



Regreening Africa

Reversing Land Degradation in Africa by Scaling-up Evergreen Agriculture



Photo: World Agroforestry Centre/Sophie Mbugua

Regreening Africa is an ambitious five-year project that seeks to reverse land degradation among 500,000 households, and across one million hectares in eight countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. By incorporating trees into croplands, communal lands and pastoral areas, regreening efforts make it possible to reclaim Africa's degraded landscapes.

Land is the foundation for food and nutrition security, human well-being and development; and the engine of economic growth in most African countries. But it is a finite resource, subject to growing and competing pressures: from increased demand for food, fibre, feed and fuel; urbanization; and infrastructure development.

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83% of people in Sub-Saharan Africa are dependent on land for their livelihoods, yet two-thirds of the land is highly degraded

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Land degradation threatens the livelihoods, food and nutrition security of the poorest, most vulnerable smallholder farmers and pastoralists. As a result, migration is accelerating, with an estimated 60 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa at risk of being displaced by desertification and land degradation by 2050.

Agroforestry has been successful in reversing land degradation in many places in Africa. The challenge now is to scale this up across the whole continent.

Find out more: www.RegreeningAfrica.org

How Regreening Works

Agroforestry involves deliberate and systematic integration of trees with crops and livestock, which is central to the sustainable management of land and maintenance of healthy landscapes. Regreening Africa uses proven agroforestry techniques adapted to suit the needs of farmers under varying socio-ecological contexts.

Agroforestry and other regreening practices have several benefits



Increases soil's ability to absorb and retain water



Tree roots improve the structure of the soil, preventing erosion



Increases carbon storage above and below ground



Generates more effective conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services



Slows strong winds and shades hot sunlight, boosting crop and grass yields



Produces food, fuelwood, fibre, fodder, resins, timber and medicine, which boost incomes, food and nutrition security

Our Unique Approach

Tackling significant and widespread land degradation demands an ambitious approach. Establishing unique partnerships has secured the engagement of actors at all levels.

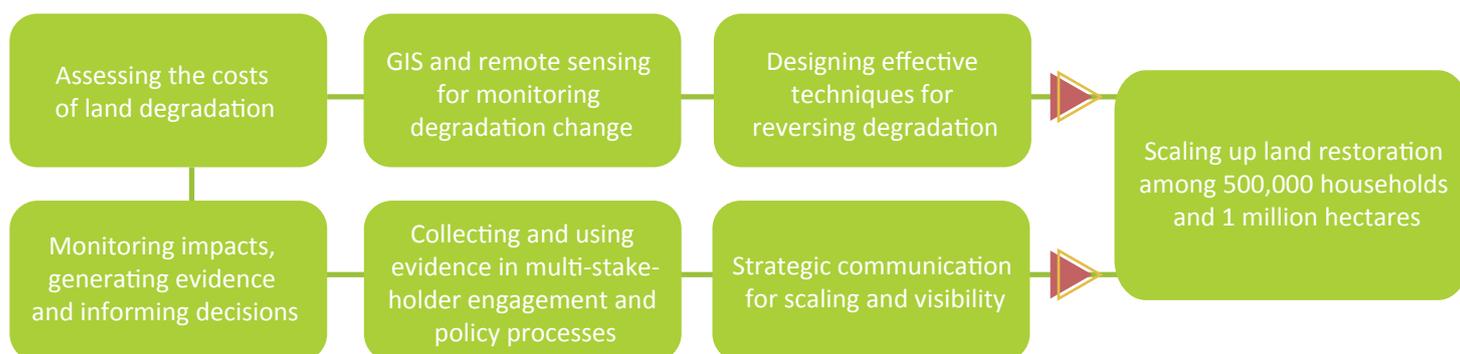
To scale up evergreening practices and reverse land degradation, the project is building on multi-stakeholder partnerships with:

- Major international non-governmental organizations (iNGOs), such as World Vision, Oxfam, Care International, Catholic Relief Services and Sahel Eco
- Research organizations such as the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) and The Economics of Land Degradation Initiative (ELD), including ICARDA, SEI, Australian National University and UNDP
- Government ministries and departments
- Grassroots organizations, such as community-based organizations (CBOs), women's groups and inter-faith networks

What makes our approach unique:

- Research is embedded within development to ensure rapid and iterative learning and improvement
- Leveraging the networks and experience of NGOs to accelerate scaling
- Establishing the project as a teaching and learning exercise for actors and stakeholders through the Design, Techniques and Implementation (DTI) component
- Use of Stakeholder Approach to Risk-Informed and Evidence-Based Decision-Making (SHARED) for multi-stakeholder engagement and policy influencing
- Data analytics and surveillance of land degradation dynamics to support decision-making
- Active engagement in monitoring, evaluation and learning to generate evidence on impacts and inform decisions
- Creative communications to share evidence and accelerate the scaling up process

An Integrated Approach



Regreening Africa Vision

To mobilize and work with a critical mass of diverse partners to scale up locally-appropriate ways of integrating trees into agricultural systems to successfully reverse land degradation across Africa.

The Cost of Inaction

Globally, the annual cost of land degradation is estimated to be US\$ 10.6 trillion annually, or 17% of global GDP, due to lost productivity and collapsed ecosystems. Land degradation, along with land use change, deforestation and forest degradation, represents 24% of all greenhouse gas emissions, making them the primary source of emissions in many African countries.

Project Objectives

The Regreening Africa project will be implemented over the course of five years, from September 2017 to September 2022. The project's activities are structured into three objectives:

Objective 1

Sustainable Land Management

Led by The Economics of Land Degradation (ELD) Initiative together with its partner institutions and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Objective 1 aims to enhance the national ability of each country to assess the economic costs of land degradation and enhance awareness of the economic benefits of investment in Sustainable Land Management (SLM).

