Regreening Africa

Reversing Land Degradation in Africa by Scaling-up Evergreen Agriculture (Regreening Africa)

Overall Annual Technical Report

2017-2018

Funded by European Union

World Agroforestry

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ELD THE ECONOMICS OF LAND DEGRADATION

Oxfam International

Project title:	Reversing Land Degradation in Africa by Scaling-up Evergreen Agriculture - components 2 and 3
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Countries:	Senegal, Mali, Ghana, Niger, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia (Somaliland and Puntland); Additional 'light-touch' consultative support will be provided in Burkina Faso
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Implementing partners:	ICRAF, World Vision Australia, Catholic Relief Services, Oxfam Great Britain, CARE Netherlands, SAHEL Eco
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Project duration:	60 months; GIZ/BMZ component 35 months
Total budget:	20,689,655
European Commission's financial contribution:	EUR 18,600,000 (87%)
Implementing partners' contribution:	EUR 2,779,310 (13%)
Reporting period:	3rd September 2017 to 4th September 2018; Report No. 2
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List of acronyms and abbreviations

ADCS	Ethiopian Catholic Church Social and Development Commission Coordination Office of Adigrat
AF	Agroforestry
AGRIFI	Agricultural Finance Initiative
CARE	Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere
CBO	Community Based Organization
CIP	Country Implementation Plan
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
DTI	Design, techniques and implementation
EC	European Commission
EGA	Evergreen Agriculture
ELD	Economics of Land Degradation
EU	European Union
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FMNR	Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration
HH	Household
ICRAF	International Centre for Research in Agroforestry/World Agroforestry Centre
IE	Impact Evaluation
GIZ	Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
KII	Key Informant Interviews
LDD	Land Degradation Dynamics
LDSF	Land Degradation Surveillance Framework
MEL	Monitoring Evaluation and Learning
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NOCC	National Oversight and Coordination Committee
NRM	Natural Resource Management
ODK	Open Data Kit
PMU	Project Management Unit
SHARED	Stakeholder Approach to Risk-informed and Evidence-based Decision-making

Executive summary

Reversing Land Degradation in Africa through Scaling-up Evergreen Agriculture is a five-year project (September 2017 to September 2022) funded by the European Union (EU) through the European Commission (EC). It is implemented by a consortium of research and development partners: The World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), leads a consortium of International NGOs comprised of World Vision, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), CARE and Oxfam, and a national NGO, Sahel Eco, to scale up agroforestry/regreening/evergreen practices, to 500,000 farm households, over an area of at least one million hectares, across eight African countries. In East Africa, the project is being implemented in Kenya, Rwanda, Ethiopia and Somalia (Somaliland and Puntland); and in West Africa, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Ghana. Through a separate funding stream from EU to GIZ, the project integrates the assessment of Economics of Land Degradation (ELD) in partner countries, to make it an integral part of decision-making and policy strategies.

The overall objective of the project is to improve livelihoods, food security and resilience to climate change by smallholder farmers in Africa, and to restore ecosystem services, particularly through evergreen agriculture.

The specific objectives are threefold:

1. To strengthen the national ability to assess the costs of land degradation and the economic benefits of investment in Sustainable Land Management, in eight African countries.
2. To equip eight countries with surveillance and analytic tools on land degradation dynamics, including the social and economic dimensions, to support strategic decision-making and monitoring for the scaling-up of evergreen agriculture.
3. To support eight countries in the accelerated scaling-up of evergreen agriculture by smallholder farmers, along with the development of agroforestry value chains.

This first annual report covers the period 3rd September 2017 to 4th September 2018. It is structured as follows: a summary of the progress and challenges during the first year of implementation (without going into details over what is already presented in the semi-annual report); a summary of the outcomes (strategic level indicators); then the output and activity level indicators and, finally, a conclusion. This structure follows the project log frame as per donor request.

Overview of progress and achievements

The first year was marked by several key achievements. A project launch workshop was convened in Nairobi from 26th to 29th September 2017; equally, project design workshops were organized in every country from late 2017 to early 2018. The key outputs of these workshops were: development of country-specific theories of change, log-frames, activity plans, Monitoring Evaluation and Learning (MEL) plans, gender integration plans, initial mapping of project stakeholders, validation of the project sites and initial identification of the context specific regreening/evergreening/agroforestry options. All these were compiled in the Country Implementation Plans (CIPs), prepared by each country team and shared with the donor. Work/activity plans and budgets prepared during the proposal write up phase were revised, reviewed by the steering committee in February 2018 and approved by the donor. The inception phase was characterised by the full establishment of project governance structures, including the formation of the steering committee at the highest level, eight National Oversight and Coordination committees in each country to provide strategic oversight to the project, and the Project Management Unit under the grant coordinator. As a result of these governance structures, strong collaboration and team building between partners can be witnessed in most countries, which has been fundamental to the successful implementation of the project.

Another key achievement of Year 1 was the successful completion of baseline data collection in seven of the eight countries (except Somalia), as detailed under **Output 6**. Data analysis and report writing, led by ICRAF, are currently underway. Prioritisation of tree-based value chains was conducted concurrently with the baseline data collection in six of the eight countries (except Somalia and Rwanda – the former because of insecurity; the latter because a value chain prioritisation exercise under a similar project, in the same sites, has just been completed by World Vision Rwanda and whose findings will be adopted by this project). Potential value chains have been mapped as discussed under

the **outcome level indicators**, gaps identified and proposed interventions to strengthen the value chains' activities identified. Cross-cutting value chains in the region include: woodfuel, fruits, timber/poles, butters and oils, honey and medicinal plants. Recognized challenges to value chain development include: availability of quality germplasm for propagating high value trees as well as rare, endemic and extinct tree species; poor knowledge on tree management; lack of sufficient value addition; limited access to markets and market information; and limited access to microfinance. In Year 2, the value chain component will focus on strengthening prioritised value chains, by identifying ways to overcome the challenges and unlock the potential for smallholder farmers involved in the regreening efforts.

Year 1 also witnessed much negotiation among implementing partners around the scaling approach that would be most likely to help the project achieve its highly ambitious targets. This is in line with the 'business unusual approach' adopted by the project, which recognizes well-documented past failures in scaling where small donor-funded pilot activities do not fail but do not scale either. The agreed project implementation architecture therefore consists of two scales (represented by similar intervention sites in each country): **intensification and leverage sites**. Intensification sites are those areas where intensive project activities will be carried out to ensure adoption of evergreen practices and technologies. On the other hand, leverage sites are those areas where the project aims to scale up by influencing other actors in the landscape to adopt or accelerate land restoration via policy or practice. In each country, both intensification and leverage sites were selected based on various criteria, including: historical knowledge by consortium working in these sites previously; extent of land degradation, based on land cover maps generated by the Land Degradation Dynamics (LDD) component; infrastructure that could enable the scaling-up process; and security considerations, especially in Mali, Niger and Somalia.

Strategic stakeholder engagement began in Year 1 through country-level workshops. This is currently being accelerated in Year 2 through the SHARED process where a series of high level workshops has already began. Based on the gaps identified during stakeholder mapping, capacity building is initiated to strengthen stakeholder capacity on scaling-up evergreen agriculture and farmer managed natural regeneration (FMNR).

Different kinds of regreening activities have started in several countries, e.g. tree planting and scaling of FMNR in Kenya, Ghana and Niger, while countries such as Kenya and Rwanda have secured other grants to scale out regreening efforts beyond what this grant could have enabled them to achieve.

On the management side, the project succeeded in getting all partners to sign a joint consortium agreement that was collaboratively developed. This was a great achievement, considering the size of the consortium and the various interests and internal regulations of each consortium partner. The contract includes key appendices such as performance-based management guidelines to enhance project delivery.

However, these successes in Year 1 did not come without big challenges. A key challenge was the lengthy contracting and budget revision processes that delayed project implementation by a big margin. The delays were compounded by a series of factors: (i) approval of consortium partners by the donor, where partners often submitted incomplete or wrong documents; (ii) an ill-advised, complicated and time-consuming budget revision process in which partners were requested to prepare activity-based budgets, with little capacity to do so, rather than just use the EC template; (iii) a difficult negotiation processes of integrating and on-boarding partners into the consortium, especially in Somalia and Senegal (with success in integrating CARE in Somalia but where Oxfam Senegal had to be left out of the consortium).

