



Study on pastoralism and the Great Green Wall: restoring rangelands, building resilience

Background

The Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative (GGWSSI) is a pan-African initiative to restore and sustainably manage land in the Sahel-Saharan region in order to address both poverty and land degradation. The project aims to achieve greater implementation of policies for sustainable land management in the Sahel (GGW countries¹) through enhanced investment, inter-sectoral coordination, and improved engagement with NGOs, CSOs, and grass root groups. The project is funded by Global Environmental Facility (GEF), implemented by the United Nation Environment Programme, UNEP and executed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, IUCN.

The GGW Initiative is not solely aimed at creating forest from East to West Africa but the initiative evolved into an integrated ecosystem management approach for the achievement of African Union AGENDA 2063 and SDGs. It mainly consists of sets of integrated actions addressing the multi-sectoral problems affecting the lives of people in African Sahelo-Saharan areas. Pastoralism, which is the major land use systems within the geographical zone of the Great Green Wall Initiative is instrumental in achieving the objectives of GGW initiative. In Sahel countries in general, and the Great Green Wall countries in particular, the livestock sector contribute significantly to the national economy.

Pastoralism represents an important component of the livestock sector where it accounts for 70-90% of cattle kept and 30-40% of small ruminants. For example, the contribution of pastoralism to the agricultural sector ranges from 24% in Burkina Faso to 84% in Niger. Pastoralism is also an important source of income for estimated 80 million people in West Africa (SIPSA) and a major source of revenue for local governments. Beyond the socio-economic benefits, pastoralism plays key role in safeguarding natural capital. Studies have documented pastoralists' ability to highly adapt to the extreme uncertainty and variability of dryland environments. Its benefit extend from maintaining soil fertility to boosting soil organic carbon, regulating water and conserving culture and biodiversity among other ecosystem services. In the framework of the GGW Initiative, sustainable pastoralism is seen as part of solutions to overcome land degradation and build resilient livelihood for local population. However, the environmental stewardship of pastoralism is scarcely appreciated hence not factored into policies and approaches geared towards reduction of the effect of environmental uncertainty and climate variability. As a result, the trend of underinvestment in pastoralism or in extreme cases to push for replacement of pastoralism as a livelihood strategy continues to gather momentum.

One objective of GGW Initiative consists of restoring and sustainably managing land to support local population livelihoods. Thus, lack of proper investment in pastoralism constitutes one of the gaps identified in the project implementation. The proposed study on “pastoralism and the Great Green Wall: restoring rangelands, building resilience” aims to provide evidence for investing in sustainable pastoralism as part of solutions to achieving restoration and conservation goals in general and in particular the GGW Initiative objectives.

The study will investigate the current trend and dynamics of pastoralism within the Sahel/GGW countries and draws lessons from restoration experiences through mobile pastoralism. The study will also evaluate the opportunities, gaps and challenges experienced by pastoralists and outline investment options in sustainable pastoralism in order to maximize pastoralism's contribution to effective and efficient land restoration and conservation agenda. The study will look at evolving policy narratives and frameworks, including the

¹ The GGW countries are in the Sahara and Sahel zones of Africa, including, Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sudan and Chad.

positioning of pastoralism and rangelands within national GGW strategies, Land Degradation Neutrality targets, National Determined Contributions to mitigate climate change, commitments to the AFR100 initiative and others.

Objective of the study

The objective of the study is to inform policy and investment options for sustainable pastoralism to contribute to the Great Green Wall Initiative, through an investigation of current trends towards pastoralism within the Sahel/GGW countries and lessons from experiences in restoration by pastoralists.

Audience

The main audience of the study outputs are pastoralist advocates/champions in civil society and government, and private investors in the rangelands.

Scope of work

The scope of work for the consultant will include the following, and may be used as the outline of the final report:

1. Research and document key background information on the Sahelian landscape and in particular pastoral lands
 - Overview of key landscapes, rangelands, ecosystems, habitat types and land-use dynamics in Sahel;
 - Descriptions of livelihood context in Sahel – changes and main livelihood strategy and key issues associated with pastoralism in Sahel;
 - Current status of rangeland health and status in Sahel (trends, maps etc.);
 - Landscape restoration agenda - history and current status of restoration narrative in the Sahel.
2. Review relevant background on restoration in Sahel
 - Sahel contexts and its relation to restoration initiatives;
 - Restoration status in Sahel (what are we restoring and for whom and what is the restoration trends in Sahel?)
3. Rangelands in the Great Green Wall
 - Describe the concept of GGW;
 - What are the typologies of rangelands in GGW?
 - What are the extent and coverage of each rangeland typology;
 - Current rangeland issues and restoration status in the GGW countries.
4. Sustainable pastoralism and rangeland management
 - What is sustainable pastoralism? (strongly contextualised to the Sahel region by drawing heavily on WISP definitions²)
 - What policies in support to pastoralism in the region – what are the success, failure?
 - Establish principles behind sustainability in pastoral management systems
 - Heterogeneity of resources in drylands/rangelands
 - Co-dependence between grasses and grazers
 - Role of mobility in maintaining rangeland health
 - Managing pressure, timing and selection of grazing
 - Management of natural resources in rangeland systems (pasture, water, trees etc.)
5. Establish the link between sustainable pastoralism and rangeland restoration

