

Great Green Wall Restoration: A regional perspective

(3 regions: East Africa / West Africa / North Africa)

The vision and Tools for the GGW Monitoring: Aspects/Indicators/ Tools/ Partners, etc...

Components: 1) Baselines

2) Biophysical impacts

3) Socio-economic impacts

4) Biological/biotic impacts

5) Suggestions

1. What do we have so far?

Biophysical aspects:

- Baseline for biophysical assessment; Collect Earth data under analysis
- The intervention sites were identified and the total area is known
- Size of area to be restored is known (in most GGW Countries); e.g. 10,000 ha of land identified to start restoration this year for AAD project
- Training were given on Collect Earth Tool
- Sample plots for biophysical data collection generated and data collection completed in most countries and some countries are still to work on it

Socio-economic aspects:

- Baseline on socio-economic aspect is on progress (most countries)

Biological/biotic aspects:

- Community consultation conducted regarding plant species preference and to be archived as a baseline information.
- Network of National forest seed centres established in West Africa

2. What are the gaps?

- Information on biophysical and socio-economic data are not detailed
- The logical frame work developed were not finalized
- Monitoring target indicators are not yet finalized
- For remote parts of the project area there is lack of time series satellite image and the resolution is not so good.
- Knowledge on Collect Earth Tool utilization is limited
- Need to check the comprehensiveness of baseline data
- Trans-boundary related issues are not considered well in the monitoring indicators and baseline information
- Mapping of a string of projects addressing similar or different aspects of the GGW programme

3. What needs to be done?

- Finalise (**as soon as possible**) baseline data collection process both for biophysical and socio-economic information;
- Increase capacity development on Collect Earth Tool
- AGRHYMET need to assist the west African countries to have a proper baseline assessment and application of the Collect Earth Tool in project area
- For East Africa, WRI and some other regional institutions need to support the proper baseline assessment and application of the Collect Earth Tool
- Socio-economic baseline survey and monitoring, needs to use participatory tools;
- For GGW areas monitoring: a) use **high resolution images** to monitor changes (e.g. number of trees per hectare, tree cover, restoration/degradation trend, water availability, land use changes,....)
 - b) use **medium/low resolution images** for the national/regional monitoring
- It is important to consider the trans-boundary related issues in the monitoring indicators

4. Opportunities

Africa Union Commission:

- Results framework tool under development for monitoring progress
- Mapping of the many projects addressing similar or different aspects of the GGW programme
- Scaling up the interventions in a more sustainable way (AUC plans for 2063)
- A regional project to support socio-economic aspects

European Space Agency:

- Open to collaboration with GGW partners (automatic system with pictures every 10 days)

5. Observations, Suggestions, etc.

Current situation

- Resources are lacking. Progress is too slow.
- The current level of ambition is too low. Not consistent with the ambition and opportunities of the GGW.

Suggestions

- The GGW needs a solid baseline at scale before on the ground work can begin at scale
- Conduct a medium intensity assessment of the entire GGW area, using Collect Earth to survey trees and more
- Conduct a high intensity assessment of all GGW related projects, using Collect Earth and other tools to collect information on a wide scope of indicators
- Engage with Google and/or other technology providers to bring the visibility and attractiveness up to a level that is consistent with the political ambition.