



UNCCD United Nations Convention
to Combat Desertification



THE GLOBAL
MECHANISM

West Africa: Promoting sustainable land management in migration-prone areas through Innovative financing mechanisms

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The Global Mechanism of the UNCCD

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1. SYNTHESIS

Desertification affects 30% of the earth's drylands. In Sub-Saharan Africa, land degradation affects around 485 million people and some two-thirds of Africa's productive land area, leading to a loss of 3% of agricultural GDP annually as a direct result of soil and nutrient loss. The economic costs of poor land management have been estimated to be US\$9 billion per annum in Africa.¹

In West Africa, land degradation is intensifying at an alarming rate. Soil degradation caused by erosion, desertification, deforestation, increased pressure by a growing population on fragile and marginal lands and poor agricultural practices are undermining the resource base on which African farmers and their families depend for their very survival. Sustainable land management (SLM) is therefore considered as a crucial approach to be applied and promoted in West Africa in order to minimize land degradation, rehabilitate degraded areas and ensure the optimal use of land resources.

Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought (DLDD) play a major role as a cause and a consequence of migration flows within and outside West Africa. The sub-region has the largest absolute international immigrant stock in Africa. It is estimated that one third of West Africans live outside their village of birth and that migration stocks relative to the total population have been increasing over the past few decades.

Policy measures have been taken at the sub-regional and national levels, in order to mitigate the negative effects of DLDD and migration on the socio-economic development and the sustainable use of natural resources in West Africa. However, these measures often don't take into due consideration the existing interlinkages between migration and land degradation.

The present project will address the nexus between SLM and migration and its potential contributions to the sustainable development of West Africa. In particular, the project will contribute to the prevention of land degradation as well as to the restoration of degraded land by increasing investments in SLM in migration prone areas of the ECOWAS region (Economic Community of Western African States), through the use of innovative financing mechanisms, including payment for ecosystem/watershed services (PES) and remittances. These mechanisms will be channelled to support existing initiatives relevant to landscape restoration, adaptation to climate change etc., as well as to finance SLM pilot projects proposed by diaspora networks to be implemented in targeted areas of the countries of origin, in particular in Burkina Faso, Niger and Senegal. The diaspora investments in pilot projects will be incentivized and complemented by project resources.

Target beneficiaries are i) policy decision makers at sub-regional and national levels in West Africa, ii) rural communities in migration prone areas in Burkina Faso, Niger and Senegal, and iii) migrants from the sub-region and diaspora networks in the countries of destination, including Italy.

Main institutional partners are identified at different levels:

- National: UNCCD focal point institutions and relevant local authorities of Niger, Burkina Faso and Senegal;

¹ TerrAfrica. 2013. Overview – Land Degradation. See <http://www.terrafrica.org/about/overview-%E2%80%93-land-degradation>

- Sub-regional: ECOWAS through its Private Sector and Environment and Water Directorates;
- International: Diaspora networks and migrants' associations in countries of destination.

The implementation of the project will further engage with a wide range of stakeholders involved in SLM in West Africa.

The project will be implemented by the Global Mechanism (GM) of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

The programme will build upon GM's extensive experience in mobilizing finance for sustainable land management (SLM) in West Africa as well as on best practices and lessons learned from the project "Migration for Development in Africa" (MIDA) implemented by IOM and funded by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Senegal and Ghana, Latin America and MIDAWomen 2003-2010). Strong synergies will be created with on-going initiatives related to SLM, migration and innovative finance at all levels.

Through the proposed activities, the project aims at providing enhanced knowledge on the following issues, which will be translated into proposed actions by decision makers and concerned stakeholders:

- How to encourage sustainable development at the local, national and sub-regional levels which will respond to the needs of a rapidly expanding and mobile population, in particular in rural areas?
- How to help mobilize increased investment in SLM in drought stricken areas prone to migration?
- How can innovative financing mechanism make a difference? In particular, how can remittances be efficiently incentivized and become a stable source of funding for adaptation and rehabilitation after severe weather events?

The log-frame below summarizes the project strategy:

	Project Strategy	Indicator	Means of Verification	Assumption
OVERALL OBJECTIVE	To contribute to the prevention of land degradation as well as to the restoration of degraded land by increasing investments in SLM (Sustainable Land Management) in migration prone areas of the ECOWAS region (Economic Community of Western African States), through the use of innovative financing mechanisms.	Increased SLM investments Changes in environment/climate related migratory trends Employment rate in rural and migration prone areas	National budget and other relevant documents PRAIS of the UNCCD IOM statistics on migration	Innovative financing mechanisms are effective solutions to address low level investments in SLM in the sub-region
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES	1. National and regional processes addressing migration-SLM nexus are mainstreamed into relevant development policies and budgetary processes.	Number of West African governments that are implementing policies aimed at enhancing diaspora' role for local development and adaptation to environmental change, thus reducing outgoing migration pressure Number of national and regional policies and processes in which the SLM-migration nexus is mainstreamed	IOM and project monitoring data, policy documents	Governments will endorse and implement project suggestions on mainstreaming innovative financing in SLM related policies and budgetary processes sub-regional and national levels
	2. Economic opportunities are expanded and investment climate for SLM is improved in specific geographic areas	N and/or % of project beneficiaries that benefit of increased economic	National reports Integrated	Communities will access new financing mechanisms

	Project Strategy	Indicator	Means of Verification	Assumption
			– (based on M&E) as well as annual reports. Annual state of the nation reports	
	3. SLM best practices in the ECOWAS region are disseminated in relevant international forums, including those pertaining to agricultural trade, climate change adaptation, biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, rural development, sustainable development and poverty reduction	At least 1 replication of successful practices in other regions	E-survey Reports	The project is successful and its best practices can be replicated
EXPECTED RESULTS	AS RELEVANT TO OUTCOME 1: 1.1 Linkages between land degradation and migration assessed; 1.2 Policy frameworks related to migration-SLM nexus enhanced at national and sub-regional levels.	At least 1 Policy guidelines on SLM/migration endorsed at sub-regional level	Country and sub-regional Reports National policy documents, IIF documents	Migration-SLM nexus not included in national policies yet
	AS RELEVANT TO OUTCOME 2: 2.1 Innovative financing mechanisms for SLM in migration prone areas tested; 2.2 Financial resources for and landscape restoration through remittances mobilized; 2.3 Public-private partnerships strengthened and/or established.	N of target areas and investment opportunities identified N of project proposals that include innovative financing mechanisms developed and marketed N of pilot projects implemented N of public-private partnerships actively involved	Workshops reports National budget and other relevant documents Project reports National	Knowledge base of innovative mechanisms available

	Project Strategy	Indicator	Means of Verification	Assumption
			documents	
	<p>AS RELEVANT TO OUTCOME 3:</p> <p>3.1 South-to-south exchanges on innovative financing for landscape restoration (including remittance and PES) promoted at global level;</p> <p>3.2 Synergies with other Rio Conventions enhanced.</p>	<p>No of best practices identified and shared</p> <p>No of relevant global and regional events related to the UNFCCC and CBD in which the project best practices are disseminated contributing to the international UNCCD/UNFCCC/UNCBD policy dialogue</p>	<p>GM material</p> <p>Project reports</p>	<p>Transnational diaspora communities are interested and committed to invest</p> <p>Project partners and other potential investors are interested in project implementation</p>
	<p>PROJECT STRATEGIC AND METHODOLOGICAL EFFECTIVENESS CONSISTENTLY WITH UN STANDARDS & PROCEDURES</p> <p>4.1 The project is effectively and efficiently implemented</p> <p>4.2 Activities and expenditures are monitored consistently with approved Work Plans as well as with UN rules and procedures</p> <p>4.3 Technical and financial reports are delivered in a timely fashion</p>	<p>Quality assurance and results based management, monitoring and assessment applied</p> <p>Compliance with the UNCCD 10 Year Strategy ensured</p>	<p>Work Plans</p> <p>Progress Reports</p> <p>Final Report</p> <p>Monitoring and evaluation reports</p>	<p>Monitoring system in place</p>
ACTIVITIES	<p>As relevant to expected result 1.1</p> <p>1.1.1 Assess trends and key drivers of migration and its linkages with SLM and organize national level meetings and consultations in Burkina Faso, Niger, Senegal;</p> <p>1.1.2 Assess trends and key drivers of migration and its linkages with SLM at sub-regional level and organize one workshop;</p>			

