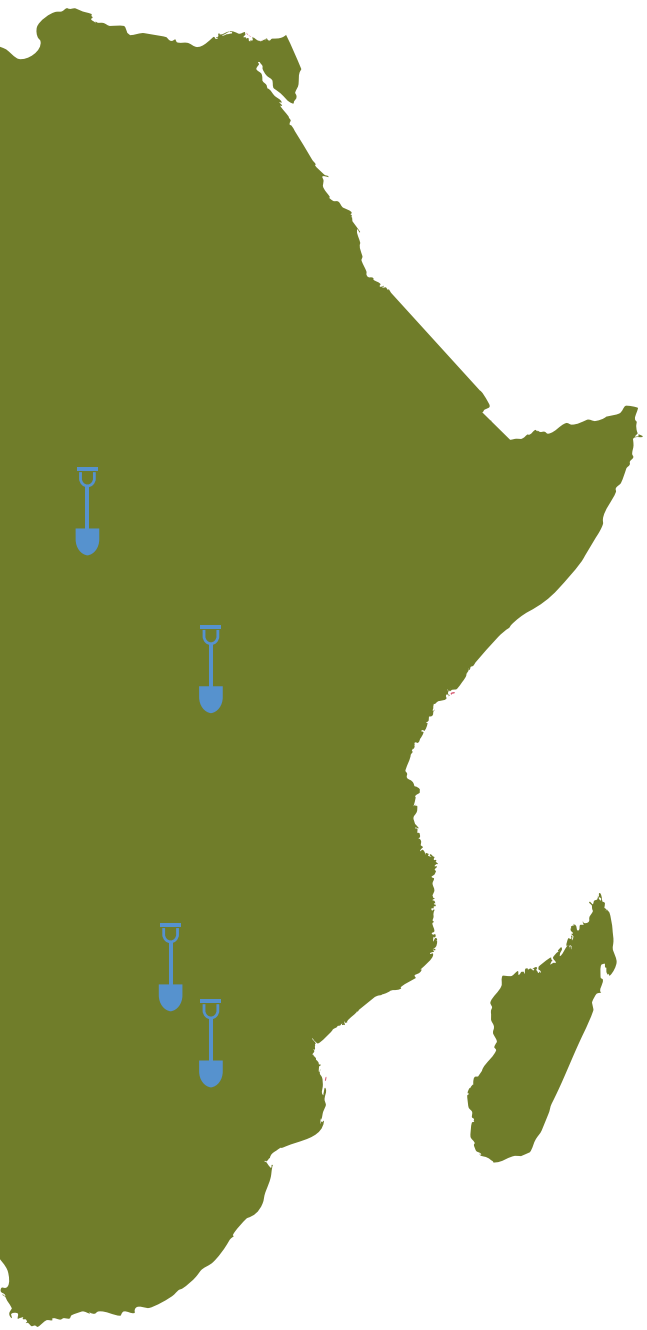
**Central African Republic**
Initiative in Mbomo
No of Jobs: 10,000
No of Hectares: 300,000

**The Gambia**
Land-Based Jobs for Youth and Returned Migrants
No of Jobs: 25,000
No of Hectares: 50,000

**Ghana**
Land Restoration for Food and Jobs in the Northern Savannah Zones
No of Jobs: 180,000
No of Hectares: 430,000

**Mali**
Create new jobs for returning migrants through the valorization of Arabic gum
No of Jobs: 10,000
No of Hectares: 10,000





**Nigeria**
Land recovery and stabilization of the basins in the Northeast
No of Jobs: 200,000
No of Hectares: 250,000

**Niger**
Project for the development of green jobs through the recovery of degraded lands
No of Jobs: 25,000
No of Hectares: 150,000

**Rwanda**
Restoration and sustainable management of small natural forests and shrub land to build resilience to climate change and improve life of local communities in Eastern Rwanda
No of Jobs: 10,000
No of Hectares: 40,000

**Senegal**
Support for the development of nature-based enterprises and creation of green jobs to enhance the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable land use in Community Protected Areas
No of Jobs: 25,000
No of Hectares: 320,000

