

COORDINATE | MONITOR | ACCELERATE



GREAT GREEN WALL ACCELERATOR FAQs

What is the accelerator? Why is it needed?



The Accelerator was launched to respond to a growing sense of both excitement and urgency about the Great Green Wall. The progress that has been made so far is already delivering practical and tangible outcomes for the environment and for the people in the Sahel Region. So, we know it works.

However, there are huge ambitions – a mosaic of opportunity spread over an area of 100 million hectares in 11 countries. To be truly successful and secure all the expected benefits of the GGW, we need to be creative and move faster. Each year an extra 8.5 million hectares should come under restoration.

The accelerator aims to help all partners and stakeholders speed up plans for implementation, to better coordinate investments and to track progress. We want to inspire new and creative stakeholders and invite them to join us - so the momentum continues and gathers pace.

What are the relations between the GGW accelerator, the GGWISS and the PAGGW?



The Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative (GGWISS) is a bold and inspirational flagship program of the African Union. The Pan African Agency of the Great Green Wall works to translate this bold and inspirational vision into action. The GGW Accelerator is there to support the initiative and the agency by tracking and monitoring progress, coordinating investments, and building capacity. We are all working together to coordinate local, regional, and international efforts.

Why is it housed at UNCCD?



The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is the international convention that leads global efforts to fight land degradation and the effects of drought – especially in Africa. Parties to the Convention collaborate to ensure the health and productivity of the land is maintained because this supports - amongst other things - climate resilience, security and sustainable development. The ambitions of the Great Green Wall Initiative are aligned with the aims of UNCCD.

However, the Convention does not implement projects on the ground. UNCCD is not competing for operational resources. It can act as a neutral, honest broker to support all stakeholders play their part in the implementation of this game-changing initiative. But what does the accelerator really do?

So far, we have:

- Recruited a small and dynamic team at UNCCD.
- Disaggregated and mapped all the pledges made at the One Planet Summit – so we know who is investing what and where they are spending their funds.
- Agreed a harmonized results framework with all those who have pledged to contribute so far.

We are currently:

- Working on the development of an online platform so we can track progress transparently.
- Testing the use of blockchain to bring even greater trust and visibility to financial flows.
- Developing common communications resources
- Rolling out a capacity building programme for local stakeholders.
- Preparing for the launch of a readiness programme for investable projects.

What have you achieved so far?

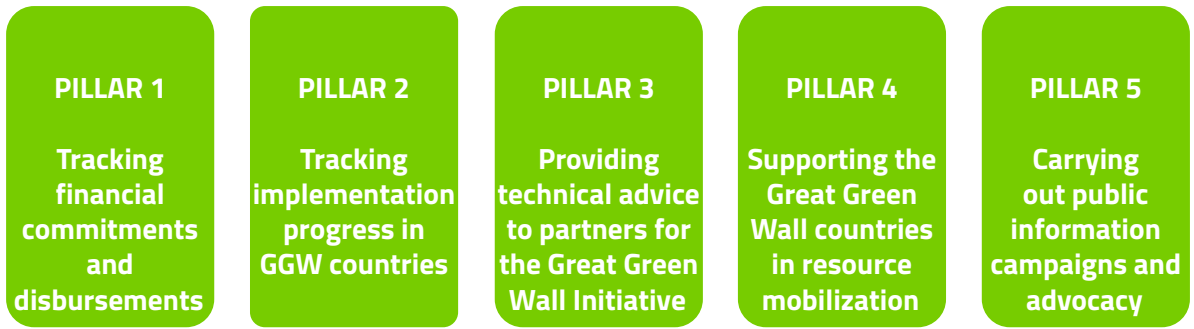


We secured agreement from the 9 agencies that pledged 19 billion USD (16.2 billion €) at the One Planet Summit for Biodiversity in January 2021 to establish a set of common core indicators of success. This allows us to track where the money is going and to collectively compare results and progress. The harmonized results framework should enhance our effectiveness overall – avoiding competition and duplication. It should help the world direct investments so that progress can be made across projects in all 5 pillars of the strategic plan.

The framework is composed of 20 core indicators measuring impact on the number of hectares of land restored, the number of jobs created and the number of tons of carbon sequestered, arranged under the 5 pillars of action:

- **Pillar 1** – Investment in small and medium-sized farms and strengthening of value chains, local markets, organization of exports
- **Pillar 2** – Land restoration and sustainable management of ecosystems
- **Pillar 3** – Climate resilient infrastructure and access to renewable energy
- **Pillar 4** – Favorable economic and institutional framework for effective governance, sustainability, stability and security
- **Pillar 5** – Capacity building

PILLARS OF THE GREAT GREEN WALL ACCELERATOR



What are your plans?



What are your plans?

By end of 2021, an online platform will show where the money from partner agencies is being invested. It will showcase ongoing and upcoming projects.

We are rolling out a capacity building programme for local stakeholders in Great Green Wall countries.

Even more exciting is the support we will be providing for a readiness programme to develop a pipeline of large-scale bankable projects in GGW countries. To express your interest, please [contact us](#).

There are also ways for GGW partners to already start applying for direct access funding. Updates will be published shortly on the website.

How can I find out more information about the projects on the ground?



Please see our website - [Great Green Wall Website](#)

You can also sign up for monthly news digest by signing up [here](#)

How can I access funding (as a government, private sector or civil society entity)?



The accelerator team and partners are preparing to release an online platform that will include an opportunities hub where you will find funding opportunities and how to submit a project proposal to the GGW Accelerator's partners.

How can I contribute (as a government or private sector entity or as an individual)?



There are lots of ways for you to play your part. No one stakeholder or agency can make the Great Green Wall play reality if they act alone.

- If you are a potential public or private investor, we can match you with exciting project opportunities.
- If you are policy maker, we are happy to explore ways you can make the GGW a success in your community.



- If you are community group or land user, let us help you get the knowledge and skills you need to make a difference.
- If you are a journalist or media, we can link you to stakeholders who are implementing a project so you can help promote the mosaic of initiatives that make the Great Green Wall a reality for millions of people.
- As an individual you can buy products that come from the Region and that carry the GGW logo. Or you can raise awareness and spread the word. Let your friends and family know that there is a world wonder emerging in the Sahel and that they too should be a part of it!



Will you meet your targets?

There is a long way to go. The GGW has very bold ambitions. However, with the level of investment we are currently seeing those ambitions can be turned into reality. We have real momentum. If we work together, that momentum will be unstoppable.



Isn't the Sahel just too risky?

The Sahel is a complex region. It faces multiple challenges at every level - from climate change, governance issues, food insecurity, migration and conflict. The GGW offers an alternative vision for the region. It will capitalize on the fact the Sahel is a vast, culturally vibrant area with a young and dynamic population waiting for support to transform the entire region into a land of opportunities.

Investing in land-based solutions can ensure that the people and ecosystems of the region are resilient and productive. The GGW offers opportunity and hope. The innate natural wealth of the region can help provide a better future for the people and the planet. The Accelerator will work with partners creatively to find ways to de-risk their investments and to build trust and accountability amongst all involved.



What about the rest of Africa?

The GGW is a flagship initiative for the African Union and for the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. The lessons learned from the GGW will be useful and can be transferred. The mosaic, multi sector and multi land-use approach can be replicated when and wherever communities want to transform their relationship with nature and put land at the center of their plans for sustainable development.



Partners



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