Scaling up Nature-based Solutions to enhance decision-making tools across Africa’s Great Green Wall

Session 6: Nature based solutions

Mrs. Ndeye Fatou MAR
Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS)

Earth Observation for Africa's Prosperity
Overview on the Great Green Wall

One of the most important pan-African programs to combat land degradation integrating food security and resilience to climate change.

From a "green belt" approach to integrated ecosystem management
Role, interventions and perspectives

The OSS | 2021-2030 Strategy

Support member countries in the implementation of their sustainable development policies

Integrated and Coordinated Management of Natural Resources

**Water**
Contribution to meeting the water needs through integrated management tools

**Land**
Sustainable land management and mitigation of the effects of drought

**Biodiversity**
Development of tools for the assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services

**Climate**
Strengthening the resilience of populations and ecosystems

Watch and Prospective  Communication and Information  Capacity building
Role, interventions and perspectives

- Approved by the African Union in 2007
- OSS mandated in 2008
- Creation of the PAGGW in 2010
- Launching of several programs in support of SLWM actions (SAWAP, FLEUVE, etc.)
- Actions financed by the States and various partners
  - Mobilization of water resources for agricultural development;
  - Adaptation to climatic hazards;
  - Setting up of early warning systems;
  - Development of monitoring and evaluation tools for field operations as well as decision support tools;

GGW at the heart of OSS priorities, through the development of product tools and various actions for development and natural resource management
What progressions and estimates?

- 18 million hectares of land have been restored
- + 350,000 jobs have been created
- Approximately $90 million generated between 2007 and 2018
- 250 million tons of carbon dioxide will be sequestered from the restored area

What deficiencies?

- Low realization rate ~ 15%
- Lack of visibility and communication actions
- Lack of a harmonized accountability framework for monitoring and evaluation
- Lack of coordination between the different actors

Divergent views among member countries, stakeholders and donors

Earth Observation for Africa’s Prosperity

The 7th AfriGEO Symposium 18th Sep – 23rd Sep, 2023
A number of initiatives will be taken in the field, but there are still many expectations that require concrete and, above all, accelerated action.

The Great Green Wall is Africa's boldest nature-based solution with enormous potential to improve the lives and livelihoods of communities at the local scale, reversing the catastrophic convergence of climate and land degradation.

**GGW objectives for 2030**

- 100 million hectares of land restored
- 10 million jobs created
- 250 million tones of carbon sequestered or avoided
- 400 million beneficiaries
Monitoring and Evaluation tools and methods developed and used in several countries contribute to the assessment and enhancement of actions.

Tools & methods

- Development of accurate land use and condition maps and thematic platforms to identify degraded ecosystems and plan SLM actions;
- Knowledge transfer, capacity building and awareness-raising.
How we can scaling-up and measure sustainability?

- Developing tools: Multi-thematic mapping products/ Geospatial databases
  - General/specific information and M&E platforms
  - Platforms with geospatial information, data and indicators
  - Tools for planning and monitoring/evaluation of the biodiversity elements and dynamics

- Supporting reporting/ National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans
  - Assist countries in their implementation of the CBD 2021-2030 strategy
  - Contribute to the implementation of national frameworks and their integration in the GBF
  - Develop a capacity building plan for decision-makers
Building Resilience through Innovation, Communication and Knowledge Services

- 7 performance indicators monitored in 12 countries
- 3 main categories of decision support platforms
  - GGW general/specific information and M&E platforms
  - Platforms with geospatial information, data and indicators
  - Platforms combining the 2 previous ones
- Multi-thematic mapping products
- Geospatial databases
OSS develops **interactive digital tools** accessible via the Internet, enabling the sharing of information and consolidated data to facilitate decision-making by stakeholders in the management of natural resources. The tools currently available fall into three main categories: geographical data, environmental parameters and best practices.
The observation of the situation

- Non-loyal and non-consistent users
- Scattered and unsustainable efforts & resources
- Degree of use + relevance to expectations: difficult to estimate and improve
- Exchange of resources + cross-fertilization of work not fluid
- Uncertainties regarding the effectiveness and efficiency of actions / impacts of SLWM on GGW.

A reminder of the ambitions

- 100 million hectares of land restored
- 10 million jobs created
- 250 million tonnes of carbon sequestered or avoided
- 400 million beneficiaries

✓ Need for efficiency and economies of scale
✓ Need to capitalize on and save time

For Nature-based solutions and sustainability
The GGWI assessment for the agenda 2030 will be based on an assessment of the ecosystems evolution and its impact on human well-being and survival. Thus, it is more than ever necessary to lay the scientific and technical foundation for the actions required (decision-making tools) to strengthen their conservation and sustainable use.

- Importance of the harmonization process and ongoing capacity building of information providers;
- Strengthen scientific and technical tools and, based on the experiences, build solid and sustainable models to support African countries in monitoring their indicators;
- Give priority to the most accessible system for better interaction between the different stakeholders;

Measure the status and evolution: EO makes possible the monitoring of large areas at very suitable spatial resolutions with a coherent revisit frequency at almost no cost. It plays insightful roles in monitoring targets, planning, tracking progress & making needed adjustments that will contribute toward achieving the SDGs.
Mrs. Ndeye Fatou MAR
Head of Land Departement
Drought, desertification and biodiversity

E-mail: fatou.mar@oss.org.tn

Sahara and Sahel Observatory - OSS
T : +216 71 206 633 | F : +216 71 206 636

Thank you Questions?