**Zambia**
Plant a Million Initiative; a movement intended to uplift the impoverished through development of a responsible "tree-based economy".
No of Jobs: 300,000
No of Hectares: 600,000

**Zimbabwe**
Promoting inclusive sustainable land rehabilitation programme for vulnerable women and youth
No of Jobs: 400,000
No of Hectares: 800,000

*As resources are identified, the project pipeline will be rolled out.*

## THE AGADEZ PILOT PROJECT - RESTORING DEGRADED LANDS TO CREATE JOBS FOR MIGRANT REINTEGRATION IN WEST AFRICA AND PREVENT RADICALIZATION

Agadez was chosen as "demonstration site" for creating the first land-based jobs under the 3S because of its location. Agadez is a city afflicted by mass migration flows in transit towards Libya. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), more the 100.000 migrants transited from the region in 2016. The IOM Transit Center in Agadez hosts migrants waiting to return in their countries of origin. During their stay at the IOM Center, The 3S project is to provide migrants with the opportunity to get training and update their agricultural skills and to facilitate the reintegration on the site provided by their government in their country of origin.

At the end of this project,

- At least 470 ha of degraded land will be restored and 470 land-based jobs will be created for unemployed youths, returning migrants and former smugglers;
- 500 West African migrants in transit will be trained on land restoration on the site in Agadez.

At the same time, other sites in the countries of origin of the migrants present in the IOM Transit Center (Mali, Nigeria, Senegal and The Gambia) are being identified by the respective governments. The aim is to create 500 land-based jobs on each site by granting land access rights to the new users/returning migrants and mobilize further investments for the basic tools and infrastructures needed for the site restoration. The goal is to create nearly 3,000 jobs in 2 years.

Upon return to the country of origin, the migrants will be offered with a reintegration package that includes: a plot of land with secured access rights and/or tenure, the necessary tools to rehabilite the land and financial compensation that will allow the beneficiary to have a little income until the land becomes productive (average estimated time: 2 years). Although the remuneration is a temporary measure, the rationale is completely different from a "cash for work" scheme. The tenure and rights over their "own" land will make the beneficiary

feel more like "a small entrepreneurs receiving a start-up incentive".

The pilot phase in Agadez aims at demonstrating the effectiveness and large-scale replicability of the approach. The model is designed to show that in targeting the land for rehabilitation and proposing an appropriate set of incentives, it is possible to encourage migrants to return home and go where jobs exist or can be provided.

## MALI - CREATE NEW JOBS FOR RETURNING MIGRANTS THROUGH THE VALORIZATION OF ARABIC GUM

Three-quarters of Mali's population lives in a rural environment and more than half of them live below the poverty line. The population is very young with half of Malians aged under 15. Moreover, in the last thirty years, Mali has experienced a 30 % decrease in average rainfall and seasonal droughts have become more frequent and severe. As a result, overexploitation of forest resources and migration appears to be an easy way to fight poverty for most households.

The regions of Kayes, Koulikoro, Sikasso are particularly affected by advanced land degradation and reduced vegetation cover due to the unsustainable use of land and climate change. In these regions, declining agricultural productivity coupled with widespread instability forms pushes many Malians towards irregular migration to support their families. Returned migrants often report a sense of shame and failure because of their return and the feeling of becoming an additional burden to their families.

In this context, the 3S project aims at creating jobs for the migrants that return to the three regions as well as for the youth that are planning to leave. The new jobs will be created in the gum arabic value chain and in the exploitation of non-timber forest products such as almonds, shea nuts, cashew nuts, zaban, etc. The project aims at creating 10.000 jobs by recovering 10.000 ha of degraded lands and planting trees to contribute to the objectives of the Great Green Wall.

Until the new planted trees generate enough income, a small monthly compensation will be provided monthly along with tenure agreements to encourage the youth to persist in land restoration activities. The project will be directly connected with the training activities on the site managed by IOM in Agadez.

