ANNEX 6
of the Commission Implementing Decision on the Annual Action Programme 2016 (part 2)

**Action Document: Reversing Land Degradation in Africa by Scaling-up EverGreen Agriculture**

| INFORMATION FOR POTENTIAL GRANT APPLICANTS |
| WORK PROGRAMME FOR GRANTS |

This document constitutes the work programme for grants in the sense of Article 128(1) of the Financial Regulation (Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012) in the following sections concerning grants awarded directly without a call for proposals: 5.3.2.

| 1. Title/basic act/CRIS number | Reversing Land Degradation in Africa by Scaling-up EverGreen Agriculture CRIS number: ENV/2016/39183 Financed under the Development Cooperation Instrument |
| 2. Zone benefiting from the action | Selected countries in sub-Saharan Africa |
| 4. Sector of concentration/thematic area | Environment and climate change
DEV. Aid: YES |
| 5. Amounts concerned | Total estimated cost: 24 440 000 EUR Total amount of EU budget contribution 20 500 000 EUR This action is co-financed by BMZ/GIZ and the World Agroforestry Centre, and the engaged NGOs and potential grant beneficiaries for an indicative amount of 3 940 000 EUR |
| 6. Aid modalities and implementation modalities | Project Modality Indirect management with GIZ for component 1 Direct management – Grant - Direct award with a consortium led by the World Agroforestry Centre through the EverGreen Agriculture Partnership for components 2 and 3. |
| 7 a) DAC code(s) | 41010 (Environmental policy and administrative management): 25%
31130 (Agricultural land resources): 75% |
### b) Main Delivery Channels

GIZ (Secretariat of the International Initiative Economics of Land Degradation), and The World Agroforestry Centre through the EverGreen Agriculture Partnership - 41100

### 8. Markers (from CRIS DAC form)

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<td>Reproductive, Maternal, New born and child health</td>
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<table>
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### SUMMARY

Land is the foundation for food security, economic growth and development. But land is a finite resource subject to growing pressures. Land productivity and terrestrial ecosystem services are threatened by land and soil degradation, deforestation and desertification, driven by demographic growth, a booming demand for food, feed and fuelwood, unsustainable agricultural and pastoral practices, and other land uses. While these challenges are global, the negative pressures happen more intensively in sub-Saharan Africa and the Sahel region, where population growth, poverty, land degradation, and climate change exacerbate conflicts related to natural resources, environmental migration and insecurity.

Reversing land degradation and achieving sustainable land management is essential for meeting rising demands for food, feed, wood, and other goods while addressing climate change and maintaining the range of services provided by healthy terrestrial ecosystems. **Evergreen agriculture** practices are the deliberate integration of trees and shrubs into farming systems and agricultural landscapes. They are a type of agroforestry, and are one of the most effective ways of restoring or maintaining the quality of farmlands. They restore and maintain soil fertility, provide fruits, fuelwood, timber and fodder, and contribute substantively to enhance resilience to drought and climate change, to sequestering carbon in soils and landscapes, to preserving biodiversity and ecosystem services, and to create sustainable landscapes. **Regreening** is the transformation of degraded landscapes, where productivity and

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1 Evergreen agriculture integrates trees with food crops and livestock to create more sustainable and productive agricultural systems for small holder farming families. It is a type of agroforestry that is particularly effective in the restoration of agricultural lands.
resilience have been restored and increased through a widespread adoption of agroforestry and other sustainable land management practices.\(^2\)

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognises the importance of the conservation and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems (Goal 15) and of reversing land degradation and achieving Land Degradation Neutrality (target 15.3). This target is at the heart of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). Sustainable land management is also central to many African countries’ Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. The project is also fully in line with Aichi biodiversity targets 14 and 15 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, 2011-2020, which seek to enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services.

The overall project objective is to improve livelihoods, food security and resilience to climate change and restore ecosystem services, particularly through evergreen agriculture. The specific objectives and project components are:

1. To strengthen the national ability to assess the costs of land degradation and the economic benefits of investment in sustainable land management/evergreen agriculture, in 8 African countries.

2. To equip up to 8 of these countries with surveillance and analytic tools on land degradation dynamics including social and economic dimensions that support strategic decision making and monitoring in the scaling-up of evergreen agriculture.

3. To support up to 8 of these countries in the accelerated scaling-up of evergreen agriculture by smallholder farmers, along with the development of agroforestry value chains.

Under component 1, the project will support countries to assess the total economic cost of ongoing land degradation and the economic costs and benefits of investing in Sustainable Land Management options, especially evergreen agriculture. Capacities for holistic valuation will be built in 8 of the countries, and initiatives aiming to overcome strategic bottlenecks will be supported. A tool for total economic evaluation of the project impacts will be established and applied.

Under objective 2, the project will support countries to set up an efficient surveillance and analytic framework on land degradation/restoration dynamics and associated aspects. This framework will allow for comprehensive monitoring of program impacts. Strategic decision-making for scaling-up will be strengthened by targeted analytic tools.

Under objective 3, the project will support countries to scale-up evergreen agriculture and regreening measures to reach at least 500,000 farm households and to cover an area of at least 1 million hectares, and will strengthen value chains that contribute to the accelerated scaling-up process.

The countries engaged will be among those where agriculture and food security is a focal sector of EU cooperation. Those are ones where existing EU initiatives can be strengthened by the promotion of evergreen agriculture in national policies and donor programmes, achieved by demonstrating large-scale scaling-up actions with communities and the private sector. The programme interventions will contribute to the longer-term goal of scaling-up evergreen agriculture to 50 million farms in Africa and through its careful monitoring of evolving land degradation/regeneration trends.

The project will be implemented by GIZ (component 1) and by a consortium formed by members of the EverGreen Agriculture Partnership and led by the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), which will

\(^2\) Ch. Reij; R. Winterbottom (2015), Scaling up regreening: six steps to success. World Resources Institute.
ensure the overall management, coordination and technical support of component 2 and 3. The scaling-up process at the grassroots level will be implemented through selected NGOs and civil society organisations.

With regard to SDG 4 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls), the action seeks to promote inclusion and non-discrimination by paying particular attention to the role and rights of women in relation to land use, including the benefits from trees, while ensuring the active engagement of women’s organisations in the scaling up of evergreen agriculture and strengthening the important role played by women in many agroforestry-based value chains.

1. CONTEXT

1.1 Sector/Country/Regional context/Thematic area

Land is the foundation for food security, human well-being and development. It is also the engine of economic growth in many countries in Africa. But land is a finite resource subject to growing and competing pressures from increased food, fibre, feed and fuel consumption, urbanisation and infrastructure development driven by rapidly growing populations and demand for commodities.

This project focuses on reversing land degradation in Africa through promoting evergreen agriculture and re-greening. An estimated 83% of Sub-Saharan Africans are dependent on the land for their livelihoods, yet 40% of Africa’s land resources are currently degraded. In many African countries land degradation is higher than 65%. Land degradation erodes the productivity of farming systems, thereby reducing incomes and food security. Land degradation reduces the resilience of ecosystems and populations particularly in the face of climate change. It also has negative impacts on populations at national/regional level (by reducing the capacity of land to support economic development and negatively affecting the climate and water cycle and ecosystem services), and at global level (greenhouse gases emissions and climate change, biodiversity loss) potentially driving increased poverty, hunger, unemployment, forced migration and conflict.

