



## Supporting the development of sustainable pastoralism: a necessary path for the Great Green Wall deployment

*The Great Green Wall Initiative in the Sahara and Sahel (GGWSSI) pursues the vision of a "Green, fertile and prosperous Africa, free from famine, images of malnourished children and starving livestock". To achieve this vision, the Initiative aims to address the threats to food security and socio-economic development of rural populations, by combating the degradation of natural resources and improving their governance models. In its 2016-2020 strategy, the GGWSSI includes objectives of strengthening agricultural and pastoral systems and promoting rural and socio-economic activities that allow creating wealth and meeting domestic needs of populations.*

Pastoralism which is an iconic mode of exploiting natural resources in arid and semi-arid areas, is therefore well mentioned in the GGWSSI strategy. However, within actions carried out on the field, pastoral communities remain insufficiently included, and there are few projects that specifically target them. Yet, pastoralism is one of the most adapted and climate-resilient mode to valorize natural resources in arid and semi-arid areas. It constitutes an important sociocultural and socio-economic activity and contributes to ecosystems and landscapes balance.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Sahel Desertification Network (ReSaD) have seized this issue, and since 2017 they have organized consultations between civil society actors, local authorities and representatives of the Great Green Wall to improve the consideration of pastoralism in the fight against desertification and in the Great Green Wall Initiative.

### **Pastoralism must be a path of development in drylands supported by the projects of the Great Green Wall!**



Nowadays, pastoral communities that rely on the mobility of their herds in search of pasture and water resources, are threatened by the degradation of these resources and the nibbling of pastoral areas by other actors (including farmers). **The Great Green Wall Initiative is an opportunity to support pastoral communities.** The Initiative must act to restore and secure pastoral areas, set up infrastructures (water, markets...) and support responsible modes of governance for these resources, which will improve living conditions of pastoral communities and ensure sustainable management of natural resources in drylands.



The partition of environmental, agricultural and breeding issues in public policies, projects or legislation does not allow an optimal support for conflict situations within territories. In countries, the GGWSSI depends on state departments in charge of environment, while its objectives go well beyond this sectoral framework. Pastoralism for its part depends on the state departments in charge of animal production. **The Great Green Wall Initiative must defend a decompartmentalization of public policies and facilitate the consideration of pastoralism at the national level, by the environmental and breeding sectors, articulated to the agricultural sector.**



Cross-border pastoralism highlights the issues related to border crossing and good collaboration between states. The pastoral sector did not wait for the GGWSSI to have a territorial approach beyond the borders, in the South as in the North of the Sahara, aiming to valorize arid territories threatened by the desertification. But the difficulties encountered on the field between local arrangements and national and regional scales are a reality. **As a Regional Initiative, the GGWSSI needs to initiate cross-border projects and deliver the messages to deploy a regional framework facilitating the development of cross-border pastoralism.**

*These recommendations are drawn from experiences sharing during regional workshops on cross-border pastoralism, organized by the ReSaD in Nouakchott in December 2017 and in Niamey in March 2018, and the national workshop organized in France by the GTD in December 2018. The local anchorage and the valued expertise of the organizations that contributed give these recommendations full legitimacy.*

#### Signatory organizations:

**Agronomes et Vétérinaires Sans Frontières (AVSF - Sénégal), Association Aharog (Niger), Association Citoyenne pour la Défense des droits des enfants et de femmes (ACIDEF - Mali), Association Danaya (France - Mali), Association de Formation et d'Appui au Développement (AFAD - Mali), Association Noode Nooto (A2N - Burkina Faso), Association pour la Redynamisation de l'Élevage au Niger (AREN - Niger), Centre d'Actions et de Réalisations Internationales (CARI - France), Comité National de Coordination des ONG sur la Désertification (CNCOD - Niger), Conseil Régional des Unions du Sahel (CRUS - Burkina Faso), Enda Énergie, Environnement et Développement (Sénégal), Fédération Nationale des Éleveurs du Niger (FNEN Daddo - Niger), Groupe de Coordination des Zones Arides (GCOZA - Mali), LEAD (Tchad), Secrétariat Permanent des ONG (SPONG - Burkina Faso)**



The Sahel Desertification Network is coordinated by Cari