Despite these challenges, the Project Management Unit kept the project teams at the country and headquarters fully informed, goal-focused and motivated through frequent and effective communication, including progress updates; as well as providing support and guidance when needed. Most importantly, the donor was always kept informed, who often provided strategic advice to the consortium.

With the contractual challenges largely overcome, funds disbursed to all partners and reporting requirements clarified, the project team is confident that project activities will be accelerated in Year 2 and that the project is still within its margins of meeting its targets.

Results

Outcome (Strategic Objective) Level

Results at outcome level refer to the achievement of the specific objectives of the project, measured through the four indicators, as per the log frame (# of country intervention areas where tools to monitor changes in land degradation are developed in coordination with LDN country focal people, piloted, used by country teams, and promoted for further upscaling, SOI 3.1. # of households up taking new regreening practices, SOI 3.2. # of hectares where new regreening practices are being applied, SO 3.3. # of country implementation areas with demonstrably strengthened agroforestry value chains). However, as this is the first report and very early to track progress in this area, we present the progress measurement below.

Regreening Adoption Targets

Outcome Summary Table

Target type	Overall target	Actual to date	Verification approach used[1]
Directly facilitated — HHs	500,000	873	Country reports
Directly facilitated — Ha.	1,000 000	998.8	Country reports
Leverage — HHs	211460	220	Country plans
Leverage — Ha.	421867	176	Country plans

Narrative on Adoption Target Achievements

Countries such as Kenya, Ghana, Niger and Rwanda managed to implement activities that were adopted by the farm households and extension agents of various government institutions related to natural resource management. The key challenge to full realization of this outcome is the contractual challenge outlined in the introduction.

[1] This pertains to the approach on how the numbers were compiled. For directly facilitated adoption, the project is evidencing this through LQAS uptake surveys. For leveraged adoption, this is to be evidenced primarily through the tracking of the application and use of scaling models and approaches developed or refined under the Regreening Africa project in other project or initiatives based on an agreed 'leveraged adoption projection formula'.

Value Chains Strengthened

Outcome Summary Table

Name of priority value chain		Targeted gaps to be addressed (identified areas to be strengthened)	Gaps addressed to date	% of gap objectives achieved (approx.)
Country	Value chain identified			
GHANA	Shea butter	• Inappropriate fruit harvesting techniques • Lack of modern processing technique leading to under-utilisation/poor development of shea industry • Lack of value addition skills • Depleting stock of shea trees due to bushfires	Information value chain status, actors assembled	
	Fuel Wood/ Charcoal	• Depleting tree stock due to bushfires • Unsustainable tree felling • Inadequate knowledge in sustainable charcoal production	Key limitations recorded	
	Fruits	• Perishability problems • Poor processing and storage capacity beyond the fruiting season • Bush fires	Key limitations recorded	
	Cashew	• Lack of seedlings • Poor knowledge on plantation management • Poor knowledge on value addition		
	Timber	• Lack of suitable timber tree species • Lack of knowledge in managing timber plantations • Poor tree planting/growing culture • Poor lumber coppicing practice	Key constraints identified	
NIGER	Ziziphus fruits	Data cleaning in progress		
	Moringa products			
	Medicinal products			
SENEGAL	(data cleaning in progress)			
MALI	(data processing in progress)			
ETHIOPIA	Honey	• Technical support and marketing linkages		
	Bamboo products	• Technical support and marketing linkages		
	Fuelwood	• Species selection, marketing, tree management		
	Gesho leaves	• Marketing		
	Baherzaf	• Marketing		

Name of priority value chain		Targeted gaps to be addressed (identified areas to be strengthened)	Gaps addressed to date	% of gap objectives achieved (approx.)
Country	Value chain identified			
KENYA	Fuelwood (firewood/charcoal)	• Species selection • Trees not planted for charcoal • Difficult permitting process • High informal taxes		
	Timber (sawn wood and poles)	• Die backs • Species selection • No skills on value addition • Valuing timber is a problem		
	Medicinals	• Tree seedling • Difficult to get during dry season		
	Fruit farming	• Market is a problem		
	Honey	• People do not invest in beekeeping as an enterprise		
RWANDA	Timber (grevillea, eucalyptus and pine)	• Small farm sizes • Eucalyptus and pine integration on farmlands challenging due to negative competition		
	Fruits (avocado, mango, tree tomato, macadamia)	• Farmers aware of food benefits and income opportunities, except for macadamia		
	Food crops (beans, maize, soya, cassava)	• Seasonal price fluctuations		
	Livestock (beekeeping, cattle, goat, pig)	• High capital requirements for cattle • Limited farm sizes		
SOMALIA	Data collection pending			

Narrative on Value Chain Strengthening Achievements

The first step on value chain strengthening work was conducted under activity 4.1. This activity involved in-depth consultations with local stakeholders to identify and prioritise key value chains that can catalyse regreening work around the project intervention sites and beyond. Data collections tools were developed in consultation with the project implementing partners, and data collected by trained enumerators recruited from the project sites. Data collection methods involved focus group discussions (FGDs) and key informant interviews (KIIs). Separate FGDs were conducted for men and women, and youth were included in the discussions to elucidate on their different priorities and perspectives. The exercise provided an open forum to appraise value chains in an objective

manner, based on locally available natural resources. A mobile-based survey instrument was set up on the ***SurveyCTO*** online mobile data collection platform.

Many opportunities were identified (see outcome summary table) and discussed by both male and female stakeholders. The value chains cover products such as wood, fruits, medicinal trees products, cosmetics (e.g. shea) and beekeeping (honey and beeswax). Some of these businesses already operate at a small scale, serving local consumers presumably with small purchasing power. The key role of the project would be to strengthen the value chains through increased production and linking farmers to markets to increase incomes and profitability; as well as securing investments and conducive policies/public-private partnerships. During discussions, it was clear that, despite potential benefits from the identified business opportunities, success will depend on: (i) efforts and capacity of local producers/farmers; (ii) resources to support/build local collective action and aggregate collection, value addition and marketing; (iii) support from key service providers, e.g. government on deregulation and policy support regarding land and tree tenure; and (iv) external factors influencing local markets of key products.

Development of many of these opportunities may be hindered by certain barriers such as lack of skilled labour, poor access to credit, high local regulations, poor governance structure, poor infrastructure and lack of quality standards. Satisfying some of these requirements makes trade more expensive and therefore most of these star-ups already suffer (i) low levels of technology and innovation in the chain, as in the case of shea and cashew; (ii) lack of financing for key investments for value addition; and (iii) high transport costs due to poor road infrastructure.

The second-year project plan will concentrate on selected value chains including capacity-building activities through trainings, business linkages exposure forums, and support with negotiating with major players that will offer strategic input towards making several of these opportunities viable. Planned activities will engage with local and national governments and development partners, such as the recently EU launched ***agricultural finance initiative (AGRIFI)*** in Kenya to support investment in smallholder value chains.

