Annual Report

SEPT 2018 - AUG 2019

Regreening Africa

Reversing Land Degradation in Africa
by Scaling-up Evergreen Agriculture

Regreening Africa

Funded by European Union

World Agroforestry

World Vision

ELD THE ECONOMICS OF LAND DEGRADATION

Oxfam International

care

CRS CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

SAHEL ECO

Project title:	**Reversing Land Degradation in Africa by Scaling-up Evergreen Agriculture - components 2 and 3**
Grant Contract No:	DCI-ENV/2017/387-627
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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Implementing partners' contribution:	EUR 2,779,310 (13%)
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Principal Investigator Contacts:	Ravi Prabhu Deputy Director General - Research World Agroforestry (ICRAF) UN Avenue, Gigiri P.O. Box 30677, Nairobi Tel: +254207224361 Email: r.prabhu@cgiar.org
Project Manager contacts:	Susan Chomba Regreening Africa Programme Manager World Agroforestry (ICRAF) UN Avenue, Gigiri P.O. Box 30677, Nairobi Tel: +254207224612 Email: s.chomba@cgiar.org

Contents

List of acronyms and abbreviations

AFR100	The African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative
CARE	Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere
CBO	Community Based Organization
CDS/DRS	Conservation des Eaux et Sols/Défense et Restauration des Sols (Conservation of Water and Soils/Defense and Soil Restoration)
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
CSO	Civil Society Organisations
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
ICRAF	International Centre for Research in Agroforestry/World Agroforestry
GIZ	Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
JRLM	Joint Reflection and Learning Mission
KII	Key Informant Interviews
LDD	Land Degradation Dynamics
LDSF	Land Degradation Surveillance Framework
LQAS	Lot Quality Assurance Sampling
MEL	Monitoring Evaluation and Learning
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NOCC	National Oversight and Coordination Committee
ODK	Open Data Kit
PLOCC	Puntland Oversight and Coordination Committee
PMU	Project Management Unit
SHARED	Stakeholder Approach to Risk-informed and Evidence-based Decision-making
UNCCD	The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNFCCC	The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
VCD	Value Chain Development
WV	World Vision

Background

This narrative report covers Year 2 of the Reversing Land Degradation by Scaling up Evergreen Agriculture (Regreening Africa) project, funded by the European Union (EU) from September 2017 to September 2022. The project's goal is to reverse land degradation over an area of at least 1 million hectares and benefit 500,000 farm households across eight African countries. In East Africa, the project is being implemented in Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda and Somalia (Somaliland and Puntland); and in Ghana, Mali, Niger, Senegal, with a light touch in Burkina Faso, in West Africa.

Regreening Africa plays a crucial role in catalysing the realization of global commitments made by African countries on climate change, biodiversity, action against desertification, and sustainable development. These include the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), action against desertification and attaining Land Degradation Neutrality under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), global commitment on land restoration under the Bonn Challenge and the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100), and conservation of biodiversity through strategies and action plans under the Aichi Targets.

On land restoration, Africa has committed to restoring at least 100 million hectares under the AFR100 initiative. This only represents about 14% of the continent's restoration potential, estimated at 700,000 hectares. Tackling this challenge requires an ambitious but proven and effective approach: incorporating trees into cropland, communal, and pastoral areas. Agroforestry has already been successfully deployed to reverse land degradation in specific places in Africa.

The challenge now is to scale-up relevant practices across the continent. In conjunction with similar initiatives, the project therefore acts as a catalyst for wide-scale restoration efforts that are urgently needed. The lessons drawn from the project will be timely for informing similar activities, as the world ushers in the UN-declared 'decade of ecosystem restoration (2021-2030)'.

World Agroforestry (ICRAF) leads a consortium of international NGOs (World Vision (WV), Catholic Relief Services (CRS), CARE and Oxfam) and a national NGO (Sahel Eco) to scale up agroforestry/regreening/evergreen practices. Through a separate funding stream from the EU to Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the project integrates the assessment of the Economics of Land Degradation (ELD) in partner countries to make regreening an integral part of decision-making and policy strategies.

Overview of progress and achievements in Year 2

Year 2 saw an acceleration of land restoration activities on the ground in most countries, and the onset of activities in Somalia and Senegal who were both lagging in Year 1. According to the country reports detailed under the strategic level outcomes, a total of **161,522.25 hectares** (137,976 Ha under directly facilitated adoption and 23,546 Ha under leveraged adoption) were put under restoration in Year 2. Additionally, the project has reached a total of **144,181 households** (124,730 under directly facilitated adoption and 19,451 under leveraged adoption).

In total, **162,697 hectares are currently under regreening and a total of 145,274 households have been reached**, approximately 99% of which have been reported in Year 2. If the acceleration of activities continues in this trajectory in Year 3, the target of reaching 500,000 households by the end of Year 5 appears realistic, while 1 million hectares remains a stretched goal. Reaching this many households is not necessarily indicative of adoption and benefiting from land restoration practices; it is therefore imperative that these numbers are compared with the adoption data that is currently being collected through uptake surveys.

Most of the activities planned for Year 2 were successfully implemented. The project diversified from the initial conceptualization of restoration primarily through farmer managed natural regeneration (FMNR), as field experience with partners and data produced by ICRAF showed that FMNR alone is not sufficient to restore some of the highly degraded areas nor meet the multiple needs of the farmers and landscapes.

Left. Farmer poses for a photo besides a jackalberry tree, in Mali

Therefore a suite of land restoration practices, including FMNR, have been developed in each country context for:

i. ecological reasons (e.g. farmers in Kenya and Rwanda's high potential areas with small farm sizes that were intensively managed preferred restoring their lands through tree planting, combined with soil and water conservation measures and composting);

ii. broader policy considerations (strong government policies and strategies that largely promoted tree planting, such as in Rwanda, slowed the start of FMNR, by comparison);

iii. overcoming the shortcomings of FMNR, such as the inability to generate tree diversity in areas where genetic material does not naturally occur in the form of stumps or seeds, which necessitates enrichment planting with trees.

While FMNR remains the primary regreening practice, most country teams have embraced a diversity of restoration techniques to suit the ecological, economic and social-cultural needs of farmers and landscapes, by engaging with technical staff from ICRAF. This will present a higher chance of uptake and sustainability of regreening practices.

There was significant progress in the development of all project outputs, as detailed in the report. Of importance is Output 2, where several tools and resources were developed and stakeholders (implementing partners, government departments and lead farmers) were equipped with new knowledge, skills and resources to effectively promote regreening activities.

Guidelines for achieving and measuring leveraged[1] adoption and the tool for outcome mapping were developed and intensively discussed with partners during Year 2. Both tools help the project in systematic documentation and estimation of adoption targets that are associated with other projects or activities that Regreening Africa has influenced in a clear and credible manner.

The ***Regreening Africa App*** is also a major innovation of the project that has been developed and released for use in the field in Year 2. The App was developed by the ICRAF Geoscience Lab to enable the real-time tracking of project implementation and performance of regreening practices such as tree planting and FMNR, and can also be applied to general crowd-sourcing. The data collected while using the App will enable real-time project progress monitoring and will support evidence-based decision-making through interactive Decision Dashboards that are co-designed with stakeholders in the eight project countries.

Other tools and manuals developed include the value chain prioritisation tool, manuals for vegetative propagation (especially grafting) of high value trees, and nursery preparation tools, amongst others.

Two years into the project, project partners in each country came together for a week of Joint Reflection and Learning Missions (JRLMs). JRLMs were designed using the Stakeholder Approach to Risk Informed and Evidence Based Decision Making (SHARED) process as an innovative process for monitoring, reflections and learning between implementing partners, including NGOs, World Agroforestry scientists and some country NOCC members who provide project oversight at the national level. The objectives of the JRLMs were four-fold:

i. To provide a platform for mutual learning on what implementation strategies are working and what could be improved.

ii. To review the evidence from multiple sources (scientific studies and field experience) and use it to enhance project planning for improved impact.

iii. To discuss all technical, managerial, and behavioural obstacles, and find ways to overcome them.

iv. To establish concrete actions that can increase the uptake of regreening practices to transform landscapes for inclusion in the Year 3 Activity Plans and budgets.

JRLMs were carried out in seven of the eight project countries, with the exception of Somalia, between May and July 2019, as detailed in the synthesized ***JRLM report*** and the individual country reports.

[1] Given that Regreening Africa promotes regreening through both direct intervention work at the community level and through influencing wider policy and practice, we have defined two types of adoption: *directly facilitated* and *leveraged*. Directly facilitated adoption will be measured primarily through the uptake surveys and complemented by the Regreening Africa App. Leveraged adoption is defined as... "an evidenced-based projection of such adoption that is expected (or known to have occurred) following the implementation of the Project's proven EVA scaling approaches by non-project related initiatives and investments known and underway by project closer. 'Leveraged adoption' could be as a result of something as simple as a 'sister project' being implemented by one of the INGOs participating in the country consortium that is using the Project's same scaling approaches. However, it could be less direct, for example, another organization or government institution pursuing the same scaling approaches as developed under the Project".

For Somalia, a planning meeting was held during 16-17 April 2019 in Nairobi for both Puntland and Somaliland partners to support the setup of governance structures and to inform the coordination of activities within the ELD component. Subsequent field missions were conducted in Puntland from 8-13 July 2019 to review start-up activities, to attend the inaugural meeting of the Puntland Oversight and Coordination Committee (PLOCC), and to conduct a workshop on scaling approaches. This mission was conducted jointly with CARE Netherlands and CARE Somalia, and scientists from ICRAF Nairobi. Subsequently, another mission to support the project's technical aspects for all outputs led by ICRAF was conducted in both Puntland and Somaliland from 1-9 October 2019. With the governance structures set up at national and state level, and activity implementation underway, the project is now on track in Somalia.

Some challenges experienced in Year 2 include persistent insecurity in countries such as Mali, Niger and Somalia, but since project activities were moved from highly insecure districts/regions in Year 1, the current implementation sites are largely unaffected. Project teams on the ground remain small compared to the task ahead and the main challenge is to change the mindsets of project managers from a more internal approach regarding the completion of activities, to rather leverage with other stakeholders at local and national levels.

Overall, the progress in Year 2 has been significant and the realisation of targets, especially households, is still within reach if momentum is sustained.

Right. Moses Munjuga demonstrating grafting techniques during a training session in Elgeyo Marakwet, Kenya

Results

Outcome (Strategic Objective) Level

Regreening Adoption Targets

Table 1: Progress in achievement of targets (households and hectares) in Year 2 per country

Country	Directly facilitated Hectarage	Leverage Hectarage	Directly facilitated Households	Leverage Households
Ghana	16,863	0	7,495	0
Mali	34,761	21,305	17,381	10,653
Niger	6,946	0	5,394	7,044
Rwanda	TBD	0	10,408	0
Senegal	40,050	0	20,025	0
Kenya	3,250.25	430	746	673
Ethiopia	34,231	1,811	60,174	1,081
Somalia	1,875	0	3,107	0
All countries	**137,976.25**	**23,546**	**124,730**	**19,451**

Table 2: Summary of Year 1 and Year 2 progress of targets (households and hectares) for all countries

Target type	Year 1	Year 2	Total targets reached to (yr 1 + yr 2)	Verification approach used	Future verification methods (Year 3 & 4)
Directly facilitated—HHs	873	124,730	125,603	Country reports submitted by implementing partners	Regreening Africa app; uptake surveys
Leverage—HHs	220	19,451	19,671	Country reports submitted by implementing partners	Regreening Africa app; uptake surveys
Total Households reached	**1,093**	**144,181**	**145,274**		
Directly facilitated—Ha.	998.8	137,976	138,974	Country reports submitted by implementing partners	Regreening Africa app; uptake surveys
Leverage—Ha.	176	23,546	23,722	Country reports submitted by implementing partners	Regreening Africa app; uptake surveys
Total Hectares reached	**1,174.8**	**161,522.25**	**162,697**		

Tables 1 and 2 show progress in achieving the project's goal of 1 million hectares and 500,000 households by 2022. A total of **161,522.25 hectares** (137,976 Ha under directly facilitated adoption and 23,546 Ha under leveraged adoption) were put under restoration in Year 2. Additionally, a total of **144,181 households** (124,730 under directly facilitated adoption and 19,451 under leveraged adoption) have been reached by the project in Year 2.

In Year 1, which was characterised by significant delays in the onset of activities during the setup of the consortium, the project reached a total of **1,174.8 hectares** (998.8 under directly facilitated adoption and 176 under leveraged adoption) and a total of **1,093 households** (873 under directly facilitated adoption and 220 under leveraged adoption) across the eight countries.

In total, 162,697 hectares are currently under regreening and a total of 145,274 households have been reached, approximately 99% of which have been reported in Year 2. The proportion of directly facilitated adoption remains high, indicating a need for the project to put more effort on leveraged adoption in the face of limited resources (both human and financial). Greater leverage with other activities and projects would also contribute to the project objective of being a catalyst for large scale restoration, rather than acting as an isolated case on the ground.

Value Chains Strengthened

Table 3: Outcome summary – Value chains identified for strengthening

Country	Priority Value Chain	Targeted gaps to be addressed	Gaps addressed to date	% of gap objectives achieved
Ethiopia	Bamboo	• limited value addition skills • market linkage	• orientation on benefits of value addition • selling groups established • enterprise development plan developed • training support	60%
	Cactus	• production harvesting, financial management challenges	• input support • selling group established • training support	95%
	Firewood	• lack of business development plans • limited value addition skills • market linkage	• enterprise development plan developed • orientation on value addition benefits • training support	50%
	Fruits	• lack of knowledge on financial and cooperative management • production harvesting, financial management challenges • quality germplasm	• input support • training support	80%
	Gesho leaves	• limited value addition skills • market linkage • production harvesting, financial management challenges	• input support • selling group established • training support	60%
	Honey	• lack of business development plans • limited value addition skills • market linkage • poor infrastructures for collection, storage, processing, sales & transport • production harvesting, financial management challenges	• orientation on benefit of value addition • enterprise development plan developed • input support • training support • selling group established	60%
	Pole & timber	• management skills • market linkage • production harvesting, financial management challenges • quality germplasm	• training support • input support	50%
Ghana	Firewood	• depleting tree-stock • poor infrastructures for collection, storage, processing, sales & transport • production harvesting, financial management challenges	• enterprise development plan developed • training support • input support	40%
	Fruits	• limited value addition skills • poor infrastructures for collection, storage, processing, sales & transport • quality germplasm	• orientation on value addition benefits • value chain analysis conducted • infrastructure support • input support	30%

Country	Priority Value Chain	Targeted gaps to be addressed	Gaps addressed to date	% of gap objectives achieved
Ghana	Medicinal tree products	• lack of knowledge on appropriate dosage • production harvesting, financial management challenges	• orientation on value addition	30%
	Shea	• depleting tree-stock • production harvesting, financial management challenges	• enterprise development plan developed • infrastructure support • training support	45%
	Timber	• identification of preferred & marketable crops • management skills	• training support • input support	60%
Kenya	Honey	• production harvesting, financial management challenges	• quality control • marketing and market linkages	40%
	Mango			20%
	Pawpaw			40%
Mali	Shea	• few producer groups • poor infrastructures for collection, storage, processing, sales & transport	• value chain analysis conducted • selling group established	40%
	Soumbala	• depleting tree-stock • market linkage • poor infrastructures for collection, storage, processing, sales & transport	• selling group established • orientation on benefit of value addition • training support • infrastructure support	50%
Niger	Ziziphus & moringa	• few producer groups • market linkage • quality germplasm	• selling group established • infrastructure support • training support	50%
Rwanda	Fruits	• few producer groups • gender mainstreaming • identification of preferred & marketable crops • lack business development plans • market linkage	• value chain analysis conducted	100%
	Maize, beans	• identification of preferred & marketable crops	• value chain analysis conducted	100%
	Timber	• gender mainstreaming • identification of preferred & marketable crops • lack business development plans • private sector involvement	• value chain analysis conducted	100%

Value chain development/strengthening activities were conducted for over 20 prioritised chains in six countries. Senegal and Somalia are yet to commence direct implementation work and are therefore not presented above. Ethiopia and Ghana have the greatest number of chains, possibly due to the project's geographical spread in these countries. The major gaps targeted to unlock performance of the identified value chains include: lack of market linkage, value addition skills, business development plans, few producer/seller groups, quality germplasm, and poor infrastructures for collection, storage, processing, sales and transport. During this implementation year, actions to address the gaps covered: trainings on value addition, germplasm and other input support where budget allowed, infrastructure support where possible, development of enterprise plans, and value chain analysis. Over 50% of the gaps identified in Ethiopia were addressed while the other countries registered mixed performance (see Table 3). Resource constraints (human and financial) remain a key barrier in rolling out intensive value chain interventions as the project was not designed with this as a primary objective. In the meantime, coordination with other stakeholders investing in similar activities in the landscape, including the private sector, remains the project's key strategy.