1.1.1 Public Policy Assessment and EU Policy Framework Public Policy Assessment

The role of healthy soils in addressing climate change and ensuring food security was a major focus of the 21st Conference of the Parties on climate change in Paris. Over 100 countries that are parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) identified the land sector that covers agriculture and forestry in their Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC). This project will contribute to the implementation of the Nationally Determined Contributions of participating countries.

The EU is a Party to the three Rio Conventions: the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) adopted in 1992 at the "Earth Summit" in Rio de Janeiro. This project will contribute to the implementation of these three Conventions, and in particular the UNCCD and its 10-Year Strategy (2008-2018) and the CBD and its Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 by addressing the links between climate change and ecosystems, forests, combating desertification, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable land use and land management for food production.
The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes the importance of the conservation and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems (Goal 15)³ and of reversing land degradation and achieving Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) by the year 2030 (target 15.3)⁴. The objective of LDN is to ensure that the productive land resources we depend on for ecosystem services (water, food, rainfall, etc.) remain at least stable or are being regenerated. Two joint actions need to be taken to make land degradation neutrality happen: avoid further land degradation and recover already degraded land. These two actions are at the heart of this project. With regard to Goal 4 in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, the project seeks to promote inclusion and non-discrimination by paying particular attention to the role and rights of women in relation to land use, including the benefits from trees, while ensuring the active engagement of women’s organisations in the scaling up of evergreen agriculture. The project aims to support and strengthen the important role played by women in many agroforestry-based value chains.

The Land Degradation Neutrality target is central to the UNCCD and to this project. The last Conference of the Parties (COP 12) invited the 195 parties that have ratified or acceded to the Convention to adopt national targets to achieve LDN, to promote the use of LDN targets and projects and other Sustainable Land Management (SLM)⁵ initiatives. It requested the Secretariat of the Convention and the Global Mechanism to engage with donors, to mobilise additional resources for the implementation of the LDN target. It also encouraged developed countries which are Parties to the Convention to actively support the efforts of developing countries in particular by:

(a) providing scientific, technical and financial assistance to help affected Parties requesting assistance to set and achieve LDN targets as well as to implement SLM practices and LDN initiatives;
(b) establishing equitable partnerships that encourage responsible and sustainable investments and practices by the private sector, which contribute to achieving LDN that supports the health and productivity of the land and its people (UNCCD, Decision 3/COP.12⁶).

This project also closely links with the Global Soil Partnership (GSP)⁷ that the EU has strongly supported since its establishment by the FAO in 2012. This partnership aims to improve global soil governance to achieve healthy and productive soils for a food secure world, as well as to sustain other essential ecosystem services. It complements similar initiatives for water (the Global Water Partnership) and land (Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land and Other Natural Resources). The GSP is currently overseeing the development of Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management, to which this project will contribute through its results on the ground.

EU Policy Framework

The EU has a broad range of policies and legislation in place in all areas covered by SDG 15.

The EU Agenda for Change seeks to promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth for long-term poverty reduction by focusing notably on the sustainable agriculture and energy sectors that have

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³ “Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss”.
⁴ “By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation –neutral world”
⁵ Sustainable Land Management is the integration of land, water, biodiversity and environmental management to meet rising demands for food, fibre, and other goods, while sustaining livelihoods and the range of services provided by healthy ecosystems.
⁶ http://www.unccd.int/Lists/OfficialDocuments/cop12/20add1eng.pdf

[5]
a strong multiplier impact on developing countries’ economies and contribute to environmental protection, climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The project will contribute to the objectives of the Development Cooperation Instrument on Global Public Goods and Challenges under its area I (Environment and Climate Change: promoting the effective implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements in developing countries, particularly in the areas of climate change, protection of ecosystems, sustainable management of natural resources, including land and forest and addressing desertification; enhancing the mainstreaming and integration of climate change and environment in development), and its area IV (Food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture: promoting the development of sustainable smallholder agriculture and livestock-keeping through ecosystem-based, low carbon and climate-resilient technologies and (...) sustainable land and natural resource management). By focussing on land degradation, the project will also address one of the root causes of migration (Area V).

This project contributes to the Global Alliance for Resilience Initiative (AGIR) that the Commission launched in 2012 to strengthen nutrition and secure livelihoods of vulnerable households, improve sustainable agricultural and food productivity, and build resilience of communities to climate change and land degradation in West Africa and the Sahel region.

As highlighted in the Commission Communication (2014) “A Stronger Role of the Private Sector in Achieving Inclusive and Sustainable Growth in Developing Countries”, the private sector has a key role to play in fostering development, notably in agriculture and other land-based investments. This project will explore synergies with the Commission’s Agriculture Financing Initiative (AgriFI) that aims at enhancing responsible private investments for the development of agricultural value chains.

1.1.2 Stakeholder analysis

Rural populations and local communities, particularly smallholder farmers and pastoralists, who live in the arid and semi-arid regions of Africa, are the main users of the land across the target countries, where large scale commercial farming is still a rarity. They also are the most severely affected by land degradation and desertification and, as such, smallholders and pastoralists are the main actors and beneficiaries of this project.

Within this large group, two sets of stakeholders stand out. The first are women, and the second are the youth. Women constitute the vast majority of smallholder farmers and are primarily responsible for key decisions such as what crops to grow or how to educate children, often playing a critical role in agroforestry-based value chains, yet they suffer from a vast range of discriminatory practices. Youth, used here to represent a range of socially differentiated groups of young people, are numerous and need secure livelihood options to settle down and get married: whether farmers or pastoralists, underemployed and unmarried youth are prime drivers of instability, insecurity, and migration. And as pastoralists, they are drivers of land use disputes with farmers and other pastoralists. Working with women and youth is therefore expected to achieve a number of mutually reinforcing objectives, including better livelihoods, more employment opportunities, less rural insecurity, higher rural labour availability and greater investments in the rural economy.

The decision-makers and administrators of partner countries will be sensitized to the economic consequences of land degradation processes and the pathways to rural growth through validated economic and land use figures and key scientific information, responsive to their needs to strengthen their commitments to invest in relevant policies and programmes
Influencing country level policy processes will be done in collaboration with local EU delegations and the Secretariats of the three UN Rio Conventions and their respective National Focal Points.

The private sector is key: connecting land users to value chains brings income, investment, and management knowledge to rural areas. Tree products ranging from timber and firewood to fruits and honey are all locally commercially valuable, and sometimes feed national or even regional commodity markets that are largely ignored internationally (kola nut, safou, njangsang, moringa, baobab, karité, etc.). The programme will identify promising value chains in its areas of interventions and boost them by engaging with the companies active in them, particularly micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.