Output and Activity Levels[2]

Output 1: Viable and promising regreening options[3] identified for targeted scaling sites

Country	Direct scaling sites	Extent of identification of regreening options (%)	Regreening options identified	
GHANA	Bawku West, Garu-Tempane, Mion, Districts	30%	• Planting of high value tree-crops such as mango, cashew and shea trees to support re-greening degraded lands as well as improve livelihood. • Promotion of agroforestry (tree planting in crop lands)	• Establishment of community wood lots • Nursery establishment by women and farmer groups • FMNR and enrichment planting in degraded communal areas
		25%	• Farmer-preferred tree species identification has been completed for tree planting in 53 communities	
ETHIOPIA	Northern, Central and Southern regions	20%	• FMNR and tree planting	
NIGER	Simiri, Oaullam and Hamdallaye communes	100%	• FMNR and tree planting • FMNR to be combined with other land management options: ◦ Soil and water conservation techniques (contour bunding with earth or stones, zai pit, sand dunes fixation, etc.)	◦ Tree planting and appropriate direct seeding ◦ In situ grafting of wild fruit tree/shrubs like Ziziphus and Balanites plantlets to create short term benefits for FMNR practitioner ◦ Pasture land restoration to increase feed resource and reduce pressure on trees/shrubs on farmland
MALI	Tominian	90%	• Promotion of water harvesting techniques (zai, halfpipe, stony/earth bunds, grass strips, trenches, dune stabilization, ACN) • Integrated soil fertility management (promotion of organic manure production)	• Promotion of agroforestry (assisted natural regeneration –RNA), tree planting (grove, orchard-moringa)
	Yorosso, Koutiala	20%	• FMNR and tree planting	
SENEGAL	Kaffrine, Kaolack, Fatick		• FMNR • Tree planting • Direct sowing	• Salt adapting tree species for the restoration of degraded land due to salinization

[2] Outputs are to be reported on cumulatively (overall progress towards the output indicator targets in the project's LogFrame), while specific activities are reported on against planned specific activities set for the reporting year in question.

[3] Regreening options range from identification of tree species to be promoted in the site and specific ways these are to be integrated into local farming systems through to options for strengthening seed delivery systems and value chains.

Country	Direct scaling sites	Extent of identification of regreening options (%)	Regreening options identified	
KENYA	Lambwe (Homa Bay County)	75%	• FMNR • Agroforestry • Alternative livelihood options (beekeeping and herbal medicine) • Fruit tree farming	• Alternative energy saving techniques to relieve pressure on trees (fuel wood and/or charcoal) • Fodder establishment • Woodlot farming • Enrichment planting
	Nyatike (Migori County)	70%	• FMNR • Agroforestry • Enrichment planting • Alternative livelihood options (beekeeping and herbal medicine)	• Alternative energy-saving techniques to relieve pressure on trees (fuel wood and/or charcoal) • Riverine ecosystem conservation • Fruit tree farming/orchard establishment • Fodder establishment • Woodlot farming
RWANDA	Bugesera district	90%	• Woodlots • Silvopasture • Boundary planting • Fertilizer trees	• Fruit tree planting • FMNR • Species identification
	Kayonza district	90%	• Enrichment planting • Woodlots • Silvopasture • Boundary planting • Fertilizer trees	• Avenue planting • Fruit tree planting • FMNR • Species identification
	Gatsibo district	90%	• Woodlots • Silvopasture • Boundary planting • Fertilizer trees	• Avenue planting • Fruit tree planting • Species identification
	Nyagatare district	90%	• Woodlots • Silvopasture • Boundary planting • Fertilizer trees	• Avenue planting • Fruit tree planting • FMNR • Species identification
SOMALIA	Odweyne	50%	• FMNR • Nursery development and intensification	• Natural resource management (NRM) interventions • Agroforestry development
	Baki	0%	Field assessment pending	



ABOVE. Soil and water conservation practices involving zai pits and half-moons to enhance land productivity.

Narrative on progress towards Output 1

Section 3 provides a description of specific re-greening options identified for all of the countries. The proposed options were informed by community meetings involving stakeholder and expert consultation processes, the biophysical and socio-economic situation of each site per country, and interactions with project stakeholders. This process helped attain consensus between implementing partners and refine the country-specific implementation strategy. It is anticipated that further refinement of relevant regreening options across biophysical and social contexts will continue as part of adaptive learning and as research outcomes feed into the implementation process. The main regreening options identified include: FMNR; tree planting on farmlands/agroforestry with fodder; fruits amd wood species; enrichment planting; farm diversification; green manure; beekeeping and herbal medicine; fruit tree farming/orchard establishment; silvopasture; and woodlot farming.

In Mali, for instance, the process identified the need to combine FMNR in the districts of Tominian, Koutiala and Yorosso with other activities such as tree planting, direct seeding, soil and water conservation techniques, e.g. contour bunding, zai pits and in situ grafting of Ziziphus and shea plantlets to improve FMNR practices intended to cover a target of 160,000 ha. In Niger, there was a realization that only focusing on FMNR will not lead to expected results. FMNR will therefore be combined with other land management activities such as contour bunding with earth or stones, zai pit, sand dunes fixation, tree planting and appropriate direct seeding, in situ grafting of wild fruit tree/shrubs like Ziziphus and Balanites to provide added benefits to farmers.

Special considerations to pasture land restoration, in order to increase feed resource and reduce pressure on trees/shrubs on farmlands, were also identified while seeking means for value addition on indigenous fruit trees and products. To promote more sustainable natural management approaches, 'social fencing' actions will be enhanced by promoting local collective action. This will increase the survival rate of planted and regenerated tree seedlings. Yet another key aspect will be to advocate for conducive land and tree tenure regimes.

In East Africa, regreening options in Rwanda must consider unique circumstances of very small land holdings (approximately one hectare per household) in most parts of the country. FMNR practices are limited in these situations as most farmland is tilled for agricultural crops. Nonetheless, tree planting along farm boundaries or on contours remains popular in East Africa to address land restoration and contribute to smallholder livelihoods. There is demand for trees that are compatible with current farming systems while offering short-term returns. Additional options involving use of green manure (fertilizer trees) for improving soil fertility and growing high value trees for fruits, wood, and farm diversification are being reviewed as part of the portfolio of interventions. For example, project engagement with farmers in Year 1 in the Migori and Homabay Counties of Kenya has identified fertilizer trees, fodder tree growing, improved fruit farming (such as grafted mango, avocado, oranges and guava) and tree diversification as critical options to incentivize scaling of FMNR techniques.

Annual activity summary table

Activity Area	Planned Specific Activity[4]	% delivered	Summary Reason(s) for Variance
1.1 Evidence compilation and synthesis to support scaling	1.1.1 Compile lessons and evidence gaps in existing re-greening successes (and failures)	100%	
1.2 Country-level scaling model design and implementation	1.2.1 Hold global-level inception workshop in collaboration with ELD/ GIZ	100%	
	1.2.2 Facilitated detailed and evidence-informed CIPs	100%	
	1.2.5 Evidence and lesson sharing across the project partners and stakeholder engagement	50%	This activity will continue in Year 2 under the SHARED workshops

Narrative on annual activity delivery under Output 1

Under Activity Area 1.1, lessons and evidence gaps were compiled by country teams and presented during the inception workshop (Activity 1.2.1). The inception workshop took place at the beginning of the project and brought together ELD, ICRAF and NGO partners from each of the countries. A workshop report has been submitted to the donor which outlines the discussions and agreements made. Under Activity 1.2.2, detailed guidelines were prepared to support country teams in developing their CIPs. These guidelines helped the country teams to review existing knowledge on land restoration and scaling in their specific contexts and revise their implementation plans. The country implementation plans, including the theories of change for each country, are live documents that will be continuously reviewed as part of adaptive learning and implementation, and to ensure evidence gathered through the MEL processes is incorporated.

[4] Report against the planned specific activities set at the beginning of the year. If you have done additional activities, you can report on these in the narrative section.

ELD kick-off workshop at ICRAF Nairobi, Kenya. (TOP) Workshop participants pose for a group photo; (ABOVE) participants engaged in group discussions; and (RIGHT) one of the participants presenting on the group discussion.