Given Regreening Africa's emphasis on evidence-based decision-making within priority value chains, data analysis and reporting took a considerable amount of time (up to the first quarter of the project year). This was partly due to challenges related to (i) the translation of raw data assembled in local languages into French in the case of Sahel countries, and into English for East African countries; (ii) data cleaning and standardization requirements; and (iii) delays in report reviews by implementors and collaborators.

In the second quarter of the current implementation year, detailed value chain reports were successfully availed to all project countries, to support value chain development (VCD) plans. This was with the exception of Somalia due to logistical delays involving the overall project start. Key progress recorded to date include:

i. Scoping assessment for Somaliland was completed in August 2019 and data cleaning for analysis and reporting is underway.

ii. Based on country requests and readiness, validation of findings from the value chain scoping surveys was completed through workshops involving project implementors, government departments and local actors surveyed. Validation workshops were conducted in Kenya, Ethiopia, Mali, Niger, Ghana, and Senegal.

iii. Tools and trainings on enterprise screening were made available to enable implementors to conduct actor mapping and to assess the sustainability of different enterprises.

iv. Business plans and/or community enterprise development plans were made available to enable partners and community investors to settle on viable value chain options.

v. Following identification of business ideas in the different regions, implementing partners have provided feedback, with further grassroot actor consultations planned to share findings and help community business groups with value chains of interest.

vi. Partners have committed to provide technical support to community groups interested in the preparation of business/enterprise plans per value chain idea, covering single or multiple project sites.

Several other achievements have been realized based on individual country situations:

i. In **Niger**, Regreening Africa supported the Union of Producers from the Agricultural Development (UPRODA), Simiri commune, to exhibit and sell their agroforestry products and innovations in the Sahel 2019 Agricultural Exhibition.

ii. In **Kenya**, discussions were initiated with a private firm Kenya Papaya Planters Limited so as to link farmers in Homa Bay on pawpaw contract farming.

iii. In **Ghana**, collaboration meetings were held with the Global Shea Alliance (GSA) that is implementing the Sustainable Shea Initiative in the Regreening Project areas. A letter of intent has been signed to facilitate sharing of information and support to smallholder shea producers. Implementing partners have been invited to attend the annual ***GSA conference*** in Accra, Ghana, from 6-8 April 2020.

LESSONS LEARNT

i. The identification of a large number of value chain ideas (see Table 3) such as wood, fruits, medicinal tree products, cosmetics (e.g. shea) and beekeeping (honey and beeswax) poses **challenges on settling on the most suitable value chains for the project to support** while balancing profitability, gender inclusion, growth opportunities and available natural resources for exploitation.

ii. Regulatory requirements on tree-based enterprise (mainly concerning wood-based products such as charcoal, timber, poles and others) such as **business registration and licensing pose challenges**, as this is poorly developed or shunned in project countries due to fears of environmental degradation.

iii. Despite the promise of a high return on investment for most of the ideas, **success depends on**:

- efforts and capacity of local producers/ farmers;
- resources to support/ build local collective action and aggregate collection, value addition and marketing;
- support from key service providers such as government on deregulation and policy incentives (e.g. on land and tree tenure, giving tax breaks for investors in the processing of local products, and infrastructure development such as roads); and
- external factors influencing local markets of key globally traded products such as shea.

iv. **Opportunity development to global value chains may be hindered** by certain barriers such as lack of skilled labour, poor access to credit, high local regulations, poor governance structures, poor infrastructure and lack of quality standards.

v. **Satisfying some of these requirements makes trade more expensive** and therefore, most of these start-ups already suffer:

- low levels of technology and innovation in the chain, as is the case with shea;
- lack of financing for key investments for value addition; and
- high costs of transport due to poor road infrastructure.

Above. Bee hive on a communally owned farm in Sire Woreda in Oromia region, Ethiopia.

Output and Activity Levels[2]

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

Table 4: Output 1 summary for Year 2

Direct Scaling Site[4]	Key regreening options identified	% of option identification work complete for site (approx.)
GHANA		
Bawku West District **Garu Tempane District**	Establishment of FMNR fields	40%
	Tree planting (farmlands, homesteads, communal lands)	35%
	Nursery establishment	20%
	Fire management practices	50%
Mion District	Tree planting (degraded lands, farmlands, homesteads)	30%
	Incorporating tree seedling raising and vegetable farming.	20%
	Establishment and management of FMNR hubs	50%
	Establishment of individual woodlots on farms	20%
	Establishment of community woodlots	20%
NIGER		
Simiri commune	• FMNR, tree planting • Zaï pits + organic manure, half moon • Zizyphus *in situ* grafting	50%
Ouallam commune	• FMNR, tree planting • Zaï pits + manure, half moon + tree planting • Zizyphus *in situ* grafting	80%
Hamdallaye commune	• FMNR, nursery establishment + tree planting • Half moons, Zaï pits, manure application, mulching	80%

[2] Outputs are to be reported on cumulatively (overall progress towards the output indicator targets in the project's Log Frame), 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, FMNR, soil and water conservation, grazing land management, etc. to be promoted in the site and the specific ways these are to be integrated into local farming systems, through to options for strengthening seed delivery systems and value chains.

[4] Your country's direct scaling efforts are in specific sites, e.g. regions or districts. Indicate the names of these sites, as well as the percentage of option identification work that has been completed to date and examples of the key options identified. If specific regreening options are being identified as each community is being enrolled into the project, it is possible that the target of 100% will not be reached until towards the end of the project when new batches are being enrolled each year.

Direct Scaling Site	Key regreening options identified	% of option identification work complete for site (approx.)
MALI		
Koutiala	• FMNR • Plantation/direct seeding • Promotion of agroforestry, Assisted Natural Regeneration: tree planting (grove, orchard-Moringa) • CWS/DRS (zai, stone barriers, ACN, fast composting, half moon, grass strips, trenches, dune stabilisation) • Protected areas	80%
Tominian		87%
San		70%
Yorosso		62%
SENEGAL		
Fatick	• FMNR, tree planting and direct sowing • Planting salt-tolerant trees in degraded sites	65%
Kaolack		70%
Kaffrine		90%
KENYA		
Nyatike (Migori County)	• FMNR • Fruit tree farming • Honey, mango & pawpaw value chain development	95%
Lambwe (Homa Bay County)	• Energy-saving cook stoves as alternative to fuelwood and charcoal • Savings for investments into regreening • Rehabilitation of degraded lands (especially gold mines, hill tops, and river basins)	95%
RWANDA		
Bugesera	Fruit and agroforestry tree planting. Woodlots, silvopasture, boundary planting, fertilizer trees, FMNR.	100%
Kayonza	Fruit and agroforestry tree planting, enrichment planting, woodlots, silvopasture, boundary planting, fertilizer trees, avenue planting, FMNR	100%
Gatsibo Nyagatare	Fruit and agroforestry tree planting, woodlots, silvopasture, boundary planting, fertilizer trees, avenue planting, FMNR	100%
ETHIOPIA		
Asgedet Tsimbila Medebay zana	Moisture harvesting in communal area and tree planting in agroforestry system	90%
Shashogo	Communal land management through FMNR and agroforestry practice in private land	80%
Ambassel		60%
Jeju		90%
Hula	Agroforestry practice in private land	90%
Sire	• FMNR in farmland and communal land • Agroforestry (home garden, woodlot, boundary planting)	100%
Dodota		

Direct Scaling Site	Key regreening options identified	% of option identification work complete for site (approx.)
Gulomekada	• Communal land management through FMNR • Tree plantation in communal areas	95%
SasieTsaeda-Emba	• Tree planting in agroforestry systems • Irrigation for high-value fruit seedling plantation	
Ganta-Afeshum	• Agroforestry • FMNR • Tree plantation in communal areas and tree planting in individual farmlands	95%
Hintalo Wajirat	• FMNR in communal land • Agroforestry in private land	100%
Enderta		100%
Degua-tembien		100%
SOMALIA		
Somaliland (Baki & Odwayne district)	• FMNR • Agroforestry • Tree nursery development • Environmental conservation work	80%
Puntland **Sanaag & Bari regions**	• Land reclamation through check dams and gabions • FMNR • Training of farmers on good agricultural practices • Improved communities' behaviour towards agroforestry • Fruits and hay production	TBD

Narrative on progress towards Output 1

Identification and refinement of suitable regreening (land restoration practices) options for project sites was successfully conducted for all countries. A detailed summary of the level of this activity implementation is provided in Table 4. **Rwanda** has effectively completed this process while **Ethiopia** has less than 20% of the activity outstanding. The major options identified to support regreening include FMNR practices, agroforestry tree planting, high-value fruit production, fodder production, soil and water conservation, Zai pits and half moon structures, composting, and manure application. **Senegal** has the least number of options identified, partially because discussions between scientists and implementors are inconclusive regarding suitable practices for the ecological, economic and social needs of farmers and landscapes.

The identification of suitable regreening options involved the use of scientific data, including land degradation maps with key indicators such as soil erosion prevalence. Community meetings and discussions about prevailing degradation challenges such as droughts, soil erosion and invasive species problems, expert consultations and other methods of local needs assessment have also been used. Choices of similar options were determined by geographical locations as informed by biophysical and socio-economic situations for each site per country. This process has helped implementing partners in most countries to adjust their plans to include more site-specific implementation plans instead of focusing on a single or 'blanket' option, such as FMNR.

In East Africa, regreening options in **Rwanda** present the most unique circumstances of very small land holdings of about one hectare per household

in most parts of the country. FMNR practices are limited in these situations as most farmlands are tilled for agricultural crops. Regreening opportunities are nonetheless extensive, with tree planting along farm boundaries or on contours to improve soil and water conservation measures while contributing to smallholder livelihoods.

There is demand for trees that are compatible with current farming systems while offering short term returns. These options further support the use of green manure (fertilizer trees) to improve soil fertility, and growing fruits, wood, and fodder trees to support farm diversification. In **Kenya**, project activities in Migori and Homabay Counties have identified fertilizer trees, fodder tree growing, and improved fruit farming (such as grafted mango, avocado, oranges and guava) as critical options to incentivise the scaling of FMNR techniques.

Special considerations on pastureland restoration were also identified to increase feed resources and reduce pressure on trees/shrubs on farmland, while seeking means for value addition on indigenous fruit trees and products. To promote sustainable management approaches, social fencing approaches are being pursued by promoting local collective action. This will help increase the survival of planted and regenerated tree seedlings. Yet another key aspect will be to advocate for conducive land and tree tenure regimes.

It is anticipated that further refinement of relevant regreening options across biophysical and social contexts will continue as co-learning actions feed into the implementation process.

Table 5: Annual activity summary for Output 1

Activity area	Planned specific activity as stated in the budget[5]	% delivered	Summary reason(s) for variance
1.1 Evidence compilation & synthesis to support scaling (led by ICRAF)	1.1.1 Refinement of country regreening options and scaling approach for Year 3	100%	
	1.1.2		
	1.1.3		
1.2 Country level scaling model design & implementation	1.2.1 Hold global level inception workshop		Completed Year 1
	1.2.2 Detailed country implementation plans for direct scaling work for Year 3	100%	Completed
	1.2.3		
	1.2.5 One cross-project sharing event held	100%	Cross-country online sharing event was organised by SHARED team in September 2019 and others are planned for Year 3.
1.3 Evaluating and disseminating cost-effective scaling models (led by ICRAF)	1.3.1	0%	Fidelity monitoring studies have not begun as these are only feasible once substantive activities are ongoing in the field. They will be considered in Year 3 and 4 based on the availability of funds.
	1.3.2		
	1.3.3		

[5] Report against the planned specific activities set at the beginning of the year in the annual work plan and budget. If you have done additional activities, you can report on these in the narrative section.

Narrative on Annual Activity Delivery under Output 1

Refinement of country regreening options and scaling approach for Year 3 was an iterative process over the course of Year 2. The discussions culminated in the JRLMs, outlined in greater detail under Output 5.

At least one cross-project sharing event (Activity 1.2.5) will be facilitated online each year. In Year 2, this event was conducted in September 2019 with two cross-project sharing events planned in Year 3.