## BURKINA FASO - TRANSFORM THE RURAL WORLD THROUGH THE CREATION OF ECO-VILLAGES: A MODEL FOR THE SAHEL

Burkina Faso loses 470,000 hectares of land every year due to a combination of natural and human factors. This continued degradation of the land is a main cause of economic stagnation, migration and instability in the country. It is estimated that more than 9 million hectares of land, one third of the country's surface, are seriously or totally degraded. As sources of income and employment for at least 85% of the population, land-based activities generate more than 60% of national wealth.

To break out of the vicious cycle of poverty and the out-migration of young people, the Government of Burkina Faso has developed a national strategy to transform 2000 villages into eco-villages by 2020. Each eco-village will be provided with solutions to develop renewable energies as well as with the infrastructure, tools and the capacities to reverse the trends of land degradation. At the end of a five-year project, 2 million hectares of degraded land will have been restored in 900 eco-villages and 400,000 jobs will have been created (each household operating 5 hectares). These jobs will be offered first and foremost to youth Burkinabe that struggle to find jobs and provide food to their families.

Four main types of interventions are being planned:

- Provide solar ovens and lights at the household level;
- Develop basic training to facilitate the creation and multiplication of the number of small enterprises and connect them to national and international value chains
- Provide the necessary tools and capacity building to restore/rehabilitate degraded land, including solar pumps and small irrigation infrastructure;
- Enhance community health and education infrastructure by developing lighting and construction of basic village-level infrastructure.

## THE GAMBIA - LAND-BASED JOBS FOR YOUTH AND RETURNED MIGRANTS

On average, 12.5 tonnes of soil are lost per hectare per year in The Gambia. In addition, rural Gambians face: endemic poverty, inefficient and unproductive agricultural practices resulting in poor yields and regular loss of crops as a result of irregular rainfall, and weak and undeveloped value chains for agricultural commodities. This leads to limited access to markets and low prices paid for produce with inadequate storage and preservation facilities. The 61% of the rural population that falls below the poverty line, with an income of less than 1.50 USD per day, is disproportionately affected by environmental degradation. The median-income in agriculture is the lowest in the economy.

Since land-based sectors fail to offer viable livelihood options to the increasing youth populations in the rural areas on exodus to urban areas and migration to other countries is becoming the only viable option. Pushed by the need to help their families, many young Gambians choose to make the long and dangerous journey to Europe. Countless migrants disappear into immigration detention centers or vanish in the sands of the Sahara. Those who are able to complete the journey are often dismissed as economic migrants and sent back home.

To reintegrate the returned migrants and give an alternative to migration to the other youth that are struggling to have an income, The Gambia is investing in a 3S project that will create 25,000 land-based jobs for rural youth and returning migrants. Creating new employment opportunities will help providing young people with sustainable incomes. In the next five years, an action plan will prioritize investments in youth kafos (traditional village groups) that will rehabilitate the land and revitalize local vegetable gardens. To create 5,000 new jobs a year, traditional authorities and local governments will offer young people secure access to the land and will facilitate land registration. The 3S Initiative will help mobilize the investments needed to then develop opportunities in the land-based economic sectors particularly agro-food, forestry and eco-tourism.

## ZAMBIA - PLANT A MILLION INITIATIVE; A MOVEMENT INTENDED TO UPLIFT THE IMPOVERISHED THROUGH DEVELOPMENT OF A RESPONSIBLE "TREE-BASED ECONOMY"

The rural areas of Zambia are greatly suffering from deforestation. Zambia is losing 276,000 ha of forest per year, making a loss of over 100 million trees or roughly 6% of native ('wild') trees per year due to illegal logging. To counteract this phenomenon, the Government of Zambia has launched the "Plant a Million Trees" campaign. The campaign's objective is not just to plant trees, but to foster a 'tree-based-economy' with the aim of diversifying the country's economy and ending its copper dependency. This will be done through cultivation of sustainable timber, agri-food processing, planting of exotic and indigenous fruit trees, nut trees and other edible foliage, manufacturing wood for wood products, and many other additional endeavors.