Output 2: Project stakeholders equipped with new knowledge, skills, tools and resources to effectively promote prioritized regreening options

Output summary table

Project stakeholder group	Capacity gaps to be addressed	Gaps successfully addressed to date	% of capacity gap objectives achieved (approximate)	# of stakeholders per group equipped with new knowledge, etc
Experts and heads of agriculture and natural resources offices in target areas	Technical skills and knowledge on evergreen agriculture, FMNR and agroforestry practices enforcement of policies and by-laws	Knowledge and awareness of FMNR and regreening practices raised	30%	50
Program managers Project officers Regional cluster Office coordinators	Technical knowledge on re-greening strategy, gender approaches and project data capture	Limited skill on evergreen agriculture Use of data capture tools and applications	30%	20
Development agents Community facilitators	Technical skills on re-greening options and approaches	Sharing of extension information and materials (e.g. on FMNR, nursery establishment)	10%	57
Communities implementing the projects	Technical knowledge on re-greening options and approaches and quality seeds and seedlings	Sensitization and awareness creation sessions on land degredation Setting and training on tree nurseries	20%	700
Traditional/local authorities	Formulation and enforcement of by-laws on the use of natural resources/knowledge of the FMNR concept	Engagement process in the design and implementation phase have sensitised traditional authority as to how to overcome bushfires through by-laws	20%	50

Narrative on progress towards Output 2

Despite project start delays, several activities were successfully implemented to address capacity gaps by different project stakeholders at different levels. Most country field offices have been staffed with relevant personnel who have then participated in different training sessions conducted by different project components. This includes baseline data collection training, including value chains identification and prioritization work.

As key stakeholders for this project, smallholder farmers will continue to receive capacity improvements that cover linkages with local extension for better agronomic practices, agroforestry systems, and awareness on FMNR practices through community sensitization meetings.

Annual activity summary table

Activity Area	Planned Specific Activity	% delivered	Summary Reason(s) for Variance
2.1 Partner and stakeholder capacity development for scaling	2.1.1 Capacity and situational assessment of all partners involved in direct scaling of evergreen agriculture (EGA) (country EGA capacity assessment reports)	20%	Delayed implementation schedule due to administrative issues involving contracting arrangement, hiring of personnel and budget approvals
	2.1.2 Develop and agree on country-specific capacity development strategies (country team EGA capacity development strategy document)	20%	
	2.1.3 Conduct first round of country-specific EGA technical training	20%	
2.2 Development and dissemination of extension manuals, guides and other tools	2.2.1 Review the availability of existing material against country EGA scaling requirements	20%	Delayed implementation schedule due to administrative issues involving contracting arrangement, hiring of personnel and budget approvals
	2.2.2 Compile/develop priority material, with a plan for other materials for Year 2	20%	
	2.2.3 Develop guidelines and tools to meaningfully integrate gender into the scaling	20%	
2.3 Facilitation of inter- and intra-country sharing on extension	2.3.1 Integrate initial sharing session on agroforestry scaling during global Inception Workshop	100%	
	2.3.2 Integrate similar sharing sessions into country-specific planning processes (Country inception reports documenting lesson sharing)	100%	
	2.3.3		

Output 3: 500,000 households supported with viable and inclusive regreening options

Output summary table[5]

Target Type	HHs	Females	Males	Youth (<25y)	Verification approach[6]
Directly facilitated—HHs	873	200	600	73	Country reports
Directly facilitated—Ha.	993.8	0	0	0	Country reports
Leverage—HHs	220	80	100	40	Country reports
Leverage—Ha.	176	0	0	0	Country reports

Narrative on progress towards Output 3

To achieve this output, various scaling options have been identified in each country. Implementation of scaling activities began in Kenya, Rwanda, Niger and Ghana in Year 1 with the highest number of farmers reached reported in Kenya. In these countries, the identification and formation of village regreening committees has been initiated. Each lead farmer is expected to serve as a resource person that builds the capacities of fellow farmers and supports the adoption of evergreen agriculture practices in Kenya. Collaboration with government extension officers is anticipated to promote scaling-up of locally-relevant regreening options, while setting up of evergreen agriculture model sites is providing new opportunities. Training on regreening options is ongoing and will be intensified in Year 2. Implementation of activities in Mali, Senegal, Ethiopia and Somalia were delayed mainly due to contractual challenges.

Annual activity summary table

Activity Area	Planned Specific Activity	% delivered	Reasons for Variance
3.1 Farmer and local stakeholder EGA mobilization and capacity development	3.1.1 Scaling site-level stakeholder and outcome mapping (country-specific local stakeholder and outcome maps)	40%	Delayed due to contractual and budget revision processes
	3.1.2 Carry out local- level stakeholder meetings and assess capacity on EGA facilitation (local stakeholder capacity assessment reports)	10%	
	3.1.3 Develop local stakeholder capacity development plan in prioritized EGA scaling approaches (local stakeholder capacity development plans)	10%	
3.2 Implementation and refinement, where necessary, of innovative extension approaches	3.2.1 Hold sensitization meetings in the targeted scaling sites	70%	Delayed due to contractual and budget revision processes
	3.2.2 Facilitate participatory community action plan development on EGA scaling	20%	
3.3 Facilitating access to quality and appropriate germplasm	3.3.1 Develop and agree on protocols and manuals for EGA delivery	20%	Delayed due to contractual and budget revision processes
	3.3.2 Roll out relevant EGA delivery innovations in the designated scaling areas	10%	
	3.3.3 Monitoring to ensure that EGA delivery innovations are being implemented as per protocols	10%	

[5] The main indicator is focused on households. However, include information of numbers of men, women, and youth reached as well.

[6] State how the numbers that are reported were compiled. This could be through your organization's tracking system or something specifically set up for the project. Leveraged reach numbers should be determined by conservatively estimating how many households outside the project's direct scaling sites are being reached by scaling models and approaches developed and/or refined under the Regreening Africa project.

Output 4: Targeted agroforestry value chains assessed and provided with relevant regreening support

Output summary table

Name of Priority Value Chain	% of assessment work completed (approx.) (data reps 7 out of 8 countries with the exception of Somalia)	% of value chain support work completed (approx.)	# of value chain actor types supported in full[7]	Specific actor types supported[8]
Woodfuel	100	20	0	0
Fruit trees	100	20	0	0
Timber and poles	100	20	0	0
Medicinal plants	100	20	0	0
Beekeeping	100	20	0	0
Edible nuts	100	20	0	0
Edible leaves	100	20	0	0

Narrative on progress towards Output 4

For Output 4, scoping assessments were implemented in seven of the eight project countries (with the exception of Somalia). Data collection was implemented along baseline surveys to optimize use of available resources and promote complementarity. In Rwanda, value chain scoping work will rely on findings obtained from the Forest Land Restoration project funded by the Australian government and implemented by World Vision in the same sites as this project. Initial results from all studies have revealed value chains of interest by consulted stakeholders drawn from project sites. The findings are being refined to consider the value chains' economic, environmental, technical and institutional sustainability dimensions. Some of the identified gaps will be targeted in the second-year plans.

Data collection work involved FGDs and KIIs. FGD participants were disaggregated by gender to capture preferences in value chains by both men and women. KIIs covered local and regional stakeholders such as highly knowledgeable farmers, extension workers, researchers, businesses and others involved in the regreening related enterprises, to provide in-depth knowledge. A stratified random sample was used to identify FGDs covering villages/households within project direct intervention sites, while KII interviewees were purposively selected using the snowballing technique. SurveyCTO applications installed in android phones were used by enumerators for data collection, and collected data were then transmitted to a central ICRAF server for storage, cleaning and analysis. Translation of FGD notes from French to English and identification of tree species and other data standardization activities are under way. Preliminary findings indicate that at least five value chains, including wood, shea butter, fruits, medicinal and beekeeping are of interest to project beneficiaries in various countries and therefore will be recommended to implementing partners for further validation and capacity building support, to strengthen their performance and optimize livelihood and economic benefits to smallholder farmers. Other opportunities to further leverage on the value chains are being sought through collaboration with other value chain projects, such as the SmAT-Scaling Project in Mali (funded by USAID and implemented by ICRAF and CRS) and AGRIFI in Kenya (funded by EU Kenya with ICRAF as one of the implementing partners).

[7] Supported in full means that all the support targeted towards the actor type in question through the project has been successfully provided. For example, if the actor type was only targeted for training and that training was delivered and appropriate people participated, then this actor type can be considered as having had been support in full.

[8] Actor types pertain to specific value chain actor groups like farmer groups, processors, traders, microlending institutions, etc.

