

A call to consider the actions of civil society in the implementation of the GGW

"On the ground, nothing sustainable is possible without the participation of an organized civil society at all levels of decision-making and implementation.

In the 11 countries of the Great Green Wall, we - civil society organisations - intervene at the smallest scale, at the level of the territories and populations whose trust we have gained. We experiment, develop and adapt in a participatory manner. We are pioneers, as demonstrated by the contribution of our organisations to the dynamics of agroecology. The cost-benefit ratio of our actions is often more positive than projects carried out by large institutions. The impact of our actions on people's lives is immediate. We carry out a multitude of small actions locally with farmers and we have expertise in the territories that can easily be aggregated into large-scale projects.

Many of our organizations recognize the GGW as a relevant framework for addressing the challenges of the Sahel, and every day we are increasingly recognized by GGW decision-makers, through their speeches, for our real contribution to the initiative. **Yet our actions, the practices we develop, the results we achieve still suffer from too little consideration.** For example, the latest report on the state of implementation of the Great Green Wall, published in 2020, does not consider the extent and multiplicity of our actions. **And this is not right!**

Good reasons to mobilize for a consideration of our actions in favor of the objectives of the Great Green Wall

This low regard, which is detrimental to the GGW, hinders us from realizing our full potential:

- Being visible within the GGW would allow us to be more identified for our skills and associated with coalitions to propose and lead transformative projects.
- Being visible within the GGW would contribute to the scaling up of our practices, built and proven in the field.
- Being visible within the GGW would promote the exchange of experiences between peers, within communities of practice at the level of the GGW countries and the Sahel region.

While it is necessary for the institutions in charge of the Great Green Wall to setting up systems to monitor the progress of the initiative, **it is equally necessary and urgent for us - civil society organizations - to mobilize ourselves to value our work!**

A variety of possible forms of mobilization to report on our actions for the benefit of the Great Green Wall

Today, the GGW lacks visibility. The readability of the concrete results that are expected is also low. This initiative remains unknown to many of us. However, several action plans make it possible to define it at the national and international levels.

We need to take ownership of the GGW's objectives, to understand how our actions contribute to its success, and to explicitly align our projects with the goals of the initiative. This is necessary to be able to interact in an informed way with GGW decision-makers and funders.

=> For this we propose to join platforms and networks that are positioned on GGW and can play this information and facilitation role. In countries where there are no existing networks, let's get together to structure coalitions around a common vision of GGW.

- ***ReSaD is a network that has been present and active for more than 10 years in 3 of the GGW countries. It is represented in Burkina Faso by SPONG, in Mali by REFEDE and in Niger by CNCOD.***

Today, our projects and actions that contribute to GGW are not included in the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the initiative. Despite several years of lobbying, this situation is changing very slowly.

We must no longer wait for monitoring and evaluation missions to come and question us. We must organize ourselves to periodically promote the work we are doing to GGW decision-makers.

=> To this end, we encourage the capitalization of projects, the sharing of monitoring data and lessons learned, in order to feed the monitoring systems put in place.

- ***The GGW Platform for Partners, set up by the NGO SOS Sahel, is a tool that allows each organization to report on the progress made by its actions.***

AN INITIATIVE TO CONCRETISE THIS RALLYING OF ACTORS IS UNDERWAY IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE GGW ACCELERATOR, WE MUST CONTRIBUTE TO IT!