1.1.3 Priority areas for support/problem analysis

Out of almost 15 billion hectares of land worldwide, around 30% is used for agriculture and livestock, but about two billion hectares of productive land are degraded. Agriculture and built-up land expand at the expense of forests and savannahs, especially in the tropics, contributing to around 12 million hectares of productive land degraded every year. As noted in the recent Global Biodiversity Outlook8, an estimated 60 to 70% of global terrestrial biodiversity loss is related to food production. We need to break this cycle preventing land degradation by shifting to sustainable land management practices.

Land degradation costs an estimated USD 40 billion annually worldwide. Degraded land is costly to reclaim if severely degraded. It may no longer provide a range of ecosystem functions and services, with a loss of the goods and many other potential environmental, social, economic and non-material benefits that are critical for society and development.

Soils contain around twice the amount of carbon in the atmosphere and three times the amount to be found in vegetation. It is thus very important to protect and regenerate the organic carbon content of soils. Agricultural practices, particularly those associated with increased tree cover on the land, can be improved to increase soil carbon. Nearly 30% of Africa’s soils are now non-responsive to fertilisers, so that even when farmers apply fertilisers they don’t see increases in crop yield because soil organisms are either not present in appropriate numbers or not functioning appropriately. Trees are associated with a higher abundance and activity of beneficial soil organisms, making them a key component in improving and sustaining soil health.

Land degradation, land use change, deforestation and forest degradation represent 24% of emissions of greenhouse gases globally, and they are by far the main source of emissions in most countries in Africa. They also have a negative impact on the resilience and adaptive capacity of ecosystems and populations in the face of climate change.

While these challenges are global, sub-Saharan Africa and the Sahel region in particular are particularly affected by these negative pressures (rapid population growth, desperate poverty, poor soils and land degradation, climate change, and distressed environmental migration and risks of natural resource conflict risks). African agricultural systems must be transformed in the coming decades: its population will burgeon to 2 billion people by 2050, many millions of which will have joined the middle class and adopted meat and dairy rich diets. At least twice as much food will have to be produced per year by 2050 to meet that demand.

The mismanagement of land has already led to food security crises, to reduced access to (wood) energy, distressed environmental migration, poverty and conflict. These have severe consequences even for communities at some distance from the affected lands. In a situation of inappropriate land use

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practices and falling productivity, compounded by climate change, farmers and other land users initially move to the next available piece of productive land, often driving deforestation - or into urban slums. **Migration** as a result of environmental causes is increasing at an accelerating pace. Current estimates indicate that 135 million people could be at risk of being permanently displaced by desertification and land degradation over the coming decades to 2050, with 60 million of these vulnerable people located in Africa.

**Agroforestry and sustainable forestry** are central to achieving sustainable land management and healthy landscapes. **Trees integrated into farmlands** provide many goods and services. They sustain a green cover on the land throughout the year, maintaining vegetative soil cover. They bolster crop nutrient supply through nitrogen fixation and nutrient cycling, replenish soil organic matter through leaf and twig litter. Their roots improve the structure of the soil and boost its ability to absorb and retain water. The wind and distributed shade they provide help boost crop yields. And while helping annual crops in this way, intercropped trees produce their food, fuel, fibre and fodder. That boosts incomes, boosts carbon storage above- and below-ground, and brings better effective conservation of above- and below-ground biodiversity. With this list of benefits, it is not surprising that **millions of farmers already practice evergreen agriculture** in countries ranging from Niger, Mali, Senegal, and Burkina Faso to Zambia, Tanzania, Malawi or Ethiopia. The adoption of these practices has not only provided them greater household food security, but also more abundant fuel wood and fodder, while increasing soil fertility and cash income.

The protection and management of naturally-regenerating trees and shrubs established through roots and seeds present in the soil, is known as **Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR)**. It has proven to be exceedingly effective as a very low-cost way to restore degraded land, and it is usually far more successful that tree planting in the dryland farming and pastoral systems of Africa at a small fraction of the cost. Evergreen agriculture thus provides a pathway for the **sustainable intensification** of smallholder farming.

**National and international companies** working in partnership with farmers can play a role in the transformation and marketing of tree crops, thereby driving the development of value chains and inclusive agricultural growth. Companies involved in annual food crop value chains can also be engaged in working with farmers to increase the number of nitrogen-fixing trees or shade trees on farms to regenerate soil productivity and thus ensure an increased and sustainable flow of marketable produce. Other opportunities for investments and profitable smallholder value chains lie in timber or fuel wood trees, either intercropped in cropping systems, or through farm woodlots with sequential agroforestry (like the EU funded Mampu project in DRC); fruit and nut trees (cashew, shea, moringa, baobab…); resins such as gum arabic, and sylvo-pastoralism that combines trees and livestock. A number of private investment funds are specifically investing in agroforestry, including the Livelihoods Fund and the Moringa Fund. Driving inclusive agricultural growth also involves further supporting and strengthening the role and rights of women, who often play a leading role in agroforestry-based value chains.

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## 2. RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

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<th>Mitigating measures</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Favourable national policies and legislation for SLM are not in place or are not implemented</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>• Create awareness on the economic costs of ongoing land degradation. Make the business case of SLM-investment understood.</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Successful pilots in the target countries influence policy and legislative reforms to create an enabling environment for evergreen agriculture and SLM adoption.</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Support for countries to strengthen policy, baselines and targets for sustainable land management (e.g. related to INDCs and climate change adaptation/mitigation)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Local farmers are not sufficiently involved in adopting agroforestry practices</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>• Focus the scaling-up efforts on areas that are pre-disposed to the adoption of evergreen agriculture by their proximity to areas where scaling-up has already been successful.</td>
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<td>• Ensure capacity building and practical training at the local level for evergreen agriculture.</td>
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<td>• Scale up rural advisory services in the areas with demonstrated success and the best local benefit/cost ratios favouring the adoption of evergreen agriculture practices.</td>
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<td>• Work with the partner organisations (e.g. NGOs) that have had demonstrated success at scale in farmer adoption of participatory natural resources management.</td>
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<td>• Support community-based organisations to enhance farmer-managed natural management, improve tree management, and manage livestock grazing to protect young trees.</td>
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<td>• Boost existing tree product value chains, and support the creation of promising new ones.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lack of economic incentives to invest in agroforestry</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>• Stimulate the involvement of the private sector in the scaling-up of specific tree crops e.g. shea, moringa; baobab, gum Arabica, etc. where business is already actively engaged in supporting evergreen agriculture.</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>• Stimulate conducive governance and self-organisation along the value chains.</td>
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<td>Low project sustainability</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Build policymaker awareness of the successes already achieved by local expansion at the ground level</td>
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<td>• Nurture appropriate communication campaigns to spread awareness of the successful upscaling that has occurred, and to further mobilise many new farmers to adopt evergreen agriculture practices</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Support and strengthen ongoing farmer-to-farmer outreach to obtain greater scale until the process reaches a tipping point toward viral adoption at a massive scale.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Facilitate implementation by creating inclusion, and therefore legitimacy, through the equal recognition and participation of men and women.</td>
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**Assumptions**

• Participating countries emphasize sustainable land management and evergreen agriculture at a high level on the political agenda
• EU delegations mainstream project objectives into key national policies and programmes
• International and local partners support and maintain relevant actions and structures after project completion
• Countries have sufficient legislation securing access to and tenure of land for smallholder farmers