Annual activity summary table

Activity Area	Planned Specific Activity	% delivered	Reasons for Variance
4.1 AF value chain analysis	4.1.1 Conduct AF value chain scoping exercises relevant to scaling sites to feed into (country plans and country value chain scoping reports with prioritized species)	100%	
	4.1.2 Conduct more thorough analysis of prioritized AF value chains (country prioritized value chain analysis reports)		Planned for Year 2
4.2 Negotiation and brokering with value chain actors	4.2.1 Hold meetings with actors from prioritized value chains as part of the above analysis exercise (at least one meeting held in each of the four Year 1 countries)	0%	Planned for Year 2
	4.2.2 Facilitate the development of stakeholder-negotiated action plans to strengthen the targeted value chains (value chain strengthening action plans facilitated in all four Year 1 countries)	0%	Planned for Year 2
	4.2.3		Planned for Year 2
4.3 AF value chain actor capacity development	4.3.1 Conduct capacity needs assessment and strategy for value chain actors of prioritized value chains (capacity needs assessment report with links to the above value chain strengthening action plans)	0%	Planned for Year 2
	4.3.2		
	4.3.3		

Narrative on activity delivery under Output 4

Field surveys were implemented that aimed at identifying and prioritizing tree-based value chains while determining performance gaps. The main objectives of these surveys were to:

1. Identify tree-based value chains
2. Prioritize the value chains
3. Assess the potential of prioritized value chains
4. Identify the role of gender in selected value chain
5. Outline priority interventions to strengthen the prioritized value chains

To conduct the baseline effectively, selected enumerators were equipped with data collection skills using SurveyCTO. Once the project baseline assessment had been conducted in selected sites, the value chain scooping analysis was then carried out in the same selected. Additionally, key informants involved in natural resources at all levels were interviewed and data was collected on forest and tree product value chains in their geographical area, current production and consumptions patterns, capacity needs and recommendations on possible value chain interventions. Currently, data analysis is ongoing and the design of the next phase of activities is planned for the second year.

Output 5: Implementation and uptake of monitoring data for adaptive management

Output summary table

Item	# carried out during reporting year	% of direct scaling sites of country covered	Cumulative total successfully carried out over life of project
Joint Quality Monitoring missions	10 (all countries)	0	0
Uptake surveys	0	0	0

Narrative on progress towards Output 5

Due to the delay in activity implementation in Year 1, monitoring missions have focused on supporting partners to set up the necessary structures and management aspects, rather than monitoring of activity implementation. Proper joint quality monitoring missions and uptake surveys will therefore begin in Year 2.

Output 6: New evidence on the effectiveness of regreening is generated to inform wider policy and practice

Narrative on progress towards Output 6

Baseline data was successfully collected in seven out of the eight participating countries. This is an essential step in setting up the project to generate credible evidence on the social and environmental returns from scaling-up appropriate combinations of trees and other woody perennials in smallholder farming systems. Somalia is the only county remaining for this work, as a special case regarding security considerations and unique funding arrangements under the project.

The project is working with ***FarmTreeServices*** to set up an evidence-based means of modelling several key upstream impacts that it is expected to generate in the long term but that are unlikely to be captured over its five-year lifespan, e.g. projected changes in farmer income. This modelling work is still under development, but most of the country-level field work that will inform it has been completed. The project recognizes that there are challenges in generating evidence on long-term returns: they are not expected to fully manifest by the end of the five-year implementation period as most of the established trees will simply be too immature. This challenge is shared by other efforts with relatively long impact trajectories in the sustainable agriculture and natural resource management sectors.

Annual activity summary table

Activity Area	Planned Specific Activity	% delivered	Reasons for Variance
6.1 Baseline surveys	6.1.1 Overall and country-specific impact evaluation design strategy developed and agreed	100%	
	6.1.2 Survey instruments developed and piloted	100%	
	6.1.3 Enumerators recruited and trained	100%	
	6.1.4 Baseline survey administered	100%	
	6.1.5 Baseline data clean and analysed, and reports developed	50%	Surveys started later than expected in most countries and delayed this activity. However, it is in progress.

Narrative on activity delivery under Output 6:

6.1.1 Overall and country-specific Impact Evaluation (IE) design strategy developed and agreed upon

After significant discussion and negotiation with country teams, an impact evaluation strategy was agreed upon. There is an inherent challenge in the project's ambition of scaling up trees on farm while also generating sufficiently rigorous impact. The former involves seizing all opportunities and momentum to bring things to scale, while the latter necessitates having comparable places where such scaling has not taken place to benchmark what would have happened in the absence of such scaling.

Implementing partners agreed that they cannot undertake their direct community-level scaling efforts in all locations simultaneously, right from Year 1. Pragmatically, they need to begin by working intensely in a limited number of sites and then add on new sites each year, while undertaking follow-up work on those previously mobilized and engaged. The heart of the project's impact evaluation design is to compare changes in the logical framework's indicators between rural households in selected scaling sites targeted in Year 1 with those that will be targeted (phased-in) in Year 4. Because these sites are relatively few and do not include those that the implementing partners have already engaged or are otherwise committed to engage, this is a workable compromise.

Spearheaded by its SHARED component and the ELD work conducted by GIZ, the project's second ambition is to influence wider policy and practise through collaboration with other stakeholders undertaking land restoration efforts, thereby leveraging its impact. The second component of the project's impact evaluation work is therefore to track such influence and thereby estimate the magnitude of the resulting leveraged impact. The Outcome Mapping approach was endorsed as a fit-for-purpose means to undertake this tracking.

6.1.2 Survey instruments developed and piloted

A mobile based survey instrument was developed using Open Data Kit software and set up on the SurveyCTO online mobile data collection platform. Specific efforts were undertaken to enable efficient and effective data capture on relevant indicators of the project's logical framework, including a 'Regreening Index' to capture both the breadth and depth of the regreening that the project aims to achieve through its direct scaling work. The survey instrument was piloted by two ICRAF social scientists in Kenya and refined accordingly. It was thereafter adapted to each country context, which included translating it into French, Kinyarwanda and three Ethiopian regional languages.

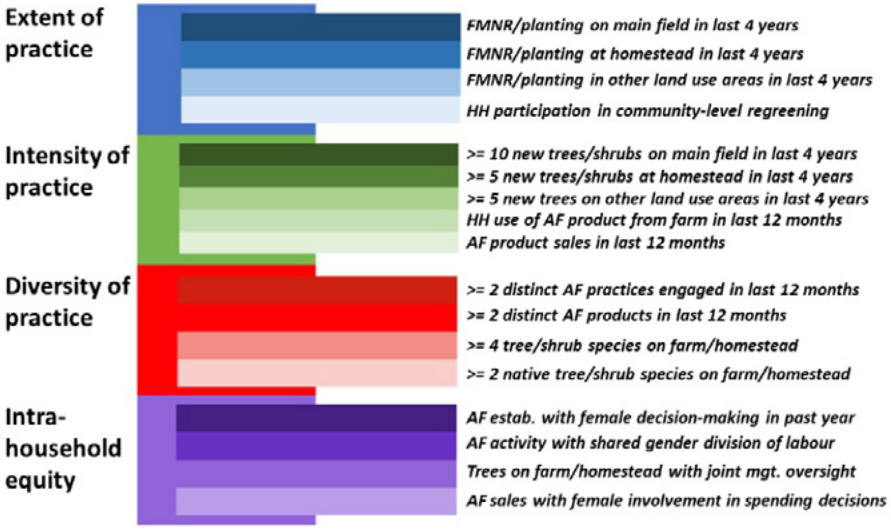
6.1.3 Enumerators recruited and trained

Over 200 enumerators were competitively recruited and trained for a period of three to four days in each of the seven countries by ICRAF scientists, often working alongside implementing M&E partners and programme staff. The enumerator training programmes included a field pre-test of the survey instrument. This served a dual purpose of capacitating the enumerator trainees and helping to further refine and contextualize the survey instrument.