The goal is to create 300,000 new jobs in the planting, maintenance and sustainable exploitation of the trees. In order to make the initiative economically viable in the long-term, the Government of Zambia will also facilitate the enabling environment for and incentives to promote 'value-addition' industries for trees, including bio-oils, fruit juices, furniture and other wood- products. A key part of the project is the creation of tree nurseries to continuously supply new plants in the targeted areas. Moreover, to train future generations, a 30 % share of the profits will be channeled into an educational fund for children and youth.

The length of time until profitability will be directly affected by the growth-rate of the trees and the yield of tree-products (fruits/oil/nuts/ timber, etc). In order to achieve income in the shortest possible time-frame some fast- growing species will be included, e.g. moringa and bamboo, which will yield a harvest in 1 – 2 years. The wider economy in the area will move in tandem as bamboo will be harvested for use and processed locally while the moringa leaves can be picked, dried and ground locally too. The target Internal Rate of Return (IRR) is 20%+ for the business ventures through value- added products sold locally, regionally and on international markets.

More information can be found at:
**www.plantamillion.co.zm**

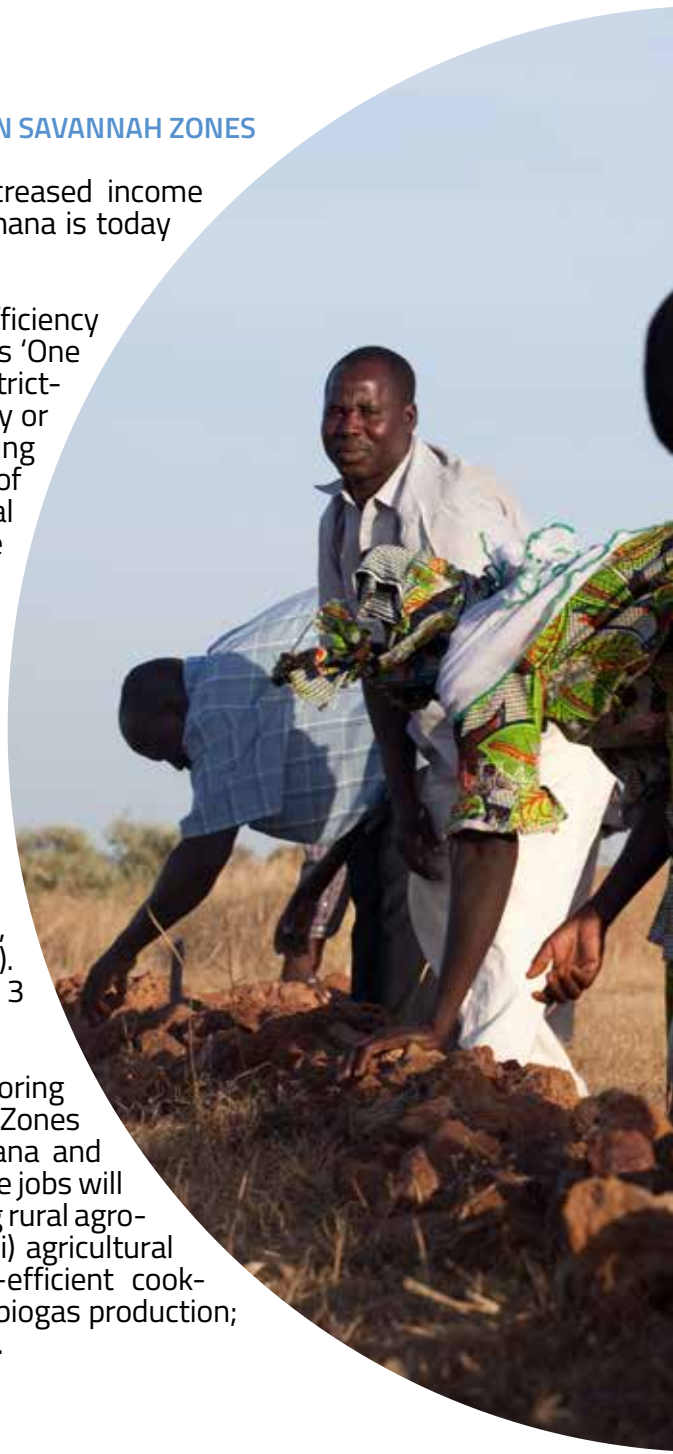
## GHANA - LAND RESTORATION FOR FOOD AND JOBS IN THE NORTHERN SAVANNAH ZONES

Due to the increased degradation of natural resources and decreased income opportunities, almost one in every five people born in northern Ghana is today leaving to southern Ghana.