### 3. LESSONS LEARNT, COMPLEMENTARITY AND CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

#### 3.1 Lessons learnt

Some regions in the Sahel have experienced major regreening successes, with a large increase of tree densities across agricultural and pastoral landscapes. These include the adoption of evergreen agriculture on over 5,000,000 hectares in the regions of Maradi and Zinder in Niger (the country’s breadbasket production zone), on 500,000 hectares in the Seno plains in Mali, on 200,000 hectares in Senegal, and in parts of northern Ghana, Ethiopia, Malawi, Kenya and other countries. Lessons learnt from these past experiences include:

- Evergreen agriculture and regreening are more likely to succeed where there is a sense of crisis linked to drought and land degradation; where population densities are relatively high and there is significant pressure on land resources; where demographic growth and high population densities reduce possibilities of agricultural expansion or land fallowing and have induced severe resource-related constraints; where on-farm tree densities are low and there is a scarcity of fuelwood and fodder resources; where rainfall is in excess of 350 mm/year; and where pilot programs have been established that have demonstrated major success in up-scaling.

- Smallholder farmers and herders are central to land regeneration and sustainable management. Regreening requires working with smallholder farmers, using simple cost land and tree management practices which have demonstrated their potential, and with livestock herders to ensure freshly regenerated trees are protected from browsing.

- Farmer-managed natural regeneration (FMNR) has proven more effective than the usual tree planting operations in the drylands of Africa. FMNR has now been established as a ‘foundational practice’ upon which other production enhancing practices can be built.
Farmer-centered extension approaches and farmer-to-farmer learning and knowledge sharing have proven effective to build local capacity and to unleash a viral spread of the practices.

Adopting more conducive national policies and legislation concerning access to land is key to promoting long term investments in land management and tree cover regeneration in those areas where they continue to impede progress in scaling-up. Successful experiences in overcoming these constraints are very instructive in identifying pathways to success in the countries where such policies continue to be a significant barrier to adoption.

Community-based organisations are important for the adoption and application of by-laws, particularly to regulate the management of livestock grazing to enable tree establishment, to control wildfires, and to the management of communal grazing and forest land for tree regeneration.

Access to profitable markets for agricultural produce is a major driver for sustainable intensification and farm-level investments in SLM.

Lessons learnt from the Economics of Land Degradation initiative10 will inform and guide the implementation of component 1 of this project.

3.2 Complementarity, synergy and donor coordination

The project will work on the crossroads between agriculture, environmental conservation and forestry. It will complement EU support to agriculture and food security in partner countries, in the framework of Multiannual Indicative Programmes. By providing assistance at the policy level, and additional funding for field action, it is expected to contribute to addressing some of the policy and regulatory constraints, demonstrating concrete pathways to scale-up agroforestry and regreening and enhancing the mainstreaming of these approaches into relevant national policies and programmes and into EU country portfolio.

This project contributes to and complements the Great Green Wall of the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative of the African Union widely supported by the European Commission, particularly by supporting regreening and SLM by local communities.

The African Union launched the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100) in December 2015 to achieve the goal of enabling all farm families in the drylands to practice farmer-managed natural regeneration and assisted natural regeneration by 2025. The AFR100 seeks to restore at least 100 million hectares of degraded forest, farmlands and rangelands across the continent by 2030. This project will directly support the achievement of that goal and the related goal of the Bonn Challenge to restore 150 million hectares of the world degraded and deforested land by 2020 and 350 million hectares by 2030.

3.3 Cross-cutting issues

Women comprise on average 43% of farm labour in developing countries, whilst owning a tiny fraction of farms. Women are key players in both agricultural and pastoral production processes. They are the primary natural resource managers, providers of food security, and repositories of knowledge and expertise on indigenous plants, medicines, food and water. Women regularly face discrimination in rights and access to decision-making fora and processes, resources, extension and support for farms.

This project will pay particular attention to recognise the role and rights of women in relation with land use, to fight gender inequalities while ensuring the active engagement of women organisations in the scaling up of agroforestry and regreening, as well as in relevant policy dialogues and stakeholder platforms. By improving food security, access to fuelwood, fruits and other tree products, and by increasing resilience, the project is expected to make a significant contribution to improving women’s living conditions. The project will, thereby, contribute to the new EU framework for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women (2016-2020).

Evidence shows that youth need clear livelihood options to settle down and get married. When these are absent, frustrated youth turn to other sources of income and status. Across the worlds’ drylands, youth are key drivers of insecurity and instability. And as pastoralists, they drive land use disputes with farmers and other pastoralists. The lack of livelihood options and insecurity feed off each other and drive large migration flows to cities and across borders. Raising the status of youth and boosting their livelihood options through SLM will therefore directly affect migration decisions.

Human rights, primarily the right to food, are also taken into account throughout the project, especially throughout the specific objective 3: scaling up agroforestry/regreening and the development of value chains that contribute to sustainable land management and –as a consequence - assuring the right for people to feed themselves in dignity.

4. DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

The project will promote sustainable land management, contributing to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular SDG 15 and target 15.3, by supporting 8 African countries in assessing the economic impact of land degradation and by supporting up to eight countries to massively scale up evergreen agriculture and the regreening of farm landscapes.

4.1 Objectives/results

The overall objective of the project is to improve livelihoods, food security and resilience to climate change, and restore ecosystem services, particularly through evergreen agriculture. The specific objectives and expected results are:

1. To strengthen the national ability to assess the costs of land degradation and the economic benefits of investment in Sustainable Land Management, in 8 African countries.
   
   R1.1 The economic costs of land degradation and benefits of SLM are assessed and widely communicated to stakeholders and decision makers of all sectors.

   R1.2 The countries’ capacities to conduct holistic economic assessments of ecosystem services and to draw policy scenarios are improved in 8 countries.

2. To equip up to 8 of these countries with surveillance and analytic tools on land degradation dynamics including social and economic dimensions that support strategic decision making and monitoring in the scaling-up of evergreen agriculture.

   R2.1 Land degradation dynamics, dimensions and indicators in target areas are mapped and documented, using baseline and trend data for policy decision making and for monitoring the achievement of the scaling-up targets in each of the countries.

   R2.2 Existing large-scale regreening successes at the grassroots in each of the countries are identified, documented and analysed, and suitable participatory approaches for accelerated scaling-up are elucidated for each country.

[12]
R2.3 Countries’ policy and regulatory frameworks are more conducive to the scaling-up of evergreen agriculture/regreening.

3. To support up to 8 of these countries in the accelerated scaling-up of evergreen agriculture by smallholder farmers, along with the development of agroforestry value chains.

R3.1 Regreening successes are broadly communicated to policymakers, relevant public administrations and the development community in each country to inspire accelerated scaling-up to achieve an overall target of 500,000 farmers (62,500 farmers on average per country).

R3.2 Local organisations and service providers are equipped and promote accelerated regreening at scale to reach at least 500,000 farm households focusing on both men and women, over an area of at least 1 million hectares across the selected countries.

R3.3 Value chains to support the upscaling of the evergreen agriculture production systems are developed or strengthened.