	Project Strategy	Indicator	Means of Verification	Assumption
	<p>1.1.3 Update information on migratory corridors from West Africa to Europe;</p> <p>1.1.4 Produce a synthesis report of the national and sub-regional analyses and share them with policy decision makers.</p> <p>As relevant to expected result 1.2</p> <p>1.2.1 Develop policy guidelines addressing the migration-SLM nexus in West Africa;</p> <p>1.2.2 Organize a sub-regional workshop to validate the policy guidelines.</p> <p>As relevant to expected result 2.1</p> <p>2.1.1 Assess the potential for innovative financing instruments and mechanisms to increase investments in sustainable management of land, forest and watershed as paths to food security;</p> <p>2.1.2 Integrate innovative financing mechanisms into national IFS/IIF processes in Burkina Faso, Niger, Senegal ;</p> <p>2.1.3 Identify and select target areas for the testing of innovative financing mechanisms in support of increasing SLM investments;</p> <p>2.1.4 Support new and/or existing initiatives on innovative financing mechanisms for SLM, including PES, at both country and trans boundary levels</p> <p>As relevant to expected result 2.2</p> <p>2.2.1 Carry out studies on the relevance of remittances for SLM in West Africa, including case studies in Burkina Faso, Niger, Senegal;</p> <p>2.2.2 Identify and select target areas for the testing of remittance in support of increasing SLM investments;</p> <p>2.2.3 Inform and mobilize diaspora networks in migrants’ countries of destination, including Italy, on investment opportunities in countries of origin on SLM practices as deriving from the analyses under expected result 2.1;</p> <p>2.2.4 Create/strengthen partnerships with local authorities in migrants’ countries of destination as well as in countries of origin;</p> <p>2.2.5 Build capacity of diaspora members for drafting bankable landscape restoration project proposals to be implemented in the above identified target areas in the countries of origin ;</p>			

	Project Strategy	Indicator	Means of Verification	Assumption
	<p>2.2.6 Select, co-fund and support landscape restoration projects in countries of origin.</p> <p>As relevant to expected result 2.3</p> <p>2.3.1 Support of public-private partnerships on SLM and landscape restoration initiatives engaging the national and international actors from the private sector in the countries target;</p> <p>2.3.2 Promote partnerships between financial institutions on both sides of the transaction (banks, remitters, MFI).</p> <p>As relevant to expected result 3.1</p> <p>3.1.1 Develop and disseminate targeted advocacy materials on best practices and lessons learned;</p> <p>3.1.2 Promote south-to-south exchanges as well as the synergistic implementation of the Rio Conventions through sharing project results and lessons learned at international level.</p> <p>As relevant to expected result 3.2</p> <p>3.2.1 Engage with other entities involved in innovative finance for SLM and remittances in West Africa;</p> <p>3.2.2 Identify co-finance to increase the outreach of project results.</p> <p>PROJECT STRATEGIC AND METHODOLOGICAL EFFECTIVENESS CONSISTENTLY WITH UN STANDARDS & PROCEDURES</p> <p>4.1.1 Present results of effectiveness evaluation at steering committees meetings and perform a joint analysis</p> <p>4.2.1 Prepare Work Plans based on the effectiveness evaluations</p> <p>4.2.2 Monitor project implementation</p> <p>4.3.1 Prepare consistent progress and financial reports</p>			

2. CONTEXT

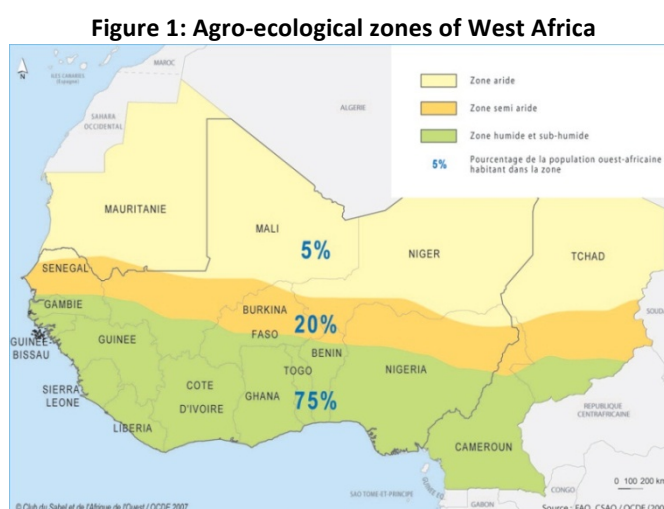
2.1 Regional context

West Africa is a sub-region comprising 16 countries, which – with the exception of Mauritania – founded a political and economic entity called ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States), which has the mission “to promote economic integration in *all fields of economic activity, particularly industry, transport, telecommunications, energy, agriculture, natural resources, commerce, monetary and financial questions, social and cultural matters ...*” (ECOWAS, 2013)². The ECOWAS sub-region covers an area of more than 5 million km² and has a total population of almost 300 million.

The sub-region consists of three major agro-ecological zones: the Sahelian, the Sudanese and the Coastal zones (Famine Early Warning System Network, 2012)³:

- In the Sahelian zone, millet is the principal cereal cultivated and consumed particularly in rural areas. Exceptions include Cape Verde where maize and rice are most important, Mauritania where sorghum and maize are staples, and Senegal with rice.
- In the Sudanese zone (southern Chad, central Nigeria, Benin, Ghana, Togo, Côte d'Ivoire, southern Burkina Faso, Mali, Senegal, Guinea Bissau, Sierra Leone, Liberia) maize and sorghum constitute the principal cereals consumed by the majority of the population.
- In the Coastal zone, with two rainy seasons, yam and maize constitute the most important food products. They are supplemented by cowpea - a significant source of protein.

Figure 1 provides an overview on the three main agro-ecological zones of West Africa and the population distribution.



Source: Club du Sahel et de l’Afrique de l’Ouest/OECD (2007)⁴

² ECOWAS. 2013. ECOWAS in brief. See http://www.comm.ecowas.int/sec/index.php?id=about_a&lang=en

³ Famine Early Warning System Network, 2012: West Africa Price Bulletin October 2012. See <http://reliefweb.int/report/mali/west-africa-price-bulletin-october-2012>

⁴ Club du Sahel et de l’Afrique de l’Ouest/OECD. 2007. See <http://www.oecd.org/fr/csao/publications/42464831.jpg>.

Agriculture, rural development, environmental protection and natural resource management are the most important issues of concern in economic terms, with major implications for employment, income generation and regional integration. As agriculture is still the main source of income in the sub-region, a serious approach to fight poverty cannot exist without explicitly integrating economic growth strategies in the agricultural sector.

As the issue has strong sub-regional and international interdependencies, ECOWAS adopted an Agricultural Policy, the Regional Agricultural Policy for West Africa (ECOWAP), in order to sustainably contribute to food security, economic and social development and poverty reduction. ECOWAP brings together the principal actors of the agricultural sector, including the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), an intergovernmental organization which has the mandate to invest in research for food security and the fight against the effects of drought and desertification for a new ecological balance in the Sahel (CILSS, 2013).⁵

One of the most pressing issues related to agriculture in West Africa is its low productivity throughout the various agro-ecological zones; only 10% of its irrigable land area is actually irrigated. Weak productivity in the sub-region is paired with environmental challenges, and a growth in productivity is usually obtained by an expansion of cultivated areas instead of an intensification of production inputs. This growth is, however, not sustainable, and in a context of strong urbanisation and population increase, leads to an accelerated degradation of natural resources, which in turn results in land use conflicts, especially between farmers and herders.