In order to create new job opportunities and improve food self-sufficiency in the North, the Government of Ghana has launched the initiatives 'One District, One Factory' and 'Planting for food and jobs'. The 'One-District-One-Factory' program is aimed at establishing, at least, one factory or enterprise in each of the 216 districts of Ghana as a means of creating economic growth poles that would accelerate the development of those areas and create jobs for the teeming youth. The main goal of the policy is to transform the structure of the economy from one dependent on production and export of raw materials to a value-added industrialized economy, driven primarily by the private sector.

The 'Planting for Food and Job' campaign call on every single Ghanaian to take farming as a full time or part time activity. The policy is built on five major pillars: (i) supply of improved seeds to farmers at subsidized prices (50% subsidy); (ii) supply of fertilizers to farmers at subsidized prices (50% price cut); (iii) free extension services to farmers; (iv) marketing opportunities for produce after harvest; (v) e-agriculture, a technological platform to monitor and track activities and progress of farmers through a database system. The five crops subsidized in the initial pilot phase are: maize, rice, soybeans, sorghum and vegetables (tomato, onion and chili pepper). To be part of the campaign, a farmer requires a minimum of 2 to 3 acres.

Building on these policies, the 3S project in Ghana aims at restoring 400,000 hectares of land in 14 districts in the Northern Savannah Zones (NSZ) and Ecological Transition Zone of the Eastern Region, Ghana and creating 12,000 direct jobs and 25,000 indirect jobs in 3 years. These jobs will be created by: (i) re-activating or expanding the processes of existing rural agro-processing industries (tomato, shea butter, fruit juice, moringa); (ii) agricultural waste-based biomass energy retooling with improved energy-efficient cook-stoves (bamboo and rattan); (iii) domestic waste management for biogas production; (iii) improved food crop production through rainwater management.



## RWANDA - RESTORATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF SMALL NATURAL FORESTS AND SHRUB LAND TO BUILD RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND IMPROVE LIFE OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN EASTERN RWANDA

The Eastern region of Rwanda is characterized by dry climate, limited rainfall and a lack of quantity, quality and diversity of native seeds. The small scattered protected forests are being used by local residents to have more space for their basic infrastructure, their cattle and more farming land. Deforestation is a main issue in the Province as, due to lack of alternative sources of energy and insufficient forests, local population are cutting trees for basic needs such as firewood, medicines, and construction materials.

The 3S project aims at restoring and promoting the sustainable management of 11 protected small natural forests and shrub land in the Eastern part of the country by establishing buffer zones of protected forests and restoring the surrounding areas by intensifying agroforestry. Land ownership is dominated by private land, but public land is also available especially around Akagera National Park. The small natural protected forests will be the starting point to promote a community based approach to restore/ establish buffer zones as protective forest on 40,000 ha, using well adapted tree species.

This will create around 10,000 jobs for youths and women especially in tree seed and seedling production, tree planting, forest management, agroforestry farming, fruit tree production and fruit value addition, non-timber forest products value chain, improved agriculture practices. The project will also involve former reintegrated combatants from Congo and retired security officers grouped into cooperatives to be more effective and this will in turn promote social cohesion.