4.2 Main activities

The project will deploy the six steps to success in regreening that were identified through the analysis of Reij and Winterbottem (2015). They distilled the experiences of large-scale successful (and unsuccessful) scaling-up efforts during the past 25 years. The six steps are: i) identifying and analysing existing regreening successes, ii) building a grassroots movement and mobilising partner organisations, iii) addressing policy and legal issues and improving enabling conditions for regreening, iv) developing and implementing a communication strategy, v) developing or strengthening agroforestry value chains, and vi) expanding research activities.

4.2.1 Component 1 (Specific Objective 1)

The first component of this project will aim to achieve two main results and will carry out a number of activities to achieve this.

R1.1 The economic costs of ongoing land degradation and benefits of SLM are assessed and widely communicated to stakeholders and decision makers of all sectors.

The project will support 8 African countries to assess the total economic cost of ongoing land degradation, to develop scenarios and to assess the economic costs and benefits of investment in sustainable land management and evergreen agriculture in particular locations to guide the scaling-up efforts. The macroeconomic benefits will be widely communicated to stakeholders and decision makers of all sectors. The component will focus on the role of ecosystem services provided by land and their relevance within the national development vision. A holistic economic valuation of land degradation, of loss of ecosystem services, and investment opportunities will be undertaken by the Economics of Land Degradation (ELD) Initiative in close cooperation with key national institutions in ten countries. Evidence-based information on the increased revenues from transforming the relevant sectors towards a more sustainable development path will be developed and communicated through numerous tools and methods to decision makers at different levels as well as to the wider public.

Based on these holistic economic valuations, strategic opportunities to implement SLM and evergreen agriculture will be evaluated. The potential benefits from implementing will function as a key incentive for changing the business-as-usual approach, which often leads to further land degradation.
R1.2 The countries’ capacities to conduct holistic economic assessments of ecosystem services and scenario building are improved in 8 countries.

The capacities in countries to ensure a continuous assessment of the value of land-based ecosystem services and its contribution to different economic sectors will be strengthened through support from the ELD Initiative. The ELD Initiative will therefore provide key organizational stakeholders in 8 target countries with the necessary skills to apply the renowned ELD approach to assess the benefits from SLM and to inform the political decision makers on the relevance of land and strategic opportunities to include this in decision making.

Targeting key institutions from the national research and policy sector activities will focus on training on the job for both policy makers and researchers, in particular for young professionals /post-docs as potential future leaders and decision makers. These activities include tutoring by international experts, joint development of economic monitoring and decision making tools, and exposition to the international research community through learning events. Impact of this project will be designed with and handed over to local institutions.

4.2.2 Component 2 (Specific objective 2)

The second component of this project will aim to achieve three main results and will carry out a number of activities to achieve this.

R2.1 Land degradation dynamics, dimensions and indicators in target areas are mapped and documented, using baseline and trend data for policy decision making and for monitoring the achievement of the scaling-up targets in each of the countries.

The ICRAF-designed Land Health Surveillance Framework will monitor trends in soil health indicators (erosion, soil organic carbon, pH, vegetation cover…) and integrate these with other relevant and available data (security, education, health, livestock density…) into a single online dashboard designed for use by non-specialist policymakers for scaling-up evergreen agriculture. Data will be acquired through field visits, remote sensing, and governments, and it will be ground-truthed by surveys and use of ICRAF’s library of African soil samples, the world’s largest. This framework and the use of the Collect Earth Tool will provide the specific project targets and tree-cover baselines for the scaling-up of target areas for each country. It will be deployed to monitor the trends during and after the project runtime and it will inform local interventions on an ongoing basis. The data sets will be enriched by the economic assessments, monitoring and decision-making tools developed under Component 1.

R2.2 Existing large-scale regreening successes at the grassroots in each of the countries are identified, documented and analysed, and suitable participatory approaches for accelerated scaling-up are elucidated for each country.

The existing regreening successes in the target countries will be analysed to identify key success factors and key barriers to adoption. Baseline Land Health Surveillance Framework and field data and surveys will be deployed to examine the legal, regulatory, institutional, and local frameworks and stakeholders. Investigation will focus on all potentially relevant stakeholders including land users, local to national authorities, the policies they promulgate and those charged with enforcing these policies, customary rules and authorities, and private actors involved in local value chains. This analysis will inform the development of the stakeholder engagement plans through the Decision Analysis component of this project.

R2.3 Countries’ policy and regulatory frameworks are more conducive to the scaling-up of evergreen agriculture/regreening.
Activities will support the scaling-up process by refining and deploying proven and innovative participatory decision-making processes developed to shift decision-making cultures, bridge sectors and institutions, accelerate scaling-up and ensure sustainable development outcomes. The framework will include the spatially explicit assessment of soil and land health and local knowledge described above. It will be tailored to specific decision needs in the engaged countries, and will bring together processes, evidence and tools to assist in shifting towards more inclusive, inter-sectoral and inter-institutional integration to better enable the accelerated scaling-up to succeed. The project will provide advice and guidance to partner countries and donors for the adoption of more conducive national policies, legislation, and development interventions.

4.2.3 Component 3 (Specific objective 3)

The third component of this project will constitute the bulk of activities in scaling up evergreen agriculture at national levels and it is also the component of the project where the most financial resources will be devoted. Three main results are aimed at and a number of activities will be undertaken across all results.

R3.1 Regreening successes are broadly communicated to policymakers, relevant public administrations and the development community in each country to inspire accelerated scaling-up to achieve an overall target of 500,000 farmers (62,500 farmers on average per country).

R3.2 Local organisations and service providers are equipped and promote accelerated regreening at scale to reach at least 500,000 farm households focusing on both men and women, over an area of at least 1 million hectares across the selected countries.

R3.3 Value chains to support the upscaling of the evergreen agriculture production systems are developed or strengthened.

The activities will be tailored to the country context and will include the following:

- technical assistance to governments, EU Delegations, other donors and other stakeholders to mainstream SLM into their programmes;
- capacity-building of public and private rural advisory services to support the scaling-up process; of
- developing nested-scale communities of practice embracing CBOs, extension, research and private sector actors, including co-learning across networks;
- support to NGOs and CBOS with small grants and technical advice to promote and adapt agroforestry, evergreen agriculture and grazing management practices;
- facilitate scaling-up mechanisms based on farmer-to-farmer visits, citizen science and the support of experienced farmer-disseminators;
- organizing the provision of locally-appropriate tree and crop varieties (e.g. fruits, timber, fodder…)
- local, national and regional experience-sharing workshops;
- vernacular language trainings on SLM through workshops, radio, mobile phones…;
• building the capacity of key value chain actors, especially with a view to youth and women’s participation;

• develop existing agroforestry value chains (including tree nurseries) through technology and financial support, standards and labelling, better planting material, processing and storage etc.;

• development of catalytic platforms for rural entrepreneurship and resilient productivity increases around supply of planting materials, technologies and capacity building, e.g. through ‘Rural Resource Centres’;

• supporting the scaling up of rural advisory services in the areas with demonstrated upscaling success and that have the best local benefit/cost ratios favouring the adoption of evergreen agriculture practices;

• strengthening of farmer and rural entrepreneurship ‘social capital’ through various forms of farmer, youth and women’s groups;

• national, regional and international media campaigns to broaden public awareness of the successes already achieved in scaling-up evergreen agriculture and build stronger wide-spread motivation to support the effort and to become engaged in the process;

• disseminating the results and assessments upon which the target of 500,000 farm households (over an area of 1 million hectares across selected countries) is based through the organisation of workshops, for example;

• incentivising and recognising the role that larger groups and villages are playing in accelerating scaling-up performance through purpose built outreach and communication programs at the local and national levels.