In summary, key regreening options identified include: FMNR, tree planting/ agroforestry with fodder, fruits and wood species; farm diversification; green manure; soil and water, beekeeping and herbal medicine; fruit tree farming/ orchard establishment; silvopasture and woodlot farming. Highlights on option identification and subsequent activity implementation plans per country are as follows:

i. **Mali:** community visioning processes were applied to identify regreening options for Tominian (87%), Koutiala (80%), Yorosso (67%) and San (70%) districts. FMNR as the main regreening option identified will be tempered with 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 cover a target area of 160,000 hectares. Additional activities to be implemented include: promotion and marketing of NTFP; dissemination of adapted seeds; fighting against free grazing of animals; developing local Natural Resource Management conventions.

ii. **Niger:** 80% of options for Ouallam and Hamdallaye communes were identified for implementation and 50% for Simiri. Community feedback sessions informed that focusing on FMNR only will not lead to desired results. FMNR interventions are therefore being combined with other land management activities such as contour bunding with earth or stones, Zai pits, sand dunes fixation, half moon, manure application tree planting and appropriate direct seeding, and *in situ* grafting of wild fruit tree/shrubs like Ziziphus and Balanites to provide added benefits to farmers.

iii. **Senegal:** Similar regreening options have been identified for Fatick, Kaolack and Kaffrine, given the same geographic context. All sites experience rapid environmental degradation associated with deforestation as these three regions, known as the “groundnut basin”, have experienced large area clearing in favour of groundnut cultivation. Project stakeholders have settled on FMNR practices and tree planting options to reverse the situation. The Kaffrine region is more advanced in terms of FMNR practices due to past projects, while interventions are more recent in Fatick and Kaolack.

iv. **Ghana:** Options identified in Bawku West and Garu Tempane involve the establishment of FMNR fields, tree planting and fire management. Mion, which has serious firewood and charcoal harvesting issues, identified tree planting on individual and community woodlots as an option. Reported levels of option identification work are below 50% across all implementation sites. The highest preferred option across sites was fire management interventions and the establishment of FMNR hubs. Nonetheless, identification of farmer-preferred tree species is reported to be complete for 53 communities across the three districts.

v. **Rwanda:** At the close of Year 2, the option identification exercise on the four districts was completed. Key regreening options identified, based on the biophysical and social characterization of each location, are now being implemented. These cover fruit and agroforestry tree planting, enrichment planting, woodlots, silvopasture, boundary planting, fertilizer trees, avenue planting and FMNR. Tree species that produce fruits, timber and improved soil fertilities are of great interest. Approximately nine agroforestry species have been procured for this purpose: *Grevillea robusta*, *Calliandra callothyrsus*, *Senna sp.*, *Maesopsis eminii*, *Spathodea companulata*, *Gliricidia sepium*, *Markhamia lutea*, Eucalyptus, *Carica papaya*, Tamarillo (tree tomato), *Artocarpus heterophyllus* (jackfruit), *Persea americana* (avocado), and *Mangifera Indica* (mangoes).

vi. **Ethiopia:** Following the assessment of all direct scaling sites (14 Woredas) and consultation with stakeholders, regreening options were identified based on suitability to the local agro-ecology, farming systems, community preferences and the success of previous initiatives. To create ownership, needs-based assessments and identification of best-fit options to the local context involved Woreda and local leaders, experts and development agents. At least 90% of the option identification is complete for all Woredas except in Ambassel, where 60% of regreening options were completed. This is due to the late start of the project in this Woreda (February 2019), following its replacement of Chilga Woreda due

Above. Farmers clearing shrubs in Ghana.

to security challenges. Four key options identified are:

- FMNR in farmland and communal areas (area enclosures), especially in areas affected by drought, land degradation, water shortage and a high failure rate of tree planting activities;
- Enrichment planting – integration of high-value trees in existing and newly established area enclosures, to improve economic benefits for local communities and improve species diversity;
- Agroforestry – boundary planting, woodlot, home garden, fruit orchards on private land. Activity focus on strengthening traditional agroforestry practices through trainings on tree planting and management and provision of high-quality seed and seedlings, including high-value fruit seedlings;
- Tree planting in communal areas with moisture harvesting structures – integrating tree planting with water harvesting structures in areas where there is high water scarcity to improve increased moisture conservation.

vii. **Kenya:** At least 90% of options identification work has been completed for direct sites in Migori and Homabay Counties. These cover FMNR, fruit tree farming, enrichment planting, rehabilitation of degraded lands (especially gold mines, hill tops and river basins), development of tree-based value chains, reseeding of pasture grasses, conservancy approach and invasive species management. With the support of lead farmers and partners, model sites have been established and several of the options applied. The conservancy approach could not be tried in the intensification sites, as the context could not allow.

viii. **Somalia:** In Somaliland, 80% of the options for project sites in Baki and Odwayne have been completed. These include FMNR, agroforestry, tree nursery development, and environmental conservation work. FMNR sites established by an Australian livelihood project in 2016 in Baki have been identified for intensification with regreening activities. In Puntland, and in collaboration with ***RESTORE*** project in the Sanaag and Bari regions, options such as land reclamation through check dams and gabions, FMNR, training of farmers on good agricultural practices, behaviour change towards agroforestry, and fruits and hay production have been prioritized. Nursery site identification work is complete and ready to raise seedlings, supported by the project with essential nursery materials.

Output 2:

Project stakeholders equipped with new knowledge, skills, tools & resources to effectively promote prioritized regreening options

Table 6: Output 2 summary for Year 2

Project stakeholder group[6]	Capacity gaps to be addressed[7]	Gaps successfully addressed to date	% of capacity gap objectives achieved (approx.)	# of stakeholder per group equipped with new knowledge, etc.
SOMALIA				
FMNR Champions (Baki)	• Lack of practical training on AF and VCA • Lack of access to quality tree seeds	Not yet	20%	N/A
Farmer group (Baki)	Agroforestry skills	Some village practice agroforestry	40%	
Traditional Local Authority (Baki)	Bylaws preparation	Few villages have bylaws from older projects	40%	
Agricultural Officers District Coordinator (MOA & MOERD)	EVA model and designing of regreening projects	Participated in the design workshop	50%	
FMNR Champion (Odwayne)	Lack of access to quality tree seeds	Most FMNR champions received intensive FMNR training	70%	
VSLA groups (Odwayne)	• Lack of knowledge on regreening and FMNR • Poor skill in seed identification	Some VSLA group members are part of FMNR champions	20%	
Puntland				
Female headed HH	• FMNR • Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and nursery management	FMNR and nursery management	20%	
Frankincense and Myrrh producers	• Access to Frankincense tree seedlings • Better harvesting techniques, seeking new market opportunities • Establishing product/market standards • Linkage to commercial partners	N/A	0%	0
Pastoralists	FMNR	FMNR	20%	
Agro-pastoralists	• Good agricultural practices • FMNR & agroforestry • Fodder production • Better harvesting techniques • Proper use of fertilizers • Poor quality seedlings	FMNR and agroforestry	15%	
Farmer groups	Good agricultural practices, FMNR and agroforestry	FMNR and agroforestry	20%	

[6] Includes project staff and implementing partners, as well as other collaborators, e.g. government extension staff.

[7] Capacity gaps can relate to knowledge, skills, access to quality tree germplasm and other resources, motivation/commitment, institutional deficiencies, etc.

Project stakeholder group	Capacity gaps to be addressed	Gaps successfully addressed to date	% of capacity gap objectives achieved (approx.)	# of stakeholder per group equipped with new knowledge, etc.
Nursery operators/nurseries	• Good nursery management practices • Pest control & protection of indigenous species • Seedling management	Good nursery management practices	15%	
Ministry of Environment & Agriculture	• FMNR • Agricultural diversification • Access to quality and appropriate germplasm	N/A	15%	
FMNR Groups	• FMNR knowledge • Good agricultural practice • Advocacy	• Basic FMNR • Strengthening group structures	35%	
ETHIOPIA				
Government head of office	Lack of clear understanding on project approach and scaling strategy	Woreda and regional office clearly understood and accepted the project approach and scaling strategy	90%	86
Woreda Experts, DAs & office heads of Agriculture & Natural Resource offices	• Technical skills & knowledge on project concepts • FMNR & agroforestry practices including law enforcement & bylaws	Knowledge & awareness on project concept, approach & regreening options improved	90%	560
Communities/farmers	Awareness and technical knowledge on regreening options	Awareness and knowledge on regreening options improved	47%	23,366
VFTs (Voluntary Farmer Trainers)	• Technical skills • Knowledge on FMNR • Agroforestry practices and communication	Technical skills and communication methods enhanced	75%	360
FMNR & Conservation groups	Technical skills on FMNR & agroforestry practices	Knowledge & awareness on FMNR & agroforestry raised	70%	1180
Nursery Service providers	Technical skills & knowledge on nursery management & tree-based livelihoods including nursery tools and seed	Technical skills & knowledge on nursery management improved	85%	253
SILC/Saving groups and CBOs	Technical skills & knowledge on FMNR & agroforestry practices & tree-based livelihoods	Technical skills & knowledge on FMNR & agroforestry raised	35%	40
Partners Project staffs	Technical skills & knowledge on FMNR, regreening options & project approaches	Technical skills & knowledge on FMNR, regreening & project approaches improved	80%	21
KENYA				
Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)	• Organizational development • Strategic planning • Resource mobilization and proposal writing • Group dynamics • Conflict resolution & management • Change management • Record-keeping & financial management • Communication skills & report writing • Networking & partnership skills • Lobbying and advocacy	• Organizational development • Strategic planning • Resource mobilization and proposal writing • Group dynamics • Conflict resolution & management	55%	9 (Migori- 5; Homa Bay- 4)

Project stakeholder group	Capacity gaps to be addressed	Gaps successfully addressed to date	% of capacity gap objectives achieved (approx.)	# of stakeholder per group equipped with new knowledge, etc.
Government extension agents: Departments of Agriculture, Environment and Livestock; Kenya Forest Service (KFS; Macalder Sheep & Goat Multiplication Station	• Regreening approaches in extension and farmer-advisory services • Gender regreening efforts • Value of trees in FMNR, land restoration and climate adaptation	• Introduction to Regreening Africa Project • The value of trees on-farm • Climate change and regreening • FMNR as a low-cost, adaptable, and farmer-friendly land restoration approach • Involving women and youth in regreening effort	100%	5
RWANDA				
Lead farmers	Lack of agroforestry knowledge and practices skills	Training in tree planting and management, soil conservation and regreening practices	100%	512 (256 Female)
Farmers groups/ Cooperatives members	Lack of knowledge and skills in nursery establishment & management, grafting techniques	• Training in nursery establishment and management • Equipped with skills in grafting	100%	188 (50 Female)
Local leaders (Districts representatives)	• Access to tree species (Gliricidia) and scions for grafting • Commitment to promote regreening practices in their respective district	• Provided quality tree germplasm and diversified exotic species • Involved local leaders in regreening through supervision and monitoring of interventions to increase the awareness and commitment to the project	80%	12
Project Staff	Limited knowledge in LVCD and FMNR	Training in LVCD and FMNR	50%	2 project staff
GHANA				
Farmers/ Agriculture Extension Agents/ Private nursery managers	• Management /Development • Nursery establishment and management • Tree planting and management • Grafting (especially of shea) • Shea direct seeding • Shea and indigenous tree parasite management • Bushfire management	• Knowledge of current land degradation situation of the district and actions required for reversal (Baseline dissemination) • Nursery establishment and management • Tree planting and management • Grafting (especially of shea) • Shea direct seeding • Bushfire management	100%	8,600
Local NGOs/CSOs	• FMNR management /Development • Nursery establishment and management • Tree planting and management • Grafting (especially of shea) • Shea direct seeding • Training partners on social and gender dynamics • Bushfire management	• FMNR management /Development • Nursery establishment and management • Tree planting and management • Grafting (especially of shea) • Shea direct seeding • Trained partners on gender and social dynamics • Bushfire management	100%	20
Traditional Authority	• Bushfire management • Bylaws enactment and enforcement • FMNR management /development • Nursery management and tree planting	• FMNR management /development • Nursery management and tree planting	50%	12
Ministries and MMDA	• FMNR management /development • Enforcement of policies and bylaws on bushfire management • Tree planting	• FMNR management • Tree planting	40%	45

Project stakeholder group	Capacity gaps to be addressed	Gaps successfully addressed to date	% of capacity gap objectives achieved (approx.)	# of stakeholder per group equipped with new knowledge, etc.
MALI				
Project technical implementation team Technical Services of the State (Regional Directorates of Agriculture, Forestry & Water Cantonments) Arrondissement (District)	• Knowledge on RNA and CES/DRS techniques • Lack of harmonised and complete training modules	• Training on FMNR and CWS/DRS • Harmonised training packages prepared • Project Implementation Teams and Technical Services Officers inducted to conduct training sessions on FMNR and CWS/DRS techniques	100%	13 (1 woman) staffs from Oxfam, CRS, WV, Sahel Eco 6 staffs of town halls, agriculture, water and Forest, Municipality Councils, sub-prefects
Producers Lead Trainers (men, women and youth)	Limited skills on FMNR and CWS/DRS techniques	Training on FMNR and CWS/DRS	100%	1,212
Nursery producers	• Limited skills on good nursery production & grafting techniques • Few seedlings quantities produced by existing nurseries • Lack of diverse seed inputs and equipment's	162,997 plants produced for Baobab, Caïlcedrat, Moringa, Acacia colei , Nere, Cashew, Mango, Guava, Tamarind, Jujube, Lemon, Eucalyptus, Faidherbia, Shea, Fromager, Henna and Jatropha	100%	146 (0 women) trained nurserymen
Technical teams (PM and M&E staff)	• Knowledge on value chains development • Knowledge of the project's MEL strategy	• Workshop on value chain development conducted • MEL planning workshop conducted in Bamako	100%	18 people including two women were trained
Technical teams from Mali (CRS, Oxfam, Sahel Eco and WV)	Harmonisation of monitoring and evaluation tools, learning and accountability	MEL tools well understood by Mali country teams	100%	15 persons were trained
SENEGAL				
The technical services of government departments (forestry, agriculture) and NOCC members	Knowledge on species inventories, soil quality, water infiltration process	New knowledge on tree species inventory and monitoring soil quality through hands on training on LDSF methodology	90%	30
Project Team	Knowledge on agroforestry value chain development	Workshop on value chain development attended	5%	2
Community animators	Low knowledge on agroforestry practices and FMNR	Level of knowledge raised on agroforestry mainly FMNR practice	70%	45
Farmers	Not mastering the FMNR practice and ignorance of the FMNR steps	Mastery of the practice of FMNR, more information about agroforestry	80%	20025
NIGER				
Project Team	• Environmental laws/Land tenure • Scaling approaches • Mapping • Quantitative and qualitative data collection • Life stories (success stories)	• The scaling approaches • Quantitative and qualitative data collection • Life stories (success stories)	60%	5
Village committees	• Project objectives • Environmental laws/Land tenure • Scaling approaches • The associative life • Community management	• Project objectives • Scaling approaches • The associative life • Community management	75%	900

Project stakeholder group	Capacity gaps to be addressed	Gaps successfully addressed to date	% of capacity gap objectives achieved (approx.)	# of stakeholder per group equipped with new knowledge, etc.
Women groups	• Project objectives • Environmental laws/Land tenure • The scaling approaches • The associative life • Community management • Management of a tree nursery	• Project objectives • The associative life • Community management of a tree nursery	60%	1234
Land committees + mayors	• Project objectives • Environmental laws/Land tenure	• Project objectives • Environmental laws/Land tenure	100%	243
Technical services	• Project objectives • Environmental laws/Land tenure • Scaling approach	• Project objectives • Environmental laws/Land tenure • Scaling approach	100%	12
Lead farmers	• Project objectives • Scaling approaches • Community management	• Project objectives • Scaling approaches • Community management	100%	232
Private nursery operators	• Project objectives • Community management	• Project objectives • Community management	100%	5
Community radios	• Project objectives • Environmental laws/Land tenure • Scaling approach	• Project objectives • Scaling approach	70%	13

Narrative on progress towards Output 2

Following the onset (and sometimes acceleration) of activity implementation in Year 2, implementing teams and various grassroot stakeholders have benefited from the many capacity-building activities provided. Supporting regreening plans are relevant knowledge and materials on FMNR, agroforestry, soil and water conservation, best practices in nursery establishment and tree planting, value chain analysis, and LDSF training, amongst others. Interventions targeted project stakeholders at different levels such as NGO implementation teams, government extension/technical services, and sometimes policy makers at sub-national and national levels who are members of NOCCs.

