Where We Work

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.

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.

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.

Project Contacts

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

Reversing Land Degradation in Africa by Scaling-up Evergreen Agriculture

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

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.RegrreeningAfrica.org
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.

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

Assessing the costs of land degradation
GIS and remote sensing for monitoring degradation change
Collecting and using evidence in multi-stakeholder engagement and policy processes
Strategic communication for scaling and visibility

Designing effective techniques for reversing degradation
Scaling up land restoration among 500,000 households and 3 million hectares

Expected Results by 2022

- 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