## ZIMBABWE - PROMOTING INCLUSIVE SUSTAINABLE LAND REHABILITATION PROGRAMME FOR VULNERABLE WOMEN AND YOUTH

In Zimbabwe, migration driven by land degradation is a main issue in the 9 districts, namely Mazowe catchment(Shamva, Mbire, Chikomba), Mutasa, Gweru, Bindura, Makonde, Sanyati (Mhondoro Ngezi), Gwayi (Hwange), Umzingwane (Mzingwane, Beitbridge) and Runde (Chivi and Zvishavane), where rural communities heavily rely on land productivity for agriculture.

These areas include settlements, arable as well as grazing lands and common ecosystems such as forests, grasslands and wetlands. In these districts, land restoration will ease population density per hectare and pressure on communal land and allow the provision of land or extension of land based projects such as crop production (rain fed and irrigation systems), horticulture and animal husbandry.

Zimbabwe aims at creating over 400 000 jobs as a result of the implementation of 3S initiative. A thorough Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) program will be a key component of the project preliminary activities to ensure engagement of the local communities. As experienced from similar projects in the country, an individual is expected to benefit at least $150 per month which for a rural community is sufficient to cover daily family requirements.

The Initiative will target youth, unemployed men and women under the age of 50 years, prioritizing disabled, widowed and displaced people. A vulnerability assessment will be carried out to identify the rightful beneficiaries and a gender specialist/social scientist will be engaged to ensure the selection is also gender sensitive. sensitive. Community leaders will be engaged to ensure the selection is fair and that there is ownership of the project.

## NIGERIA - LAND RECOVERY AND STABILIZATION OF THE BASINS IN THE NORTHEAST

Desertification continues to be a main driver of severe food insecurity and civil conflict in northern Nigeria. It is estimated that between 2,000 and 3,500 $Km^2$ of land are lost each year. Over the past two decades, sand dunes have expanded by 400 %, and have started to cover large portions of farmland in agriculturally productive regions leading to the disappearance of entire villages. In some areas of northern Nigeria, there has been no harvest and no planting for the past 3 years.

The Boko Haram conflict that impacted northern Nigeria more seriously than other zones in the past nine years caused massive internal displacement of millions of people, particularly in the north-eastern states of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe. These states host around 93 % of the country's 1.75 million internally displaced persons (IDP)s.

More durable approaches that entail restoring degraded lands and natural resources, alleviating poverty, providing jobs, and building infrastructure are necessary in order to promote the sustainable reintegration of displaced groups.

Most of the activities of the 3S project will be concentrated in the Hadejia-Jama'Are River Basin area, which is located in the core of Desertification Frontline States (DFS): Adamawa, Borno, Jigawa, Kano, Katsina, Yobe, and Zamfara. This project aims at contributing to the stabilization, increased food security and economic development of Northern Nigeria by creating employment opportunities for IDPs through the restoration of degraded lands and commercialization of products from the newly revitalized areas. Its objectives are:

- Restoring 250,000 hectares of degraded land across Kano, Katsina, Jigawa, Bauchi, Yobe, Adamawa, and Borno States by 2025 by revitalizing and sustainably managing the Hadejia-Jama'are River Basin;
- Create 200,000 direct jobs for IDPs and unemployed youths by creating farming communes, facilitating access to land and tenure and providing rural infrastructures and agricultural inputs for the cultivation of crops such as maize, sorghum, millet, beans and onions;
- Build capacity and develop skills of IPDs and unemployed youths through delivery of technical trainings on farming techniques and business development to access national markets ;
- Promote environmentally sustainable inclusive markets models through the development of local value chains, such as sorghum, maize, millet and dry rice, and foster linkages with malting beverage industry in Nigeria.

## CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC - INITIATIVE IN MBOMO

Natural resource-based sectors such as agriculture and forestry are the backbone of the economy of Central African Republic (CAR) and the foundation of food security. This means that land is an essential asset for the country. Due to its economic, political and cultural value, land control has always been an important trigger of tensions between different groups in CAR.

The marginalization and abandonment of rural areas has largely fueled insecurity in the country since the mid-1990s: on the one hand, through the integration of rural youth through violence; on the other hand, with the exacerbation of conflicts between breeders and farmers. The Government of the CAR recognizes that the vicious cycle of fragility, conflict and poverty can be broken only by tackling the root causes that create it. It is in this perspective that the Government of CAR sees the sustainable management of land and other natural resources as one of the effective approaches to overcome the marginality of the Mbomo region to go beyond humanitarian action.