Table 7: Annual activity summary for Output 2

Activity area	Planned specific activity	% delivered	Reasons for variance
2.1 Partner and stakeholder capacity development for scaling	2.1.1 Capacity & situational assessment of all partners involved in direct scaling of EGA	90%	Assessments pending for Somalia (especially Puntland)
	2.1.2 Develop and agree on country specific capacity development strategies	100%	Completed
	2.1.3 Conduct first round of country specific EGA technical training	100%	Covered for all countries
2.2 Development & dissemination of extension manuals, guides & other tools	2.2.1 Review the availability of existing material against country EGA scaling requirements	90%	More assessment required for Somalia
	2.2.2 Compile/develop priority material, with a plan for other materials for Year 2	70%	Several drafts in pipeline pending formal publications
	2.2.3 Develop guidelines & tools to meaningfully integrate gender into the scaling	100%	Completed
2.3 Facilitation of inter- and intra-country sharing on extension	2.3.1 Integrate initial sharing session on AF scaling during global Inception Workshop	100%	Completed
	2.3.2 Integrate similar sharing sessions into country specific planning processes (Country inception reports documenting lesson sharing)	100%	Completed

Narrative on Annual Activity Delivery under Output 2

Key highlights achieved in Sahelian and East African countries include:

i. In **Mali**, training on FMNR and CDS/DRS and value chain development was provided to project technical teams, state technical services (Regional Directorates of Agriculture, Water & Forestry), local authorities (Mayor offices and District councils) and administration (Sub-prefectures). Further, the project identified 1212 lead farmers composed of men, women and youth, following agreed criteria. It is estimated that, following mastery of FMNR and CDS/DRS techniques, producers have managed to target 55,816 ha under FMNR and 250 ha under CDS/DRS. A total of 146 nursery operators were trained on nursery and grafting techniques, leading to production of 162,997 seedlings of: Baobab, Caïlcedrat, Moringa, Acacia colei, Nere, Cashew, Mango, Guava, Tamarind, Jujube, Lemon, Eucalyptus, Faidherbia, and Shea.

ii. In **Senegal**, 45 newly recruited animators received hands-on training on agroforestry and in turn supported farmer trainings and identification of lead farmer trainers. 30 partners from technical services (INP DEFCCS, ISRA, DA, SDDR) acquired new knowledge on species inventory and soil properties such as water infiltration and soil organic carbon qualities. This knowledge has been replicated in their different services. Additionally, two project staff received training on tree-based value chains development, which will help on value chain implementation.

iii. In **Ghana**, a range of project stakeholders such as farmers, extension farmers/Agriculture Extension Agents/private nursery managers, NGOs, CSOs, traditional authorities, Ministries and MMDA have been involved in capacity development activities. Knowledge of current land degradation in the district and actions required for reversal based on baseline assessments have been supported. Community capacities are being improved to deal more specifically with bushfire management, tree planting and management, shea trees direct seeding and grafting, and nursery establishment.

Above. Happy farmers from Rwanda after receiving Gliricidia seedlings.

iv. In **Niger**, in addition to addressing over 80% of the project team and technical services capacity gaps, at least 70% of the capacity gaps for village committees, women groups, land committee and mayors, lead farmers, private nursery operators, and community radio were realized.

v. In **Rwanda**, project capacity strengthening with knowledge targeted lead farmers, farmer groups/cooperatives, local leaders, district representatives, and project staff. Efforts were made to cover at least 80% of the identified gaps such as limited knowledge of agroforestry practices, nursery establishment and grafting techniques, and poor access to scions and diverse planting materials. All 512 lead farmers (256 of which were female) have received training on tree planting and management, soil conservation and regreening practices. At least 188 farmers in cooperatives (50 of which were women) have received training on tree nursery establishment and grafting, with 66 cooperatives contracted to produce seedlings for the project. Access to new germplasm and scions for grafting has been supported for 12 local district representatives, who are also involved in project monitoring and supervision activities.

vi. In **Ethiopia**, capacity improvement plans have responded to the lack of understanding of project approach and scaling strategies by government head office, Woreda experts and staff from the departments of agriculture and natural resources. Following interventions, at least 90% of identified gaps related to understanding project approach, regreening options and scaling strategies pursued are now better understood. At least 560 staff from Woreda offices and 86 from government head office have already benefited from project capacity enhancement activities. At least 23,366 farmers, 360 VFTs, 1180 FMNR groups, 253 tree nursery operators, 40 Savings Groups, and 21 project partner staff members have received technical skills, knowledge on FMNR, agroforestry practices, bylaws formulation, nursery tools and seed, where at least 70% of the identified gaps were addressed except for Savings Groups and farmer groups.

vii. For **Somalia**, World Vision in Somaliland and CARE in Puntland have identified a number of capacity gaps where intervention plans apply. In Somaliland (Baki and Odwayne district), key stakeholders supported are FMNR champions, farmer groups, traditional authorities, Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs), and district agriculture and environment officers. The project has registered success in addressing FMNR

champion gaps (70%) in Odwayne, building on past project interventions, and winning Ministry of Agriculture and Environment staff. Key gaps identified for intervention include lack of quality tree seed, poor skills on agroforestry and FMNR, and bylaw formulation by traditional authorities. In Puntland, pastoralists and agropastoralists groups, Frankincense and Myrrh producers, nursery operators, crop farmers, nursery operators and ministry staff have been assessed on capacity needs. Key material and knowledge gaps include access to Frankincense, tree seedlings and its management and links to new market opportunities, FMNR knowledge, good agricultural practices, nursery management, and advocacy on FMNR interventions.

viii. In **Kenya**, World Vision Kenya has identified nine local Civil Society Organizations in Migori (5) and Homabay (4) that could support regreening. They have been supported to overcome organizational challenges. Additionally, five Government extension agents (Departments of Agriculture, Environment and Livestock; Kenya Forest Service) have benefited from knowledge provided on FMNR, regreening approaches and gender mainstreaming.

ix. **To accelerate activity implementation** stakeholders have received technical support and knowledge resources developed by ICRAF, European Union (EU) and implementing agencies such as World Vision's FMNR Hub. ICRAF country technical leads have continued to share data and evidence through follow-up meetings and communication with implementing partners' country teams to offer relevant and timely solutions on field technical implementation challenges concerning FMNR, tree planting, tree germplasm sourcing, invasive species management, pest and disease, and fire management, amongst others.

x. **The EU tree planting guide for the Sahel** was reviewed by ICRAF scientists and implementing partners and recommended for Mali, Niger, Senegal and Ghana contexts. This guide helps establish minimum criteria for a site to be regreened (e.g. number of trees to be added per ha), through FMNR or tree planting on contour bunds with earth or stone, protected areas and other areas. The guide has been translated from French to English to serve Ghana country teams. Country technical teams are applying the guide following recommendations for tree establishment at different management densities.

xi. Given the significant challenges faced on increasing tree planting and survival rates in the Sahel, **a technical manual on how to plant agroforestry trees and shrubs in the Sahel** is also under preparation.

xii. **A technical manual on *in situ* grafting** is being developed as a reference resource to support grafting techniques on key fruit such as ziziphus, shea, mango, cashew and avocado.

xiii. **Simple guides with graphic illustrations on FMNR** have been availed to support community facilitators and lead farmers conduct training and demonstrations on FMNR.

xiv. Following significant progress in tree nursery infrastructure establishment in Rwanda, Kenya, Ethiopia and Niger, **nursery manuals** have been availed and refined versions are in preparation to support various training modules.

Output 3:
500,000 households supported with viable and inclusive regreening options in that project year

Table 8: Output 3 summary for Year 2[8]

Country	Directly facilitated Hectarage	Leverage Hectarage	Directly facilitated Households	Leverage Households
Ghana	16,863	0	7,495	0
Mali	34,761	21,305	17,381	10,653
Niger	6,946	0	5,394	7,044
Rwanda	TBD	0	10,408	0
Senegal	40,050	0	20,025	0
Kenya	1,296	92	474	205
Ethiopia	34,231	1,811	60,174	1,081
Somalia	1,875	0	3,107	0
All countries	**136,022**	**23,208**	**124,458**	**18,983**

Narrative on progress towards Output 3

The total number of directly facilitated and leveraged households and hectares during 2019 across all countries is provided in Table 8. Self-reported data by implementing partners show that 159,230 hectares (136,022 Ha direct) and 23,208 Ha under leverage) and 143,441 households (124,458 direct and 18,983 under leverage) have been facilitated.

Accuracy in data reported here varies as it is dependent on data collection methods and tools applied by different partners in different countries. Implementing partners applied their own internal monitoring and evaluation systems, sometimes covering gender-disaggregated data.

Higher accuracy will be established once data collected through uptake surveys is analysed and compared with self-reported data, though the number of households actually adopting regreening practices may differ significantly from those reached. The Regreening App will also be used to complement these efforts. There is an urgent need for the teams engaged in project monitoring and impact evaluation to engage in dialogue and streamline their different methods.

[8] The main indicator is focused on households. However, breakdown of men, women, and youth is available in the individual country reports.

Table 9: Annual activity summary for Output 3

Activity area	Planned specific activity	% delivered	Reasons for variance
3.1 Farmer and local stakeholder EVA mobilization & capacity development	3.1.1 Scaling site level stakeholder and outcome mapping (country specific local stakeholder and outcome maps)	100%	Complete
	3.1.2 Carry out local level stakeholder meetings & assess capacity on EGA facilitation	100%	Complete
	3.1.3 Develop local stakeholder cap. dev. plan in prioritized EGA scaling approaches	90%	This has been supported by government technical services but plans for Somalia are outstanding.
3.2 Implementation & refinement, where necessary, of innovative extension approaches	3.2.1 Hold sensitization meetings in the targeted scaling sites	100%	Completed for all countries. For Puntland activity done at district level and more work will be done at community level in collaboration with the RESTORE project.
	3.2.2 Facilitate participatory community action plan development on EGA scaling	80%	Completed for most countries except for Somalia, parts of Senegal, Mali and Ethiopia, the latter due to security interruptions. A change of site was affected in one Woreda in Ethiopia.
3.3 Facilitating access to quality & appropriate germplasm	3.3.1 Develop & agree on protocols and manuals for EGA delivery	80%	Most countries covered, except Somalia where in Puntland the activities are fairly new and the cultural context very different. There are unique requests such as domestication of frankincense and myrrh species.
	3.3.2 Roll out relevant EGA delivery innovations in the designated scaling areas	70%	Most direct and leverage sites mobilized on project activities. Some sites in Somalia, Senegal, Mali are yet to be reached. Roll-out leverage sites are most constrained due to lack of partners.
	3.3.3 Monitoring to ensure that EGA delivery innovations are being implemented as per protocols	70%	Several tools such as the Regreening App are in place, even though it has taken time to adopt in different contexts partly due to translation. Staff turnover and reliance on lead farmers and technical services staff for data collection poses some challenges. A delay in implementing uptake surveys in several of the countries also poses some challenges.

Narrative on Activity Delivery under Output 3

In most countries, lead farmers are expected to serve as resource persons to build the capacities of fellow farmers (structured into farmer groups) and to support adoption of evergreen agriculture practices. Collaboration with government extension officers is ongoing to promote scaling-up of locally relevant regreening options. Trainings on regreening options was intensified in Year 2. Implementation of activities in Somalia was nonetheless delayed until April 2019, mainly due to local administrative and capacity challenges.

Capacity development support and linkages for scaling

Several training events and demonstrations have been completed:

i. Practical training on *in situ* grafting on wild fruit trees such as Ziziphus mauritiana was conducted in **Niger** in the second quarter and other agroforestry practices late in the second quarter of the project. Follow-up training on nursery plant stock has been completed in the fourth quarter of the project.

ii. In **Senegal and Mali**, classroom and practical community training sessions on FMNR have been completed for community facilitators and lead farmers.

Above left. Patrice Savadogo training farmers in Ghana on grafting. **Above right.** Catherine Dembele presenting during the Land Degradation Surveillance Framework training in Cote d'Ivoire

iii. In **Rwanda**, at least 66 farmer cooperatives in the Eastern province have been recruited to undertake tree nursery activities and field tree planting.

iv. In **Ghana**, training has been completed on various propagation and shea tree management techniques in farmers' fields, including control measures of parasitic/invasive host plants of shea, transfer of wildlings, grafting on wildlings, direct seeding, and planting of nursery-grafted material.

v. In **Kenya**, training on nursery management and grafting techniques has been completed.

vi. In both **Rwanda and Ethiopia**, agreements are being sought with local government authorities to allocate land for the establishment of Rural Resource Centres to support dissemination of planting material and associated knowledge.

vii. Several countries have participated in national tree planting days, school children tree planting events and other public planting events.

viii. Tree germplasm (seeds, scions) and related use information has been availed to support country tree nursery development and enrichment planting activities while raising awareness on handling invasive species and noxious weeds.

Key progresses per country

i. **Mali:** 28,034 households were reached (directly and indirectly). Only 7,971 are women (28%), with only 502 ha of over 56,066 ha regreened belonging to women. On the issue of women and young people's access to land, Oxfam conducts gender dialogue sessions during weekly meetings of the Savings for Change (SFC) groups so as to advocate with political, administrative and village authorities to promote women's access to land.

ii. **Niger:** The village committees were equipped and trained to collect both quantitative and technical information. 5394 households, 2623 women, 159 youth were counted. At least 6946 hectares have been covered, including all regreening options and practices.

iii. **Ghana** country teams have designed capacity-building activities to integrate regreening interventions with other ongoing projects both within and outside the project sites. CRS particularly targets its agro-based projects (I-SEARCH and GESSiP) covering 5 and 14 other districts respectively. WVG targets its Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) projects as well as influencing strategic organisations such as Forestry Services Division and MoFA operating in three other districts of the Upper East region namely Binduri, Pusiga and Bawku Municipal Districts. This is in line with the achievement of the leveraged targets over the

course of the project. Regreening adoption includes several communal lands and farm fields estimated at 16,863 Ha, each at various stages of regreening. About 62,500 tree species comprising of Cashew (15,500), Moringa (3,500), Mahogany (9,000), Casia (19,500), Mango (1,500), Rosewood (1,000) and Kapok (12,500) were supplied to farmers.

iv. **Senegal:** Planned activities related to setting up farmer associations for project implementation have not been carried out. The process has started with some actions but is not yet effective. Women already enrolled as lead farmers will be trained on leadership and, with support of technical services, the establishment of transhumance committees as local oversight committees and lead farmer trainers in each locality is underway. In order to facilitate access to seedlings, nursery operators identified based on their expression of interest will be supported with quality seed.

v. **Rwanda:** The project was able to distribute tree seedling to 10,408 household heads, of whom 7182 were men and 3226 women. A significant number of youth below 25 years of age also benefited. The project encouraged female farmers to participate in the promotion of regreening practices and set a target of 50% for female lead farmers, out of a total of 512 recruited lead famers.

vi. **Ethiopia:** A total of 115 kebeles (the lowest administrative unit in Ethiopia) in 14 Woredas were covered with regreening interventions. Some 60,174 households (24,967 female) adopted various regreening options on 34,231 ha of land. Another 1081 households (259 female) integrated regreening practices through other leverage projects. The main regreening practices implemented were FMNR on farmland and communal areas, enrichment planting in area enclosures, and agroforestry (boundary planting, woodlots and home gardens on private land). Key progress made:

- 27 FMNR groups were established in eight direct scaling Woredas.
- 19 area enclosures were supported in Gulomekada, Ganta-Afeshum, Saesie-Tseda Emba, Sire and Dodota (enclosure management, FMNR, construction and maintenance of soil and water conservation technologies and bylaw development).
- 1,647,452 tree seedlings were planted on 10,138 ha of communal land and 82,877 planted on 3,400 ha of farmlands.
- 149 households adopting regreening options provided livestock fodder (Oat, Vetch & Rhodes grass).
- Overall, government's call on citizens to engage in regreening initiatives helped surpass set targets. The provision of high value fruits and quality tree seedlings also improved interest to uptake regreening options.

vii. **Kenya:** The project has managed to influence 1,419 lead farmers on regreening options. This includes 496 lead farmers who started the practice last year. Each is expected to have reached another 10 farmers from within their villages. The number of smallholders practicing regreening interventions is about 7,095 (i.e. 1,419 plus 5,676). Available data indicate that at least 3,680.25 hectares of land is under restoration by lead farmers in both intensification and leverage sites. This includes 1,169.8 hectares of land brought under restoration last year.

viii. **Somalia:** In Somaliland, community mobilization meetings involving 940 community members (50% of whom were female) were conducted in 17 villages in Baki and Odwayne districts. Further, in collaboration with Ministry of Environment and Rural Development (MoERD), the project trained 425 farmers and stakeholders on FMNR techniques. In Puntland, the project organized consultative meeting of 52 participants (5 of whom were female) in Badhan and Qardho for FMNR groups and stakeholders to identify the barriers to adoption of regreening and come up with solutions and capacity development programs for the FMNR groups.