6.1.4 Baseline survey administered

The baseline survey was successfully carried out in seven out of eight countries targeted for this exercise during the reporting period. Over 9,000 rural households were successfully interviewed, the exact breakdown of which will appear in the forthcoming baseline survey report. Half of the respondents were women, given the survey's purposive design of both randomly selecting households, followed by the gender of the respondents from within these households. This will aide gender-specific analytical work in general and assess the differential impact of the project on women and on men.

Another noteworthy feature of the exercise involved geotagging the boundaries of the surveyed respondents' main cropping fields. This will enable the measurement of changes in soil organic carbon and soil erosion in these fields over the life of the project, via the analysis of satellite imagery spearheaded by the LDD component.



ABOVE. Regreening index to measure the breadth and depth of the project's household-level regreening efforts

Understandably, undertaking data collection at this scale was not challenge-free. Data collection in Ethiopia was particularly challenging, as it required recruiting and training four region-specific enumeration teams in three distinct languages with varying tree species and names for such species, coupled with Internet connectively issues. Other noteworthy challenges include the deteriorating security situation (and heat) in both Niger and Mali. However, the data collection mission was nevertheless successfully accomplished in the end, largely to the productive collaboration between ICRAF, implementing partners and other local stakeholders.

6.1.5 Baseline data cleaned and analysed and reports developed

At the time of the writing of this report, data from six of the seven countries had undergone significant cleaning and processing. A large part of this work involves constructing key variables, including the project's logical framework indicators. A template for such construction has been developed and draft results for several of the countries have been generated. Key remaining tasks include generating the above land health metrics for the farm polygons captured by the survey and running key baseline data through the farm system models being developed and validated by FarmTreeServices.

Outputs 7 and 8 reported by ELD

Output 9: Land degradation dynamics and dimensions in all countries assessed

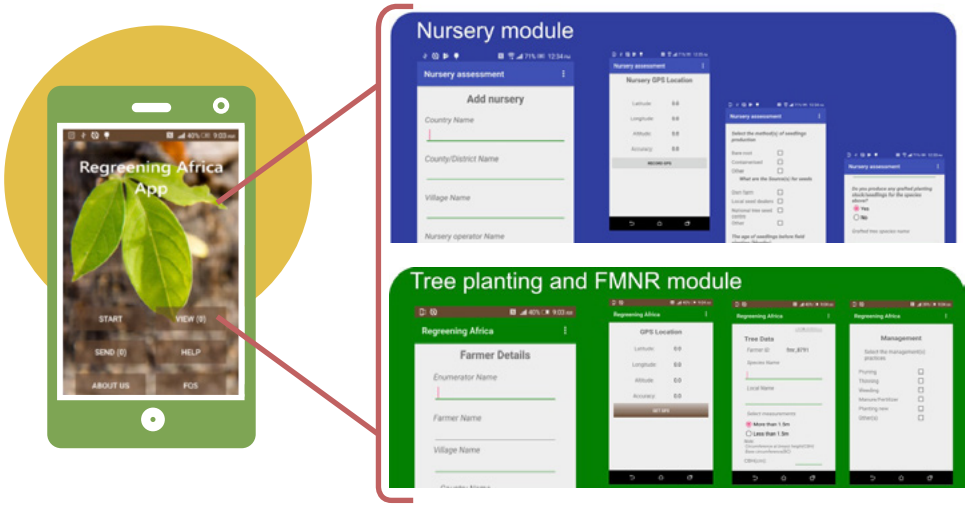
Narrative on progress towards Output 9

Output 9 contributes to Component 2 of the Regreening Africa project: "To equip eight 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". Key to this component is the identification and assessment of land degradation dynamics, dimensions and indicators across the project action areas. The project will access, collate and analyse several types of information, including:

- crowd-sourced information collected using a mobile app developed for the project;
- project documents that gather expert opinion on local drivers of degradation from NGO and CBO partners;
- GIZ/ELD reports and analysis;
- the ICRAF-hosted database on land and soil health metrics which uses a systematic field methodology; and
- the Land Degradation Surveillance Framework (LDSF) to collect biophysical information for 10 km by 10 km sites.

To date, the SHARED and LDD teams have conducted co-learning discussions with country teams to elicit information on land degradation in each of the action areas. In addition, regular communication with the GIZ/ELD component has resulted in co-location of activities and mapping outputs to be produced for the ELD country teams using the Land Degradation Neutrality framework and indicators.

ABOVE. LDSF Training in Senegal



ABOVE. The Regreening Africa App, available through the Google Play Store. **RIGHT.** LDSF training in Senegal

The Regreening Africa App is being developed as part of the project and is freely available through the Google Play Store for Android-based mobile phones. The objective of the Africa Regreening App is to collect data on tree nurseries (location, species, number of seedlings), tree planting (planting date, species, management, survival) and farmer managed natural regeneration (species, management, photo, livestock information). This will help us to collect information on the current status of each intervention area and track its real-time progress.

Maps for the intervention and scaling sites in each of the eight countries are now available on the ***ICRAF Landscape Portal*** as a unique project. This is a data and mapping repository where all geospatial outputs will be shared with partners, including interactive maps and up-to-date action site layers. A manual has been developed for project partners and is available under the Documents tab on the Landscape Portal, which currently hosts over 2,200 unique open access layers and is the main repository for spatial datasets created by ICRAF and partners.

LDSF field surveys started in Rwanda in October 2018 and will continue in West Africa in Year 2. An important part of the survey included the capacity development of key stakeholders, including World Vision Rwanda and Rwanda Agricultural Board staff. In total, over 12 participants were trained in the Nyagatare site. The biophysical field surveys using the LDSF are closely coordinated and co-located with HH baseline surveys, to enable synergies between these components of the project and to provide mapping outputs and analysis of key indicators of land and soil health, for inclusion in the planned socio-ecological assessments.

Annual activity summary table

Activity Area	Planned Specific Activity	% delivered	Reasons for Variance
9.1 Scaling site assessments for design and M&E	9.1.1 Produce and synthesize relevant land health evidence and data for scaling sites to feed into detailed country planning processes via SHARED, including the scoping and synthesis reports produced by the ELD/GIZ component	60%	Land health indicator analysis has started for the target countries. Part of the variance has been due to a delay in identifying specific scaling sites. There has also been a dialog with ELD/GIZ, but with locations for their scoping and synthesis still pending from ELD/GIZ.
	9.1.2 Generate erosion, soil organic carbon and tree cover estimates as part of project's baseline survey	25%	Household baseline surveys have just been completed and the GPS coordinates for the countries are shared as they are cleaned. Rwanda and Ghana locations are currently being analysed.
9.2 Assessment of land degradation dynamics across the intervention sites	9.2.1 Spatial assessments of land degradation and tree cover as well as technical support to partners	50%	This is an ongoing activity. Spatial assessments have been conducted based on available data and LDSF-based models. Technical support to partners will follow as part of the SHARED process.
	9.2.2 Carry out field surveys using the LDSF to address key field data gaps, most likely in Rwanda and West Africa	40%	LDSF field surveys in Rwanda have been implemented, while West Africa will follow in early 2019. The variance is due to information gathering taking longer than anticipated by implementing partners on the locations of intervention and scaling sites.
	9.2.3 Collate and analyse critical information on existing data that will form part of the assessments of land degradation baselines and trends/dynamics, including the scoping and synthesis reports produced by the ELD/GIZ component	60%	Land health indicator analysis has started for the target countries. Part of the variance has been due to a delay in identifying specific scaling sites. There has also been a dialog with ELD/GIZ, but with locations for their scoping and synthesis still pending from ELD/GIZ.
	9.2.4. Development of prototype smartphone app (Android) for collection of data on FMNR	100%	The application is called "Africa Regreening App" and is freely available on the Google Play store for android phones.
	9.2.5 Data analytics and development of diagnostic tools for assessment of land degradation dynamics in the NGO intervention areas	0%	This is planned for Year 2 onwards as SHARED workshops will first need to take place and implementing partners will need to have interventions on the ground.
	9.2.6 Database development and development of production version of smartphone app (Android) for collection of data on FMNR	100%	The application is called "Africa Regreening App" and is freely available on the Google Play store for android phones.
	9.2.7 Conduct data analytics on the assessment of land degradation dynamics, including the indicators in the EC log frame (notably, soil organic carbon and soil erosion). Data to be communicated and shared with partners, stakeholders and ELD/GIZ component.	50%	Data analytics are in progress and results will be communicated with ELD/GIZ once they share specific areas that they would like results for. See also 9.2.5.
	9.2.8 Landscape Portal development and maintenance for archiving of spatial data from the project	100%	This will be an ongoing activity for each year. This year, the project focused on creating a Regreening Africa module and group to display and interact with maps of the project action sites. The module and guide to creating the maps is available online ***here***.