² This section should be kept quite tight, there is a risk of writing a book on this but for this assignment we want a succinct description

- Give concrete examples of rangeland restoration and sustainable management from the region (and relevant examples from outside the region) (possibly boxes throughout the text to highlight examples)
 - Draw examples from at least 5 countries in the region – focusing on good practice in management in enabling pastoral management of rangeland landscapes at an appropriate scale that is consistent with the principles outlined in Section 4
 - Include good practice in water management, pasture management and management of other range resources
 - Include good practices in local governance and tenure, institutional innovations, legislation for mobility, associated investments etc.
 - Provide examples—from the region or globally as necessary—of incentives that promote pastoral restoration and sustainable management of rangelands
6. Give recommendations on actions required to foster investments in sustainable pastoralism
- Building on section 3, describe broadly investment options to support sustainable pastoralism
 - Specific investing in diversity: livestock and non-livestock value chains
 - Protected areas and community conserved areas
 - If any example is found in Sahel, describe how explicit use of protected areas is used to protect pastoralism as a sustainable land management system
 - Strengthening tenure and governance
 - Risks and safeguards
 - Risks of harmful investments
 - Safeguards against harmful investments
7. Specific recommendations for investment in pastoralism through the Great Green Wall to restore rangelands and build resilience (this section will be drafted and finalised in consultation with key stakeholders in GGW countries)
- Highlight roles of actors in shaping sustainable pastoralism
 - Role and responsibilities of civil society in engaging relevant institutions
 - Role and responsibilities of government in creating enabling conditions
 - Role and responsibilities of private sector in financing restoration actions

Methodology

- This study will be completed using a combination of review of published and unpublished literature and interview of key informants;
- The consultants will develop an annotated outline (based on above scope of work) and will be approved by IUCN;
- The consultants will produce a draft report for consultation with IUCN’s networks (this may take up to 1 month)
- All feedback will be addressed by the consultants, who will then submit a revised version
- The study will be over-seen by IUCN, with additional guidance provided by a small steering committee (no more than 3 members)
- IUCN will make final edits, will standardise formatting, and will publish under the IUCN brand
- The consultants will be credited as authors

Deliverables Time frame

The assigned tasks must be completed within the following time frame.

21st December 2018: Preparation of inception report detailing the consultants understanding of the assignment, the proposed approach and detailed workplan

8th February 2019: Presentation of draft study reports for preliminary review and comments

- 8th March 2019:** Presentation of final draft study report with comments incorporated and considerations taken into account
- 5th April 2019:** Delivery of final study report

Qualifications and experience of the consultant

The ideal candidate will have the following qualification and experience:

1. At least a relevant Master's Degree related to Natural Resources Management, Sustainable Land Management, Environmental Science or its equivalent;
2. At least 10 years' experience in implementing natural resource management programmes or projects with a good knowledge and understanding of pastoralist systems in the Sahel region;
3. Excellent, demonstrated writing skills;
4. Proven analytical skills especially in environmental, socio-economic issues as related to conservation and Sustainable Land Management ;
5. A good knowledge and understanding of the Great Green Wall Initiative ;
6. Proven experience in conducting regional studies ;
7. Proven experience in developing similar publications ;
8. Good knowledge of both English and French will be an added advantage;

Application

The candidates must submit their application to Guyo.Roba@iucn.org before **30th November 2018**. The application should include

1. A curriculum outlining relevant work experience and referees ;
2. A cover letter outlining your relevant qualifications and experience and an initial overview of how you will approach the work as outlined in the Terms of Reference;
3. A financial proposition for completing these tasks and delivering the study;

Only shortlisted candidate will be contacted for the interviews.

Evaluation of applications

The application will be evaluation based on the following criteria: (i) The relevant experience of the consultant in relation to the proposed consultancy, (ii) The proposed approach and methodology, and (iii) The financial proposition.