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

Table 10: Output 4 summary for Year 2

Country	Name of priority value chain	% of assessment work completed (approx.)	% of value chain support work completed (approx.)	# of actor types supported in full	Specific actor types supported
Ethiopia	Bamboo	100%	75%	1	Producers
	Cactus	100%	95%	1	Producers
	Firewood	100%	50%	1	Producers
	Gesho leaves	100%	60%	1	Individual farmers
	Honey	100%	50%	5	Honey CBOs
	Timber and poles	100%	60%	2	Woodlot CBOs
Ghana	Shea and parkia	100%	50%	1	Processors
	Fuel wood	100%	50%	2	Producers
	Medicine	100%	50%		Collectors
	Shea	100%	50%	1	Collectors & processors
Kenya	Honey	0%	20%	2	Farmers, producers
	Mango	0%	20%	2	Farmer groups
	Pawpaw	20%	50%	4	Farmer groups, traders
Mali	Shea butter	100%	100%	1	Women groups
	Soumbala (processing of parkia kernels)	100%	100%	1	
Niger	Moringa oleifera	50%	50%	1	Producers
	Zizyphus mauritiana	50%	50%	1	
Rwanda	Avocadoes and mango	20%	20%	0	Planned this year
	Grevillea	20%	20%	0	
	Maize and beans	20%	20%	0	

Country	Name of priority value chain	% of assessment work completed (approx.)	% of value chain support work completed (approx.)	# of actor types supported in full	Specific actor types supported
Senegal	TBD	0%			TBD
Somalia	Fodder	10%			TBD
	Charcoal	10%			
	Firewood	10%			
	Fruits	10%			
	Timber and poles	10%			

Narrative on progress towards Output 4

At least 25 different value chain types have been considered to a varying extent across project sites for all countries. Evaluation of priority chains for implementation is complete for Ethiopia, Mali and Ghana; and partially done for Niger, Rwanda, Kenya and Somaliland. Though a scoping assessment is complete for Senegal, implementation plans are outstanding.

The major actor types supported by project intervention are producers, collectors, processors, CBOs and local traders involved at the local levels. Ethiopia (6), Ghana (4), Kenya (3) and Rwanda (3) have selected more than three chains while Mali and Niger have settled for two. Honey, shea, fruits, poles and timber have generally been selected by more than one country. Priority value chains to be supported by the project in Senegal and Somalia are not yet determined. Scoping assessment has been completed for Somaliland and report is under preparation. The scoping for Puntland is planned to be implemented together with baseline assessments.

Above. Shea trees

Table 11: Annual activity summary for Output 4

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 country value chain scoping reports with prioritized species)	90%	Scoping survey for Puntland outstanding to complement study on Somaliland
	4.1.2 Conduct more thorough analysis of prioritized AF value chains (country prioritized value chain analysis reports)	70%	Analysis for Somalia is outstanding and consensus with stakeholders is pending for Senegal to settle on priority value chains for support
4.2 Negotiation & 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)	50%	Actor mapping completed for at least five countries. More efforts to bring other actors beyond producers required
	4.2.2 Facilitate the development of stakeholder negotiated action plans to strengthen the targeted value chains	60%	Actions initiated in Ethiopia, Ghana, Mali and Kenya for select value chains covering shea, fruits, honey, bamboo. Private sector linkages remains a major hurdle. In addition, business and enterprise development s strategies were initiated with implementors.
.3 AF value chain actor capacity development	4.3.1 Conduct capacity needs assessment and strategy for value chain actors of prioritized value chains (Cap. needs assessment report with links to the above VC strengthening action plans)	70%	Largely identified with support of scoping assessments and baseline work. Activity needs to be completed for Somalia, Senegal and Rwanda.

Narrative on Activity Delivery under Output 4

Activities on value chain scoping studies have largely been finalised but assessment is Puntland outstanding. Actor mapping was completed for at least five countries. More efforts to characterise functions of more actors beyond producers is required. Activities to facilitate the development of stakeholders' action plans to strengthen targeted value chains were initiated in Ethiopia, Ghana, Mali and Kenya for select value chains covering shea, fruits, honey, and bamboo. In addition, business and enterprise development strategies were initiated with implementors. Private sector linkages remain a major hurdle as the profitability of the value chains is hindered by many barriers. This section will only focus on Mali and Niger, where activities are at an advanced stage:

Mali

The priority value chains already validated with stakeholders are shea (production of butter) and Nere (production of soumbala). In Tominian, in accordance with these two value chains, the project has supported the creation of 12 savings groups to internally mobilize funds in order to back up NTFP processing activities. As of 31 August 2019, the 12 groups mobilized a total of XOF 2,554,000.

In San, the focus is shea value chain development, while in Koutiala and Yorosso, Shea and Nere have been selected. In these municipalities, Oxfam and WVI have mapped stakeholders involved in these value chains.

In Koutiala and Yorosso, Oxfam has created and/or revitalized 56 SFC groups, including 28 groups belonging to women. These SFC, which count 1,120 people (50% of which are women), have saved a total amount of XOF 26,354,880. Savings are used to support NTFP processing activities.

In Tominian, activities such as the setting up of a small unit and the installation of three NTFP shops as well as the training of women were carried out during the last fortnight of August 2019 after the validation of the value chain study.

Niger

Zizyphus and Moringa are the two species selected to be developed based on scoping assessments. Although all the products and by-products of these two species are used, the choices focused more on fruits (Sahel apple) for zizyphus and leaves for Moringa.

The production and marketing of these two products is conducted by both men and women, with low production by women due to a lack of land and input support. It is on these aspects that the project intends to focus its efforts; to guarantee women's access to land, to support them with inputs and small equipment, to train them to improve and increase their production, and to finally develop their access to various potential markets.

A mapping of the selected chains will be done with all stakeholders and actors involved to identify the bottlenecks and levers on which the project will act to make the production and marketing of these products more economically attractive. Capacity-building sessions will be organized according to needs that will be identified, and plans will be developed by the various actors to conduct and develop the selected chains. Policy and infrastructure barriers nonetheless remain a hindering block in some cases.

Right. Djalal Arinloye presenting on value chains during the JRLM in Senegal

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

Table 12: Output 5 summary for Year 2

Item	Number carried out during reporting year	Number of direct scaling sites of country covered	Cumulative total successfully carried out over life of project*
Joint Quality Monitoring missions/Joint Reflection and Learning Events	7	All the sites except in Somalia	7
Uptake surveys	3	3 in Ghana, 4 in Mali and 3 in Niger	3
Other systematic monitoring missions	1	1, visit to Somalia to hold face-to-face planning meetings with the country team	1

**to be completed in the final project report*

Narrative on progress towards Output 5

A survey instrument and protocol were developed to measure the uptake of the regreening activities promoted by Regreening Africa. These were adapted for the five countries (Kenya, Rwanda, Niger, Mali and Ghana) that were deemed ready for the surveys in Year 2. The tools were piloted and used to collect data in Ghana, Mali and Niger between July and September 2018 using the Lot Quality Assurance Sampling (LQAS) method. This enables the capacity to distinguish between higher and lower performing sites.

Uptake surveys were not undertaken because most of the Year 2 funds had already been exhausted on activity implementation. The surveys are scheduled for February 2020 in Kenya, April 2020 in Ethiopia and May 2020 in Rwanda. In the countries where the surveys were undertaken, Year 3 surveys will be conducted later in the year. In Somalia, a modified form of baseline survey, focusing on the regreening index, is planned for early December 2019. The scope of work and survey instrument are available in draft form and will be finalised by mid-November.

Above. Members of Mandiakuy EPC group, Mali

Table 13: Annual activity summary for Output 5

Activity area	Planned specific activity	% delivered	Reasons for variance
5.1 Joint Quality Monitoring missions/Joint Reflection and Learning Events	5.1.1 Protocols developed and agreed for semi-annual field monitoring	100%	
	5.1.2 First semi-annual systematic monitoring carried out	90%	JRLMs conducted in all the countries except in Somalia where implementation had not begun.
5.2 Rapid EVA uptake surveys	5.2.1 LQAS field manual/ cost capture system developed & piloted	80%	Generic uptake survey tool and protocol developed, adapted for 5 countries (Kenya, Rwanda, Mali and Niger) and piloted in Niger, Mali and Ghana. Pilot could not be done in the remaining countries because of limited budget to undertake the surveys in Year 2.
	5.2.2 LQAS/Cost capture system training carried out for country teams	42%	Training was conducted in 3 out of 7 countries where implementation had begun immediately after the baseline surveys. While some countries could not fund uptake surveys in Year 2 because a considerable part of the budget was used in implementation, other countries like Senegal had not made significant progress in implementation.
	5.2.3 Annual cost capture/LQAS survey execution	42%	Uptake surveys were undertaken in Ghana, Mali and Niger between July and September 2019.
	5.2.4 Data analysis	33%	Data analysis is at an advanced stage for Ghana and Mali.
	5.2.5 Co-interpretation with partners to inform 2020 workplan	0%	Co-interpretation was not possible because of the delay in obtaining population data, that is critical for finalising the analysis. This is being expedited to ensure that the reports are shared with the country teams to inform implementation in Year 3.

Narrative on Activity Delivery under Output 5

JRLMs took place in seven countries, and one in Somalia (Somaliland and Puntland) will take place early in Year 3. The JRLMs took place between 6 May and 12 July 2019, with each mission taking 4-6 days to complete. The JRLMs were designed using the SHARED approach. The design of the missions included field visits to project locations in order to update on implementation, understand key challenges, and to identify what practices or catalytic actions could be further developed to accelerate scaling to meet regional goals. The reflective missions provided an opportunity for scientists, project managers, implementing staff and farmers to jointly query and learn from one another's evidence and experience, build upon project momentum, and consider revising the scaling strategies. These JRLMs provided an opportunity for each country team to refine their regreening options and scaling approaches for Year 3.

A survey following the JRLMs of each country team identified the changes that were being made to the Year 3 plans as a result of the missions. These included diversifications of species, enhancing communication, a greater emphasis on value chains, use of maps to support communication, more interaction on behaviour change, and enhanced effort for policy and practice change.

The JRMLs were very productive in establishing and/or refining actions plans to effectively scale up regreening efforts. These focused mainly on value chain development, scaling and leveraging, communication, gender and inclusion, budget execution and MEL. A synthesized JRLM report as well as detailed individual country reports are available.

Output 6:

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

Table 14: Output 6 summary for Year 2

Item	Overall target	# during reporting year	Cumulative achievement	Who was reached/engaged
6.1 Baseline surveys and reports completed	8	7 baseline reports have been finalised and shared with the country teams for comments.	88%	Findings of the reports were shared with the country teams. In Kenya, the findings were shared with stakeholders in a validation workshop. Insights from the reports, shared with the country teams in JRLMs, informed choice of regreening practices to be implemented in Year 2 in some countries such as Kenya and Rwanda.

Narrative on progress towards Output 6

In the last 12 months, the focus has been on finalizing baseline reports for countries where data collection was undertaken in Year 1. In addition, preparation for baseline data collection in Somalia has commenced. Skype discussions have been held with the Somali team and dates for the surveys set for early December 2019. Baseline reports for seven countries have been finalised and insights from these have informed the selection of regreening initiatives to be implemented in Year 2 onwards. For example, in most of the countries, integration of trees with crops was less common, despite the beneficial effects of this practice.

The stakeholder validation workshop held in Kenya in February 2019 was used as an opportunity to create awareness among farmers on the need to integrate trees with crops. The implementing partner set up demonstration plots following recommendations from the baseline findings.

In Rwanda, exotic tree species were found to dominate the landscape. As a result, the implementing partners have resolved to create awareness among farmers of the risks of relying on exotic species. Efforts are being made to promote indigenous species alongside the exotic ones.

Left. The executive secretary of JVE sensitizing the population on the benefits of trees

Table 15: Activity summary for Output 6

Activity area	Planned specific activity	% delivered	Reasons for variance
6.1 Baseline surveys (led by ICRAF)	6.1.1 Finalization of baseline data analysis & reports	100%	
	6.1.2 Feasibility assessment of baseline data collection in Somalia	100%	
	6.1.3 Adaptation of baseline tools to Somali context	75%	Modified form of uptake survey tools is available for use in Somalia. Rigorous baseline survey like those conducted in the seven countries were found to be too costly to undertake in Somalia because of the security situation.
	6.1.4 Baseline survey administered in Somalia	0%	Successful implementation of this activity requires substantial support from the country team, owing to the security situation in the country. Proper planning is critical, including an assurance of availability of appropriate technical staff in the country team to backstop the activity. This is planned for December 2019 following the successful recruitment of M&E staff by the country team.
	6.1.5 Data analysis and report for Somalia	0%	Data analysis is scheduled for January 2020 after data collection has been completed.
6.2 Implementation fidelity monitoring (led by ICRAF)	6.2.1 Protocols developed, agreed, and disseminated	0%	Development of protocols could only be done after the country teams had identified and clearly outlined their intervention models, during JRLMs. An approach that could lead to behaviour change among farmers and bolster adoption of regreening initiatives has been identified. Literature review is in progress to adapt community-led total sanitation approach, commonly used in health and hygiene to change people's behaviour, for rolling out and testing in three countries.
	6.2.2 First round of implementation fidelity monitoring carried out	0%	Most of the time was spent on understanding each country's intervention model, which was a prerequisite for developing protocols and commissioning.
6.3 Endline surveys & final analysis (to be reported at the end of the project) (led by ICRAF)	6.3.1	0%	The activity is planned for Year 5.

Narrative on Activity Delivery under Output 6

Baseline data collection and report writing was completed in seven of the eight countries, and the results shared with implementing partners during the JRLMs. Feasibility for field-based data collection in Somalia was established, tools modified to suit the country context and the data collection is scheduled for December 2019. Discussions about fidelity monitoring (including the objectives/ purpose, and the financial, human and technical resources needed) and timelines need to be discussed with the project partners substantively.