In particular, in order to respond to the high vulnerability of rural dwellers and displaced people, the 3S initiative intends to mobilize investments to (re) build a sustainable rural economy by intervening simultaneously on 6 main axes: 1) give priority to investments in the field of rehabilitation and sustainable land management; 2) to provide productive, remunerative and attractive jobs, such as market gardening and small livestock (poultry, broilers, laying hens, beekeeping, insects and fishing etc.), for unemployed young people and displaced populations; 3) securing land use rights to increase ownership and thus the inclination to invest; 4) organize dialogues between different local actors to promote "inter-community" reconciliation; 5) identify beneficiaries of the reintegration programs as well as the agricultural plots; 6) organize training and incentive "packages".

For the 3S project, the government aims to restore 300,000 ha of degraded land in the hotspots chosen as part of the Land Degradation Neutrality target setting of program: Oubangui 3, Ouham, Kadéi, Nana-mambéré and Mbomo.

## BENIN – RESTORATION OF AGRICULTURAL DEGRADED LANDS FOR CARBON EMISSIONS MITIGATION AND ECOSYSTEMS ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND GREEN JOBS CREATION IN ALIBORI, BORGOU AND THE COLLINES DEPARTMENTS

Between 2000 and 2010, 2.2 million hectares have been degraded. Forests, savannas and humid zones have been converted into agricultural and urban zones and land productivity and crop yields strongly decreased in agricultural land. Poverty, unemployment, increased living costs, and dwindling resources increasingly drive the Beninese to migrate. An estimated 4.4 million, more than 40 %, of Beninese live abroad. Most Beninese emigrants move to West African countries, particularly Nigeria and Cote d'Ivoire. To reverse this negative trend and provide a sound response to instability and migration, the proposed project aims to create land-based green jobs by restoring and increasing land productivity in agricultural lands as well as to strengthen ecosystems and populations resilience to climate change.

The Government of Benin aims at restoring 100 000 ha and creating over 50 000 green jobs. They have chosen the departments of Alibori, Borgou and The Collines to develop a 3S project to scale up sustainable land management practices and climate-smart agriculture activities. These actions build on sound experiences such as the Greenbelt Plantation Project implemented in Alibori department supported by the Korean Cooperation (KFS), and the Soils Protection and Rehabilitation project to improve food security (ProSOL) lead by GIZ in The Collines department.

By restoring and sustainably management agricultural lands, the project will help developing sound diversified value chains, generating sustainable incomes and improving livelihoods. The new jobs will be created for unemployed young people, women and returned migrants.

## CHAD - PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE KARIARY AND OURBA WATERSHED IN THE ENNEDI EAST AND WADI FIRA REGIONS

As part of the land degradation neutrality target setting program, Chad declared its commitment to restore 5,000,000 hectares by 2030 (SDG 15.3). The 3S project will contribute to reaching this target through the recovery of degraded lands, improvement and sustainable management of natural resources, lands and water resources in the Kariary and Urba Watershed area. The two watersheds are located along the national route of the Great Green Wall, 2000 kilometers long and 15 kilometers wide (3,000,000 hectares).

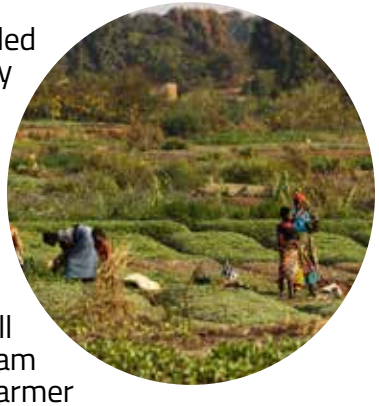
In addition to the local population (approximately 200,000 inhabitants), the region has hosted at least 27,000 refugees from neighboring countries since 2003/2004. In this mountainous area, a water catchment basin has been built in the Kariary area (East of the Region) to revive agricultural and pastoral production systems. To better manage this watershed and serve communities, it is necessary to create a second water retention pond and a green belt around the lake. To this end, the project plans to protect, reforest and support assisted natural regeneration of the perimeters. The production and planting of plants of fast-growing species with high ecological value and the restoration of degraded lands affected by water and wind erosion will be integrated into the approach.

