

For an effective implementation of the Great Green Wall

Messages to national policy makers of the 11 Panafrican Agency of the Great Green Wall member countries and their technical and financial partners

In the Sahel, the intensification of agricultural and livestock practices, competition for land, pasture and forests, endanger fragile and vulnerable ecosystems. Climatic causes reinforce these anthropogenic causes, and while droughts are a common phenomenon in the Sahel, they have increased in intensity and frequency in recent decades. These environmental degradations have direct repercussions on the economy, food and health of the populations and, as a result, contribute to the increase in migratory flows and violent extremism.

The Great Green Wall must provide an integrated response to these crucial human development issues. Since its adoption by the governments of the Saharo-Saharan countries, and its endorsement by the African Union in 2007, the Great Green Wall has been defined by a succession of strategies and action plans, allowing it to refine its ambition of a "green, fertile and prosperous Africa, free from famine and the images of malnourished children and starved livestock". The Great Green Wall, because of its regional scope and holistic approach to development issues, is an innovative pan-African initiative. It is attracting the attention of other countries that wish to join the dynamic. **Be proud of it, be worthy of it!**

The 2020 report¹ shows a low level of implementation, which we are alarmed about!

The GGW initiative, in its vision and in its action plans and strategies, is presented as a holistic, inclusive and multi-sectoral initiative. But in its implementation, the GGW suffers from the compartmentalisation of national public policies.

FOR THE GREAT GREEN WALL TO BE A SUCCESS IN 2030, IT IS NECESSARY TO DECOMPARTMENTALISE ITS IMPLEMENTATION

Actors in the different development sectors need to take ownership of the targets set at the regional level or in each of the countries concerned by the GGW, in terms of biodiversity, land conservation and sustainable development of rural activities.

¹ The Great Green Wall: State of implementation and prospects by 2030

Our 3 proposals to decompartmentalize the implementation of the Great Green Wall :

- The national GGW agencies must lead the dialogue, with and between the ministries concerned (primarily the ministries in charge of agriculture, the environment, livestock, but also the economy). In this respect, we welcome the establishment of national alliances, and we urge that these consultation frameworks be dynamic and effective.
- This dialogue should lead to an alignment of public policies, so that they do not conflict with one another. At the legislative level, a revision of the laws of the rural sector is relevant, so that they do not hinder the achievement of the objectives of the GGW.
- Finally, this dialogue should make it possible to increase national financial commitments contributing to the GGW, in order to move away from a strict dependence on official development assistance.

From a political point of view, although the GGW Initiative is presented as a development instrument in the hands of the African community supported by international partnerships, the participation of all actors in the countries concerned is still largely to be built.

FOR THE GREAT GREEN WALL TO BE A SUCCESS IN 2030, IT MUST BE EVERYONE'S AFFAIR

In order to move from a political framework to an efficient operational framework, it is necessary to better promote synergies between all the actors involved in its development. Civil society organisations, scientists, private companies and national institutions are all actors with different but complementary skills and knowledge. Strengthening the connections between all these actors and articulating the needs of some with the opportunities and knowledge offered by others is essential to accelerate the implementation of the GGW.

Our 3 proposals for building multi-actor partnerships:

- It is vital to enhancing awareness of the GGW, its objectives and the results that are concretely expected on the ground. Several tools exist, and the GGW Platform for Partners is one of them. It is necessary to strengthen and contribute to this platform, to make it a "social network" of the GGW open to all actors and allowing the sharing of information and ideas.
- It is crucial to involve CSOs in interventions aimed at implementing GGW, for their very detailed knowledge of the contexts and their know-how in social engineering. They have a major role to play, particularly in mobilizing actors and beneficiaries and bringing them together.
- At decentralized levels, local authorities adopt development plans that integrate the different sectors. Local authorities need to be further strengthened and supported in their role as drivers of development. Decentralization processes need to be further developed and funding transferred to communities to implement their development plans as a contribution to the GGW objectives.