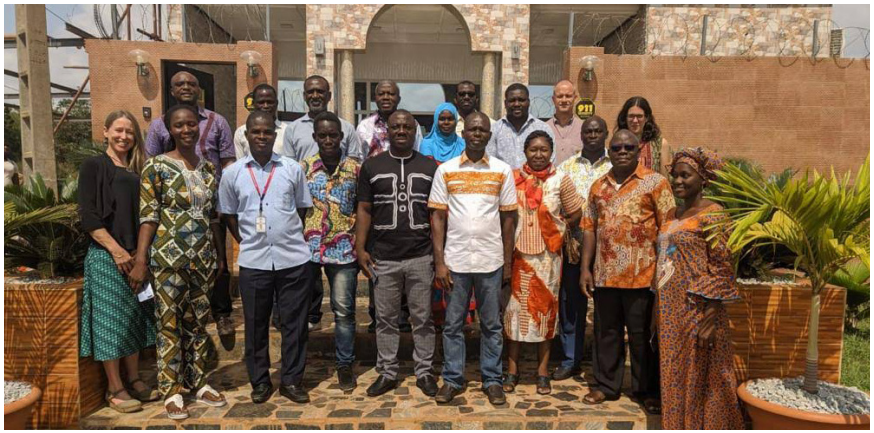
Outputs 7 and 8 reported by ELD

Outputs 9 and 10:

Land degradation dynamics, dimensions in all countries assessed; Countries equipped with surveillance and analytic tools (e.g. dashboards)

Key achievements in the past 12 months include: 1) Deployment of the Land Degradation Surveillance Framework (LDSF) in Rwanda, Niger and Mali; 2) Analysis of key indicators of land and soil health across the baseline households; 3) Utilizing the Regreening App to map and track interventions such as nurseries, tree planting, FMNR plots and training. As well as the systematic collection of key indicators of soil and land health, capacity development of partners is a key outcome of these surveys. For example, In Rwanda, over 12 participants from Rwanda Agricultural Board and World Vision were trained in the field methodology. Read the blog here: ***https://www.regreeningafrica.org/project-updates/using-the-land-degradation-surveillance-framework-to-assess-land-health-in-rwanda/***

In Senegal, over 30 participants joined the training in January 2019 from ISRA, the National and Regional Forestry Department, National and Regional Agriculture Department, National Pedology Institute, and World Vision, amongst others. See blog on the training here: ***http://blog.worldagroforestry.org/index.php/2019/03/13/land-degradation-surveillance-framework-deployed-in-senegal/***



Above. Participants during training on the LDSF

Above. LDSF team members taking soil samples

The field survey was completed in March 2019 and the data analysis report was shared in Aug 2019. Soil samples have been shipped to Nairobi and analysis is expected to be completed in January 2020.

In Niger, the LDSF field training took place in July 2019. Eighteen participants from World Vision, universities, and National Forestry and Agriculture departments, amongst others, were engaged in a week-long training in the field. The field team has completed the LDSF survey in Ouallam in October 2019. Soil samples are being processed and prepared for shipping to Nairobi.

The LDSF has been translated in French and is available for download here: ***http://landscapeportal.org/blog/2015/03/25/the-land-degradation-surveillance-framework-ldsf/***

All reports from the LDSF field surveys and preliminary analysis are available here: ***https://drive.google.com/open?id=1CXsMgnSBZx6knpW3V-d90ya7sOcZZBX5***

Land and soil health analytics

Land and soil health analytics have been completed for project action areas in all eight countries at a spatial resolution of 30m, allowing for these analyses to be used for targeting interventions to reduce land degradation in degradation hot-spots (see example for Senegal in Figure 1). The indicator maps produced include soil properties (soil organic matter, soil pH, soil fertility parameters and soil texture), while land degradation indicators include soil erosion and root-depth restrictions (compaction). In addition, vegetation cover baselines have been produced and surface wetness maps have been produced along with precipitation and land surface temperature trends over the last 20 years.

The maps in Figure 1 form a key part of the SHARED component of the project and will be made available in the SHARED Regreening Decision Dashboards in the form of interactive maps and user-friendly visualizations of the data and analytical outputs. These EC Regreening Decision Dashboards are being co-designed with implementing partners in each country and will also form an important part of capacity development activities under Output 6. In Rwanda, the maps are applied for targeting of interventions by implementing partners, with similar activities to follow for other project countries.

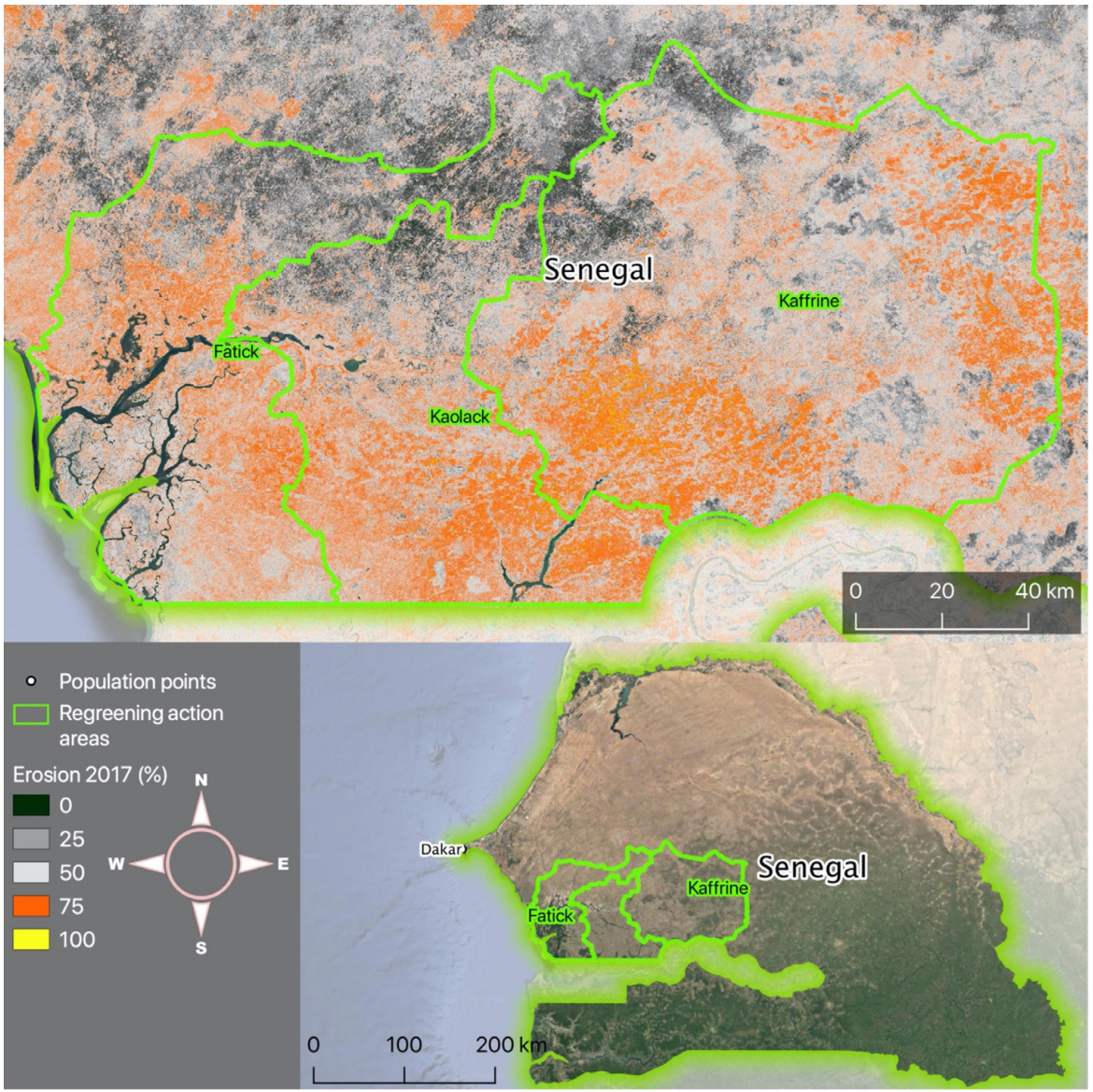


Figure 1. Map of soil erosion hot-spots in EC Regreening Project action areas in Senegal. Orange to yellow areas have high erosion prevalence in 2018.

Progress on the Regreening Africa App

The Regreening Africa App is available on the ***Google Play Store*** (Figure 2) and is currently applied in the project countries to collect data and information on training activities, nurseries, tree planting and FMNR. It is still in active development with critical inputs provided by implementing partners, and updated versions continuously circulated amongst project staff and partners. In addition to the app, a dashboard is being developed where users can access their data, visualize their own data and download data in various formats. This is ensuring quality control and a seamless way for implementing partners to access data collected in their respective intervention areas. The app can also be applied by farmers themselves and is available in both French and English. Tutorials are also available in English (***http://landscapeportal.org/documents/2972***) and French (***http://landscapeportal.org/documents/2973***).

The data collected through the Regreening App will also be integrated into the Decision Dashboard developed as part of the SHARED component of the project. This will ensure tight integration across these components and between the LDD component's land health assessments and interventions being implemented on the ground, complementing the structured household survey information being collected as part of the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning part of the project.

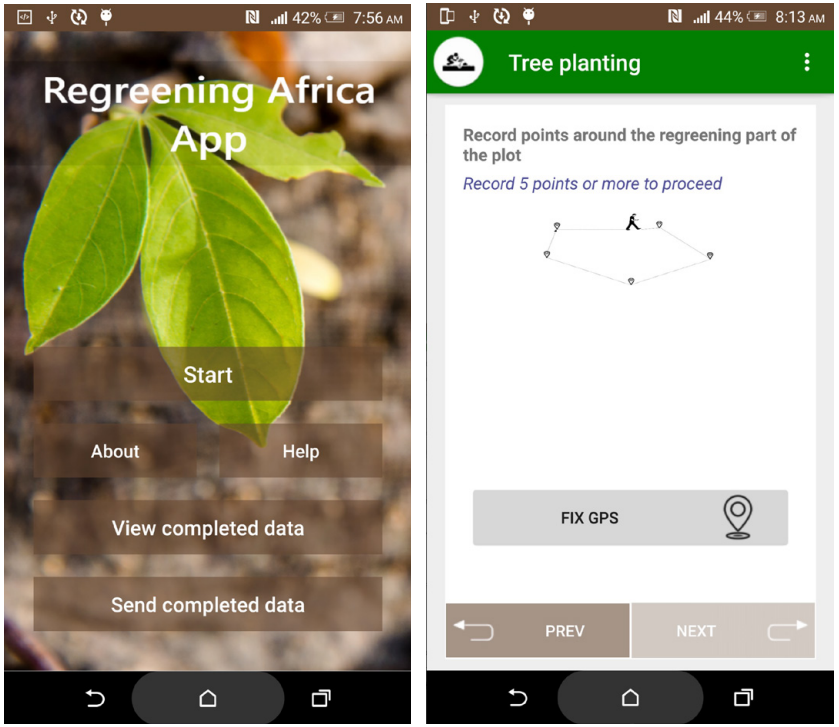


Figure 2. Regreening Africa App

Table 16: Activity summary for Output 9

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 & 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	100%	This activity has been completed and the evidence and data have been feeding into detailed country planning via SHARED as part of JRLMs in each country.
	9.1.2 Generate erosion, soil organic carbon & tree cover estimates as part of project's baseline survey	75%	All vegetation and e8rosion maps have been generated and analysed. Erosion and vegetation cover maps have been used as part of the project's baseline surveys, including for detailed assessments at the level of individual farmers' fields.
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	80%	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. Vegetation maps, including changes overtime have been produced and shared with all partners during the JRLMs
	9.2.2 Carry out field surveys using the LDSF to address key field data gaps, most likely in Rwanda and West Africa	100%	LDSF field surveys were completed in Rwanda (n=2), Niger (n=1) and Senegal (n=1). Here are the blog posts: ***http://blog.worldagroforestry.org/index.php/2019/03/13/land-degradation-surveillance-framework-deployed-in-senegal/*** and ***https://www.regreeningafrica.org/project-updates/using-the-land-degradation-surveillance-framework-to-assess-land-health-in-rwanda/***.
	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.	75%	Land degradation baseline assessments have been completed (activity area 9.1). Scoping and synthesis reports produced by the ELD/GIZ component are yet to be included in this analysis.
	9.2.4. Development of prototype smartphone app (Android) for collection of data on FMNR.	100%	The Regreening App 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	70%	Data analytics are at an advanced stage. Diagnostic tools, which will be part of the project decision dashboard, are under development for the NGO intervention areas.
	9.2.6 Database development and development of production version of smartphone app (Android) for collection of data on FMNR.	100%	The Regreening App 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, soil erosion. Data to be communicated and shared with partners, stakeholders and ELD/GIZ component.	90%	The production of baseline maps has been completed, while assessments and data analytics are at an advanced stage. The results will be shared with partners, stakeholders and ELD/GIZ components over the next 3 months of the project.
	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 was 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 maps are available here: ***http://landscapeportal.org/projects/6***

Output 11:

Regreening successes are compiled and communicated to policy makers, government and project stakeholders

Table 17: Output 11 summary for Year 2

Item	Overall target	# during reporting year	Cumulative achievement	Who was reached/engaged
Structured evidence sharing events (via SHARED)	8	7	8	National and subnational government, international and local NGOs, CBOs, donors, the private sector, media and farmer representatives in seven countries.
Policy makers & other stakeholders reached by regreening success messages	80% of targeted policy makers and other actors reached by regreening success messages	at least 80% of the targeted actors were reached.		National and subnational government, international and local NGOs, CBOs, donors, the private sector, media and farmer representatives in seven countries.
Media pieces disseminated/ generated on regreening successes	80 online or offline media pieces	>100	>100	A broad range of online audience including national and international (see detailed communication section below)

Narrative on progress towards Output 11

SHARED has been used to support wider practice and policy influence in the project. Using a structured stakeholder engagement approach, a number of steps have been undertaken to enhance wider practice and positive policy shifts: initially a policy synthesis to identify gaps and opportunities, followed by stakeholder mapping to identify the actors to be engaged. These key actors, from local through to national decision makers, were invited to a SHARED national workshop (in all countries but Somalia) to discuss regreening successes, policy gaps and opportunities to support scaling.

The sharing of regreening successes in the country through a poster data wall was an important session in the workshop as experience from within and beyond the project was brought to the attention of key stakeholders. In a number of countries, the workshop events were broadcast to a much wider audience through the media.

A key outcome of the workshops was the development of a roadmap to regreening in the country that all stakeholders committed to working towards.

Right. Participants at a SHARED workshop in Nairobi, Kenya, disuss increased adoption of regreening interventions.

Table 18: Activity summary for Output 11

Activity area	Planned specific activity	% delivered	Reasons for variance
11.1 SHARED evidence-based policy dialogue	11.1.1 Finalise policy synthesis reports for 8 countries and update stakeholder mapping for 6 countries	100%	
	11.1.2 Evidence from SHARED workshops synthesised for policy makers in 6 countries	100%	
	11.1.3 SHARED workshops held in 6 countries	100%	
11.2 Global & country & local-level communication campaigns	11.2.1 Conduct communication focused situational analysis on gaps in understanding communication gaps to scaling up of EVA	0%	Completed in Year 1
	11.2.2 Develop global level communications strategy and campaign plan (initially linked to the work under Outputs 7-9) & commence initial activities in coordination with ELD/GIZ	70%	Global communications strategy (completed in Year 2) Joint communication activities with ELD ongoing including UNCCD COP in India (ELD collaboration) and dissemination of findings from ELD studies at country level.
	11.2.3 Roll out country level communications campaign plans (initially linked to the work under Outputs 7-9) & commence initial activities in coordination with ELD/GIZ	50%	Joint communication campaigns ongoing s E:D results are shared
11.3 High level policy influencing	11.3.1 Stakeholder and outcome mapping updated and integrated with ELD/GIZ for 6 countries	100%	
	11.3.2 Influencing strategy development (drafts for all countries)	90%	Somalia engagement is at a more initial stage
	11.3.3 Outcome mapping and policy engagement updated for 6 countries	100%	
	11.3.4 Policy engagement work, explicitly linking to the SHARED policy processes as relevant - Outcome mapping and policy engagement updated for 6 countries	100%	
	11.3.5 Host six national SHARED workshops to present targeted evidence to policy makers and investors (ensuring synergies with ELD/GIZ and using relevant outputs from output 7)	0%	Starts in Year 4

Narrative on Activity Delivery under Output 11

Policy synthesis reports were completed for all eight countries and shared with implementing teams, ICRAF staff, ELD and often NOCC members in each of the countries for feedback and improvements (Activity 11.1.1). Key results were presented at national workshops. Finalised policy synthesis reports have been made available to each of the country teams. A policy brief has been developed, highlighting the cross-cutting recommendations that arose from the policy synthesis and subsequent discussions through the SHARED workshops on key policy issues.