The implementation of this work will draw upon the work of Components 1 and 2.

4.3 Intervention logic

Valuing the economic cost of land degradation and the economic benefits of investment into SLM/evergreen agriculture constitutes the accelerator of an awareness and capacity development process. Support will be provided to governments to analyse threats and opportunities and to engage in policy development addressing strategic bottlenecks. LDN and related SDGs will constitute the agenda of multisectoral and multi-stakeholder fora. Policy support to the government in the target countries will involve the EU Delegations and seek to build synergies with EU country cooperation programmes, which also offer important opportunities for the integration of SLM into smallholder production systems.

The three components are designed to reinforce each other. The first component will be achieved through the generation of application-oriented knowledge on the potential of including the valuation of ecosystem services into national economies. Learning processes and dialogues will ensure intersectoral communication and development of inclusive policy recommendations and solutions. These efforts will be framed by human capacity-building, allowing key stakeholders to pursue economic valuations and transfer their assessments to other regions and sectors. The data on the economic value of ecosystems will also be used to highlight the benefits of SLM to decision-makers. This data will be linked to the overall monitoring process of this project outlined under component 2. This second component seeks to strengthen knowledge about land degradation status, dynamics and their social and economic dimensions at various scales and applying this to strategic decision-making to support the scaling-up of evergreen agriculture for SLM. Impact monitoring, evaluation and decision making
tools will be developed, allowing to clearly identify the economic value generated by the activities under component 3 at any specific point in time. Activities carried out under components 1 and 2 will contribute to component 3 which strives to scale up evergreen agriculture at the grassroots level, together with the development of agroforestry value chains that contribute to sustainable land management. This component will seek to reach at least 500,000 farm households and to cover an area of at least 1 million hectares.

4.3.1 Target countries

The partner countries will be selected to meet the following criteria: agriculture and food security is an EU focal sector; the EU Delegation and the partner country are committed to scaling-up of evergreen agriculture in their policies and programmes; and the country has demonstrative evidence of success having already been achieved in scaling-up evergreen agriculture and regreening that can be the basis for a further acceleration of the scaling-up process.

Based on the above criteria, a short list of 13 candidate countries has been tentatively established, from which the 8 partner countries will be selected. The shortlist includes:

West Africa: Senegal, Mali, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Niger.
East Africa: Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Somalia.
Central Africa: Rwanda, Uganda.
Southern Africa: Malawi, Zambia.

5. IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 Financing agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not foreseen to conclude a financing agreement with the partner country, referred to in Article 184(2) (b) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.

5.2 Indicative implementation period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 4.1 results 1.1 and 1.2 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 60 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Action Document.

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 4.1 results 2 and 3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 72 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Action Document. Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission’s authorising officer responsible by amending this decision and the relevant contracts and agreements; such amendments to this decision constitute technical amendments in the sense of point (i) of Article 2(3) (c) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014.

5.3 Implementation modalities

5.3.1 Component 1: Indirect management with a Member State agency

Component 1 of this action may be implemented in indirect management with the Secretariat of the international initiative Economics of Land Degradation in Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) in accordance with Article 58(1)(c) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012. This implementation entails the activities described under components 1.1 and 1.2 (see section 4.2.1). This implementation modality is justified because the Secretariat is an entity mandated
to support affected Parties to the UNCCD to implement the Convention, because of the Secretariat's experience in this area and its well-established working relationship with competent national institutions.

The entrusted entity would carry out the following budget-implementation tasks: running the Secretariat of the international initiative Economics of Land Degradation and managing and signing contractual arrangements with beneficiary institutions from eligible countries as well as consultant contracts. These tasks can include the general management and coordination of the project component as well as the organisation of technical workshops, the conduct of outreach and information dissemination towards relevant stakeholders and capacity building efforts in the countries selected.

5.3.2 Components 2 and 3 – Grant: direct award (direct management)

(a) Objectives of the grant, fields of intervention, priorities of the year and expected results

The overall objective is to scale up evergreen agriculture at the grassroots level, and develop agroforestry value chains that contribute to sustainable land management. The main purpose of the action is to provide financial support to third parties. Therefore, the limit of EUR 60,000 per beneficiary does not apply.

(b) Justification of a direct grant

Under the responsibility of the Commission’s authorising officer responsible, the grant may be awarded without a call for proposals to the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) which hosts the EverGreen Agriculture Partnership. ICRAF is a Centre of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).

Under the responsibility of the Commission’s authorising officer responsible and in line with Article 190.1(f) RAP, the recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals is justified because ICRAF is the entity of the CGIAR mandated and with the requisite capacity to generate science-based knowledge about the diverse benefits - both direct and indirect - of agroforestry, or trees in farming systems and agricultural landscapes, and disseminate this knowledge to develop policy options and promote practices that improve livelihoods, boost resilience, restore landscapes and benefit the environment. The EverGreen Agriculture Partnership has built a platform led by ICRAF that fosters collaboration with the major development NGOs and others and is focused on the accelerated scaling-up of evergreen agriculture and other greening options. ICRAF has a well-established and recognised expertise in this area. Possibilities to partner with the private sector to support value chains development through blending operations under the AGRIFI initiative will be explored.

(c) Eligibility conditions

The other consortium members will be selected on the basis of the final choice of target countries. They will be international NGOs that are members of the Evergreen Agriculture Partnership, have field office(s) and proven experience in the promotion of evergreen agriculture and sustainable land management in the selected countries and in working with local NGOs and farmers organizations. The consortium members will respect the eligibility criteria regarding nationality, geographical location and nature of the applicant.

(d) Essential selection and award criteria

The essential selection criteria are the financial and operational capacity of the applicant.
The essential award criteria are relevance of the proposed action to the design, effectiveness, feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.

(d) Maximum rate of co-financing

The maximum possible rate of co-financing for this grant is 80%. In accordance with Articles 192 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, if full funding is essential for the action to be carried out, the maximum possible rate of co-financing may be increased up to 100%. The essentiality of full funding will be justified by the Commission’s authorising officer responsible in the award decision, in respect of the principles of equal treatment and sound financial management.

(f) Indicative trimester to conclude the grant agreement

First semester 2017.

5.4. Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures, and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents, shall apply.

The Commission’s authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility in accordance with Article 9(2)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of products and services in the markets of the countries concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult.