Output 10: Countries equipped with surveillance and analytic tools (i.e. dashboards)

Output summary table

Item	Overall target	# during reporting year	Cumulative achievement	*Who was reached/engaged*
Country-level dashboard development	4 Dashboard beta versions online	0		

Narrative on progress towards Output 10

Work on developing the country-level dashboards was initiated in Year 1 by exposing country teams, with the exception of Somalia, to the dashboard concept and utility. Teams demonstrated interest in the dashboards and, during the in-country SHARED workshops to be held in Year 2, the dashboard concept will be shared with a wider range of stakeholders and a co-design process will be initiated in countries that express interest in and identified uses for dashboards. Decision dashboard content will be provided through the project, so that partners and stakeholders who hold evidence can use them in decision-making. The dashboards will be tailored to each country through a facilitated co-design process. Dashboards will include ELD study results, baseline data, project tracking results, land health information made available through the LDD component, and other data provided by the teams.

Activity summary table

Activity Area	Planned Specific Activity	% delivered	Summary Reason(s) for Variance
10.1 Country-level dashboard development	10.1.1 Initial review of data needs and presentation of dashboard concept	100%	
	10.1.2 Co-design, build and populate EVA Dashboards for six countries	0%	Activities moved to Year 2
	10.1.3 Present initial dashboards to stakeholders and decision-makers and adapt to their needs	0%	Activities moved to Year 2
10.2 Dashboard capacity development and operation	10.2.1 Provide capacity building to key actors for dashboard use and inputs	0%	Activities moved to Year 2
	10.2.2 Liaise with representatives of national institutions, NGOs, and ELD/GIZ component to embed capacity and mainstream the use of country dashboards in decision-making for scaling	0%	Activities moved to Year 2

Consultations have taken place with all country teams, with the exception of Somalia, to describe the SHARED and LDD components of the project and share information on the dashboards concept (Activity 10.1.1). These initial consultations are forming the basis of in-depth decision dashboard discussions and co-design in the countries for which dashboards will be developed.

Output 11: Regreening successes are compiled and communicated to policymakers, government and project stakeholders

Output summary table

Item	Overall target	# during reporting year	Cumulative achievement	*Who was reached/ engaged*
Structured evidence sharing events (via SHARED)	8	0		
Policymakers and other stakeholders reached by regreening success messages	80% of targeted policymakers and other actors reached by re-greening success messages	0		
Media pieces disseminated/ generated on regreening successes	80			

Narrative on progress towards Output 11

Beyond the inception workshop, structured evidence-sharing events are scheduled for early in Year 2. Preparatory Skype calls have been organized with all country teams with the exception of Somalia, where country teams have just been formed.

Activity summary table

Activity Area	Planned Specific Activity	% delivered	Summary Reason(s) for Variance
11.1 SHARED evidence-based policy dialogue	11.1.1 Policy review and engagement plan development	70%	The majority of the policy synthesis reports are drafted while others are waiting on additional inputs from country teams for finalization.
	11.1.2 Synthesis of promising evidence for sharing with policymakers and key stakeholders (including from ELD/GIZ)	50%	It became clear that much of the evidence and information would not be made available until the SHARED workshops planned for Year 2, which will include evidence contribution sessions.
	11.1.3 SHARED workshops in six countries for policy engagement and evidence sharing (ensuring synergies with ELD/GIZ output 7)		Starts Year 2
11.2 Global-, country- and local-level communication campaigns	11.2.1 1 Conduct communication-focused situational analysis on gaps in scaling-up of EVA	100%	
	11.2.2 Develop global-level communications strategy and campaign plan (initially linked to the work under Outputs 7-9) and commence initial activities in coordination with ELD/GIZ	100%	
	11.2.3 Roll out country-level communications campaign plans (initially linked to the work under Outputs 7-9) and commence initial activities in coordination with ELD/GIZ	50%	Delay in implementation of activities meant that some of the communication aspects e.g. of ongoing activities, could not be done in Year 1.
11.3 High level policy influencing	11.3.1 Building on 11.1, revisit stakeholder mapping and identify outcome challenges and progress markers for each stakeholder group	40%	Initial stakeholder mapping, outcome challenges and progress markers were identified by each country team while developing their CIP. These have been reviewed and will be updated during and following the SHARED workshops.
	11.3.2 Work with Project and country teams and GIZ to development policy influencing strategies		Starts in Year 2
	11.3.3 Finalise outcome mapping and policy engagement plans		Starts in Year 2

Narrative on activity delivery under Output 11

Instead of completing new policy analyses for the countries where, in most cases, significant policy work has already taken place, we focused on synthesizing the key policy findings, stakeholders and opportunities (Activity 11.1.1). Policy synthesis draft reports for seven of the eight countries have been prepared, four of which have already been sent to country teams for feedback. One report is still to be drafted. Feedback has been received from two of the country teams with additional feedback expected in the coming weeks. The final reports are expected before the end of 2018. The policy synthesis reports will be used to guide the SHARED engagement workshops in each country, both in terms of stakeholders and key policy gaps and opportunities.

Country teams synthesized their successes as part of the inception workshop and CIP planning. It was intended that additional evidence would be synthesized for each country (Activity 11.1.2) prior to the SHARED engagement workshops. However, it became apparent that to capture evidence from each of the countries, additional stakeholders as data holders and practitioners must be included and that the most effective way to bring out their lessons was an evidence and adoption sharing bazaar session as part of the SHARED workshops. As such, key organizations engaged in agroforestry and restoration in each country have been invited to present key evidence, in terms of successes, challenges and lessons at the upcoming workshops (Ghana, Kenya, Ethiopia and Rwanda before December 2018 and Mali, Senegal and Niger in the first quarter of 2019).

The SHARED team has reviewed the outcome mapping work completed during the CIP development process and has identified a number of opportunities for improvement. During and following the SHARED engagement workshop in each country, the country team will be invited to reflect on the key outcomes and update their stakeholder mapping, outcome challenges and progress markers for each stakeholder group (Activity 11.3.1). The country team will also develop an engagement plan to identify who, when and how important stakeholders and policymakers will be reached and engaged.

Gender and youth inclusion

This component aims at the project's gender and youth integration. It has four key dimensions:

1. **Project-related decision-making** – ensuring women, men, younger farmers and those from disempowered groups will participate meaningfully in decision-making in all key components of the project.
2. **Gender responsiveness in implementation** – ensuring project activities are tailored to the needs, priorities, and interests of women, men, youth, and key disempowered groups (e.g. prioritizing labour saving technologies, holding meetings at convenient times and venues, and making sure childcare services are available), and facilitating critical awareness and discussion of traditional gender roles that impeded the achievement of equitable project benefits.
3. **Labour and time impacts** – ensuring the benefits associated with practicing evergreen agriculture among women, men, and key social groups outweigh any associated increases in workloads or actually reduce workloads.
4. **Access to and control over resources and benefits** – ensuring women's and disadvantaged groups access to and control over key resources, such as land and agroforestry products, is enhanced or – at the very least – not undermined. Project benefits are equitable across gender, age, and other categories of farmers.

Planned activities on gender integration vary by country, based on its social context. They include training of field technical staff on gender inclusion and reviewing of NRM policies, in order to influence gender positive outcomes in land restoration. Implementation of the gender dimensions is set to begin at the country level with the other project activities.

Communication and visibility actions

Communication is a core component of the project that serves two primary functions:

- **accelerating the scaling process** through advocacy under Output 11.2;
- **creating project visibility** for donor funded actions.

