

The Initiative for Sustainability, Stability and Security in Africa (3S Initiative)

A rising Africa in a fragile environment



**Sustainability
Stability
Security
Initiative**

March 24, 2021

- 95% of farmed land is rain-fed agriculture
- Desertification affects around 45 % of Africa's land area
- 55 % of that is at high or very high risk of further degradation
- 280 million tons of cereal crops are lost each year

**Land degradation costs Africa
286 billion USD annually**



Why are we worried?



375 million young African

will enter the job market within the next 15 years



80% of jobs

are in land-based sectors (agriculture, forestry, minerals, etc.)



65% of Africa's cropland

is affected by land degradation

While it is evident that many youth are compelled to seek a livelihood through irregular migration or joining extremist groups because of the **job crisis**, it is still not clear that this crisis is strictly linked to the **depleting natural resources**. Ignoring this aspect will not lead to a lot of progresses in providing solutions for youth unemployment, mass migration and radicalization.

Policy context

COMISSÃO DA CEDEAO

ECOWAS COMMISSION



COMMISSION DE LA CEDEAO

Dialogue sur les migrations en Afrique de l'Ouest (MIDWA)

Réunion des Ministres de la Sécurité

Abidjan, le 25 Août 2016

Rapport final

1) At the Migration Dialogue for West Africa, the ECOWAS Security Ministers made the following recommendations:

“Political commitment of the African continent through Ministers in charge of Environment/Climate Change at the COP 22 in Marrakesh in November 2016, to propose practical measures to address the impact of climate change and land degradation on migration and to promote green jobs”

Policy context

2) COP 22: DECLARATION OF THE 1st AFRICAN ACTION SUMMIT Marrakesh, 16 November 2016

“We, the African Heads of State and Government, meeting in Marrakesh on 16 November 2016, at the invitation of His Majesty Mohammed VI, King of Morocco, for the First Africa Action Summit, held on the sidelines of the 22nd Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (...)”

We commit to:

speeding up the implementation of initiatives that have already been identified or launched, not only by building on our own resources, but also by mobilizing multilateral and bilateral donors as well as non-state actors. These include:

* initiatives aimed at enhancing our continent’s resilience to the threats of climate change, in particular (...) the "Security, Stability and Sustainability" initiative (...)» ;

Policy context

3) GLOBAL COMPACT CONFERENCE Marrakech 10-11 December 2018

Objective 2 « *Minimize the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave the country of origin* »

Political momentum: Finance: Capacity building mechanism

- a) Connection hub
- b) Start-up fund
- c) Global knowledge platform

The 3S challenges

Africa faces 3 intertwined issues

Sustainability - Climate change causes droughts and desertification, with 74% of Africans living in drylands by 2030, at risk of losing their livelihood

Stability

- **Unemployment:** Lost jobs in agriculture and forestry add to an employment crisis with the majority of Africans under the age of 30 already unemployed. The number of young people in Africa will double to 850 million by 2050.
- **Migration:** Without jobs and income, a projected 40% of young people may decide to migrate to other countries and continents

Security - Vulnerable young people who lack the resources to move away for a better future, and who remain trapped on their degraded lands, are at risk of exposure to extremist activity and terrorism

Background on the 3S Initiative

- Promotes **sustainable land management** to offer economic opportunity in rural areas, thus **reducing incentives for migration** within & from Africa
- Links the issue of **access to natural resources to youth unemployment** as the majority of jobs in Africa are based on the utilization of land
- **15 African member countries** to date: Benin, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Gambia, Ghana, Mali, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Somalia, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
- Seed financing from selected ODA donors
- The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) serves as Interim Secretariat; IFAD anchors 3S implementation
- Implementation period: 2021-2025

Objectives

Restoring 10 million hectares of degraded land

- Equivalent to nearly 10% of the total cropland currently affected by land degradation, desertification and drought in all of Africa.
- Corresponds to nearly 5% of all cropland on the African continent

Sustaining or creating 2 million land-based jobs

- Equivalent to nearly 20% of the job gap (9 million) in Africa arising in one single year
- Corresponds to 5% of the about 40 million international migrants living within and outside of Africa

Implementation approach

Integrated pillars

- Restoring degraded cropland & improving secure land access for farmers
- Safeguarding existing rural jobs & motivating new land-based investment
- Relieving pressures on young people to migrate & lowering the risk of their exposure to extremist activity and terrorism

IFAD to anchor program implementation, with AU representation in the governance

- 3S Initiative is embedded in IFAD's new Rural Resilience Program (2RP)
- Multi-donor trust fund has been set up at IFAD to receive donor contributions for the 3S Initiative
- AUDA-NEPAD is a member of IFAD's Advisory Committee for the 2RP

Program cost (over 5 years)

Restoring 10 million hectares of degraded land

- Average cost of USD 500 per hectare
- USD 5 billion in total

Sustaining or creating 2 million land-based jobs

- Average cost of USD 2.500 per job
- USD 5 billion in total

Notes:

- This is a high-level cost estimate of the aggregate Program, requiring detailed appraisals for each individual project being proposed for funding under the Program
- Restoring land would lead to sustaining jobs, hence activities are linked and costs are not duplicative

Financing plan

80% private resources (USD 4 billion)

- Domestic and foreign investors in agriculture, agro-industry and forestry
- Includes smallholder farmers, commercial investors, social enterprises, impact investors
- Program-funded preparation of investment proposals for investor consideration
- Program-funded incentives through performance-based grants, loss guarantees, political risk insurance; also tax cuts offered by 3S governments
- Requires prior public investment in land restoration and rural infrastructure

20% public resources (USD 1 billion)

- USD 900 million from donors into the multi-donor trust fund
- USD 100 million from 3S governments

THANK YOU