Land degradation in West Africa is intensifying at an alarming rate. Available evidence leaves no doubt that soil degradation caused by erosion, desertification, deforestation, increased pressure by a growing population on fragile and marginal lands and poor agricultural practices, is undermining the very resources on which African farmers and their families depend for their very survival.

Sustainable land management (SLM) is therefore considered as a crucial approach to be applied and promoted in West Africa in order

- to minimizing land degradation, rehabilitating degraded areas; and
- ensuring the optimal use of land resources for the benefit of present and future generations (FAO, 2013) ⁶.

In addition to an alarming intensification of degraded land in the sub-region, West Africa has also a long history of population mobility, both regionally and internationally. The sub-region has the largest absolute international immigrant stock in Africa⁷: it is estimated that one third of West Africans live outside their village of birth, it is also the only part of sub-Saharan Africa where migration stocks relative to the total population have been increasing over the past few decades⁸.

⁵ CILSS, 2013. Le CILSS. See <http://www.cilss.bf/spip.php?rubrique41>

⁶ FAO. 2013. Sustainable Land Management. See <http://www.fao.org/nr/land/sustainable-land-management/en/>

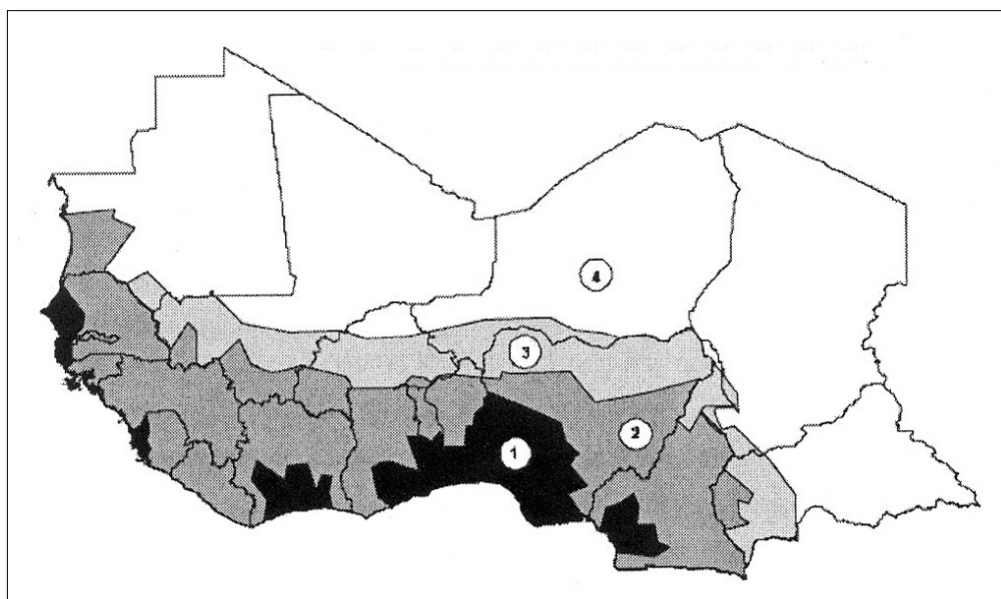
⁷ International Migration Institute research report, University of Oxford, H. de Haas, The myth of invasion. Irregular migration from West Africa to the Maghreb and the European Union, October 2007

⁸ The World Bank, Africa Region Working Paper Series No. 64, C. Sander, S.M. Maimbo, Migrant Labor Remittances

Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana are among the countries in Africa with the most international migrants, respectively 2.4 million and 1.9 million⁹.

The unsustainable use of natural resources and, in particular land degradation, are some of the root causes of migration of many trained and talented individuals that migrate from the country of origin, resulting in the depletion of skilled human resources. According to Cour (2001-cited in Requier-Desjardin and Bied-Charreton, 2009), even with a population growth rate of 2 to 3%, geographical areas identified in figure 7 as 3 and 4 (more affected by desertification) will lose population to areas 1 and 2. The estimated repartition of population is supposed to evolve from 60 % in areas 1 and 2 and 40 per cent for areas 3 and 4 in 1930, to 72 % in areas 1 and 2 and 28 per cent for areas 3 and 4 in 2020.

Figure 2 The four main West African demographic zones



Source: Requier-Desjardin and Bied-Charreton, 2009 based on Cour J-P, 2001. "The Sahel in West Africa : countries in transition to a full market economy", *Global Environmental Change*, 11: 31-47.

Most of West African migration is intra-regional, i.e. within the sub-region, with substantial flow of migrants from the interior savannah to the forest and coastal zones, t. The remaining 1.2 million are dispersed between North America and Europe.

West African governments, under the leadership of ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS and the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA), are addressing land degradation on the policy level through the Sub-Regional Action Programme to Combat Land Degradation in West Africa and in Chad (SRAP-WA). The draft version of the SRAP-WA identifies migration as one consequence and cause of land degradation:

« L'intensification du rythme des migrations intra et inter état : les migrations internes et externes nées des conditions climatiques défavorables des zones sahéliennes, des conflits et

in Africa: Reducing Obstacles to Developmental Contributions, November 2003

⁹ International Organization for Migration, <http://www.iom.int/cms/en/sites/iom/home/about-migration/facts--figures-1/africa.html>

crises politiques qui ont entraîné ces dernières années l'intensification des mouvements de populations et la transhumance transfrontalière (du Sahel vers la zone forestière). Cette arrivée massive d'hommes et d'animaux dans les zones humides des Etats voisins constitue une pression sur les ressources naturelles et crée divers problèmes dont (i) la dégradation des sols et de l'environnement et (ii) l'augmentation de la fréquence et l'aggravation des conflits entre agriculteurs, d'une part, et entre agriculteurs et éleveurs, d'autre part, pour l'accès aux ressources » (SRAP-WA, version 4/2012, p.16).

Furthermore, several countries have recently sought to prioritise either the return of their diasporas, and/or the promotion of financial investments in the country by those living abroad.

Reasons for migration from West African countries to other countries, sub-regions or continents are:

- Political, e.g. escape from wars, civil unrest and oppression;
- Economic, e.g. escape from poverty, lack of economic opportunities, lack of basic necessities, which may cause migration of qualified professionals who are not poor but may migrate to other countries/continents to find better working conditions;
- Environmental, e.g. escape from natural disasters such as droughts and floods caused by climate change, land degradation and lack of arable land; and
- Cultural (e.g. religious freedom, education) (Anonymous, 2005).¹⁰

2.2 Sectorial context: land degradation and migration

Drought and desertification drivers affect ecosystems, sustainable livelihoods of vulnerable populations and tend to reduce their resilient capacities, thus incurring in global economic, environmental and social costs. Environmental factors have an impact on global migration flows, as people have historically left places with harsh or deteriorating conditions. However, the scale of such flows, both internal and cross-border, is expected to rise as a result of accelerated climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation with unprecedented impacts on lives and livelihoods. Such migration can have positive and negative effects on both the local coping capacity and the environment in areas from which these migrants originate, as well as in their temporary or permanent destinations. Migration and environment are interrelated. Just as environmental degradation and disasters can cause migration, movement of people can also entail significant effects on surrounding ecosystems. This complex nexus needs to be addressed in a holistic manner, taking into account other possible mediating factors including, inter alia, human security, human and economic development, livelihood strategies and conflict. Migration often seems to be misperceived as a failure to adapt to a changing environment. Instead, migration can also be an adaptation strategy to climate and environmental change and is an essential component of the socio-environmental interactions that needs to be managed. Migration can be

¹⁰ Anonymous. 2005. What is human migration? National Geographic Xpeditions. See <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions/lessons/09/g68/migrationguidestudent.pdf>.

a coping mechanism and survival strategy for those who move. Herders typically graze their livestock in the North during the wet season and move South during the dry months. Seasonal labour migration occurs, for example, from the arid parts of Mali, Mauritania and Niger to plantations and mines on the coast of Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria and Senegal. At the same time, migration, and mass migration in particular, can also have significant environmental repercussions for areas of origin, areas of destination, and the migratory routes in between and contribute to further environmental degradation.