Activities that have been implemented in Year 1 under each of the functions are as follows:

Accelerating adoption of agroforestry/evergreen agriculture through global-, country- and local-level communication campaigns

a. **At the global level**, the project participated in and/or was publicised at major events such as:

- the ***UNCCD COP in Ordos, China***, where we convened a major side event on the launch of the project
- the biannual conference of the ***European Agroforestry Federation***
- the ***Forest Europe conference*** in Budapest
- seminars and workshops at the European Parliament and the European Commission;
- the ***African Climate Summit***;
- the ***AFR100 Annual Conference***;
- the ***Global Landscapes Forum*** at UNEP, where Susan Chomba of ICRAF gave a presentation;
- the GEF conference, sponsored by AFR100 and ***The Global EverGreening Alliance***, to assist 22 countries in preparing their GEF proposals on land restoration;
- and other events in Brussels, Berlin, Lisbon, Paris and Cluj, Romania.

Major upcoming events that will be used to publicise this initiative include the Beating Famine Sahel conference in February 2019, and the World Congress on Agroforestry in Montpellier, France in May 2019.

b. **At the country level**, the communication component delivered introductory courses in strategic communications in Ghana (October 2017), Senegal and Niger (February 2018) and is providing ad hoc communication support to events and activities planned by partners in country.

c. The communications component is working closely with ***SHARED*** (Stakeholder Approach to Risk Informed and Evidence Based Decision-making) to facilitate workshops in six out of the eight countries, that are designed to reach and engage stakeholders in government (at national, subnational and local levels), development partners, NGOs and CBOs. SHARED brings together stakeholders engaged in land issues, to help them explore and align their work on enabling more supportive policy and scaling-up practice. Such SHARED workshops have already taken place in ***Kenya***, Rwanda, Ethiopia and Ghana, with a workshop in Mali planned for February 2019 and in Senegal for March 2019.

d. **At the local level,** implementing partners are holding participatory workshops as they start engaging with local authorities and local communities in the scaling-up process. Project launch meetings/ workshops have been held in all countries except Somalia (Puntland) and in Ethiopia, where these will be held in the second year of the project.

Creating project visibility for donor funded actions

Activities implemented include:

a. Development of a project logo and corporate identity

b. Creation of a project website that will be launched during the steering committee meeting (***www.regreeningafrica.org***)

c. Creating visibility through social media including an active Facebook group (Regreening Africa); twitter hashtags (#RegreeningAfrica and #RegreenAfrica) (***Here*** are snapshots of some tweets and Facebook posts)

d. Production of press releases and blog posts

Press releases

1. *Lancement du Projet de reverdissement à grande échelle: World Vision Sénégal cible 80 000 ménages pour améliorer leurs conditions de vie.* Author: Fatou. Link ***here***.
2. *Afrique: Environnement, le projet «des arbres pour reverdir l'Afrique» lancé dans 8 pays*. Site: koaci.com; Views: 6,543. Link ***here***.

Blogs:

1. *Green agriculture initiative to boost food security for 70,000 households.* Site: The New Times; Author: Michel Nkurunziza. Link ***here***
2. *Reversing land degradation in Africa by scaling-up evergreen agriculture*. Site: University of Nairobi. Link ***here***.
3. *Assessing economics of land management to regreen Kenya.* Site: World Agroforestry Centre (Transformations bi-weekly newsletter); Author: Christine Magaju. Link ***here***.
4. *Regreening Ethiopia!* Site: World Agroforestry Centre; Author: Susan Chomba. Link ***here***.
5. https://3blmedia.com/News/Regreening-Ethiopia. Reads: 473
6. *EverGreen Agriculture: a solution for degraded landscapes.* Site: World Agroforestry Centre; Authors: May Gathigo and Susan Onyango; Reads: 834. Link ***here***.
7. *Assessing opportunities for sustainable land management in Africa: A cost-benefit approach in eight countries.* Site: UNCCD Library; Author: UNCCD. Link ***here***.
8. *Evergreen Agriculture Project to kickstart in UE and Northern Regions*. Site: Ghana News Agency; Author: Samuel Akapule. Link ***here***.
9. *EU offers €1m to tackle land degradation in Ghana.* Site: Goldstreet Business Newspaper (Ghana); Author: Wisdom Jonny-Nuekpe. Link ***here***.

In addition, through a communication situational analysis (report available upon request), the project has produced a comprehensive communication strategy that will be used to support each country in developing and executing clear communication plans and actions.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Overall, the project has witnessed positive progress in Year 1. Considering the size of the consortium and the time required to put all structures of such magnitude in place, the challenges of contracting and budget revisions in Year 1 were not unusual. However, now that the contracting challenges are behind the consortium, Year 2 requires acceleration of both project activities and spending in order to make up for the lost time.

One strong advantage of this project is that it builds on previous successes of land restoration initiatives by its consortium partners. In addition, most partners have now put in place sufficient staffing and operational structures to enable them to implement activities in Year 2. For the few that are still struggling with project set up, such as Mali, the PMU is providing necessary advice and support. That said, PMU will continue to monitor progress and will be prompt to recommend changes in partnership arrangements, funding or otherwise in countries where implementation may continue to drag in Year 2 to ensure targets are met.

Appendices

Appendix I: Project sites under component one and components two and three

Country	Component one sites only	Overlapping sites	Components two and three sites only
East Africa			
Kenya	• Isolo County • Aberdare Water Towers (Sasumua, Lake Ol Bolosat and Malewa River catchments (Watersheds), all in Nyandarua County)	Isiolo County	• Homa Bay County • Migori County • Baringo County • Isiolo County • Laikipia County • Elegeyo Marakwet County • Marsabit county • Nakuru County • Samburu County
Ethiopia	Coverage of nine regional states and one city administration of Ethiopia, close to 60-64 administrative zones will be covered by the study, thus aspiring to provide data across the country	Overall	• Tigrah region • Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples' Region (SNNPR) • Oromia region • Amhara region
Rwanda	• Eastern study: Nyagatare district, Nyagatare • Western study: Gishwati and Mukura corridor (located in two districts of the Northern Province of Rwanda: Ngororero and Rutsiro Districts) • Southern study: District of Nyanza, Busasamana Sector, Kibinja Cell.	Nyagatare district	• Bugesera district • Kayonza district • Gatsibo district • Nyagatare district
Somalia	To be defined		Odweyne and Baki districts in Somaliland Sites in Puntland under selection
West Africa			
Mali	• Koutiala • Bougouni	Koutiala	• Koutiala cercle • Tominian cercle • Yorosso cercle • San cercle
Niger	• Gouré • Maradi • Tahoua • Tillabéri (Simiri et Ouallam)	• Ouallam • Simiri	• Ouallam • Simiri • Hamdallaye
Senegal	• Kamb (région de Louga) • Mbar Diop (région de Thiès) • Forêt de Pata (zone forestière du Sud, région de Kolda) • Village climato-intelligent de Daga Birame (Kaffrine)	Kaffrine	• Kaffrine region • Fattick region • Kaolack region
Ghana	Upper West (exact sites of data collection still to be confirmed, but study results will probably cover the whole region		• Upper East region: Bwaku West and Garu Tempane districts • Northern region: Mion district

Appendix II: NOCC reviews

Please note that EU delegates are members of the National Oversight and Coordination Committee (NOCC), and hence review the country reports together with other NOCC members. The dates of NOCC meetings to review the 2018 annual report are indicated below by country. NOCC review reports are available together with the respective technical/narrative report per country.

Country	Date of NOCC review meeting
Kenya	25th October 2018
Ethiopia	14th September 2018
Rwanda	4th October 2018
Somalia	NOCC to be constituted in Year 2: two EUD delegates and project partners visited the project sites from 31st Oct and 1st November
Ghana	October 19th 2018
Senegal	NOCC met on 6th November 2018 but the document review process is ongoing
Niger	14th August 2018
Mali	19th Sept 2018

Please find the country-specific annual reports and maps of components 2 and 3 study sites in this Google Drive ***folder***.

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