Objective 2

Strategic Decision-Making

Led by the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) and supported by NGO partners, the project aims to equip target countries with surveillance and analytical tools on land degradation dynamics (LDD), that support strategic decision-making and monitoring in the scaling up of agroforestry.

Objective 3

Scaling-up Evergreen Agriculture

Led by NGO partners with support from ICRAF, Objective 3 aims to accelerate scaling up of evergreen agriculture using locally appropriate techniques including Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR), tree planting and other forms of agroforestry, along with the development of agroforestry value chains.

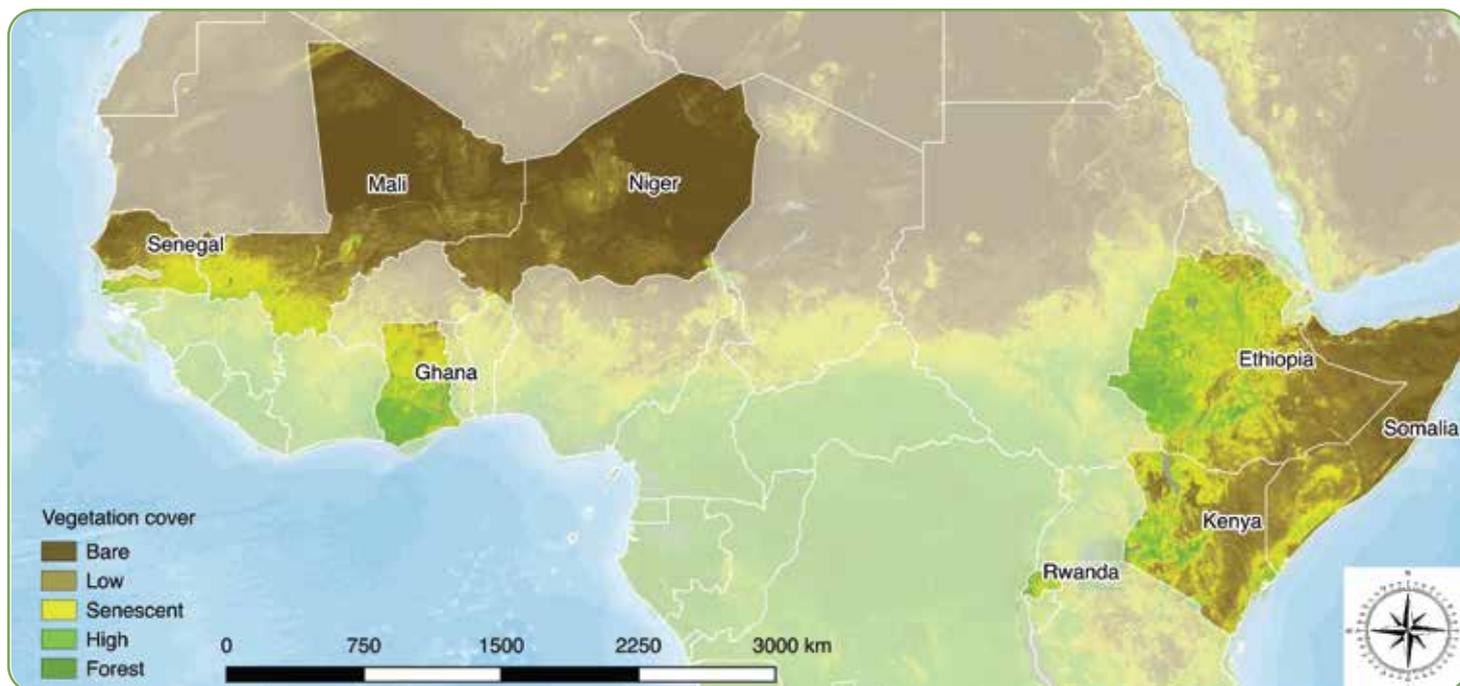


Expected Results by 2022

Regreening Africa aims to improve livelihoods, food security, and increased resilience to climate change of smallholder farmers, by restoring ecosystem services, particularly through agroforestry.

- **500,000 households** adopting evergreen agriculture in over 1 million hectares
- **5% decrease** in soil erosion
- **10% increase** in tree cover
- **5 out of 8 countries** independently applying new tools and approaches
- Improved opportunities for **women and youth**
- Impacts at scale that have a significant **return on investment** for restoration and improvement of livelihoods
- **10% average** increase in household income
- 5 out of 8 countries monitoring at least **50% of their land areas**
- Development of agroforestry **value chains**

Where We Work



Cross-Cutting Issues



Gender

Women comprise, on average, 43% of farm labour in developing countries. Despite being key players in both agricultural and pastoral production processes, women farmers face significant barriers to realizing the benefits of their labour. Regreening Africa will support gender-equitable policies and practices to empower women and girls, for example, by promoting economic and social rights and strengthening their voice and participation.



Youth

Underemployment and reduced livelihood options for youth are prime drivers of instability, insecurity and migration. Youth engagement in agroforestry through training, capacity development and support of key commodity value chains, will boost income and livelihood options, leading to reduced migration to cities.



Food and nutritional security

The mismanagement of land, resulting in degradation, has exacerbated food insecurity. Regreening efforts will improve soil quality, leading to increased food production, which will in turn result in improved food security, thus making a significant contribution to protecting the right for people to feed themselves. Trees also directly increase food and nutrition security through edible tree products such as fruits, leaves and nuts.

Statistics quoted in this brochure can be found at <http://regreeningafrica.org/resources/project-proposal>.

Project Contacts

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Funded by European Union



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