In addition, increased occurrences of climate-related disasters – particularly floods and droughts – are likely to result in large-scale population movements and the loss of livelihood options. Floods in northern Ghana in 2007, for example, caused the displacement of over 330,000 people.¹¹ Over time, recurrent and more severe climate-related disasters could lead to more permanent migration.

The landlocked countries in the region (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali and Niger) produce the majority of the region's cereals and export to neighbouring countries. Increasing uncertainty about rainfall and the recurrence of droughts and flooding threaten food production in the region. For example, Niger was assessed in 2005 as having 2.4 million people highly vulnerable to food insecurity, including nearly 900,000 facing extreme food insecurity and 1.2 million requiring food aid. The simulations conducted in 2008 by the FAO foreseen - on all the strip going from Niger to Senegal - yield losses on cereal crops which can reach 50 % the horizon 2050.¹²

2.3 Innovative financing mechanisms in West Africa

National budget allocations are a major source of finance for SLM in West Africa. Additional financial flows to West Africa include foreign direct investment (FDI), portfolio debt and equity flows, bank lending, official aid flows, capital flight, and remittances.

Both official and private flows to Africa have increased in recent years; nevertheless Africa continues to largely depend on Official Development Aid (ODA). In this context, it is crucial to explore new and complementary sources of financing, including innovative private sector-to-private sector solutions, and public-private partnerships to mobilize additional international funds towards SLM (see table 1).

As for the Ten Year Strategic Plan and Framework to Enhance the Implementation of the UNCCD (The Strategy), innovative financing sources and mechanisms for SLM include “the private sector, market-based mechanisms, trade organizations, foundations, CSOs, and other financing mechanisms, for climate change adaptation and mitigation, biodiversity, conservation and sustainable use, and the fight against hunger and poverty” (UNCCD, 2007)¹³.

¹¹ UNEP. 2011, Livelihood Security – Climate Change, Migration and Conflict in the Sahel

¹² UNEP. 2011, Livelihood Security – Climate Change, Migration and Conflict in the Sahel

¹³ UNCCD. 2007. The 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018). See <http://www.unccd.int/Lists/OfficialDocuments/cop8/16add1eng.pdf>

Accordingly, the terminology 'innovative financing for the UNCCD and sustainable land management (SLM)' can be considered as an umbrella covering a range of sources, mechanisms and instruments, as well as related processes and thematic areas through which funding can be mobilised for UNCCD implementation and SLM. These includes according to the GM (2010)¹⁴

1. actors and institutions;
2. investment based mechanisms;
3. incentive and market based mechanisms; and
4. thematic entry points for finance.

Examples of mechanisms within these categories are illustrated in Table 1.

Table 1. Innovative financing sources and mechanisms for SLM

Actors	Thematic entry points	Incentive & market based mechanisms	Investment based mechanisms
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSOs • Foundations • Private Sector • Emerging Donors • Local Governments (decentralised cooperation) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change • Trade • Rural development & poverty reduction • Food security and agriculture • Biodiversity conservation • Water & Forest • South South Cooperation • Gender & women's empowerment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Payments • Payments under regulation • Self-organised private deals • Certification & eco-labelling • Bio-rights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Micro finance • Environmental funds • Environmental performance bonds • Green venture • Remittances • Conversion of debt under HIPC initiative

Source: Global Mechanism (2010), adapted

In West Africa, most of the mechanisms and instruments mentioned in table 1 are being applied on the sub-national and national level. Examples include:

- The identification of innovative sources of finance in the context of Integrated Investment Frameworks (IIF) and Integrated Financing Strategy (IFS) for SLM. In Niger, for example, the IFS identified ecotourism, trade in NWFP, decentralized authorities, CSOs, private sector and compensation for environmental services (CES) as possible sources of finance to support IIF implementation (Government Nigerien/GM, 2013)¹⁵. Another example is Mali's success in mainstreaming SLM into trade-related funding mechanisms such as the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF), which led to the mobilization of substantial financial

¹⁴ GM, 2010. Innovative Financing Sources and Financing Mechanisms: New Opportunities for Sustainable Land Management and UNCCD. See [http://www.global-mechanism.org/images/stories/news/attachments/innovativefinanceapproachpaper.pdf?quot; target="_blank](http://www.global-mechanism.org/images/stories/news/attachments/innovativefinanceapproachpaper.pdf?quot; target=)

¹⁵ Government Nigerien/GM, 2013. Etude d'investigation en vue de la mobilisation des financements dans la GDT au Niger. Niamey

resources for the implementation of an inter-ministerial project promoting trade in gum arabic (see also GM 2010¹⁶). A warehouse receipt system (*warrantage*) was designed in 2010 by UNCTAD, ITC, and the Government of Mali, and with the support of EU and USAID, to finance the gum arabic sector. This system will accompany the implementation of the EIF project on gum arabic and allow producers and other actors in the market chain to access credits and get remunerative prices on the market.¹⁷;

- The potential West Africa offers for carbon mitigation from Agriculture Forestry other Land Use (AFOLU, including land management, livestock management, afforestation, reforestation), avoided deforestation (REDD), renewable energies and energy efficiency. Many West African countries mobilised CC finance for SLM-related projects and programmes such as the African Carbon Asset Development Facility (ACAD), the World Bank Biocarbon fund or the World Bank Forest Carbon Partnership (FCPF) (GM, 2010¹⁸);
- The certification of non-wood forest products such as sheabutter, gum arabic and other agricultural products according to fair trade, environmental and quality standards (Walter et al, 2003)¹⁹;
- The concept of bio-rights has been tested by Wetlands International in the Inner Niger Delta, which is one of the largest areas of biodiversity in West Africa (Wetland International, 2013).²⁰ By combining microcredits with environmental services that support the sustainable economic development, the bio-rights approach engages local communities to enhance the services provided by their natural environment, thereby reducing vulnerability to disasters.
- The multitude of existing and potential innovative financing mechanisms for smallholder and community forestry in West Africa, including out-grower schemes, remittances and PES schemes, carbon finance, community-based ecotourism, conservation concessions, bio-prospecting and watershed services. FAO (2011)²¹ assessed these mechanisms according to their practicality, applicability and sustainability.
- The strong implication of CSO in SLM-related policies and the application and dissemination of best practices related to SLM, including national networks such as the

¹⁶ GM. 2010. Vers un agenda commun de l'Agriculture et de l'Aide pour le commerce pour la Gestion Durable des Terres (GDT) : L'expérience du Mali. Rome. See <http://www.global-mechanism.org/en/gm-publications/gm-publications/vers-un-agenda-commun-de-l-agriculture-et-de-l-aide-pour-le-commerce-pour-la-gestion-durable-des-terres-gdt-l-experience-du-mali/download>

¹⁷ Atelier sur le financement de la filière Gomme arabique au Mali: Système de récépissé d'entreposage/Warrantage, Bamako, 11 au 13 mai 2010

¹⁸ GM. 2010. Mapping and inventory of UNCCD relevant climate change mitigation and adaptation activities in West Africa to improve access to climate change finance for sustainable land management. By EcoSecurities.