National SHARED workshops were held in seven countries, with the exception of Somalia, where the project was still establishing in Year 2 (Activity 11.1.3). Key identified stakeholders were invited in each country, including national and sub-national government, NGOs, CBOs, farmer representatives, private sector, donors, media and ELD ambassadors. The workshop objectives were to:

a. Review the evidence and benefits associated with integrating trees into agro-silvo-pastoral landscapes.

b. Identify opportunities for taking regreening practices to scale and developing policies to enable this process.

c. Collectively develop a roadmap for scaling up.

In each of the workshops, the national restoration commitments, national plans and activities were presented, and the opportunities and challenges for regreening was recognised. Regreening Africa was introduced to the stakeholders, and key actors were asked to share their insights through a panel.

Evidence on regreening successes was integrated into the discussion through a poster session. The posters were presented by project staff and other key stakeholder representatives. By considering what is known and what is already working in the country, workshop participants were able to reflect on the opportunities for scaling and the challenges that remain. As part of the poster session, information from the LDD component on land health was presented and a representative from ELD, often the ELD Ambassador, presented the ELD study details. A roadmap was developed through the workshop outlining key areas of focus to support regreening in the country. Participants also made personal commitments to regreening. All posters (synthesised regreening successes or related evidence) and information from the workshop was made available through a Google folder link (***https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1G0ad38j_x9__-IllbXKIbuVIR7qBNfUp?usp=sharing***) and a summary report was prepared and distributed for each country (11.1.2). The policy synthesis and roadmap provides the basis for the wider practice and policy engagement moving forward.

Some highlights

Through the SHARED component, facilitation support was provided to the Beating Famine Conference in Bamako. The Conference was organised by World Vision and ICRAF and offered an opportunity for some 400 participants to share success stories, lessons and strategies for restoration and regreening. The conference provided an opportunity for Regreening Africa implementing partners to share their experiences, create new networks and agree to work with other actors in each of the focus countries (Sahel focus) to support regreening scaling.

Stakeholder mapping was completed during the SHARED workshops where a survey was conducted, and representatives were asked to indicate the organisations they work with in relation to regreening (Activity 11.3.1). The stakeholder map will be presented on the dashboards for five countries. Stakeholder lists from the SHARED workshops were shared with ELD and vice versa in preparation for initial engagements. Regular communication between the SHARED/LDD and ELD teams ensured regular updates on stakeholders engaged and key emerging policy issues. The stakeholder mapping completed during the SHARED workshops also built on the initial stakeholder mapping that the country teams had completed while preparing their Country Implementation Plans.

Outcome mapping was selected as a tool to track behaviour change in key stakeholders considered important for wider practice and policy. Outcome mapping was introduced to country teams by email, Skype and face-to-face meetings. During the JRLMs, outcome mapping was discussed in greater detail. Each group was asked to identify key challenges/issues in scaling regreening (using the outcomes of the SHARED workshop as a guide) and then identify the actors that must be engaged to overcome this challenge. For each stakeholder, a desired behaviour was identified along with strategies the project will use to support this behaviour change. Where JRLMs did not take place or insufficient time was available during the JRLM, detailed presentations outlining the steps and online support have been provided to country teams to complete the outcome mapping. Each country team has included outcome mapping in their Year 2 annual report, and these will be updated every six months. Strategies included in the outcome mapping are for both wider practice change and policy engagement (Activity 11.3.3).

Through the SHARED component, additional support will be provided for key policy engagement opportunities. A draft engagement approach has been developed for each country, focusing on one or two entry points as identified through the SHARED workshops and refined through discussion with the country teams during the JRLMs (Activity 11.3.2). Initial activities in the policy engagement process (Activity 11.3.4) started in Year 2 and will continue in Year 3. Support to the Rwanda Agroforestry Taskforce, Ethiopia Agroforestry Strategy and Action Plan development and successful application to CTCN to provide technical support for developing the Kenya Agroforestry Strategy are the first actions that are underway. The online dashboards will also be a powerful engagement tool as they bring evidence and information to decision makers at multiple levels.

Table 19: Activity highlights

Country	Date	Participants	Opening remarks	Policy opportunity
Kenya	October 2018	53 including Delegation of the European Union, the private sector, county government CECs, ELD Ambassador	• Myra Bernardi - Head of Rural Development, Agriculture and Food Security - Delegation of the European Union to Kenya • Engineer Lawrence Simitu - Environment Secretary • Professor Hamadi Boga - Permanent Secretary, Agricultural Research	Approval for the development of an Agroforestry Strategy which is now being pursued with CTCN resources.
Ethiopia	November 2018	62 including EU DEVCO, ELD Ambassador and GIZ, WV Australia	• Dr. Aweke Mulualem - Advisor to Natural Resource Sector State Minister • Ministry of Agriculture	Support for the Agroforestry Platform (which has now developed to the Watershed and Agroforestry platform) and the Agroforestry Strategy.
Rwanda	November 2018	41 including Delegation of the European Union, the private sector, ELD Ambassador	Hon. Dr. Vincent Biruta - Minister of Environment Panel: • Arnaud De Vanssay, delegation of the European Union to Rwanda • Innocent Bisangwa, Director of Climate Change, MINAGRI • Jean Bonneur Munyandamutsa, Technical Program Manager, Resilience and Livelihoods, World Vision • Anders Pederson, Rwanda Tree Seed Centre	Establishment of an Agroforestry task force to connect the Environment and Agriculture Ministries and support for implementation of the Agroforestry Strategy and Action Plan.
Ghana	November 2018	48 (10 females and 38 males) including ELD Ambassador, Paramount chief and actors working in the northern regions	Hajia Lariba Zuweira Abudu - Northern Development Authority	Support for developing a northern regions restoration plan. The participants developed a Tamale Declaration that is expected to charter regreening efforts in Northern Ghana.
Senegal	March 2019	71 including Delegation of the European Union, a mayor, ELD Ambassador and staff	• Andrew Catford - National Director, World Vision • Dr. Diaminatou Sanogo - Director ISRA- CNRF • Mr. Boubacar Drame - Technical Advisor, Ministry of Agriculture Panel: • Patrick Reboud - EU Representative Senegal/NOCC • Colonel Baba Ba - Deputy Director, DEFCCS • Malick Ndome - Oxfam • Thierno Dieng - Agriculteur • Omar Ba, Maire de Ndiob, Président du réseau des villes et municipalités vertes et écologiques du Sénégal	Opportunities include the environmental pillar of the new government, working with mayors and multi-stakeholder platforms.
Mali	March 2019	36 including ELD, representatives from NGOs and community and NOCC chair	• Mr Sékou Sala Sissoko, representative of the Minister of Agriculture • Dennis Garrity linked to the Beating Famine Conference that had just concluded.	• There was support to strengthen or create a multi-stakeholder platform for regreening in Mali • Advocate with the Malian State to join the AFR100 initiative • Create the conditions to foster dialogue between forest services and local communities • Create surveillance brigades of natural resources in each village
Niger	March 2019	49, including media, Delegation of the European Union, ELD Ambassador, chiefs and World Vision Australia	• Colonel Major Ibroh Adamou - General Deputy of Water and Forestry • Tony Rinaudo - World Vision Australia	Developed a declaration from the workshop, outlining what is needed to promote regreening.

Communication and visibility actions

A communications strategy was developed in April 2019 and circulated to the relevant stakeholders, in order to fulfil the following roles:

- **influence behaviour change**:
- **advocate for better policies** that support land and tree tenure rights by local communities;
- **build strong partnerships** between various stakeholder who are advancing similar goals in the landscapes; and
- **improve the outreach of the project** through the distribution of communication products and linking.

When these roles are executed according to plan, the project aims to change mindsets and behaviour; motivate large-scale uptake of regreening; create an enabling environment and evidence-based knowledge base to incentivise decision makers.

Country Communication Activities

Communication activities were identified for each country and included in the communications strategy. Activities such as radio programs have been carried out in Ethiopia, Kenya and Niger and the team advised on the suitable approaches to topics that would help achieve positive results. Furthermore, during the JRLM process, strategic communication for behaviour change, as opposed to communication that is primarily geared towards creating visibility, was discussed in detail by partners and this is expected to be a key scaling strategy from Year 3 onwards.

Left. Regreening Africa attending Global Landscapes Forum New York 2019

Key messages by countries

With identified target audiences (local farmers, private sector, government and development partners and intergovernmental agencies), and under the guidance of country teams, the project tailored key messages for each audience category:

i. **Ethiopia:** The key message used to motivate farmers to adopt regreening focuses on the impacts of land degradation and deforestation on farmer livelihoods, the multiple benefits trees provide, mainly in rehabilitating degraded landscapes, improving soil fertility and crop yields and providing fuelwood and timber. The message also includes the role regreening plays to cope with drought and create resilient livelihoods.

ii. **Ghana and Rwanda:** "Land restoration is vital for our continued sustainable livelihoods and it's a responsibility for all of us" – communicated through various channels, including community meetings, radios and field visits, in order to highlight the key role of trees in land restoration and improving livelihoods, and to translate available information (statistics on land restoration, tree planting targets both national and international, costs and extent of land degradation etc) into simple messages understandable by communities.

iii. **Kenya:** "Empowering, People Centred, Strengths-based in achieving Regreening agenda" – through enabling communities to understand their vision, strengths and livelihood opportunities based on regreening approaches. Key messages focused on trees for better ecosystems/ landscapes, high productivity, increased income, better livelihoods, food security and resilience to climate change.

iv. **Mali:** "Land and timber resource degradation is a threat to life; restoring degraded land and timber resources is safeguarding the future"

v. **Niger:** "Regreening/agroforestry is the only way to improve agricultural production and protect the environment"; "We have received a legacy that we in turn should pass on to future generations... it is our environment, it is our natural resources"; "Safeguarding our ecosystems is everyone's responsibility, we will achieve nothing without the involvement of women and young people"; "Revitalize the natural link between production and environmental protection".

vi. **Senegal:** "Man being the actor of deforestation, it is he who can also solve the problem"; "The solution is to adopt the RNA, which is cheaper"; "Renew agroforestry parks to replace old trees".

vii. **Somalia:** "Regreening helps mitigate against droughts"; "FMNR is a low-cost method of land regeneration"; "Indigenous trees that have disappeared can be recollected and replanted"; "Land productivity improves through regreening and thus the tree quality products"; "Regreening addresses both food security and climate change".

The next step is to package these key messages into infographics that farmers can easily share with their fellow farmers, as planned for Year 3. One of the outcomes from the JRLMs was that we need to ensure lead farmers are well versed with the project and have some pamphlets they can quickly make reference to. This would also boost their confidence.

Creating project visibility for donor funded actions

Website

The website has undergone visual enhancements, including interactivity and access to resources, with the revised version released on 30 October 2019.

Social media

- ***@Regreen Africa*** (Facebook) was opened in September 2018 and now has 696 followers, with 676 likes garnered.
- ***@RegreenAfrica*** (Twitter): opened in March 2019 and now has 424 followers.
- A social media strategy was developed in June 2019 that has guided what is posted and the usage of suitable key words that audience would resonate with. This will be a live document with regular updates.

International level engagements

i. **Global Landscapes Forum Accra:** 29-30 October 2019 | WV Ghana and CRS attending as participants supported by AFR100.

ii. **Global Landscapes Forum New York 2019**

- ***Scientists from CIFOR-ICRAF showed examples of successful restoration techniques at the Global Landscapes Forum*** ~ Forest News.

- ***When we protect nature, nature protects us*** ~ UN Environment Programme.
- ***Global Landscapes Forum: UN Decade of Eco-restoration*** ~ Bioversity for Livable Climate
- ***Pragmatics take precedence in scientific approach to landscape restoration*** ~ Forest News.

iii. **UNCCD COP** 14: 2-9 September 2019 | New Delhi, India

- ***More evidence needed to increase the scale and speed of land restoration*** ~ ICRAF.
- ***COP14 Day 1 – Setting the tone to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality targets*** ~ IFAD.

iv. **ICRAF Science Week**: 9-12 September 2019

v. **World Congress on Agroforestry**. The overall objective of the Congress was to contribute to the strengthening of agroforestry science and practice in order to provide opportunities for enhancing the links between science, society and policy and to bridge the science-policy gap. The presentations by keynote speakers from around the world highlighted that the technological and biological aspects of scaling-up agroforestry systems are critical, but they are insufficient to guarantee adoption or maintenance of agroforestry practices by farmers. Policy, legal and institutional conditions play an indispensable role in the spread of agroforestry, and coordination between forestry and agriculture ministries.

Blog: ***The missing middle: how enabling environments will translate global commitments into local action***

vi. **Global Soils Week 2019**. Global Soil Week (GSW) 2019 convened under the theme, 'Creating an Enabling Environment for Sustainable and Climate Resilient Agriculture in Africa'. The conference adopted a "bottom-up" approach that first allowed participants to discuss lessons learned from more than 20 projects in Africa and Asia that are promoting sustainable land management (SLM) at the local level. Regreening Africa, represented by Leigh Ann Winowiecki (Soils Systems Scientist) and Mieke Bourne (SHARED facilitator), discussed the importance of scaling up agroforestry successes to impact livelihoods and facilitate interactions between farmers and researchers to embed research into development programmes. Discussions from the interactive fora generated lessons including the need to track restoration activities to inform decision making and using methodologies that engage stakeholders across sectors to bring together evidence from science and local knowledge.

Newsletter: ***Global Soils Week Bulletin***

vii. **Salon International de l'Arbre** (SIA)/International Tree Fair: 18-21 June 2019 | Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. The objective of Regreening Africa was to support the SIA as part of its contribution to reversing land degradation in Burkina Faso. The event was organised in partnership with key actors in land restoration in the country, including the Ministry of Environment of Burkina and the Great Green Wall Initiative. The event aimed to plant 500,000 trees of diverse species for ecological and socio-economic benefits for the people of Burkina Faso.

viii. **Beating Famine Conference**: 26-28 February 2019 | Bamako, Mali. The conference brought together Sahelian countries with the objective of building awareness to taking proven successes to scale. During the conference, Regreening Africa spearheaded a session dubbed 'How to massively accelerate the scaling-up of land restoration in the Sahel', in a bid to bring together actors who can support the scaling up of Regreening initiatives. The session also identified the missing middle between service providers and local-level users, translating to an urgent need to create an enabling environment for sustainable land management. This will require deliberate policies and investments, as well as social innovations to accompany technological innovations in land restoration. An enabling environment, supported by policies and incentives, can stimulate social innovations.

- ***Learning from past initiatives for expanding the scale of land restoration in Africa***
- ***Beating Famine turns its attention to the Sahel***

Country WhatsApp Groups

These groups were created for each country to facilitate timely sharing of project updates and even facilitate "questions and answers" between ICRAF scientists and implementing partners in the countries. The groups are active but more guidance especially on questions and answers could be valuable.

Project newsletter

The first issue of the overall newsletter, produced quarterly, was prepared and circulated in August 2019 through the stakeholders mailing list and social media platforms. The newsletter reached 12,280 people through Facebook alone.

Country newsletters

Templates were prepared for each country and so far, Niger team has produced three issues (available ***here***) and Ethiopia has produced one newsletter (available ***here***). In the pipeline is a newsletter by the Puntland team.