5.5 Indicative budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>EU contribution (in EUR)</th>
<th>Indicative third party contribution (in EUR)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Component 1: Awareness, knowledge and capacity-development on land degradation challenges and scenarios, associated costs and the economic benefits of an enabling environment are strengthened to support scaling-up of SLM in 8 African countries. Indirect management with GIZ</td>
<td>2 500 000</td>
<td>340 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Component 2: Knowledge on land degradation status, dynamics and dimensions strengthened at various scales and strategic-decision making about the scaling-up of SLM and EGA informed in up to 8 African countries. Direct management - grant with ICRAF Consortium</td>
<td>1 000 000</td>
<td>200 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Component 3: Scaling-up evergreen agriculture at the grassroots</td>
<td>17 000 000</td>
<td>3 400 000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Direct management - grant with ICRAF Consortium

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation &amp; Audit (5.8, 5.9)</th>
<th>will be covered by another decision</th>
<th>n.a.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>20 500 000</td>
<td>3 940 000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 5.6 Organisational set-up and responsibilities

Under component 1 (indirect management with GIZ), the ELD Secretariat with its seat in Bonn, Germany, coordinates research activities and policy dialogues in close cooperation with expert partners from the ELD institutional network. It receives strategic guidance from the ELD steering group, which consists of the ELD Scientific Coordinator and representatives of the ELD funding partners. The ELD Secretariat hosted by GIZ is the managerial and organizational centre of ELD, following GIZ rules and regulations for contractual procedures. The ELD Secretariat is further responsible for communication activities within the ELD network and its partners as well as for external communication. The Secretariat is financed by the contributions of its partners and is operating within the time frame of its hosting GIZ project.

Under components 2 and 3, the EverGreen Agriculture Partnership (via ICRAF) will lead a consortium of international NGO members of the Partnership. ICRAF will ensure the overall management, coordination and technical support to the implementation.

A project coordination unit will be established at the EverGreen Agriculture Partnership Secretariat that will guide and manage the implementation of the activities in Components 2 and 3. It will liaise closely with GIZ to ensure coordination of the activities under Component 1 with Component 2 and 3. The unit will have a team with capacity in management, administrative, contracting and financial reporting systems to provide guidance, coordination, and assistance to participating partner organizations. It will ensure effective and efficient delivery of the project outputs, outcomes, and impacts of high quality and on time. The project manager will lead the implementation consortium composed of the partner organizations, and will serve as secretary to the project steering committee.

The project manager will contract professional services as necessary and appropriate to provide expertise related to the scaling-up activities across and within countries. These services will augment the expertise of the NGO partner organizations. It will include, as appropriate, advice and training related to the adaptation and grassroots extension of best practices on evergreen agriculture, guidance on the tailoring of relevant knowledge for project partners including NGOs, CBOs, national and private extension services and in making relevant expertise available to local scaling-up efforts.

A project steering committee will be established to oversee the overall implementation of the project. It will be composed of representatives of the European Commission and all the main implementing partners, including GIZ, ICRAF, and the lead NGOs.

One of the NGO members of the Consortium will be responsible for the scaling-up activities in each country. The NGO selected to lead in each country will be chosen on the basis of an outstanding track record in the successful scaling-up of evergreen agriculture in that country. The responsibilities of the country lead NGO will include the management of grants to local NGOs and/or community-based organizations for specific activities. A protocol for the selection, award and management of small grants will be developed.
A national oversight and coordination committee will be established in each partner country under the guidance of the international project steering committee. The national oversight and coordination committee will include representatives of the lead NGO, the EU Delegation, ICRAF, the project implementing organizations active in the country, and others as appropriate. The lead NGO will be responsible for the project secretariat and implementation in the country.

5.7 Performance monitoring and reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this action will be a continuous process that will feed back into project implementation. The implementing partners shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports and final reports. A dashboard of Key Performance Indicators will be set up before the end of the first year of implementation to allow continuous monitoring of progress and allow reviewers to connect between milestone reports. The data collection and analysis for project monitoring will be carried out by the consortium members under the lead of ICRAF and will be financed under component 2 of this project.

GIZ (for component 1) and ICRAF (for components 2 and 3) will prepare progress and financial reports after the initial 6 months of implementation and at the end of each implementation year. Every report shall provide an accurate account of the implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (outputs and direct outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the logframe matrix. The final, consolidated report, narrative and financial, will cover the entire period of the action implementation.

The European Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

5.8 Evaluation

Having regard to the nature of the action, mid-term and final evaluations will be carried out respectively by ICRAF and by independent consultants contracted by the Commission.

The mid-term evaluation will be carried out for learning purposes, to inform and guide further implementation, in particular with respect to possible fine tuning of the approach, for the three components of the action.

The final evaluation will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including policy revision), taking into account the fact that the components of the action are innovative and that the experience gained can be useful for the broader implementation of the UNCCD and sustainable development agendas.

Terms of Reference for the evaluations will be submitted to the approval of the Steering Committee. ICRAF/the Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least 3 months in advance of the dates foreseen for the evaluation mission. The implementing partner shall collaborate efficiently and effectively with the evaluation experts, and inter alia provide them with all necessary information and documentation, as well as access to the project premises and activities.

The evaluation reports shall be shared with the partner country and other key stakeholders. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, in agreement with the partner country, jointly decide on the
follow-up actions to be taken and any adjustments necessary, including, if indicated, the reorientation of the project.

The financing of the evaluation shall be covered by another measure constituting a financing decision. Further details on the monitoring and evaluation framework for the project are in Appendix 4.

5.9 Audit

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this action, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audits or expenditure verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

The financing of the audit shall be covered by another measure constituting a financing decision.

5.10 Communication and visibility

Communication and visibility of the EU is a legal obligation for all external actions funded by the EU. This action shall contain communication and visibility measures which shall be based on a specific Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action, to be elaborated at the start of implementation and supported with the budget indicated in section 5.5 above.

In terms of legal obligations on communication and visibility, the measures shall be implemented by the Commission, the partner country, contractors, grant beneficiaries and/or entrusted entities. Appropriate contractual obligations shall be included in, respectively, the financing agreement, procurement and grant contracts, and delegation agreements.

The Communication and Visibility Manual for European Union External Action shall be used to establish the Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action and the appropriate contractual obligations.
APPENDIX 1 - INDICATIVE LOGFRAME MATRIX (FOR PROJECT MODALITY)

The expected outputs and all the indicators, targets and baselines included in the logframe matrix are indicative and may be updated during the implementation of the action, no amendment being required to the financing decision.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Results chain</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Baselines</th>
<th>Targets</th>
<th>Sources and means of verification</th>
<th>Assumptions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Improve livelihoods, food security and climate resilience through expanded sustainable land management, particularly through evergreen agriculture</td>
<td>• Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area and area regreened</td>
<td>• XX</td>
<td>• XX</td>
<td>• Data from project monitoring system</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Prevalence of undernourishment**</td>
<td>• % of undernourishment in targeted countries (current year)</td>
<td>• Reduction in the % of undernourishment in targeted countries by XX</td>
<td>• National baselines and monitoring reports on indicators for SDG 15.3</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Prevalence of stunting (moderate and severe) of children aged below five years**</td>
<td>• % of stunting in targeted countries (current year)</td>
<td>• Reduction in the % of stunted children below five years of age by XX</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Rate of net tree cover change**</td>
<td>• XXX</td>
<td>• XXX</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Overall objective: Impact