¹⁹ Walter et al. 2003. Impact of certification on the sustainable use of NWFP: Lessons-learned from three case studies. See http://www.cifor.org/publications/corporate/cd-roms/bonn-proc/pdfs/papers/T5_FINAL_Walter.pdf

²⁰ Wetland International, 2013. Reducing disaster risk by restoring wetlands in the Inner Niger Delta of Mali. See <http://www.wetlands.org/Whatwedo/Ouractions/tabid/2661/ArticleType/ArticleView/ArticleID/3420/PageID/2598/Default.aspx>

²¹ FAO. 2011. Existing and Potential Forest Financing Mechanisms for Smallholders and Community Forestry in West Africa. See <http://www.fao.org/forestry/29388-08ff0e4c2d32fe144bcd715dfb44a4fd7.pdf>

Secrétariat Permanent des ONG (SPONG) and the Réseau des Organisations de Lutte Contre la Désertification et pour la Gestion Durable des Terres (ROD-GDT) in Burkina Faso and various international CSO active in West Africa such as CARI, Drynet, RéSaD, RADDO and ENDA.

Despite the wide range of examples existing in West Africa, experience on innovative sources of finance remains limited compared to other regions and continents. Therefore, GM/TerrAfrica (2011)²² recommends to carry out a more systematic assessment and pilot initiatives to examine the scope for using innovative financing sources for SLM, including the evaluation of the:

- Policy and regulatory environment, which provides barriers or incentives for investment in SLM and how changes to the policy and institutional framework might affect these incentives;
- Extent to which innovative mechanisms and funding sources for SLM that harness private sector initiatives (for instance the clean development mechanism) are being used and whether there is scope for policy and institutional changes to be made that would favour greater use of these mechanisms; and
- Possibility to increase tenure security by strengthening land policy and land administration arrangements.

2.4 Country context

The project will carry out country level activities in Burkina Faso, Niger and Senegal with a particular focus on arid and semi-arid zones threatened by droughts, land degradation and desertification (DLDD) in migration prone areas. In all these countries, SLM and UNCCD activities are being carried out and will be supported and strengthened by the project. In addition, the project will complement on-going IOM-supported activities in countries such as Ghana and Senegal and facilitate the mainstreaming of migration-related issues into National Action Programmes to Combat Desertification and Land Degradation (NAP/UNCCD) and related integrated investment frameworks (IIF) and Integrated Investment Strategies (IFS) for SLM as well as other relevant documents. This will directly contribute to the alignment of NAP/CCD to The Strategy as called upon by Decision/COP 8 of the UNCCD (UNCCD, 2007)²³.

In all five countries mentioned above, except Côte d'Ivoire, migration has been analysed in the National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPA) for Climate Change. However, climate refugees identified in the NAPA were located either within the country or in the immediate neighbouring countries. The project will therefore further assess the migration/DLDD linkages based on the assessment provided by the NAPA.

²² GM/TerrAfrica. 2011. The finance action box. Understanding sustainable land management policy and financing in Africa. See <http://www.global-mechanism.org/en/gm-publications/gm-publications/the-finance-action-box/download>

²³ UNCCD. 2007. Decision 3/COP 8. See <http://www.unccd.int/Lists/SiteDocumentLibrary/actionProgrammes/decision3COP8-eng.pdf>

Burkina Faso

In Burkina Faso, the IIF for SLM is being developed with support provided by the GM and NEPAD in the context of the TerrAfrica initiative. The project will be able to base its interventions on the IIF in order to identify investment opportunities in migrant prone areas through innovative sources of finance. Important national partners will include the High Council of Burkinabe Expatriates and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation.

Senegal

In Senegal, the process of developing the IIF/SLM was initially conducted through a project implemented by the National Institute of Soil Science. Faced with the shortcomings identified by all stakeholders involved in the SLM process, the GM was requested to provide technical and financial support to review and finalize the IIF by integrating an IFS. The IFS will include innovative mechanisms for SLM such as PES, trade, forest finance, contributions of the Diaspora, etc.

Structures and agencies involved in migration issues in Senegal include i) the Ministry of Senegalese Abroad and Tourism; ii) the Senegalese Diaspora Foundation (Foundation Senegalese abroad), iii) the One-Stop Investment Promotion and Major Works Agency (APIX); and iv) the Board of Senegalese abroad. The Senegalese government also launched in 2007 an initiative to support migrants called back to Agriculture (REVA).

Niger

In Niger, the IIF was elaborated in 2010 with support of the GM and other TerrAfrica partners such as GIZ and UNDP. An IFS has been developed and validated recently and identifies opportunities to tap into innovative sources of finance (see above). The GM also supported the government to develop two project proposals on agroforestry and sustainable management of soil fertility, which consider opportunities for investment of migrants.

Migration from Niger are primarily directed to North Africa on the one hand, and to Nigeria and the rest of West Africa on the other hand. Niger has in addition the distinction of being a transit country for other migrants from several countries in sub-Saharan Africa. The country has no real migration policy except some inlet and repatriation agreements with selected countries. However in the context of the implementation of the 3N initiative (Nigeriens Nourish Nigeriens), the current authorities have expressed their willingness to enable the Nigerian Diaspora for his contribution to the revival of Niger.

2.5 Why this initiative?

After the limits of traditional official development aid (ODA) were highlighted during the United Nations Conference of Monterrey on development financing (2002), innovative financings proved to be essential in international debates as ways to contribute to the objectives of poverty reduction and conservation of global public goods.

This initiative aims at promoting the use of innovative financing mechanisms such as PES schemes and remittances, to respond to the pressing need of boosting investments in SLM practices. To this end, the linkages between migration, land degradation and development will be explored in order to identify coherent measures at local and policy level to promote SLM.

Why SLM?

SLM is defined by TerrAfrica as “the adoption of land use systems that, through appropriate management practices, enables land users to maximize the economic and social benefits from the land while maintaining or enhancing the ecological support functions of the land resources” (FAO, 2013).

Agrosystems under SLM are diversified and provide various outputs while maintaining the long-term productivity of ecosystem functions and increasing the productivity of goods and services.

SLM also supports the development of local/rural markets, thus reducing the risks of migration as rural areas could generate employment and incomes.

SLM involves a holistic approach to achieving productive and healthy ecosystems by integrating social, economic, physical and biological needs and values. It therefore requires an understanding of the:

- Natural resource characteristics of individual ecosystems and ecosystem processes (climate, soils, water, plants and animals) at the landscape level ²⁴;
- Socio-economic and cultural characteristics of those who live in, and/or depend on the natural resources of, individual ecosystems (population, household composition, cultural beliefs, livelihood strategies, income, education levels etc);
- Environmental functions and services provided by healthy ecosystems (watershed protection, maintenance of soil fertility, carbon sequestration, micro-climate amelioration, bio-diversity preservation etc); and
- Constraints to, and opportunities for, the sustainable utilisation of an ecosystem’s natural resources to meet peoples’ welfare and economic needs (e.g. for food, water, fuel, shelter, medicine, income, recreation) (TerrAfrica/FAO. Undated)²⁵.

Why remittances?

Remittances represent a rising source of finance for the continent and hold immense potential as drivers of economic growth and development. A recent study by African Development Bank (AfDB)

²⁴ According to World Bank (2013), “a landscape approach means taking both a geographical and socio-economic approach to managing the land, water and forest resources ... by taking into account the inter-actions between these core elements of natural capital and the ecosystem services they produce, rather than considering them in isolation from one another” (World Bank (2013); Landscape Approaches in Sustainable Development. See <http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTARD/0,,contentMDK:23219902~pagePK:148956~piPK:216618~theSitePK:336682,00.html>)

²⁵ TerrAfrica/FAO. Undated. TerrAfrica – A vision paper for SLM in Sub-Saharan Africa. See <http://pre.docdat.com/navigate/index-157229.html>

and World Bank (2011) shows that remittance flows into Africa reached US \$40 billion in 2010 and have quadrupled since 1990²⁶.