The main beneficiaries of this project are the local populations whose activities depend directly or indirectly on the water from the artificial lake. These populations include farmers, ranchers and refugees. The latter will be among the biggest beneficiaries of the conservation of this water because UNHCR has installed a water treatment plant for refugees from Kariary camp. The project will develop 40,000 new jobs through the establishment of agro-business parks providing employment and income for farmers who were once agro-pastoralists. Agro-business parks can also offer a "return to the land" for young people who would otherwise migrate in search of employment.

## SENEGAL - SUPPORT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATURE-BASED ENTERPRISES AND CREATION OF GREEN JOBS TO ENHANCE THE CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY AND SUSTAINABLE LAND USE IN COMMUNITY PROTECTED AREAS

In Senegal, almost 7,000,000 ha of land are degraded (34 % of the total land area). The cost of this loss in terms of rice, millet and maize —which account for 45% of cropland area— is 103 million USD, or 2 % of the country's GDP. Ever since the 1960s, Senegal's precipitation levels have fluctuated widely from periods of severe, sustained drought to random torrential storms.

Land degradation reduces available resources and the assets that underpin current livelihoods and prevent the development of future opportunities. It accentuates the environmental degradation-poverty cycle, reduces quality of life and food security, and leads to emigration of unemployed young people seeking jobs in urban areas and other countries. The absence of economic opportunity led almost 10.000 Senegalese migrants to cross the Mediterranean Sea in 2016.



In this context, the 3S project is Senegal will focus on restoring and rehabilitating degraded agricultural lands using proven agro-ecological practices that build the long term fertility and health of land in areas affected by salinization and acidification. The project will notably focus on the Fonio value-chain, a cereal crop traditionally grown in the Sahel region, and the development of an environmental friendly, locally produced, and organic product for local consumption and international markets.

The project aims to reinforce and secure rural jobs for about 7,000-10,000 families involved in the Fonio value chain and bring 3,000-5,000 new smallholder farmers into the activity to prevent further rural abandonment. The development of the value chain will create new jobs related to the different services that are needed upstream and downstream with seven service centers for supplies, extension, training, micro-finance; 150-200 farmer organizations and women groups that are already organized, will be targeted as key participants. Finally, the rural communes will benefit in tax returns and development of associated businesses by adding value to Fonio products to expand the value chain and develop new products (e.g. use of Fonio waste products in for biochar).

## NIGER - PROJECT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF GREEN JOBS THROUGH THE RECOVERY OF DEGRADED LANDS

The regions of Zinder, Tahoua and Agadez are proposed for the implementation of the 3S project In Niger. Only 25% of the available land is productive in these areas. These regions are also areas of high out-migration and at the "crossroad" of irregular migration for all of West Africa.

Despite the ambition to restore 213,000 ha per year, the government's capacity to intervene is limited. In 2017, only 33,000 ha were rehabilitated. As part of the 3S Initiative, the government plans to reclaim 150,000 ha of land through dune fixation, invasive plant control and assisted natural regeneration (RNA). The number of jobs to be created through these activities is estimated at around 20,000 for the regions of Zinder and Tahoua, and 4,000 in Agadez.

The land to be rehabilitated includes pastoral land, silvicultural and agro-sylvo-pastoral land. These activities will not be directly related to job creation but are also vital to avoid conflict between farmers and ranchers. For those who wish to be part of the project and work in agriculture, the government plans to grant each beneficiary at least 0.5 ha of titled land.

Key vulnerable groups to the be targeted include: young unemployed rural people to limit the temptation to migrate irregularly or fall into delinquency and crime, returned migrants and displaced persons to support their socio-professional reintegration, and women.

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