Blogs

- *Matching local knowledge with science to promote regreening*. By Grace Koech. ***https://www.regreeningafrica.org/in-the-news/matching-local-knowledge-with-science-to-promote-regreening/***
- *Puntland: restoring land and livelihoods*. By May Muthuri. ***https://www.regreeningafrica.org/project-updates/puntland-restoring-land-and-livelihoods/***
- *A perfect recipe brewed in a two-way conversation*. By May Muthuri ***https://www.regreeningafrica.org/project-updates/a-perfect-recipe-brewed-in-a-two-way-conversation/***
- *Benefits from trees regreen land and livelihoods*. By Grace Koech. ***https://www.regreeningafrica.org/project-updates/benefits-from-trees-regreen-land-and-livelihoods/***
- *Pause, reflect, learn, adapt*. By May Muthuri. ***https://www.regreeningafrica.org/project-updates/pause-reflect-learn-adapt/*** (ICRAF website, CGIAR website; CGIAR - Water, Land and Ecosystems; Scoopnest). FB Group: 10 likes, 1 comment
- *The missing middle: how enabling environments will translate global commitments into local action*. By Susan Onyango & Leigh Winowiecki. ***https://www.regreeningafrica.org/project-updates/the-missing-middle-how-enabling-environments-will-translate-global-commitments-into-local-action/*** (ICRAF; CGIAR; CGIAR - Water, Land and Ecosystems)
- *Regreening activities kick off in Somalia!* By Grace Koech. ***https://www.regreeningafrica.org/project-updates/regreening-activities-kick-off-in-somalia/*** (ICRAF; CGIAR - Water, Land and Ecosystems)
- *A roadmap to guide regreening in Mali.* By Gilberte Koffi. ***https://www.regreeningafrica.org/project-updates/a-roadmap-to-guide-regreening-in-mali/*** (ICRAF; CGIAR; CGIAR - Water, Land and Ecosystems; Scoopnest)
- *Kenyan value chains are crucial for regreening efforts.* By Grace Koech. ***https://www.regreeningafrica.org/project-updates/kenyan-value-chains-are-crucial-for-regreening-efforts/*** (ICRAF; CGIAR)
- *Using the Land Degradation Surveillance Framework to assess land health in Rwanda.* By Dorcas Sanginga. ***https://www.regreeningafrica.org/project-updates/using-the-land-degradation-surveillance-framework-to-assess-land-health-in-rwanda/*** (ICRAF; CGIAR)
- *Learning from past initiatives for expanding the scale of land restoration in Africa.* By May Muthuri. ***https://www.regreeningafrica.org/project-updates/learning-from-past-initiatives-for-expanding-the-scale-of-land-restoration-in-africa/*** (ICRAF; CGIAR; CGIAR - Water, Land and Ecosystems)
- *Land Degradation Surveillance Framework deployed in Senegal.* By Gilberte Koffi. ***https://www.regreeningafrica.org/project-updates/land-degradation-surveillance-framework-deployed-in-senegal/*** (ICRAF; CGIAR)
- *Kenya challenged to meet regreening target.* By Grace Koech. ***https://www.regreeningafrica.org/project-updates/kenya-challenged-to-meet-regreening-target/*** (ICRAF; CGIAR)

- *Beating Famine turns its attention to the Sahel.* By Susan Onyango. https://www.regreeningafrica.org/project-updates/beating-famine-turns-its-attention-to-the-sahel/. (ICRAF; CGIAR)
- *Land restoration is a strategic investment in Ethiopia.* By Susan Chomba & May Muthuri. ***https://www.regreeningafrica.org/project-updates/1110/*** (ICRAF; CGIAR; CGIAR - Water, Land and Ecosystems)
- *New paradigm unfolds to rapidly regreen Africa.* By Susan Chomba & May Muthuri. ***https://www.regreeningafrica.org/project-updates/new-paradigm-unfolds-to-rapidly-regreen-africa/*** (ICRAF; CGIAR; CGIAR - Water, Land and Ecosystems)

In the media

- ***Reverdir l'Afrique au Sénégal" veut reboiser 160 000 hectares d'ici 2022*** ~ Sene Web.
- Niger was featured on ***Agri Challenge Television*** twice

Videos

- Regreening Africa pitch at the Global Landscapes Forum in New York. ***https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=14&v=eDBpLsnDe6A***
- Regreening Niger with proven agroforestry techniques ***https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=230&v=SnDBp2EaF6s***

Community videos

Community videos were introduced to document project activities and motivate behaviour change. They were piloted in Kenya in November 2018, followed by training on video shooting and editing. Out of 18 trainees, 10 were selected based on performance and interest, and provided with a smart phone and tripod. These video takers set out to document regreening activities on tree planting, nursery establishment and management, FMNR, area enclosures and trainings.

A refresher training was carried out in August 2019, to improve the video taker skills in script writing and storyboarding, especially on documentaries and instructional videos. Similar to the country teams, a WhatsApp group was created to ensure timely feedback is given to the video takers on the content developed.

Videos are showcased in churches, at village barazas, schools, roadshows and town centres. This initiative has started to show significant effects as community members who are not direct beneficiaries of the project have started taking up restoration practices. The project is planning to roll out a similar initiative in Ethiopia in Year 3.

A ***video*** highlighting experiences of three video takers from Kenya was created and showcased at the third project steering committee meeting in Brussels in November 2019 and so far has got 70 views. More videos are being refined by the video takers and will also be uploaded on the project's YouTube channel.

Opportunities

- Fiches (overall and Kenya focus) developed upon request by the European Union that shares project highlights
- Cocoa in Ivory Coast ***http://blog.worldagroforestry.org/index.php/2019/05/17/public-private-people-partnership-for-cocoa-and-forests-in-cote-divoire/***
- MacArthur proposal on 'The 100&Change Competition'. A video pitch was submitted where Susan Chomba was interviewed.
- International standards for the practice of ecological restoration – including principles and key concepts where the team submitted a proposal, but this didn't go through.

Finance

The project reported a paltry 8% expenditure rate of the total budget at end of Year 1. The expenditure rates for Year 2 are at 29% of the total budget, which is a big improvement and corresponds with an acceleration of activities on the ground. Expenditure rates per institution show the highest was 36% and the lowest was 20%. Monitoring expenditure per institutions (irrespective of the differences in budget size and numbers of countries of implementation) is crucial when forecasting where different beneficiaries will be by project closure, in order to monitor and inform beneficiaries with slow expenditure rates so that they do not delay project closure when other institutions might have fully expended their finances and closed out their activities. It would also be a reasonable basis for reallocation if the beneficiary is unable to utilise the funds to implement project activities within the project period.

The countries with the highest expenditure rates are Niger at 39%, followed by Kenya at 37%. Countries with lowest expenditure rates are Puntland 17% (due to the late onset of the project) and Senegal at 20%. Somaliland and Ethiopia tie at 22%. The expenditure rate for CRS Ethiopia is the lowest at 16%.

The category with the highest expenditure rate is equipment and supplies (70%), followed by local office costs (46%) and human resources (32%). The category with the least expenditure rates is field implementation of activities (21%), followed by travel (23%). In Year 3, field implementation is expected to be accelerated across eight countries and the Project Management Unit (PMU) will emphasize this to all partners.

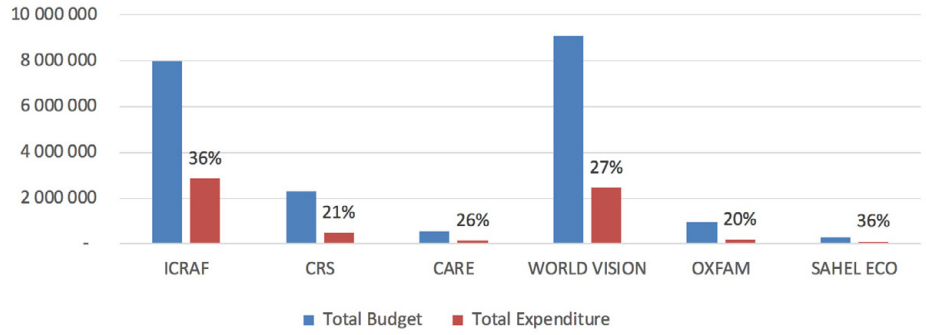


Figure 3: Budget versus expenditure per institution

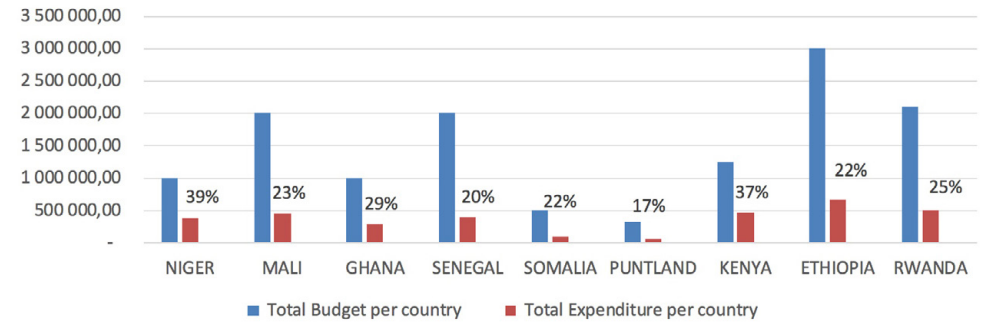


Figure 4: Expenditure rates per country

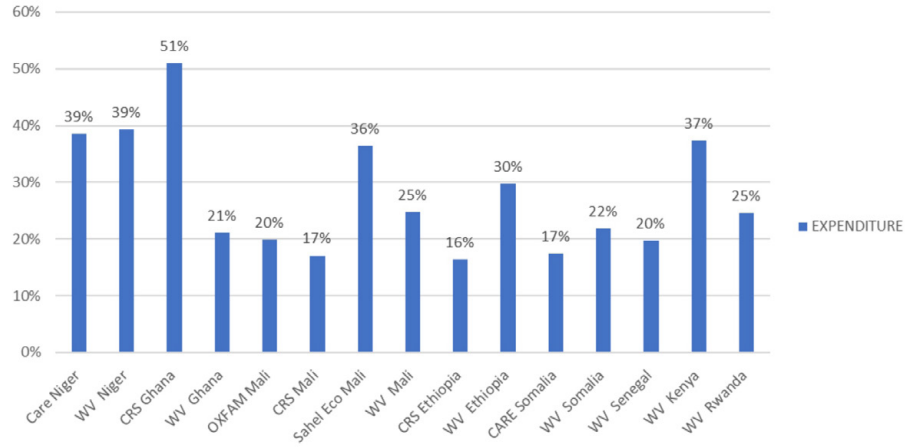


Figure 5: Expenditure rates per partner

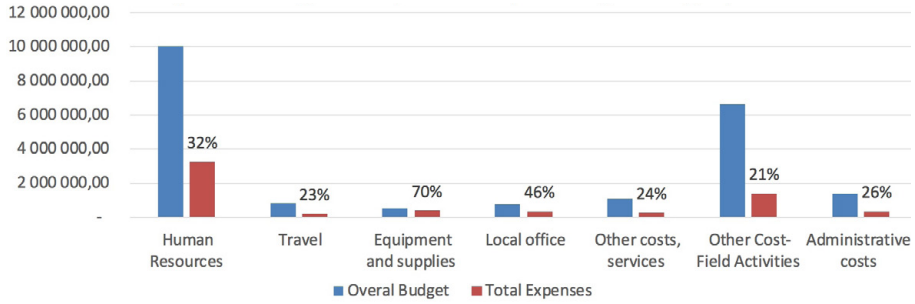


Figure 6: Expenditure rates per budget category

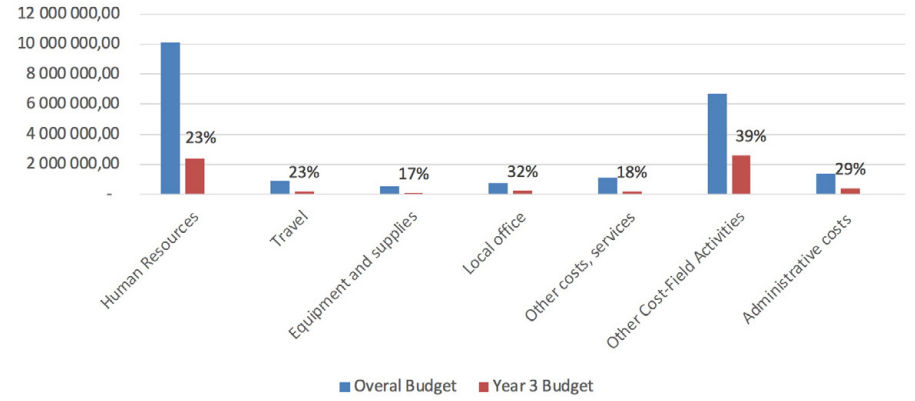


Figure 7: Year 3 budget versus overall project budget

Year 3's budget shows a focus towards more expenditures on activity implementation, with the highest budget allocation at 39% of the total project budget. This indicates that the financial monitoring and advice provided to partners by the project management unit during joint reflection meetings (i.e. to escalate activities and expenditures accordingly) were taken into account when budgeting for Year 3. Budget movements to the travel category were noted especially from World Vision country offices due to a workshop that was internally organised to take place in Nairobi in the 3rd week of January 2020. The steering committee was informed of the meeting by the project management unit in November 2019. The meeting was approved and the participation added of other project managers (outside World Vision), funded by PMU, in order to benefit equally from ICRAF technical support.

Above. Susan Chomba presenting on the project at COP14.

Conclusions and recommendations

The overall progress of the project in Year 2 is satisfactory with over 90% of planned activities achieved. There was an acceleration of activities around training for lead farmers in various aspects of FMNR and growing, establishment of tree nurseries, methods of vegetative propagation including grafting, as well as various efforts in scaling up. This reflects the commitment by implementing partners to accelerate activities and catch up the delays of Year 1.

There was also diversification of land restoration activities beyond FMNR to suit a diversity of ecological contexts, as well as farmers' economic and social needs. Key among these activities are on strengthening a priority of tree-based value chains selected through participatory processes. Tree based value chains are expected to provide economic incentives for adoption and scaling of a diversity of tree species and various regreening practices. In countries such as Rwanda and Niger, soil and water conservation practices were also introduced. A major emphasis by the project was placed on shifting from monocultures, to ensure tree diversity to suit the different ecological niches as well as provide multiple benefits to farmers and contribute to biodiversity.

Technical support provided by ICRAF covered the key areas of restoration technologies, tree seed systems, value chain development, stakeholder and policy engagement processes and monitoring of uptake of restoration practices and impacts on soils and household economies. This is expected to advance in Year 3. A key focus by all project partners in Year 3 will also be to advance scaling models that will help the project achieve its ambitious targets, and sharpen tools that support timely and cost-effective monitoring of the uptake of practices and their impacts.

The financial report indicates a steep rise in expenditure rates from 8% at the end of Year 1 to 29% at the end of Year 2. Expenditures are expected to rise at a similar (or higher) rate in Year 3 as activities continue to be accelerated.

The first external audit (expenditure verification) was carried out by Deloitte from 17 June to 9 August 2019 with 68% percent of the expenditures sampled. The audit report found no questionable costs and that the expenditures and reporting were in compliance with the grant rules. In order for the project to continue on this very positive trajectory in terms of activity implementation and fiduciary management, systematic upload of transaction listings and expenditure verification will be emphasised to continue on the SharePoint. The PMU will continue to support all partners on a needs basis, strengthen the performance-based system, as well as reward mechanisms for good performance.

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