Remittances are the second largest source of finance for developing countries. Every remittance dollar spent in local markets creates demand for services and products as well as the jobs required to provide them. Remittances help to reduce poverty almost immediately, and can have an income-redistributive effect that also decreases inequality. Moreover, they help to strengthen the relationship between the diaspora and the country of origin. Investment in their countries of origin allows migrants to retain a stake in the well-being of their home communities. Common investment aspirations included home ownership or the opening of small businesses in the immigrants' home countries. Remittances tend to be counter-cyclical and stable in the long run. As recipient countries' economic performance declines, remittance senders in industrialized countries are more likely to transfer larger amounts of money to relatives back home, to support them in the more difficult times. Remittances thus increase during the downturns of the receiving country contributing to relief following major natural disasters, as opposed to FDI flows, which often decrease. This implies that linking remittances to insurance for disaster response, such as drought, could be an important contribution to climate adaptation and land degradation resilience.

Table 2. Remittances-Based Financial Services

Class of Product	Development Potential
Remittances Transfer Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovative services increase remittances and create a savings culture • Lower cost and increased convenience incentivizes remittances • As the first 'interface' with remitters, they can be bundled with other products, in the interest of both the bank and the customer
Saving Accounts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be directed toward business investment • Formalized savings are more secure and can earn interest • Savings act as shock absorbers for the household • Savings accounts provide reliable funds for bank to lend to companies
Credit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extra access to credit can be the only opportunity for rare, large expenditures such as land, housing or vehicles • It can also be used productively, i.e., toward business development and the purchase of productive collateral • Insurance
Insurance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitates the management of risks related to health or belongings in which the remittances sender and receiver have a common interest • Can insure entrepreneurs against inhibitive risks in their businesses
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Credit cards and checking accounts that are linked to

²⁶ African Development Bank/World Bank. 2011. Optimisation du phénomène migratoire pour l'Afrique. See <http://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Generic-Documents/2011%20LeveragingMigrationforAfricaFR.pdf>.

	remittances may facilitate entrepreneurs' purchase of collateral or the management of cash flow
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Source: M. R. Comstock, M. Iannone, R. Bhatia, Maximizing the Remittances for Economic Development (March 2009)

The number of public, private and non-profit organizations involved in leveraging remittances for development has increased along with increases in the cash flows. Private sector actors in the field of remittances include Financial Institutions (FIs), such as banks and credit unions; non-bank FIs (NBFIs), like microfinance institutions (MFIs); and technology and telecommunications companies. Among the major public and non-profit development organizations in the field of remittances, the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) launched the "Remittances ad Development Tool" program that facilitates remittance flows, encourages remittance investment, and promotes entrepreneurs. Similarly, the World Bank works to achieve development impacts from migration and has a program to improve remittance data, reduce transfer costs, and improve money transfer systems. Donor agencies, including DFID, are increasingly directing remittances into development efforts like new financial services and community projects. At a more micro level, hometown associations of migrants are important in directing remittances toward development in members' home countries.

Why the GM of the UNCCD?

Desertification, along with climate change and the loss of biodiversity, were identified as the greatest challenges to sustainable development during the 1992 Rio Earth Summit. Established in 1994, UNCCD is the sole legally binding international agreement linking environment and development to sustainable land management.

In 2007 the Parties to the Convention adopted the 10-year Strategic Plan and Framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention for 2008-2018 (The Strategy) . The Strategy provides a unique opportunity to address some of the Convention's key challenges, to capitalize on its strengths, to seize opportunities provided by the new policy and financing environment, and to create a new, revitalized common ground for all UNCCD stakeholders.

The bodies of the Convention operate in this context and have developed their respective RBM multi-year programmes of work in line with The Strategy. In this regard, this Project is aligned with and contribute to the achievements of the Strategy as extensively explained under the chapter on monitoring and evaluation.

While the UNCCD secretariat facilitates cooperation between developed and developing countries, particularly around knowledge and technology transfer for sustainable land management. The GM of the UNCCD is the operational arm of the Convention with a mandate to "increase the effectiveness and efficiency of existing financial mechanisms".

In its capacity as a special service provider in finance for UNCCD implementation, the GM has been assigned the key role of project implementing agency. The GM of the UNCCD is the project implementing agency. The GM has been assigned this key role in its capacity as a special service provider in finance for UNCCD implementation. The GM supports countries in the mobilization of

resources for SLM through a broad range of products and services, including through the development of integrated financing strategies (IFS) and integrated investment frameworks (IIF) for SLM at country level.

The IFS is a process undertaken by a countries party, with the assistance of the GM, to leverage national, bilateral and multilateral resources to increase the effectiveness and impact of interventions to further the implementation of the UNCCD in line with The Strategy. An IFS leads to the development of an Integrated Investment Frameworks (IIF), or when one exists, supports its implementation. IIFs are strategic planning documents for DLDD/SLM financing based on a common understanding of the importance of SLM for development, poverty reduction and environmental protection (GM, 2013²⁷; GM, 2008²⁸).

The GM has established a specific Strategic Programme on Economic Instruments and Innovative Finance (EIIF) to enhance its knowledge of and advisory services on a diverse range of financing strategies, mechanisms and sources at the local, national and international level, widening the range of financing sources traditionally tapped to promote sustainable land management. Through this Strategic Programme the GM emphasizes the involvement of the private sector in SLM and identifies and studies mechanisms that influence behaviour and provide incentives and enable private land users – from small-scale farmers to international businesses – to adopt and invest in sustainable practices. For example, incentive and market-based mechanisms (IMBMs), microfinance and risk-mitigating instruments are assessed, recommended and implemented according to specific circumstances.

To facilitate the research of economic instruments and innovative finance opportunities for country Parties, civil society organizations (CSOs), businesses and investors, the GM has created several support tools. Among them the Finance Info Kit²⁹, an online directory providing an overview of financial mechanisms and nearly 200 funds relevant to SLM along with application details.

Why the IOM?

Over the past few years, the link between Migration and Development has gained broad recognition from national governments and the international community. In 1951, the IOM's founding principles already emphasized the connection between Migration and Development. Over the past 55 years, IOM has gathered experience in helping governments manage migration in a multidimensional and comprehensive manner. In line with the principles expressed by the international community, IOM has been operating for several years so as to test and promote initiatives that strengthen migrants' role and capacities for development.

The MIDA (Migration for Development in Africa) strategy launched already in 2001 by the International Organization for Migration is acknowledged and confirmed by above international

²⁷ GM. 2013. IFS for SLM – Results and Impact Assessment. By Unisféra

²⁸ GM. 2008. IFS for SLM. See <http://www.global-mechanism.org/en/GM-Publications/GM-Publications/Integrated-Financing-Strategies-for-Sustainable-Land-Management/Download>

²⁹ <http://global-mechanism.org/en/our-services/finance-info-kit>

guidelines. It aims precisely at promoting and supporting international cooperation that enhances the participation of migrants in the social and economic development of countries of origin, that helps channelling their human, financial and social resources, and identifies possible synergies between the communities of origin and of destination. The MIDA strategy does not automatically entail the physical return of migrants, rather it envisages a “virtual” return that involves the transfer of those resources that can contribute to the development priorities identified by the countries of origin.

Within this framework and with the support of the Italian Cooperation (Ministry of Foreign Affairs), IOM Rome has been implementing since 2003 a MIDA programme targeting the Sub-Saharan Diaspora in Italy: the programme actively involves the migrant communities in planning initiatives and productive investments in the areas of origin, and supports them by identifying new opportunities, creating favourable conditions for starting up small-to-medium enterprises in the countries of origin, and facilitating their access to innovative financial instruments.