Specific objectives: Outcomes

1. Strengthen the national ability to assess the costs of land degradation and the economic benefits of investment in SLM

<p>| | Access to analyses of the economics of land degradation | 0 countries currently have access to the analyses of the economics of land degradation | Governments and stakeholders have access to the analysis of the economics of land degradation in 8 countries | ELD national case study documentation | Coordination with UNCCD’s Global Mechanism in the national LDN targeting process |
| 2. Equip countries with surveillance and analytic tools and knowledge on land degradation dynamics, including social and economic dimensions that support strategic decision making and monitoring in scaling-up evergreen agriculture | • National experts' capacities to assess the economic value of land are strengthened. | • 0 experts in the national context of the target countries have the capacity to act as ELD gatekeepers | • 8 experts/country established as ELD gatekeepers and functional as ToTs. | • Reports from stakeholder consultations and capacity development activities. | • Number of individual users accessing the Land Health Surveillance portals | • 10 users currently accessing the Land Health Surveillance portals | • 80 users accessing the Land Health Surveillance portals in 8 countries | • Land Health portals | • Project monitoring reports | • Interviews with project stakeholders | • Interviews with local donors and investment partners | Data, including remote sensing and local project data, is accessible and suitably meta-tagged. All stakeholders are willing to participate in innovative modes of land use planning decisions. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3. Support 8 countries effectively accelerating the scaling-up of evergreen agriculture by smallholder farmers, along with the development of | • Number of hectares where evergreen agriculture is implemented | • The number of hectares where evergreen agriculture/SLM is currently implemented will be ascertained in the eight countries | • 1 million additional hectares regreened by 2023 | • Land Health portals | • Project monitoring reports | Data, including remote sensing and local project data, is accessible and suitably meta-tagged | | | | | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>agroforestry value chains</th>
<th>Number of women and male farmers/farm families implementing evergreen agriculture and SLM</th>
<th>The number of female and male farmers currently implementing evergreen agriculture/SLM will be determined</th>
<th>250,000 female and 250,000 male farmers implementing evergreen agriculture/SLM by 2023</th>
<th>Evergreen agriculture practised on at least 500,000 farms covering at least 1 million hectares in eight countries</th>
<th>Open source socioeconomic reports from governments and other projects</th>
<th>All stakeholders are willing to participate in innovative modes of land use planning decisions.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1 Economic costs of ongoing land degradation and benefits of sustainable land management are assessed and widely communicated to stakeholders and decision makers of all sectors</td>
<td>The results from the ELD-studies in 8 countries are well documented and communicated</td>
<td>0 countries have been covered by ELD assessments and communication</td>
<td>In 8 countries four country-specific publications address key stakeholders for integration of the economic benefits of SLM (target= 32)</td>
<td>ELD Publications and training manuals</td>
<td>Documentatio n of inception consultations</td>
<td>ELD Case Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ELD policy Brief</td>
<td>Training and HCD manuals</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1.2 Countries' capacities on holistic economic assessment of ecosystem services and scenario building are improved</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Number of persons having obtained an ELD training certificate and participated in international exchange programmes (disaggregated by gender)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• XX persons have participated in ELD training and international exchange programmes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• XX women and XX men obtained an ELD training certificate and have participated in international exchange programmes by XX in XX countries (or per country)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project monitoring reports and other material on tracking progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country authorities are willing to take action towards an enabling environment for regreening processes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2.1 Land degradation dynamics, dimensions and indicators in target areas and controls are documented. A dashboard of Key Performance Indicators will be set up before the end of the first year of implementation to allow continuous monitoring of progress and allow reviewers to connect between milestone reports. Collect Earth Tool will provide the specific project targets and tree-cover baselines for the scaling-up target areas for each country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Land Health Surveillance portals set up, populated with datasets, and accessible online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Status of an economic evaluation tool as part of the LHS portals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• No portals have been set up by countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• No economic evaluation tool exists by countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• No tree cover baselines for the scaling-up target areas currently exists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 portals set up in countries by 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic evaluation tool development by 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tree cover baselines established for the target areas in each of eight countries and an end-of-project analysis of tree cover done for each of 8 countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land Health Surveillance portals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project monitoring reports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data, including remote sensing and local project data, is accessible and suitably meta-tagged</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 2.2 Existing large-scale regreening successes are identified, documented, analysed and disseminated, as are the key barriers to the participation of key stakeholders in further scaling up | - Number of country reports on upscaling successes and constraints produced and disseminated  
- Number of Media clips (paper, A/V and online) produced by this project  
- Number of policy briefs produced by this project | - No country reports available currently  
- No specific media clips relating to regreening successes per country targeted exist  
- No policy brief exists | - 8 country reports produced by 2018  
- At least 1 brochure and video produced per country  
- At least 1 policy brief produced per country  
- No policy brief exists  
- No specific media clips relating to regreening successes per country targeted exist  
- No policy brief exists | Project monitoring reports |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2.3 Countries' policy and regulatory frameworks are more conducive to the scaling-up of evergreen agriculture/regreening | - Number of new or amended policies/regulations developed and enacted through this project that enhance the enabling environment for evergreen agriculture/regreening  
- Number of agreed multi-stakeholder land use management plans developed through this project | - An analysis of the baseline situation on the policy enabling environment baseline will be completed for the 8 countries  
- The number of existing land use plans will be assessed for the target areas in each country | - At least 8 reports developed on the steps to enhance the policy environment will be done by 2019.  
- At least eight new multi-stakeholder land use management plans will be developed by 2018 in 8 countries | Project monitoring reports |
<p>| All stakeholders are willing to participate in innovative modes of land use planning decisions. | | | All stakeholders are willing to participate in innovative modes of land use planning decisions. | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3.1 Regreening successes are broadly communicated to policymakers, relevant public administrations and the development community in each country to inspire accelerated scaling-up to achieve an overall target of 500,000 farmers (62,500 farmers on average per country)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Number of country reports produced on the upscaling successes achieved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Number of grassroots organizations trained for upscaling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The number of grassroots organisations aware of and using upscaling techniques will be determined in 8 countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• At least 40 grassroots organisations trained on evergreen agriculture scaling-up across 8 countries by 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project monitoring reports</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3.2 Local organisations and service providers are equipped and effectively promote regreening at scale reaching at least 500,000 farm households</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Number of grassroots organizations capacitated for upscaling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Number of grassroots organizations effectively practising evergreen agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The number of grassroots organisations aware of and using upscaling techniques will be determined in 8 countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At least 40 grassroots organisations trained on evergreen agriculture scaling-up across 8 countries by 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project monitoring reports</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3.3 Value chains and production systems that contribute to evergreen agriculture at scale are developed or strengthened</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Number of value chains developed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The number of existing value chain surveys in 8 countries will be determined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• At least one new value chain survey is completed in each of 8 countries by 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project monitoring reports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of evergreen agriculture/agroforestry/regreening value chain support projects completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of value chain surveys conducted in target areas</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>