Currently the programme targets migrants from Ghana and Senegal residing in Italy and supports the productive investments in the countries of origin as to produce income and generate job opportunities, having an impact on the socio-economic context of the community. Two different methods of intervention are deployed:

- Promotion of migrants’ entrepreneurial initiatives in their countries of origin – not dependent on migrants’ return – through training courses in Ghana and Senegal that focus on business creation and access to credit, and include tutoring and monitoring activities;
- Promotion of co-development projects proposed by migrant associations and that involve the active participation of Italian local authorities, in alignment with the principles of decentralized cooperation (co-development).

The MIDA activities include the identification and promotion of financial services that reduce the transfer costs of remittances, channel them through savings accumulation products and create instruments to support entrepreneurial activities in the country of origin.

Moreover, IOM’s structure is highly decentralized and this has enabled the Organization to acquire the capacity to deliver an ever-increasing number and diversity of projects. With a field structure composed by a network of More than 470 Country Offices and sub-offices worldwide, IOM will involve in this project the Regional Office in Dakar (whose key responsibilities are to formulate regional strategies and plans of action and to provide programmatic and administrative support to the countries within its region) and its field offices involved in the activities of the project, under responsibility of IOM.

2.6 Problems to be addressed

Although SLM is recognized as a suitable approach to alleviate poverty and fight DLDD, GM/TerrAfrica (2011) identified the following overall failures that hinder the up scaling of SLM practices in sub-Saharan Africa:

- The failure to internalise benefits and costs of land practices that are external to land users in land management systems.
- The failure to provide security of tenure so as to make SLM practices privately profitable to landholders.
- The failure to find ways of achieving effective collective action between landholders to undertake investments and maintain resource management arrangements that have collective benefits across landholders.
- The failure of related markets (such as for credit for agricultural producers) and lack of information on market opportunities, for instance on markets for organic produce or for sustainable forest products.

In addition, slow-onset disasters and gradual environmental degradation, including phenomena such as desertification, reduction of soil fertility, coastal erosion and sea-level rise, which may be associated with climate change, impact existing livelihood patterns and systems of production and may trigger different types of migration.

Taking into account the above constraints, the project will address the following problems:

1. Weak legal and policy frameworks (at national and sub-regional levels) addressing the connections between environmental degradation and migratory flows;
2. Lack of investments in SLM;
3. Lack of accessibility to financial instruments and markets;
4. Scarce business opportunities;
5. Lack of negotiation capacities of Governments facing investors that has turned opportunities for investment into the possible threat of land grabbing, causing loss of land, removal of the supply for local markets and hence increased prices, landless farmers adding pressure on the remaining land, migration patterns, etc.;
6. Low involvement in development processes of local communities and their most vulnerable groups, including women and youth, who are potential migrants.

This initiative aims at addressing above problems by supporting the concept of ‘Innovative Financial Inclusion’ as a driver of economic growth and poverty alleviation.

“Innovative Financial Inclusion” refers to the delivery of financial services outside conventional branches of financial institutions (banks or microfinance institutions), for example focusing on accessing financial tools such as savings products, payment services, remittances and insurance, that equip poor people with a greater capacity to increase or stabilize their income, strengthen their resilience to economic shocks and build assets. The investment climate for SLM can be improved, for example, through directing and facilitating Diaspora investments in SLM by applying appropriate policies and incentives.

This is pursued through an in-depth analysis of the local context and investment climate, the active involvement of local stakeholders and migrants in the destination countries willing to invest in their country of origin, through the implementation of ad hoc capacity building initiative to enhance local financial capabilities of local stakeholders in migrant prone areas as well as of diaspora members and through the establishment of partnerships among financial institutions and between the public and private sector.

In this context, the gender perspective will also be taken into due account. Migrants' remitting behaviour is influenced by several factors, including, but not limited to, gender, age, education, marital status, and position in the family, as well as opportunities in the destination country. At the global level, female migrants send approximately the same amount of remittances as male migrants. For both men and women, being able to send money home is one of the decisive factors for migration. However, due to traditional gender roles, women migrants (especially single women) may be subject to particular pressure from their families to remit the largest part of their earnings to support their (extended) families back home. Due to this pressure and their feeling of responsibility towards their families, women migrants may accept very difficult living and working conditions.

The project valorises women's active role as senders and recipients of remittances can act as a catalyst for change in gendered power relations, by improving women's decision-making, economic status and inclusion in the labour market. As senders of remittances, migrant women may acquire a new role as primary provider for the family, whereas women staying behind may assume more responsibility, thereby obtaining more autonomy in managing household resources and taking on traditionally male roles in the community.

2.7 Target beneficiaries and institutional partners

The targeted beneficiaries of the project are policy decision makers at sub-regional and national levels in West Africa as well as the rural communities in countries of origin and migrants and Diaspora networks in countries of destination.

Main institutional partners are identified at different levels:

- National: UNCCD focal point institutions and relevant local authorities of the three pilot countries;
- Sub-regional: ECOWAS through its Private Sector and Environment and Water Directorates;
- Regional: African Development Bank through its Migration and Development Fund;
- International: Diaspora networks and migrants' associations in countries of destination.

2.8 Other institutional partners

The implementation of the project will further engage with a wide range of stakeholders involved in SLM in West Africa, including:

- National governments, including the national UNFCCC, CBD, GGWSS, TerrAfrica and CAADP focal point institutions and line ministries involved in SLM and those in charge of migration issues;
- Multilateral organizations such as FAO, UNDP, EC, GEF, the World Bank and IFAD and its Financing Facility for Remittances;
- Bilateral organizations such as GIZ, Norad, Danish Cooperation, AFD;
- Research organizations such as CIFOR, ICRAF, CORAF and national research organizations;
- CSOs involved in SLM (e.g. the International NGO Network on Desertification and Drought, the Food Crisis Prevention Network (RCPA) or Drynet), migration and innovative funding mechanisms such as remittances ;
- Private sector, including farmers organizations as well as national and multinational organizations with an interest in investing in natural products derived from Wet African drylands;
- Regional institutions such as the African Union Commission (AUC), NEPAD and Regional Development Banks such as the African Development Bank (AfDB) through its Migration and Development Fund and the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (ABEDA).

At national level, SLM/UNCCD or other relevant coordination mechanisms will be used and supported by the project in order to engage with relevant stakeholders.

At sub-regional level, the project will support the implementation of the United Nations Integrated Regional Strategy for the Sahel as well as the policy framework established by ECOWAS, UEMOA and other sub-regional entities.

At regional level, the project will furthermore establish links to African initiatives related to SLM such as TerrAfrica, the Regional Programme for the Integrated Development of the Fouta Djallon Highlands (RPID-FDH), the Great Green Wall for the Sahel and the Sahara and the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). The GM is active member of above initiatives, which will facilitate i) the engagement of other partners in the project, ii) the possible co-financing of project activities by other partners/stakeholders; and iii) the capitalization of project results at regional level.

At the global level, the project aims at contributing to the “Bonn Challenge”, i.e. the restoration of 150 million hectares of degraded and deforested land by 2020, through the application of innovative mechanisms for landscape rehabilitation and restoration.

Through GM’s Strategic and South-to-South Cooperation Programmes, project results and experiences will furthermore be shared at global, i.e. inter-continental level³⁰.

³⁰ See www.global-mechanism.org

3. PROJECT STRATEGY

Experience has shown that concerted, coordinated action among vested partners is critical to addressing the complexity of the above problems and their inter-linkages. That is why the project will be implemented through a strategic, multi-agency partnership – involving the GM/UNCCD, IOM and other institutions and initiatives as appropriate – in order to improve the enabling environment for the implementation of effective, nationally driven, sustainable land management strategies through innovative financing instruments and mechanisms. Accomplishing this goal will directly contribute to achieving the Millennium Development Goals in West Africa as well as to the principles of the Rio+20 Declaration “The future we want” (UN, 2012)³¹.

3.1 Overall objective

To contribute to the prevention of land degradation as well as to the restoration of degraded land by increasing investments in SLM (Sustainable Land Management) in migration prone areas of the ECOWAS region (Economic Community of Western African States), through the use of innovative financing mechanisms.

3.2 Specific Objectives

1. National and regional processes addressing migration-SLM nexus are mainstreamed into relevant development policies and budgetary processes.
2. Economic opportunities are expanded and investment climate for SLM is improved in specific geographic areas prone to desertification and outward migration.
3. SLM best practices in the ECOWAS region are disseminated in relevant international forums, including those pertaining to agricultural trade, climate change adaptation, biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, rural development, sustainable development and poverty reduction.

3.3 Expected results

AS RELEVANT TO OUTCOME 1:

1.1 Linkages between land degradation and migration assessed;

³¹ UN. 2012. The future we want. Resolution 66/288 of the General Assembly. See http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/66/288&Lang=E.

1.2 Policy frameworks related to migration-SLM nexus enhanced at national and sub-regional levels.

AS RELEVANT TO OUTCOME 2:

- 2.1 Innovative financing mechanisms for SLM in migration prone areas tested;
- 2.2 Financial resources for and landscape restoration through remittances mobilized;
- 2.3 Public-private partnerships strengthened and/or established.

AS RELEVANT TO OUTCOME 3:

- 3.1 South-to-south exchanges on innovative financing for landscape restoration (including remittance and PES) promoted at global level;
- 3.2 Synergies with other Rio Conventions enhanced.

The following set of results is cross cutting to all project's outcomes and ensure the project strategic and methodological effectiveness consistently with UN standards and procedures:

- 4.1 The project is effectively and efficiently implemented
- 4.2 Activities and expenditures are monitored consistently with approved Work Plans as well as with UN rules and procedures
- 4.3 Technical and financial reports are delivered in a timely fashion

3.4 Activities

As relevant to expected result 1.1

- 1.1.1 Assess trends and key drivers of migration and its linkages with SLM and organize national level meetings and consultations in Burkina Faso, Niger, Senegal;
- 1.1.2 Assess trends and key drivers of migration and its linkages with SLM at sub-regional level and organize one workshop;
- 1.1.3 Update information on migratory corridors from West Africa to Europe;
- 1.1.4 Produce a synthesis report of the national and sub-regional analyses and share them with policy decision makers.

As relevant to expected result 1.2

- 1.2.1 Develop policy guidelines addressing the migration-SLM nexus in West Africa;
- 1.2.2 Organize a sub-regional workshop to validate the policy guidelines.

As relevant to expected result 2.1

- 2.1.1 Assess the potential for innovative financing instruments and mechanisms to increase investments in sustainable management of land, forest and watershed as paths to food security;
- 2.1.2 Integrate innovative financing mechanisms into national IFS/IIF processes in Burkina Faso, Niger, Senegal ;
- 2.1.3 Identify and select target areas for the testing of innovative financing mechanisms in support of increasing SLM investments;
- 2.1.4 Support new and/or existing initiatives on innovative financing mechanisms for SLM, including PES, at both country and trans boundary levels

As relevant to expected result 2.2

- 2.2.1 Carry out studies on the relevance of remittances for SLM in West Africa, including case studies in Burkina Faso, Niger, Senegal;
- 2.2.2 Identify and select target areas for the testing of remittance in support of increasing SLM investments;
- 2.2.3 Inform and mobilize diaspora networks in migrants' countries of destination, including Italy, on investment opportunities in countries of origin on SLM practices as deriving from the analyses under expected result 2.1;
- 2.2.4 Create/strengthen partnerships with local authorities in migrants' countries of destination as well as in countries of origin;
- 2.2.5 Build capacity of diaspora members for drafting bankable landscape restoration project proposals to be implemented in the above identified target areas in the countries of origin ;
- 2.2.6 Select, co-fund and support landscape restoration projects in countries of origin.

As relevant to expected result 2.3

- 2.3.1 Support of public-private partnerships on SLM and landscape restoration initiatives engaging the national and international actors from the private sector in the countries target;
- 2.3.2 Promote partnerships between financial institutions on both sides of the transaction (banks, remitters, MFI).

As relevant to expected result 3.1

- 3.1.1 Develop and disseminate targeted advocacy materials on best practices and lessons learned;
- 3.1.2 Promote south-to-south exchanges as well as the synergistic implementation of the Rio Conventions through sharing project results and lessons learned at international level.

As relevant to expected result 3.2

3.2.1 Engage with other entities involved in innovative finance for SLM and remittances in West Africa;

3.2.2 Identify co-finance to increase the outreach of project results.

The following set of activities is cross cutting to all project's expected results and ensure the project strategic and methodological effectiveness consistently with UN standards and procedures:

4.1.1 Present results of effectiveness evaluation at steering committees meetings and perform a joint analysis

4.2.1 Prepare Work Plans based on the effectiveness evaluations

4.2.2 Monitor project implementation

4.3.1 Prepare consistent progress and financial reports

4. BUDGET

The budget has been prepared per outcome areas.

Table 3. Budget per outcome areas

BUDGET	Total
OUTCOME 1: National and regional processes addressing migration-SLM nexus are mainstreamed into relevant development policies and budgetary processes	340 000.00
OUTCOME 2: Economic opportunities are expanded and investment climate for SLM is improved in specific geographic areas prone to desertification and outward migration	1 115 000.00
OUTCOME 3: SLM best practices in the ECOWAS region are disseminated in relevant international forums, including those pertaining to agricultural trade, climate change adaptation, biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, rural development, sustainable development and poverty reduction	150 000.00
PROJECT STRATEGIC AND METHODOLOGICAL EFFECTIVENESS CONSISTENTLY WITH UN STANDARDS & PROCEDURES	164 910.00
TOTAL	1 769 910.00
Overheads (13%)	230 088.30
GRAND TOTAL	1 999 998.30

5. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The project will be implemented according to the principles of results-based management and results-based budgeting on the basis of the project logframe and taking into account the GM work plan and monitoring system and the overall 10 year Strategy.

The GM will be responsible for the overall project coordination and monitoring and will ensure the timely submission to the donor of:

- annual narrative and financial reports;
- final narrative and financial report.

A final joint evaluation mission will be organized to assess project results.

5. SUSTAINABILITY

The project is sustainable from an institutional, socio-cultural, environmental and financial perspective.

With regard to the institutional sustainability, the project is consistent with the regional/national policy frameworks and development strategies and respond to the need of local authorities to expanding financial inclusion as a critical component of their national growth and development strategies and, in this context, to leveraging the potential of remittances as a development tool. In particular the project fits within ECOWAS main goal to foster and accelerate the economic and social development of its member states also through sustainable agricultural practices, including the control of erosion, deforestation and desertification.

With regard to the socio-cultural point of view, the use of technology appropriate to local socio-economy, culture and environment makes the project consistent with local socio-cultural norms and practices. Furthermore, the project adopts a gender perspective in the implementation of the activities. With regard to the economic and financial sustainability, the project entails the increase of investment flows and the creation of income generating activities that should also help enabling a continuation of conservation activities and efforts beyond project termination. Project objectives in the fields of biodiversity conservation, desertification mitigation and sustainable use of natural resources appear as key pre-conditions for achieving environmental sustainability.

All stakeholders, and in first place the local community, are fully made aware of the economic opportunities and the risks (to local culture and natural assets) associated to uncontrolled development of eco-tourism

Present initiative is in line with following international standards and conventions:

- UN Millennium Development Goal n. 7: ensuring environmental sustainability (Target 2: reducing biodiversity loss) (www.un.org/millenniumgoals);
- UN Convention to Combat Desertification (www.unccd.int);
- UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (www.unfccc.int);
- UN Convention on Biological Diversity (www.cbd.int).